

Glad Tidings

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY



Rev. Gregory Davis, Deacon Mickle Mitchell (Local Coordinator), and Rev. Joyce McDowell (left to right) volunteer with the new Yokefellow ministry in Fayetteville.

This Issue

New Yokefellow Prison Ministries	P. 1
2020 Continuing Education Dates	P. 1
In the Spotlight	P. 2
Why are State-Level Funds Needed?	P. 3
Message from the President	P. 3
Easy Ways to Support Yokefellow	P. 4

ONLINE TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE

New volunteer and refresher training are now available for Yokefellow volunteers in an online format through Convene Communities. Step-by-step instructions for accessing the online training and working through the modules are available on the **Forms** page of the website:

yokefellowprisonministry.org/forms



Module 4: Active Listening

New Yokefellow Prison Ministries

New Yokefellow meetings launched in December 2019 at the Cumberland Regional Detention Center in Fayetteville. Meetings take place on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. and the 4th & 5th Sunday at 9:00 a.m. each month.

On January 21, Yokefellow volunteers attended blue card training at North Piedmont Correctional Center for Women

in Lexington in preparation for launching a new ministry there. Weekly Yokefellow meetings are anticipated to launch in Winter 2020.

Melissa Summers, Monika Queen, and Margaret Hightower (left to right) were among the volunteers who attended blue card training at North Piedmont on 1/21/20.



2020 Continuing Education Dates

Join us for one of the Regional Continuing Education & New Volunteer trainings:

- ◇ **Central:** Sat, 4/18/20, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.;
Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, 4511 Old NC 10, Durham
- ◇ **Western:** Sat, 9/12/20, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
First Christian Church, 201 Blue Ridge Rd., Black Mountain
- ◇ **Eastern:** Sat, 11/7/20, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church, 320 Pollock St., New Bern



ONLINE TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

One of the challenges for a statewide ministry is providing training for new volunteers and refresher continuing education for seasoned volunteers. North Carolina is a long state, so even with three annual regional events, the need for travel prevents many volunteers from participating.

Volunteers can now complete training modules from any computer with Internet access. Topics include...

- ◇ Overview of Yokefellow
- ◇ Scope of Yokefellow
- ◇ The Yokefellow Meeting
- ◇ Active Listening
- ◇ Understanding Those We Serve
- ◇ Navigating through Boundaries in Prison
- ◇ Respecting Post-incarceration Boundaries
- ◇ Next Steps

Talk with your Local Coordinator about accessing online training.



Module 1: Overview of Yokefellow
Prison Ministry



Module 5: Understanding Those We
Serve

In the Spotlight

Learn more about Pastor Kelvin Sellers, Local Coordinator in High Point



Tell us about Yokefellow Prison Ministry's post-incarceration ministry in High Point.

I enjoy Monday nights. We have Yokefellow meetings to hear & listen to the men talking and sharing ideas and support. Man, it is wonderful. My desire/goal for 2020 is turning sinners into disciples – one at a time.

How do you get the word out about the post-incarceration ministry?



Spotlight artwork
courtesy of [https://
openclipart.org/
detail/284958/theater
-or-studio-spotlight-on
-roof-mount](https://openclipart.org/detail/284958/theater-or-studio-spotlight-on-roof-mount)



As I drive around High Point and vicinity with my Yokefellow signs on my truck, people of all races and ethnicity ask about Yokefellow. I am able to share with them what it is all about, and that is just exciting and joyful to me. Especially, when they want to know more, then I can share the Yokefellow pamphlets and my flyers with them.

What is your vision for Yokefellow's post-incarceration ministry?

I want men & women who have been and are going to be released from prison to be good citizens and not return to the prison system. If they do, it will be to help someone else. I would also like have a Yokefellow choir – men & women singing praises and sharing their testimonies around the country, maybe the world (if it be God's will).

What do you do outside of Yokefellow ministry?

I am presently working on my Doctorate Degree in Ministry. I am also the Pastor of A Second Chance

Community Ministry in High Point, and we have been here for 9 years. Despite the valley I went through, the ministry is still here. I am currently the president of Ministers United for Christ of Thomasville and Vicinity.

What do you like to do for fun?

I enjoy spending time with my family. I like bowling with my wife, Angel. I enjoy spending my leisure time listening to music and relaxing. I enjoy my trips to Philadelphia around three (3) times a year to do father & son weekends. I enjoy having fun with my daughters, like going out to eat and going to basketball & football games. I love to cook and clean, my pastime things (smile). My wife used to live in Alabama, and I used to love going to Birmingham so I can stop in Atlanta at the Varsity and get a hot dog. Those are the best hot dogs in America.



Why are State-Level Funds Needed?

Have you ever asked yourself why Yokefellow Prison Ministry needs an office at the state level? When you send in a contribution, where does that money go?

Expand Prison Ministries

Yokefellow Prison Ministry is active in 69% of NC prisons, which means that almost 1/3 of the prisons in NC do not yet have Yokefellow meetings. State-level staff work with prisons to get permission to launch new Yokefellow ministries. They then recruit and train local volunteers to minister in those prisons. Without state-level staff, new prison ministries are unlikely to launch.



Launch Post-incarceration Ministries

According to Yokefellow's Articles of Incorporation from 1972, one of the purposes of Yokefellow is to provide continuing fellowship with inmates as they are released into the community. This did not happen until 2018, through the leg-work of state-level staff.

Maintain a Consistent Vision Statewide

Yokefellow's form of ministry is unique. While other prison ministries focus on Bible studies, worship services, or preaching the gospel, Yokefellow's vision is building relationships through active listening. State-level staff provide continuing

education for volunteers across the state to ensure that all local ministries have a consistent focus, providing continuity as inmates transfer from one prison (and Yokefellow group) to another. Additionally, regional continuing education events help volunteers from different parts of the state stay connected and support one another.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

The year 2019 was a very productive year for Yokefellow Prison Ministry of NC. We've encountered new people, new opportunities, and uplifting experiences of God's grace. We are a blessed people, compelled in our faith to bless others. It has been a great pleasure to serve as your President, and I look forward to our continued growth as an organization and movement.



In 2019, more people have been trained, more inmates have attended our services statewide, and we've enjoyed the benefits of new friends and acquaintances. I appreciate the diligent work and dedication of our Board and our Executive Committee. I appreciate our donors and grantors, who keep our organization moving in the direction God is leading us.

In all of our moving forward, we still have to plan to encounter the underserved prison populations and look for opportunities to serve those who are released. Donations to make these initiatives real are very important, and I encourage you to give to provide training and programming for Yokefellows across the state. We have made some important decisions to strengthen our Yokefellow base

and prepare for our inevitable growth in 2020.

We are a stronger organization, and Yokefellow has also been blessed to have the very capable and dedicated leadership of Vita Alligood. Vita has provided outstanding service as our Executive Director. We, as an organization, are stronger and wiser as a result of her care. We are also blessed to have Carlton Gooding as our State Developer. He has done an outstanding work and ministry in making our organization grow. We are stronger and more relevant as a result of his ministry. We are a better organization because of their work and dedication to detail. Well done Vita and Carlton! You are a blessing to us!

Yokefellow is a grace-driven organization. We attract sinful people. I say this because the people of our

world hunger for grace. Sinful human beings are drawn to grace like a bee is to honey. We see this in the way people responded to Jesus during His earthly ministry. We see this in the way people are drawn to you.

What will make our organization, the movement called Yokefellow, great? God's grace will! Remember Proverbs 19:21 ... "Many are the plans of a man's heart, but it is the LORD'S PURPOSE that prevails."

I pray that God will continue to bless each of us as we strive to be his faithful servants. I extend my best to you in this New Year 2020. Bless you all with the grace that only our Lord can give.

David Morton

President of the Board

Yokefellow Prison Ministry of NC

EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT YOKEFELLOW

Amazon

Want an easy way to support Yokefellow that costs you nothing? Sign up for a **free** Amazon Smile account.

How to Sign Up

Type <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1059009> into your Internet browser. Then, sign in to your Amazon.com account or create a new one. It really is that simple!

Amazon Smile on the Computer

Whenever you shop at Amazon from your computer, begin your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Then, simply shop as you have always done. Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchases to Yokefellow. This will not affect the cost of your purchases.

Amazon Smile on Android

Prefer to shop Amazon from your Android device? You can link the Amazon app on your Android device to your Amazon Smile account by following these steps:

1. Install the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app to your Android device.
2. Open the Amazon Shopping app.
3. Touch the triple bars ☰ at the upper left.
4. Select **Settings** at the bottom of the menu.
5. Touch **Amazon Smile**.
6. Follow the in-app instructions to link the app to your Amazon Smile account.

Stocks

Did you know that you can donate stocks and other securities to Yokefellow and save on taxes? Call the Yokefellow office to learn how.

Facebook

Consider hosting a Birthday Fundraiser on your Facebook page. Here's how to do it:

1. Go to your Facebook account.
2. Click **Home** at the top.
3. Click **Fundraisers** on the left column, located under **Explore**.
4. Click **Select Nonprofit**.



5. Type **Yokefellow** in the search bar and then click to select it.
6. Type in how much money you would like to raise and the date that the fundraiser will end and then click **Next**.
7. Type in a title and reason for your fundraiser and then click **Next**.
8. Select a cover photo and then click **Create**.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 38964
Greensboro, NC 27438
336-724-9801
Yokefellowprisonministrync@gmail.com
Yokefellowprisonministry.org
facebook.com/yokefellowprisonministry.nc

Prison Ministry
Building Trusting Relationships
Listening • Caring • Encouraging



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
GREENSBORO, NC
PERMIT NO. 992

Yokefellow Prison Ministry
Issue 10 Winter 2020