## THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## Charlotte Episcopal Area WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

DeEtta Rivens
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Dear Partners in the Gospel:

Cross and Key Prison Ministries and its predecessor ministry, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry, has been faithfully ministering to prison inmates for 24 years. Last year, Cross and Key Prison Ministries added advocacy for prison reform and education on Criminal Justice issues to their ministry offerings. Of course, Cross and Key Prison Ministries continues to offer Disciple Bible study in prisons, and now it has expanded its reach to resource all prison ministries in our conference.

The prison population in the United States continues to be the largest in the world, but one size does not fit all when it comes to prison ministry. Some congregations may be called to engage in advocacy. Others may be called 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 is available on their website.

I encourage you to pray for this new ministry. I also encourage you to receive a Conference Wide Special Offering for Cross and Key Prison Ministries on August 27 (or another Sunday that is more suitable).

For more information about Cross and Key Prison Ministries, please visit: <a href="https://www.crossandkeyprisonministries.com">www.crossandkeyprisonministries.com</a> or contact Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Mark Hicks at (336) 689-1443.

Donations may be mailed to: Cross and Key Prison Ministries PO Box 358 Oak Island, NC 28465

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!

Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., Resident Bishop

Western North Carolina Conference

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