

**Presbyterian Immigrant Ministry
Annual Report
May 2019**

For the Presbyterian Immigrant Ministry (PIM) the year since the last annual meeting of this presbytery has been one of expanding ministry combined with shrinking financial support.

Of the three prisons where our missionaries meet with incarcerated undocumented immigrants, the one in Plymouth MA has increased most notably in size and attendance during the past year. The number of Bible Study/worship groups has increased there from three to six. Currently there is talk of adding two more. Prison authorities there have gone to the extent of reserving one meeting room exclusively for our Bible study groups. Attendance at Dartmouth has increased too, but not so dramatically. In the Boston prison the attendance among men has remained stable while that among women has dropped over the past few months. A total of about 150 people now meet with our missionaries each week. We thank our three missionaries—Rev. Paulo Ribeiro, Rev. Alonso Dacunha and Mrs. Katia Dacunha—for the time, thought, caring and commitment that they have brought to this ministry

PIM's current expenses now approximate \$1,000/week. This covers our missionaries' stipends and travel to and from the prisons they visit on PIM's behalf. The money to pay these expenses comes from three major sources. The presbytery now includes a \$10,000 line item in its budget for PIM. Individual congregations within this presbytery have also designated mission giving for PIM and one former member congregation of this presbytery continues to do the same. Finally, individuals within the presbytery have made personal contributions to PIM as well. We thank those who have support PIM's ministry in this way and seek to broaden such support among both congregations and individuals so as to continue this ministry at full strength.

As we face this dilemma of rising demand within the prisons for this ministry on the one hand and inadequate finances to maintain it at full strength into the coming months, two things are very clear to us. One is that we cannot simply abandon these incarcerated undocumented immigrants who are treated like the lepers in Jesus' time. The other is that until at least 2021 these incarcerated undocumented immigrants are going to be with us and may well increase in number, because Government policy is not going to change no matter how hard we protest. All we can do for the time being is to continue ministering to its victims so that they might face their futures as transformed persons no matter whether they are deported or allowed to stay.

The PIM Steering Committee