

Kairos at DCI Report by Rich Jeppesen - June 17, 2020

*"We will need to creatively reimagine Kairos prison ministry in our new normal."*

Rich spoke with Senior Chaplain Patricia Williams at Dixon Correctional Institute (DCI) June 10. Here is the latest status:

- The current Dept. of Corrections (DOC) facility self-isolation policy is still in effect with no outlook for reopening to family visits or volunteers anytime soon
  - Security protocols will be more stringent
- DCI has had only 1 case of COVID-19, patient has recovered
- The Chapel is being utilized as a "Health Isolation" dorm for any offender who has outside appointments & then returns
  - No organized worship or spiritual growth activities in Chapel
- Volunteers will have to attend DOC training sessions before re-entry
  - Normally scheduled Quarterly Training has been cancelled until further notice
- Incoming mail is always screened by Security to intercept contraband. Now a copy is made which is delivered to the offender and the original returned to the sender. Letter writing by volunteers is not recommended at the moment.
- New study materials/books sent directly from the supplier to the prison, which has little risk to health or security can be coordinated with the Chaplain and Program Warden on a case by case basis.

The Kairos Prison Ministry International leadership has suspended all Kairos Inside, Outside and Torch (youth) ministry programs, meetings, training, etc. until further notice. Largely dependent on DOC policies for reopening.

Thanks & Blessings

Rich Jeppesen