

**Letter of Agreement Between
The Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA
and Prison Congregations of America, Inc.**

Accepting that we share a passion to give and receive the liberating Good News of Jesus found in the Gospel, thus offering God's people the opportunity for communal worship and service within a safe environment, where one's faith can be nurtured as well as questioned, and believing that we are called to live out Jesus' command from Matthew 25 to, "Do unto the least of these," we agree to the following:

In celebration of an on-going relationship with the ELCA, PCA covenants to provide developing prison congregations and the ELCA with:

1. A cooperative, open spirit.
2. Guidance through the process of assuring that the congregation is a viable ministry of the ELCA.
3. For the Director of PCA to spend whatever time is necessary in consultation with local churches, a local launch committee, the synod, particularly the Director of Evangelical Mission, and the prison to begin the congregation.
4. After the congregation is viable, PCA pledges a continued coach/mentor relationship of at least three years with the new congregation, its pastor, and lay leadership to: 1) help navigate the unique environment of a congregation within a prison; 2) to explore ways to nurture the valuable ministry the inside congregation can offer to the church on the outside; 3) share fundraising practices that will move the prison congregation towards sustainability; 4) assist in board training and development.

In celebration of an on-going relationship with PCA, the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA covenants to provide PCA with:

1. A cooperative, open spirit.
2. In recognition that the PCA Model of Prison Ministry is uniquely positioned to offer consultation and mentoring to new church starts in prisons, and with a desire to be a mission partner, thus helping to spread the PCA model to other prisons in other states, the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA agrees to support the efforts of PCA in establishing new prison congregations within the ELCA, by encouraging partnership with synod DEMs in planning and training. Further, funds would be included within a new church grant, which would be administered by the Synod, to support the consultation and mentoring services of PCA.
3. We agree that the shared work in which we are engaged is in a spirit of partnership and generosity, guided by our desire to serve and glorify God.

Mary Mortensen 08/04/2015
Director of PCA/Date

Steph P. Brown 07/28/2015
Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit/Date

Steve Peter 8/5/15
Chair of PCA Board of Directors/Date