

## **One Community Ministries of Circleville Seek Networking Churches In The Capitol Area South District**

By Rodney Griffith

Re-entering society after incarceration for any length of time is often a time of insecurity, doubt and even fear. Questions such as, where am I going to live, what am I going to eat and are there any people out there that really care, are some of the most often asked.

Looking beyond what placed an individual behind bars, One Community Ministries, the satellite prison and aftercare/reentry ministry of Community United Methodist Church of Circleville, Ohio, is working to put together a matrix of agencies and services available in each of Ohio's eighty-eight counties for ex-offenders in transition back into society. The ministry is seeking those governmental and non-governmental agencies, programs and churches available in their home county or new county. Many who are truly "tired of being tired", realize that returning to old friends and associates in their home area may lead them into relapse and re-incarceration, so they are seeking new places to begin "a new start". Having a friendly place to seek additional information, or to seek and worship the Lord is very important.

"We need to know what other United Methodist Churches, especially in the Capitol Area South District, are willing to serve as 'community referral' churches to assist in guiding and directing these ex-offenders in transition," states Rodney Griffith, Director of One Community Ministries. "We need to be able to say to those exiting back into society, 'you may contact this United Methodist Church, and they will help guide you to services available to you'", Griffith further stated. The type of guidance needed but certainly not limited to transitional housing, food, jobs, and a place to worship, even if requested to help find a good church of another denomination, should it be requested. "How far we are as United Methodists willing to reach out in "radical hospitality", Griffith asks.

Jesus says to us, *"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine of mine, you did for me"* (Mt 25:40) Won't you please strongly consider stepping out in faith and radical hospitality to become a 'community referral' church? If you are willing to step forward, please contact the District office or contact One Ministries directly by emailing [onecommunity@verizon.net](mailto:onecommunity@verizon.net) . Thank you and God bless.