**CORRESPONDENCE INITIATIVE AT STATEVILLE**

Dear ECC Family,

As you likely know, prisons around the country have been shut down for outside programming which is wise but also very isolating. North Park faculty are not able to go in to inform students face to face. While we are sending packets for them to continue their semester studies independently, we want to offer our support in other ways as well.

If you would consider having members of your church write our students with encouragement and blessings, it would be appreciated by all. Your congregations’ regular contact through letters would be a source of ongoing encouragement. Thank you so much for remembering our brothers behind bars in a difficult time!

If your congregation or other organization is interested in participating in this initiative, we ask you to commit to training along these lines:

1. Remind letter partners not to overpromise (e.g., frequency of writing, etc) and to be clear that the purpose is to be a source of encouragement in this time, to demonstrate that outside people are with our incarcerated brothers, thinking about them, praying, advocating for them, etc.
2. Tell letter partners that these guys are pastors (or training for work in ministry broadly) and they bring a lot to the table. Most of our students are Christian, and we do also have some who are Muslim and other faiths training to be restorative agents in their contexts. Please be sensitive to the interfaith context of the SRA.
3. Letter partners should not ask personal questions about their incarcerated partner’s history and should not look up their reasons for being incarcerated.
4. PLEASE have potential writers commit to reviewing ALL of the following resources related to our students and mass incarceration:
   - Watch this TEDx talk
   - Read this NPR piece
   - Watch this Urbana Video featuring 3 of our incarcerated students and 2 outside students
   - Read Dominique Gilliard’s *Rethinking Incarceration*
   - Watch *When They See Us* (available on Netflix)
   - Watch 13th (available on Netflix)

Last, per IDOC:

“Your letter will be opened and searched for contraband. Do not include pre-embossed envelopes, pre-stamped envelopes, postage stamps or plain envelopes in the mail. Please do not decorate the envelope with stickers, any document received at a prison that has stickers attached will be returned.”

Below is a list of the names/ID numbers for all of our students in the first and second cohorts. Thank you in advance for considering this partnership, and I pray that you are all well and making wise decisions. Please contact me with any questions you might have.

**Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom (mclifton-soderstrom@northpark.edu)**
Interim Dean of Faculty
Professor of Theology & Ethics, Director, School of Restorative Arts
North Park Theological Seminary
[https://www.northpark.edu/seminary/school-of-restorative-arts/](https://www.northpark.edu/seminary/school-of-restorative-arts/)
[https://www.northpark.edu/seminary/](https://www.northpark.edu/seminary/)
To correspond with NPTS students who are incarcerated:

Name, IDOC# (below)
P.O. Box 112
Joliet, IL 60434

Cohort 1
Luigi Adamo R74391
Ignacio Alvarez R06418
Jamal Bakr R40503
Martin Barnes B59883
Edward (Eddie) Brown N92971
Melvin Centeno K72719
David Denson N40871
Christopher D. Everett R26159
Steven Feagin M30502
Michael Johnson M43807
William Jones A66045
Howard Keller K67292
Brandon Lewis M30871
Johnny Marizetts R32327
Chester McKinney M00311
Manuel (Manny) Metlock R34453
Ryan Miller R58096
Scott Moore S12310
Jason Múnoz R16474
Alex Negrón R17084
Raymond Nesbitt M00998
Michael Pizarro Y23153
Marcos Ramirez R66644
Ronald (Rusty) Rice N43212
Benny Rios R26343
Rayon Sampson R24196
Michael Simmons K58311
Michael Sanders R40360
Lonnie Smith B00708
Willie Spates R50820
Michael (Tall Mike) Sullivan B67920
John Taylor R66376
Richard Turner B82370
Ro Zavala K68842
Cohort 2
Otha Anderson A01815
David Baily N11550
Antonion Balderas N20189
Aryules Bivens N01682
Joseph Boyce B76356
David Carter N43429
James Degorski M09414
Sherron Dillon B79353
James Edwards A70905
Ray Fergerson N61470
Shaun Hubbard B46211
Amotto Jackson B11393
Robert John R06853
Michael Jones N52142
Antonio Kendrick R51546
Kenneth Key A70562
Larry Luellen Y23449
Robert Maury N13270
Benjamin Meyer Y27914
Thomas Mills K68666
James Mitchell B59698
Damen Price K52308
Steven Ramirez K68143
George Ross K60506
Todd Smith Y20942
Ronald Steele N81650
Marshall Stewart B43697
Yarmale Thomas R59281
Jamie Thomasson S11584
John Turpen K54420
Alann Vega R04203
DeCedrick Walker B76454
Vaughn Washington A70206
Eric Watkins K56687
Elton Williams B13199
Brian Willis R06715
Joseph Wilson K77218 (Big Fella)