

PRISON REFORM TASK FORCE

Paul Bullis, Chair

Mission:

The purpose of the Prison Reform Task Force is two-fold: 1) to garner knowledge and information on prison system actions, facilities, and legislative activity, and 2) to disseminate that knowledge and information in such a manner that our conference clergy and lay persons are inspired to act for prison justice.

Summary of Activities:

In the past year, the Prison Reform Task Force has presented an online webinar on Private Prisons which included a discussion of why the United Methodist church and other denominations oppose the use of private prisons, and what steps can be taken to eliminate private prisons. The task force has also developed and implemented an awareness campaign on the push in Arizona to begin executing death row prisoners and has provided sample letters to send to the Governor and Attorney General. The task force will also work to schedule a tour of Arizona's Death Row.

In the coming year, the task force will continue to monitor criminal justice legislation at the state and federal levels and provide input where appropriate. The Task Force will also participate in the Conference Task Force on Economic Inequality's ZOOM presentation on Economic Inequality and Criminal Justice.

This is an exciting time to be involved in prison and criminal justice reform. There is a need for more members for the task force to be as effective as possible in dealing with these issues.

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