

The Empowerment Network
“Empowering Disciple-makers Affected by Incarceration”
Who We Are: Purpose, Principles, Practice

Purpose

Mission: Strengthen those affected by incarceration, who make disciples in their cultural context, both in prison and after re-entry.

Vision: Convene a nationwide collaborative community that includes a website of accessible resources, an instant-message platform, periodic meetings, and membership in all 50 states by 2029.

Principles (see full explanation at this link: [Foundational Documents](#))

1. America’s prisoners live in a culture that is significantly different from the culture outside prison.
2. The indigenous prison Church is a legitimate expression of the Church in its cultural context.
3. The presence of bona-fide indigenous disciple-makers in America’s prisons means it is no longer an unreached mission field.
4. The indigenous prison Church is a rich source for Kingdom workers inside prison, in the outside-Church, and for world missions through deportation.
5. Bona fide disciple-makers in the prison context need at least three years of contextualized church leadership training beyond discipleship programs (e.g. The Capstone Curriculum).
6. The outside-Church will always have a vital role to empower disciple-makers affected by incarceration, both inside prison and during re-entry.
7. An effective coach in the prison context is able to shift the responsibility to indigenous leaders, provide resources as needed, and inspire gifted prisoners to action.
8. The evidence of effective coaching is when indigenous leaders minister from their gifting, use the tools offered by their coaches, disciple new leaders, and desire to see people impacted by the Gospel beyond their context.
9. While the formerly incarcerated should start serving in a local church upon release, their sanctification in free-world culture needs to be proven authentic for a minimum of 12 months.
10. The indigenous prison Church has limited ability to collaborate with other indigenous leaders, but the Network can assist in a nationwide indigenous prison movement.

Practice

Members agree to conduct their ministry consistent with historic Christian faith and the content cited in this document, recognizing the Network is comprised of people employing diverse methods and strategies. Therefore, each member is free to endorse the work of other members but is not required to do so. The information listed on Network platforms must be kept current and inquiries must receive a reply within five business days. A member may be removed from the Network for any actions inconsistent with the elements listed in this document.