

## Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.



### **Policy Statement on Interdenominational Christian Ministry**

All Kairos Volunteers should know and agree with the Kairos Mission, Vision, Core Values and Statement of Faith. Each Kairos leader and team member must read and follow the applicable program manual.

Each team member must understand the importance of Kairos as a ministry of the church - a Ministry called by Jesus Christ to serve in the correctional institution and the lives of their relatives and friends. Kairos Prison Ministry is an interdenominational Christian ministry, commonly referred to as ecumenical. Ecumenical is promoting or relating to unity among the world's Christian churches. In Kairos, we are Christians who believe in the Holy Trinity and honor and live the teaching of the Bible and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Kairos is a ministry of persons drawn from a broad range of Christian Churches. The ecumenical nature of Kairos Prison Ministry must be upheld which requires that team members come from a variety of denominations and that all participants refrain from activities that are practiced by their particular denomination, in contrast to others, while serving as a Kairos volunteer. Kairos Prison Ministry International presents only broad based, mainstream Christian teachings which we, as Christians, hold as 'common ground.' These teachings are built primarily around Jesus Christ's unconditional love. We recognize our limitations, acknowledging that with God's help, we can make a difference. Kairos volunteers present Christ's love, understanding, forgiveness and acceptance. We avoid putting down the theological concepts or practices of others, and conduct ourselves according to the love of Jesus Christ as demonstrated in the Scriptures.

Jesus Christ has transformed our lives and we, as volunteers, seek with a servant's heart to share our experience and faith with inmates, guests, and all impacted by incarceration. Kairos Prison Ministry does not promote or use religious practices of one Christian denomination over others. There are certain religious practices that are not followed by all Christian denominations or that vary from one Christian denomination to the others, such as baptism, Holy Communion, reciting the rosary, anointing with oil, etc. In all cases where participants/guests ask about such practices, they should be encouraged to discuss the matter with the chaplain or appropriate staff of their institution or with their own personal Christian priest or minister.

We are called to lay down private agendas as we serve Jesus Christ to conduct Kairos Prison Ministry. *"And now I give you a new commandment; love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know you are my disciples."* (John 13:34-35)

The Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. Board of Directors directs all Kairos Inside, Kairos Torch, and Kairos Outside Leaders to provide copies of this policy statement to all team participants prior to participating in a Kairos Inside, Kairos Torch, or Kairos Outside Weekend. All volunteers at all levels when serving in Kairos must follow this policy.

*Originally approved by the Kairos Prison Ministry Executive Committee on March 16, 2004. Update approved by Kairos Board Executive Committee on June 16, 2009. Updated and approved Kairos Board of Directors April, 2015.*