



# WALKING alongside

strengthening congregational community ministries

## » Employment Ministries «

### » RESOURCES FOR THE JOURNEY

Many people struggle to make ends meet due to a lack of employment or lack of adequate employment. An employment ministry is one way a church can be involved in helping with this problem. An employment ministry can help people develop job skills, find and sustain work, build a better work history, earn income, and recover self respect.

This type of ministry is one way to provide long-term help for people in need. There are many different types of employment ministries. These are a few of the resources that we have found to be helpful in learning more about how to provide this type of assistance.

#### Books

- ♦ *Employment Retention Essentials*. This booklet from Public/Private Ventures ([www.ppv.org](http://www.ppv.org)) is helpful for those interested in assisting job seekers maintain their jobs, not just find them. It includes information on how to keep in touch with participants, work with employers, and help participants advance in the workforce.

- ♦ *Going to Work with a Criminal Record: Lessons from the Fathers at Work Initiative*. It is particularly difficult for ex-offenders to obtain employment because of their criminal background. This booklet from Public/Private Ventures ([www.ppv.org](http://www.ppv.org)) provides helpful information about how to better help this population find and maintain employment.

- ♦ *Job Development Essentials: A Guide for Job Developers*. This booklet, also from Public/Private Ventures ([www.ppv.org](http://www.ppv.org)), is a helpful resource for those assisting others in finding employment. It includes strategies for working with employers as well as tips for successfully serving job seekers.

#### Web sites

- ♦ *CareerOneStop* – [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)  
CareerOneStop, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, provides information helpful to job seekers and those helping people find jobs. There are tips for resume writing, interviewing, and finding a job as well as information about unemployment benefits. There is also a link to find the One-Stop Career Center, which provide employment and training services, closest to you.

- ♦ *National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice* – [www.nicwj.org](http://www.nicwj.org)  
The National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice is an organization that calls religious communities to advocate for workers and the unemployed. Their website includes a number of resources geared for congregations, including a brief guide as to how congregations can be involved in employment ministries.

- ♦ *Public/Private Ventures* – [www.ppv.org](http://www.ppv.org)  
Through research and program creation, Public/Private Ventures seeks to strengthen program that help individuals and families living in low-income communities. Their website provides links to a host of resources, some at a cost and some free, that are related to employment. A few of their booklets related to employment have been listed above.

MORE ON BACK

## » Employment Ministries «

### **Stepping Stones**

Brief descriptions of how to implement specific ministries. For each of the five broader areas above, many ministries can be envisioned. We have identified a few of these for each area and have articulated the steps for how that ministry might be planned.

### **Pathways**

Learn from the first-hand account of those already engaged in this specific ministry. Plus, develop networking contacts as go-to sources to explore solutions to challenges or celebrations of successes.

### **Food for the Journey**

A short devotional based on scripture that can be used in church bulletins, as a Moment for Mission during worship or as an introduction to a Bible study.

