According to Matthew’s Gospel, the risen Christ made it clear: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you” (28:19-20). Based on this “Great Commission,” our United Methodist Church has stated its purpose: “The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." The All In Community initiative shares this mission with the local church specifically with populations impacted by crime and incarceration.

In the West Ohio Conference mission field, one in ten Ohioans is directly involved in the criminal justice system as a crime victim, person who commits a crime, or the family of either. Because the local church is the primary place where relationships lead to personal and public restoration and transformation, our members and neighbors impacted by crime and incarceration are one of West Ohio’s primary mission fields to go and make disciples. All In Community exists *to restore hope and provide healing in lives involved in the criminal justice system*. Through hope and healing, we seek to live out Matthew 25 and Luke 10 for disciple-making and community transformation.

All In Community congregations and cohorts work within this ministry area by developing and furthering spiritually and emotionally healthy communities. These communities, in turn, seek to improve the quality of life, ministry, and faith experience for all people within the WOC mission field.

All In Community grants are awarded to churches and UM-led groups that desire to develop relational, resource, and referral capacity to walk with individuals in their local communities living through experiences of crime, incarceration, reentry, and other pathways into the criminal justice system (primarily substance abuse, economic inequality, racial and social injustices, domestic violence, sexual abuse/trafficking). HOPE Letter All In Community Grant recipients specifically seek to support wellness, healing, and personal transformation with justice-involved persons through mentoring ministry of correspondence with people who are incarcerated.

**Grant Proposal Criteria**

1. Churches and groups submitting a proposal for a HOPE Letters All In Community Grant must be led by a United Methodist person with at least 50% of the HOPE Letter group being comprised of United Methodists. Ecumenical and interfaith groups are permitted.
2. HOPE Letter groups desire to reflect the spirit of All In Community *to embrace our neighbors and members impacted by crime or incarceration*. This includes a component for mentorship with justice-involved persons.
3. HOPE Letters groups must show evidence of being theologically sound and aligning with the All In Community mission *to restore hope and provide healing in lives involved in the criminal justice system*.
4. HOPE Letter All In Community grant proposals must partner with a correctional agency that is aligned with All In Community. As such, **HOPE Letter groups must adhere to the Correctional agency’s policies, processes, practices, and procedures.**
5. HOPE Letter groups must adhere to the guidelines, processes, and expectations outlined by All In Community for HOPE Letters ministry.
6. HOPE Letter initiatives must have an identified leader and a group of at least four persons committed to writing letters after the initial HOPE Letters Information and Basic Training session.
7. HOPE Letter groups understand that this ministry has associated costs including: training fees, letter writing materials, group hospitality, etc. Initial training fee rate is $400 (negotiable upon request).
8. HOPE Letter All In Community grant applications must include an initial plan of how the ministry will be maintained financially beyond the end of the grant.
9. Funding is for the first year of implementation only.
10. Requests for funding cannot exceed $500 per year. **It is strongly encouraged that grant funds are not the only source for funding. It is strongly encouraged that the group contributes least half of all ministry investment.**
11. All In Community will award grant funds to pay for training fees, ***only*** if the person(s) are associated with All In Community or HOPE Letter.
12. All In Community will award grant funds for the purchase of supplies, ***only*** if the materials are to be used directly for writing letters.
13. All In Community will not issue grants for routine facility repairs and maintenance.
14. Grant recipients will be required to:
    1. Offer periodic HOPE Letter trainings, per the HOPE Letters Manual, and all required partnering Correctional Agency trainings.
    2. Participate in bi-monthly HOPE Letters Leaders video/telephone conferencing meetings.
    3. Comport with all partnering Correctional Agency policies, processes, procedures, and practices.
    4. Serve as a resource guide for replication of ministry initiative across the WOC.
    5. Complete and submit two Progress Reports per year and a final report at end of grant cycle.

**Grant Application Process**

1. Complete the HOPE Letters All In Community Grant Application and submit it to the Office of Faith Formation and Community Engagement to Reba Collins at [rebakco@gmail.com](mailto:rebakco@gmail.com) or mail it to 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH, 43085.
2. The Grant Application must be completed in its entirety before it will be considered for funding.
3. Deadlines for HOPE Letters All In Community Grant Applications are on a rolling basis.
4. An in-person or video conference review of the Grant Application will be conducted with the HOPE Letters group leader and the All In Community Consultant.
5. All entities submitting proposals will receive a decision normally within two weeks of submission. Response letters will be sent to each applicant via email.
6. Half the approved grant funds will be disbursed upon approval. The second half of the grant funds will be disbursed upon completion of a mid-point progress report.
7. A final impact report will be required at the end of the designated grant cycle.
8. Churches and groups may apply for a second round of funding provided they are experiencing significant growth in group size and have financially invested in the HOPE Letters ministry.