

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women?

Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women (IPMW for short) is a nonprofit organization that offers chaplaincy services, transition education and reentry support to women as they prepare themselves for new and different lives after a period of incarceration for the benefit of themselves, their families, and our shared community.



What is your history?

- In 1980, Presbyterians renovated the chapel at North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women (NCCIW), and funded the first female chaplain there, thus establishing the Presbyterian Chaplaincy Ministry.
- In 1989, the Raleigh Correctional Center for Women (RCCW, now Raleigh Unit of the NCCIW) was built as a minimum-security facility. The Department of Corrections invited the Presbyterian Chaplaincy Ministry to relocate their program.
- In 2004, the organization was reorganized as Presbyterian Prison Ministry, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit
- In 2013, the name was changed to **Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women** to more accurately reflect our broader support.

Who leads IPMW?

IPMW has an 11-member Board of Directors that oversees governance and adherence to the mission. Our Executive Director is Jennifer C. Jackson and President of the Board is Marci White. Our team includes one full-time and four part-time staff, interns and many dedicated volunteers.

What is the primary focus of IPMW?

We believe all people deserve a second chance, and our mission is to **build bridges of hope for women in prison, both before and after release** by focusing on their fundamental needs for a life of honor and dignity. The 3-year recidivism rate for women in North Carolina is close to 30%. We are committed to helping women beat these odds. Preliminary internal data indicate that the 3-year recidivism rate for women with significant participation in our chaplaincy programs between 2011-2014 may be as low as 7.6%. Though there are other factors that may have contributed to these better-than-average rates, it is clear that our programs are making a positive difference.

According to the Vera Institute, the number of women in prison between 1980-2014 outpaced men by more than 50%. Over 95% of them will be released one day. IPMW's overarching goal is to provide a long-term solution to helping women stay out of prison through self-discipline, spiritual and religious grounding, emotional literacy training, job and life skills, leadership and accountability, responsibility, practical assistance, strong support systems and love. In the words of a recent program participant, *"You've kept me motivated and reminded me that I can't quit. You have just been awesome. I know I need you in my life. You help me stay focused and I know that all days won't be good days, but that doesn't mean I can quit."*

How do you fulfill your mission?

All of our work is rooted in **chaplaincy services**, through which we offer religious worship, pastoral care, bible study, spiritual formation classes and a myriad of other religious and spiritual sustenance to women. Our CPE-trained Chaplains also incorporate trauma-informed and/or evidence-based classes and workshops, as well as guidance about faith communities that will welcome women back upon release. Through **transition education**, we teach Friday classes and provide 1:1 mentoring for the premier JobStart program; lead mentoring workshops in the prison for participants in the Training2Work program; and offer Transition Night for JAGS (Jobs Accountability Group Support), JobStart's aftercare program. Through **reentry support**, we provide "Hope Bags" filled with gift cards, self-care and toiletry items to most women released from the Raleigh Unit, as well as comprehensive case management; 1:1, group and peer mentoring for the residents of two local transitional homes and participants in Training2Work; and reentry support circles, which includes subsidized housing.

Additionally, IPMW follows through on the promise of prison ministry and our mission by challenging the mindsets of those outside of prison regarding the barriers that we both unwittingly and intentionally place on people trying to make it after a criminal conviction. We offer presentations and trainings in the community and host a powerful Reentry Simulation that allows people to experience a taste of what it feels like to walk in the shoes of a formerly incarcerated individual.

Who are your partners?

The NC Department of Public Safety, Wake Tech Community College, First Presbyterian Church, Duke University Divinity School, Catholic Charities of Raleigh, Eckerd Connects, Redirection Home, Inc., Community Success Initiative, Wheels4Hope and Green Chair are among our primary partners. IPMW is a member of the Wake County Local Reentry Council, and we also partner with individuals, other nonprofit service providers, faith-based organizations and area businesses to help women secure their post-release needs, including jobs, housing, transportation, human services and reunification with children.

How can I help?

In addition to mentors, office volunteers and community outreach ambassadors to assist with programs, community activities and fundraising, we need financial support from partners in the community representing all industries and faiths. As a nonprofit organization, we depend on charitable donations to conduct our work, and your tax-deductible donation ensures we are able to continue to provide needed programs and services that offer a more hopeful future for the women we serve. You can also engage with us on social media and attend events in support of the organization.

How can I get in contact with IPMW?

Our office is located at First Presbyterian Church, 112 S. Salisbury Street in downtown Raleigh. Please visit our website at www.ipmforwomen.org, "Like" us on Facebook, email us at info@ipmforwomen.org, or call 919-829-0311.

Thank you for your interest and support.