

2018  
YOKEFELLOWSHIP PRISON MINISTRY  
LEHIGH VALLEY COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT



**Helping at-risk youth, inmates, and returning citizens  
yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives.**

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# STATEMENT OF FAITH (REVISED 01/18/18)

## We in Yokefellowship Prison Ministry believe:

- **God** - There is one eternal, almighty, and perfect God, in essence revealed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are faithful to the biblical revelation that in one sense God is one and in a different sense He is three.
- **Jesus Christ** - Jesus Christ is true God and true Man, born of a virgin, died for our sins, rose from the dead, and will return in glory and power.
- **The Holy Spirit** - When a person becomes born again, by believing and receiving Jesus Christ, God resides in that person through the Holy Spirit. All the divine attributes ascribed to the Father and the Son are equally ascribed to the Holy Spirit.
- **The Word** – The Bible is the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God given through the Holy Spirit for the purpose of teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.
- **The Fall** - God created mankind in his own image, but through the fall in the Garden of Eden man was removed from the Garden and separated from God. Thus, we are all sinners and cannot earn God's favor on our own.
- **The Plan** – God's original plan to give mankind eternal life was rejected by Adam and Eve. In God's redemptive plan, man is rescued from death by the priceless shed blood of Jesus Christ. His atoning death on the cross ended the separation for all those who come to Him.
- **The Call** – Everyone who is reconciled to God through Christ Jesus is called to be a minister of reconciliation – an ambassador of Christ. As Yokefellows, we are called to provide a ministry of reconciliation to those who are or were incarcerated.
- **The Body of Christ** – All believers are members of the body of Christ. With Christ as the "head," every member is called to have a personal relationship with Him, to be His disciple, to love one another, and to use our gifts for the body.
- **The New Covenant** – Those who yoke themselves to Christ are no longer part of the Old Covenant. Though the OT law is good in that it showed us our need for Christ and how to please God, Christians live by and are under a new covenant of grace alone. Having been released from the law, we are to live by grace and our lives are to continually reflect the glory of God.
- **The Reward** - For taking the message of God's transforming love and forgiveness to captives and sharing the grace that has been given to us, great will be our reward in heaven.

Adopted by unanimous consent at YPMLV Board Meeting January 18, 2018.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM LEHIGH VALLEY COUNCIL DIRECTOR – LISA M. PERRY	1
ABOUT YPM	2
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	3
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES	4
MINISTRY PRESENCE	5
FINANCIAL REPORT	6
SPECIAL THANKS	7

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL DIRECTOR . . .**

Another year is gone and more souls are saved by Our Lord and Savior. It is through the determination of committed volunteers that His Word is shared with those searching for a Savior who will help them out of the miry pit they are in.

God has expanded Yokefellowship Prison Ministry – Lehigh Valley Council. We now have available times to hold Bible studies seven days a week. We currently go into Lehigh County Jail, Lehigh County Community Corrections Center and Lehigh County Center for Recovery. God has also provided us with more volunteers but more dedicated servants are needed.

As we look forward to 2019 with a new Council Director, new Board Officers and Members, and new volunteers may the Lord bring a fresh breathe into the ministry. May volunteers be filled with excitement as they share God's Word with those who need a Savior.

A big heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers for your service to the King of Kings.

As the scripture says:

Matthew 5:14-16 New International Version (NIV)

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Let your light shine for others to see and may Jesus be praised!!

God Bless.

Working for Him Always ...

Lisa M. Perry  
Council Director  
Yokefellowship Prison Ministry  
Lehigh Valley Council  
Isaiah 6:8



# ABOUT YPM

**YPM's** mission is to "help at-risk youth, inmates, and returning citizens yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives." YPM is a 501(c)(3) umbrella organization of Yokefellowship Prison Ministry located in central Pennsylvania with Lehigh Valley Area Council being one of 15 Area Councils serving throughout Pennsylvania. Each Area Council has its own governing body; recruits, trains, and assigns volunteers; has its own treasury and budget; and is asked to contribute 25% of its net income to the parent organization. Through these Area Councils, hundreds of volunteers are entering nearly half of the county and state correctional institutions in Pennsylvania.

**YPM** grew out of a fellowship movement started by Dr. Elton Trueblood, a renowned author, speaker, and theologian, in 1955. Trueblood believed being a Christian was synonymous to being yoked with Christ (Matthew 11:28-30) and that we need to heed the call of PHILIPPIANS 4:3 to help others, "Yes, I ask you loyal yokefellows....". Regarding incarceration, Trueblood stated, "Separation from the world for a while is justified if new life emerges."

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me  
for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls.  
For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."  
MATTHEW 11:28-30**

**YPM** focuses on **small group discussions** for spiritual and personal growth through learning and practicing Bible-based disciplines. The result is the changed lives of those we serve as well as our own. The following selected attributes of discipleship are highly valued and taught as "marks" of a Yokefellow:

- ❖ **Commitment** - Hearing Christ's call "Come to me" a Yokefellow knows this answer gives a center of stability in life as he or she also joins Christ in lifting the burdens of others.
- ❖ **Discipline** - A Yokefellow voluntarily accepts:
  - **Discipline of Prayer** - pray daily.
  - **Discipline of Scripture** - read reverently and thoughtfully a portion of Scripture daily, following a definite plan.
  - **The Discipline of Worship** - to share, at least weekly, in the public worship of God.
  - **Discipline of Money** - give a definite portion of my income to the promotion of Christ's cause and as an act of worship.
  - **Discipline of Time** - use my time as a sacred gift, not to be wasted, striving to make my daily work, whatever it may be, a Christian vocation.
  - **Discipline of Service** - daily lift some human burden.
  - **Discipline of Study** - develop mental powers by careful reading and study.
- ❖ **Witness** - A Yokefellow is one who knows that faith in Christ is not a private affair; to be kept it must be shared.
- ❖ **Ministry** - A Yokefellow is one who participates in the universal ministry. The New Testament is clear; all are called and all are recruits in Christ's cause (Ephesians 4:1).
- ❖ **Fellowship** - It is impossible to be a Christian in isolation. A Yokefellow finds or produces a redemptive Christian fellowship.

**YPM - Lehigh Valley**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(AS OF 12/31/18)

**CHAIRMAN**

Vacant

**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Vacant

**SECRETARY**

Vacant

**TREASURER (2017)**

Linda Lovette

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Clarence Kreider (2017)

Barbara Thomas (2017)

The YPMLV Board of Directors usually  
meets the third Thursday of the month in  
January, March, May, September, November  
at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1208 Brookside Road, Wescosville, PA at 7 pm

## **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

This year we were given the opportunity to hold Bible Studies in the Lehigh County Center for Recovery. We now have available times to hold Bible studies seven days a week.

### **Sunday Meetings**

- Third, fourth and fifth week - 7:30 - 9:00 pm at LCJ Housing Units 2B/2C (men)
- Every week 2:00 - 4:00 pm - CCC (men)
- Fourth and fifth week - 7:30 - 9:00 pm - LCJ 2A/2D (men)

### **Weekly Meetings**

- Every Monday 7:00 - 9:00 PM LCJ Housing Units 2A/2D (men)
- Every Tuesday 8:30 - 10:00 pm LCJ Housing Units 4A/4B (men) (currently these pods are not being used)
- Every Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 pm LCJ Housing Units 4C1/4D (women)
- Every Wednesday 8:30 - 10:00 pm LCJ Housing Units 2B/2C (men)
- Every Thursday 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm LCJ Housing Units 4C1/4D (women)
- Every Friday 7:00 - 9:00 pm LCJ Housing Unit 3B (men)
- Every Friday 7:00 - 9:00 pm LCJ Housing Units 3A/3D (men)
- Every Friday 7:00 - 9:00 LCJ Housing Units 1A (men)
- Every Friday 7:00 - 9:00 pm CCC (men)
- Three Saturdays a month 9:30 am - 10:20 am LCCR (women or men)
- Three Saturdays a month 10:30 am – 11:20 am LCCR (women or men)

### **Meeting Places**

LCJ	Lehigh County Jail	38 N. 4th St, Allentown, PA
CCC	Lehigh County Community Corrections Center	1600 Riverside Drive Bethlehem, PA
LCCR	Lehigh County Center for Recovery	1620 Riverside Drive Bethlehem, PA

**YPM HAD A PRESENCE IN 40 CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

<p><b>PA State Institutions</b></p> <p>Benner Township          Cambridge Springs          Camp Hill          Coal Township          Fayette          Forest          Frackville          Houtzdale          Huntingdon          Mahanoy          Muncy          Pine Grove          Rockview          Smithfield</p>	<p><b>PA County Institutions</b></p> <p>Berks County Jail System          Carbon County Correctional Facility          Centre County Correctional Facility          Clearfield County Prison          Clinton County Correctional Facility          Cumberland County Prison          Dauphin County Prison          Elk County Prison          Franklin County Jail          Indiana County Prison          Lehigh County Community Corrections Center          Lehigh County Jail          Lycoming County Prison &amp; Pre-Release          Mifflin County Correctional Facility          Montgomery County Correctional Facility          Northampton County Jail          Northumberland County Jail          Perry County Prison          Pike County Prison          Schuylkill County Prison          Snyder County Prison          Tioga County Prison          Union County Prison          Wayne County Jail          Westmoreland County Prison          York County Prison</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aftercare Programs</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Berks County - New Person Ministries          Lancaster County - Lancaster Re-Entry Management Organization          Lycoming County - Transitional Living Center          Mifflin County - Stepping Stones to Freedom</p>	

**Regarding Incarceration By D. Elton Trueblood (founder YPM)**

“The primary purpose is the improvement of persons. Separation from the world for a while is justified if new life emerges. But, Yokefellows know that new life does not emerge of itself. It comes only if there is consistent and loving effort to give embodiment to the divine potential in each person made in God’s image. That is why we work; we are trying to combine the warm heart and the clear head. We are well aware of the possibility of failure, but we never give up, because the prize is one of real magnitude. If one person is truly changed, all of the effort expended is worthwhile.”

See more on YPM history at <https://yokefellowpa.org/history>



# YPM FINANCIAL REPORT

January - December 2018

## Income

Donations		
Individuals		\$3,505.08
Designations	\$825.08	
Bibles		\$250.00
Gifts		\$55.08
Workbooks		\$400.00
Conference		\$120.00
Churches/businesses		\$2,400.00
Missions tables		\$55.00
Retail Credits		\$239.78
Found in old file		\$1.00
Donation credited to 2017		<u>\$10.00</u>
	TOTAL INCOME	\$6,210.86

## Expenses

Office supplies	\$728.69
Postage/PO Box	\$184.72
Phone	\$359.17
Bibles for inmates	\$2,045.32
Literature for inmates	\$712.90
Conference	\$222.50
Training	\$75.00
Training refund	-\$75.00
Donations	\$300.00
YPM 10% tithe	\$387.00
Website maintenance	\$74.19
Wells Fargo charges	\$6.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$179.94</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,200.43

Savings account total: \$7,828.00

Checking account total: \$950.62

**SPECIAL THANK YOU  
TO OUR 2018 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS**

Bethany United Methodist Church

Anonymous donors

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry – Lehigh Valley Council  
is a 501(c)(3). Your support and contributions  
will enable us to continue on God's mission  
and improve the lives of inmates,  
returning citizens and their families.  
Since we are a volunteer organization,  
100% of your donation goes to the mission and is tax deductible.

A donation of \$6 will provide an inmate with a Bible.



“Here I am!  
Come to me, all you who are weary and  
burdened, and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart  
and you will find rest for your souls.  
For my yoke is easy and  
my burden is light.”  
Matthew 11:28-30

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