How To Start a Prison Congregation

Mary Mortenson, Executive Director, Prison Congregations of America

Rev. Terrell McTyer, Minister of New Church Strategies, HOPE Partnership

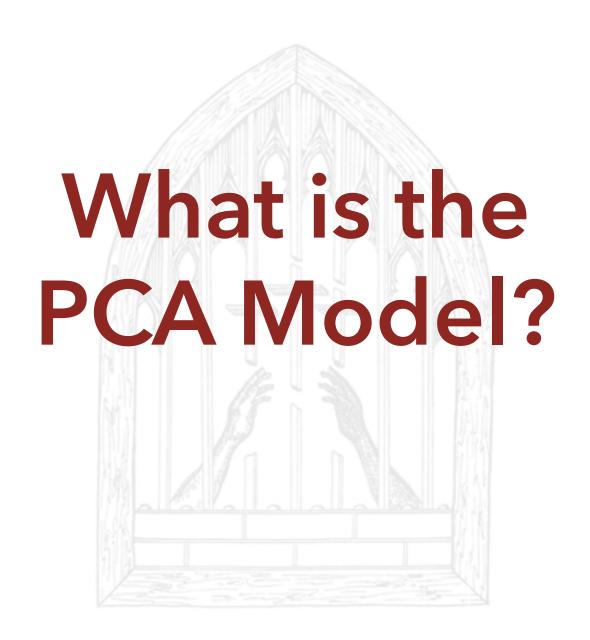
Rev. Dean Bucalos, Mission Specialist, NBA Prison and Jail Ministries







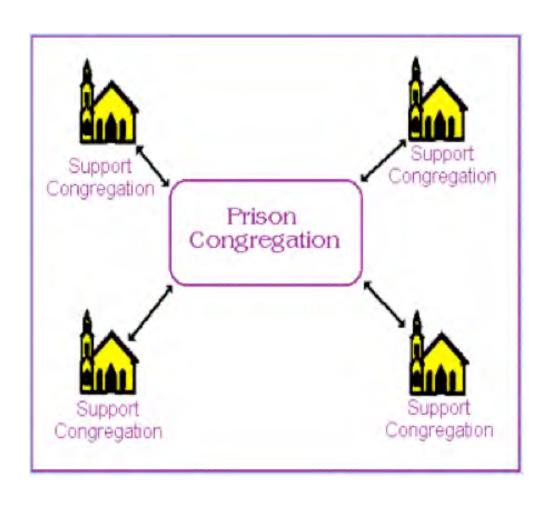




The Framework

- Denominational sponsorship and oversight
- Congregational "members" are inmates
 - Defined by participation
- Congregation is led by pastor from the outside who is trained by and accountable to the sponsoring denomination

Inside - Outside Relationship



The Reentry Stage is Set

 Prison congregations feed into a healthy reentry pipeline

Relationships are already built

Reentry can be casual or formal

Denominational Sponsorship, Ecumenical in Practice

- A prison congregation is diverse
- Worship and programming are open to all, within the parameters of the facility
- A prison congregation looks like the Kingdom!

Why a Congregational Model? Why Do You Go To Church?

- Community
- Continuity
- Service
- Skills
- Involvement
- Ownership

Mountain Top and the Plain

"I'm tired of being saved every week.
 I want to serve."

 "Pastor Ike preached me back into the fold every Thursday night."

Cooperation Without Compromise

 Our job is to help all the various stakeholders play nicely together.

 We seek to model respectful dialogue and behavior with corrections staff and other ministries.

PCA Congregations

34 Worshipping Communities 16 States 9 Denominations

4 Disciples PCA Congregations

St. Francis of Assisi Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Draper, UT (2011)

Rev. Charles Hines

New Life In Christ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Louisville, KY (2013)

Rev. Carol Wieger

Church of Another Chance Nashville, TN (2015) Rev. Scott Jamieson

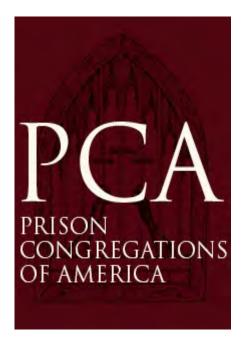
Prisoners of Hope Christian Church (DOC)

Memphis, TN (2017)

Rev. Bud Wilson

For More Information

- www.prisoncongregations.org
- 605-321-0509
- mary@prisoncongregations.org





Why start a congregation inside a correctional facility?

Well, perhaps Matthew's Gospel can shed some light..."just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)



Congregations inside men's and women's correctional facilities



Worshipping at New Life in Christ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit



Pastor Carol Wieger baptizing a new member of the church at Dismas Charities-Diersen, a women's detention center in Louisville, Kentucky

Ash Wednesday service



Welcome and Hospitality



Outside churches join the women for worship in their congregation behind the bars.

All are welcome at the Table of our Lord

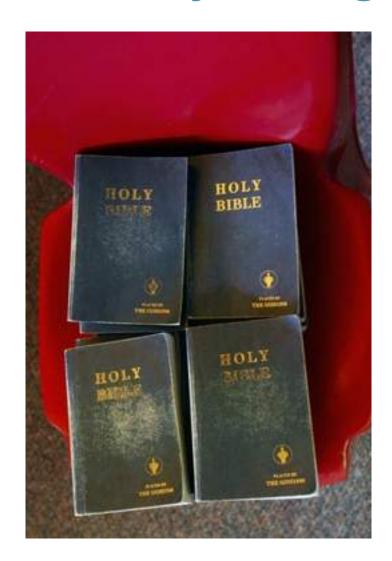


Members of the church serving communion.

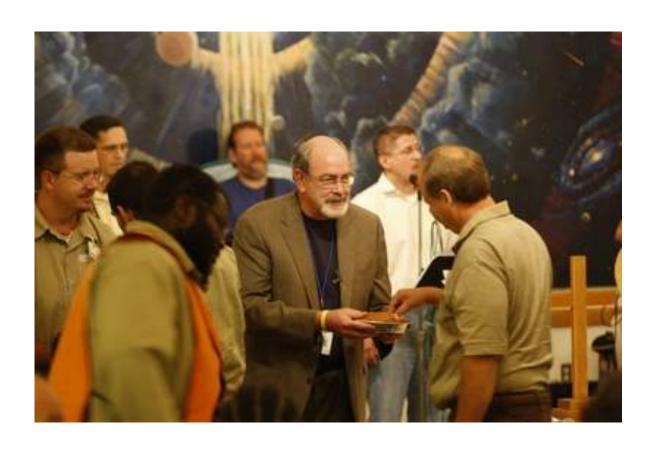
The ministry of presence and compassion



Bringing messages of hope, forgiveness, mercy, and grace



Come, share the Lord!



Q&A - Thank You!

Prison Congregations of America:

prisoncongregations.org

HOPE Partnership:

hopepmt.org

NBA Prison and Jail Ministries:

nbacares.org/prison-and-jail





