

Proposed by:

The Ven. Roxanne Klingensmith, Archdeacon of the Diocese and Deacon deployed at St. James Episcopal Church, Bozeman, Montana, The Rev. Doug Anderson, Deacon deployed at Holy Spirit, Missoula and The Rev. Connie Campbell-Pearson, Deacon deployed at Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Manhattan, Montana

Title:

Support Freedom In Christ Prison Ministry within the Montana Prison System.

Resolved:

The Diocese of Montana join the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Montana Synod of the ELCA (founder and principal funder) in supporting Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry within the Montana State prison System. Support shall consist of educating parish congregations and their clergy about the ministry's history, mission and current work and commending to the Finance Committee of the Diocese of Montana financial support of \$1000 for 2018.

Explanation:

Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry of Montana was founded in 2010 and has been funded by the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The ministry at Montana State Prison is ecumenical and is open to all prisoners on the inside and open to volunteers and supporters on the outside. An ordained Lutheran Pastor serves full-time there.

There are a variety of prison ministries across the nation doing the work of the Lord inside and outside prisons. Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry is a unique niche ministry. One of its main goals is to connect the inside group of Christian prisoners with the people of the Christian church on the outside. This is achieved by offering worship opportunities where people from the outside come and worship with the prisoners. This ministry has proven to be effective in connecting the people of Christ who live under the gracious love of God, but who have many different addresses. This model has proven to be effective in reducing recidivism rates among inmates and providing a healthy culture inside the prison. This ministry provides an all important bridge between the faith communities on the outside and the 90% of prisoners who will eventually be released into communities around this state.

Also important to note: this ministry is a natural extension of our Diocesan commitment to Grace Camp and to the clergy in this diocese involved in prison ministry.

The Christian faith, among other things, is about healing and reconciliation. These two come in many forms, through many people by the work of the Holy Spirit. The

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hope is that Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry will be a means by which an opportunity for healing and reconciliation can happen for BOTH the people inside and outside the prison.

Financial Note:

\$1000 contribution for fiscal year 2018