

ONE PARISH || ONE PRISONER

APPROACHING THE TOMBS

STEP ONE: Church Leadership Blessing

Start with the introduction video on ONEPARISHONEPRISONER.ORG

One Parish One Prisoner is a two-year journey for your congregation answering the call to be a resurrection community: an incarcerated brother or sister will be returning to your neighborhood soon. Facing immense barriers to reentry upon release, they applied to this program, asking for new community and new life.

A local church community, gathered in the name of forgiveness and resurrection, has everything a releasing person might need to rebuild a new life: friendships, a network of love, some clothes, rides to appointments, job connections, funds to pay off old fines and get a driver's license, new hope. Just as importantly: this relationship can transform every church.

This is an opportunity to disciple an entire congregation, exploring and practicing together Christ's ongoing resurrection work in an age of mass incarceration in America.

"Did I not tell you," Jesus tells the hesitant followers at Lazarus' tomb, "that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

Your Parish Team (7 members - including pastor) will commit to this two-year journey of learning, relationship-building, and reentry planning with your incarcerated friend. The wider congregation will be looped in increasingly throughout the journey to be challenged and transformed, and to join in celebrating resurrection.

Hard intimate and spiritual questions will arise. Congregants will begin opening up their own personal histories. You will find opportunities to collaborate with other ministries in your area. Learning about the criminal justice system, mental health, and contemplative prayer via our 24 monthly Learning Modules may excite new ministry engagement throughout the congregation.

It is essential that this journey begins with your church leadership's full blessing:



"YES, this will be a missional priority for our church for 2+ years. We're excited to involve various programs, ministries, sermons, study groups, and mission energies to this journey. We want to know and love an incarcerated friend and we welcome mutual resurrection."

How we equip you:

- A New Local-to-You Missions Effort
- Spiritual Formation: Theological Reflection, Contemplative Prayer
- Holistic Ministry Education: Trauma, Addiction, Incarceration, and Removing Reentry Barriers

THIS INCLUDES

- **PAIRING** your church with an incarcerated applicant returning to your neighborhood: our ongoing intake process includes DOC classification counselors, family members, community support contacts, local reentry ministries and organizations.
- **2-YEAR LEARNING CURRICULUM:** This is our step-by-step master class in the spirituality, social work, and purpose of community reentry work. You get unlimited, lifetime access to our 24+ monthly learning modules for your journey—always available online and constantly being refined, updated, enhanced, and increasing in number. We're building on decades of experience in reaching into the underground and accompanying our friends up into new life together—a customized curriculum for your team's journey.
- **LIVE KICKOFF ORIENTATION** with our Staff and Expert Navigators, custom-designed for your Parish and Prisoner.
 - **STARTER KITS** mailed to team members in preparation for this event.
- **FUNDRAISING & STORYTELLING GUIDE** to help your congregation rally around your releasing friend's reentry needs along the journey.
- **LIVE SUPPORT ACCESS** with Underground Ministries staff for advising, encouragement, and direction.

TUITION

One Parish One Prisoner is funded in part by each participating church's one-time tuition, on a sliding scale:

12 - 50 congregants / 6 - 10 families:	\$250
50 - 300 congregants / 10 - 75 families:	\$1,000
300 - 750 congregants / 75 - 250 families:	\$3,000
750+ congregants / 250+ families:	\$5,000

Tuition can be filed online: undergroundministries.org/tuition

Or mailed: Underground Ministries/OPOP PO Box 174 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

From there, we will be in contact with **your NEXT STEPS in APPROACHING THE TOMBS** with us: helping you send the call out to your congregation, having our Founder Chris Hoke preach and/or lead an info session, and beginning to assemble your Parish Team.