



**The United Methodist Church**  
North Carolina Conference-Raleigh Area  
700 Waterfield Ridge Place, Garner, NC 27529

**Leonard E. Fairley**  
Resident Bishop

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Dear Colleagues:

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, you and your congregation will have the opportunity to support an important Special offering in our annual conference, Cross and Key Prison Ministries Sunday.

After 24 years of faithful ministry, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries has re-missioned to become a more holistic prison ministry. Along with their new mission is a new name, Cross and Key Prison Ministries. Cross and Key Prison Ministries has added advocacy for prison reform and education on Criminal Justice issues to her ministry offerings. Of course, Cross and Key Prison Ministries will continue to offer Disciple Bible study in prisons but will also resource other prison ministries in our state.

One size does not fit all when it comes to prison ministry. Some congregations may wish to engage in advocacy. Others may desire to participate in hands-on ministry in a correctional setting. Still others may want to learn more about the many issues surrounding Criminal Justice ministry. Cross and Key wants to help! Cross and Key Prison Ministries has developed a comprehensive toolkit for prison ministry that will be available this fall on their website. Cross and Key Prison Ministries will follow the toolkit with a new study on Criminal Justice ministry. The toolkit and study are designed to help churches begin a prison ministry anew.

It is my sincere desire that every church in the North Carolina Conference will respond to Christ's call to minister to those in prison. I invite you to reach out to Cross and Key Prison Ministries and let them walk beside you to help you and your congregation discover how best to respond. Information can be found at [www.crossandkeyprisonministries.com](http://www.crossandkeyprisonministries.com).

Again, thank you for supporting the Cross and Key Prison Ministries Sunday offering on August 28<sup>th</sup> or a date of your choosing.

Faithfully Yours,

Bishop Leonard E. Fairley