

Breaking the Chains Church

Job Description

Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center

Job Title: Prison Congregation Pastor
Location: Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center
2825 N 30th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210

Salaried: Half time call

Reports to: Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod

Accountable to: Breaking the Chains Church participants, consisting of Felmers Chaney resident congregation and volunteers/representatives from supporting congregations and Superintendent of Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center.

General Description: The prison pastor's job has three major components. The first is conducting worship, preaching, teaching, administering the sacraments, leading bible studies, making pastoral calls, and nurturing spiritual lives inside the prison. This is the typical pastoral role. The second, related to the first, is working with inmates to build a minimal congregational structure that would give Felmers Chaney resident members, alongside of representatives of supporting congregations, ownership and decision-making ability. The third, and equally important component, is developing relationships outside the prison, fostering continually growing support of prison ministry through education, and awareness, and working with a variety of outside agencies and congregations.

Qualifications:

Masters of Divinity degree

Five years of experience as a pastor of a congregation is desirable

Member of ELCA or full communion partner

Understanding of criminal justice, mental health, addiction and sex offense issues

Proven leadership abilities and team-building skills

Good public relations, fund-raising and communication skills

Ability to travel

Duties and Responsibilities

Pastoral Care:

1. Lead worship
2. Administer the sacraments
3. Provide instruction in the Christian faith through worship, bible study, baptism, holy communion and confirmation
4. Emphasize discipleship
5. Visit with inmates wherever they are: in the prison, at work or in the community
6. Follow up ministry as possible and needed for continued spiritual growth once after inmates are released

Supervision and Administration:

1. Supervises Breaking the Chains Church staff and volunteers
2. Coordinates worship planning and scheduling with prison staff and outside groups or individuals
3. Works with inmates to build a minimal congregational structure that would give Felmers Chaney resident members, alongside of representative of supporting congregations, ownership and decision-making power.
4. Visits with outside congregations and other organizations to promote the inside ministry
5. Cultivates healthy communications and relations with partner congregations, the Greater Milwaukee Synod, prison staff and administration, other organizations involved with the prison population, such as, but not limited to, Project RETURN, MICAH.

Other Duties and Expectations of Called Leader:

Maintains visibility as the key leader of Breaking the Chains Church

Cultivates relationships with ecumenical partners, building support for the prison congregation and ministering to inmates with diverse religious backgrounds

Meets in person as well as communicating with outside partners

Participates and seeks assistance in ongoing reviews of strategic planning, goals and reflection

Submits required reports to ELCA

Is a key participant and coordinator of fundraising for Breaking the Chains Church

Travels to promote Breaking the Chains Church and prison ministry

Builds a strong community of volunteers to assist with the ministry of Breaking the Chains Church to include, but not limited to, worship participation, bible studies, fund raising

Participates in continuing education for topics related to inmates

Attends gatherings required by the Greater Milwaukee Synod

Schedules time for and is attentive to personal spiritual health and growth

Follows prison rules and regulations and participates in training as required

Reports to and participates in Steering Committee meetings

Participates in three and six month job performance reviews for the first year

Performs other duties as required

I have read and understand the requirements for this position and agree that I can perform the responsibilities for the position as Prison Congregation Pastor.

Signature Called Leader

Date

Signature Greater Milwaukee Synod Representative

Date