

Indigenous Prison Church Networkers

“Empowering the Indigenous Prison Church”

Who We Are

Purpose

Definition: The Indigenous Prison Church is a group of incarcerated people who practice authentic faith in Christ in a specific prison location and cultural context.

Mission: Strengthen the indigenous Church inside U.S. prisons while facilitating healthy integration with the Church on the outside.

Vision: Convene a nationwide collaborative community that includes a website of resources, a communication platform, a national gathering, and membership in all 50 states by 2029.

Shared Values:

1. The indigenous prison church is a legitimate expression of the Church in its cultural context.
2. While there are still thousands of prisoners who need Christ, we seek a paradigm shift from prisons as “a mission field” to recognizing indigenous prison church leaders as bona fide workers in “the mission force.”
3. The outside church has a role to equip and empower the prison church, especially where it is limited by the realities of incarceration.
4. There is a desire among like-minded incarceration ministry practitioners to collaborate across organizations and states.
5. There is agreement with the content of three foundational presentations: 1) *Prison Ministry as Cross-Cultural Mission* (Mark Walker and Quentin Valdois);¹ *Coach Profile* (Mark Walker and Don Allsman);² *Great Commission Recruitment from the Incarcerated* (Don and Cathy Allsman).³

Basis of Cooperation

Membership: Members agree to the content cited in this document and will conduct their ministry consistent with historic Christian faith. The network is comprised of people employing diverse methods and strategies. Each person is encouraged to embrace those distinctives without compromise, while respecting the differences of other coalition members. Each member is free to endorse the work of other members but is not required to do so. Periodic meetings will be offered but attendance is not required for participation in the Network.

Responsibilities: Those listing information on platforms are required to keep their information current and reply to inquiries within five business days. A member may be removed from the Network if the member ceases to function within historic Christian faith or acts inconsistently with the elements listed in this document.

Statement of Faith

The Nicene Creed predates theological and denominational divisions and so represents an excellent basis for understanding historic orthodox Christian faith:

We believe in one God, The Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, Begotten not created, of the same essence as the Father, through whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became human. Who for us too, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his Kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and life-giver, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and Son is worshiped and glorified. Who spoke by the prophets. We believe in one holy, catholic⁴, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sin, and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come.

¹ <https://vimeo.com/831975408/8fcf4152df>

² https://www.completion.global/_files/ugd/07594f_06f47330249749939f33628d95108b96.pdf

³ https://2ad65cd4-53db-4e76-8d7c-b06ae454b43d.filesusr.com/ugd/07594f_06f47330249749939f33628d95108b96.pdf

⁴ The word catholic refers to the sense of being universal, not any one tradition, e.g. Roman Catholic