**PRESBYTERIAN IMMIGRANT MINISTRY**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019**

This year witnessed some important changes in the Presbyterian Immigrant Ministry’s work among incarcerated undocumented immigrants. The biggest change came in November when the Suffolk County Jail in Boston decided to move out all undocumented immigrants to other prisons and refused to receive any more. This brought our work with two men’s groups and our only women’s group to an end. As that door closed, other doors at the Plymouth County Jail opened up where by the end of the year we had six groups functioning, each with an average attendance of twenty people. As in the past, these groups are devoted to worship and Bible study. Since the Rev. Paulo Ribeiro left for a stay in Brazil at the beginning of November, the Rev. Alonso DaCunha carried on this ministry in Plymouth and Dartmouth (two groups) alone for the final two months of the year.

Two innovations are also worth reporting. One has been the introduction of a Bible correspondence course prepared by Rev. Alonso and Katia DaCunha for inmates who either do not belong to one of our groups or who want further Bible study. These Bible studies in Spanish and Portuguese are marked and returned with a prayer and a message by members of the Brazilian Fellowship in Hyannis. Initially about one hundred inmates signed up for the course, and became very involved in it, but very few have been able to complete it because they were either deported or moved from one prison to another. The other innovation is that Rev. Alonso has been meeting with other immigrant pastors “to speak about the ministry of support and comfort to immigrants as well as to insert new proposals for work”.

The Steering Committee, in addition to overseeing the work of this ministry, has published three Newsletters during the course of the year and has reported regularly to the presbytery on developments and needs in this ministry. The year ended with a positive bank balance and so we enter the new year a bit less worried about the future than has been the case in the past. Our donors, both individuals and congregations, have been very faithful and supportive. Thank you, one and all.