

**The Empowerment Network**  
**“Empowering Disciplemakers Affected by Incarceration”**  
**Who We Are: Purpose, Principles, Practice**

**Purpose**

Mission: The Empowerment Network empowers disciplemakers affected by incarceration, to strengthen the indigenous church in its cultural context, both in prison and after re-entry.

Vision: Grow a nationwide collaborative community hosting periodic meetings, a website of accessible resources, a communication platform, and 50-state participation by 2029.

**Principles (see full explanation at this link: [Foundational Documents](#))**

1. America’s prisoners live in a culture that is significantly different from the culture outside prison.
2. The indigenous prison Church is a legitimate expression of the Church in its cultural context.
3. The presence of bona-fide indigenous disciple-makers in America’s prisons means it is no longer an unreached mission field.
4. The indigenous prison Church is a rich source for Kingdom workers inside prison, in the outside-Church, and for world missions.
5. Bona fide disciple-makers in the prison context need at least three years of contextualized church leadership training beyond discipleship programs (e.g. The Capstone Curriculum).
6. The outside-Church will always have a vital role to empower disciple-makers affected by incarceration, both inside prison and during re-entry.
7. An effective coach in the prison context is able to shift the responsibility to indigenous leaders, provide resources as needed, and inspire gifted prisoners to action.
8. Effective coaching is evident when indigenous leaders minister from their gifting, using tools offered by their coaches, to disciple new leaders, with a desire to see people impacted by the Gospel beyond their context.
9. While the formerly incarcerated should start serving in a local church upon release, their sanctification in free-world culture needs to be proven authentic for a minimum of 12 months.
10. The indigenous prison Church has limited ability to collaborate with other indigenous leaders, but the Network can assist in a nationwide indigenous prison movement.

**Practice**

Participants agree with historic Christian faith, recognizing the Network is comprised of people employing diverse methods and strategies. Therefore, each person is not required to endorse the work of other participants. Any information listed on The Empowerment Network platforms is expected to be kept current and inquiries should receive prompt replies, preferably within five business days.

**Elevator Speech**

The Empowerment Network is a network of people across America who are committed to empowering disciplemakers in prison to strengthen the indigenous church inside.