

6 Leaders Trained Online on September 18

We thank FIT Trainers John Ringleb, Norine Hodder, and Betty Drawdy, assisted by Jaquelyn Yulee, for conducting a very productive leader training session that impacted ministries in two different states.

Participants from **Jacksonville, FL** included Yasmin Berry, Michelle Dennis, Merita Hawk, Andrea Loewen, and FIT board member Jaquelyn Yulee. Taking the course for the first time were Andrea Loewen, Yasmin Berry, and Michelle Dennis. Welcome to the FIT family as recognized certified facilitators!



The other participants were taking the class as a refresher course, which we encourage. The curriculum has been updated and there is no charge for members current with their dues.



We were excited to train two folks from **Louisville, KY**. Calvin Brown is not new to us. We originally trained him five years ago at Lighthouse Ministries in Lakeland, FL. Now he is setting up a similar ministry in Louisville.

Bryan Miller is new to us. He will be working with Calvin in their emerging ministry in Louisville. Welcome Bryan. We hope to hear more from you in the future



...that most FIT books have worksheets and that you can access them online? Go to the link above and there they are! There is a [Worksheets](#) link on our home page that lists all of them by course by course.

Worksheets by themselves can be limited in value but paired with the lesson discussions they can be invaluable. They help organize the thoughts which apply to the lesson material and FIT discussion questions are carefully designed to promote class discussion. From the discussion will come new insights because the class provides the examples that make them relevant. Worksheets are used throughout most FIT books, at the beginning, middle, and end.



Policy Committee Guidelines on the Special Use of Peer Facilitators in Prisons



Due to the recent shutdowns in prisons, our FIT volunteers have had to increasingly depend upon our certified peer (inmate) facilitators to conduct our classes. The disruptions have caused us to address special situations that have arisen. The FIT Policy Committee has met and provided the following guidelines:

Considerations for Certified FIT Trainers when Training Peer Facilitators

Out of concern for the recurrence of COVID 19, you may be thinking of training inmates who have received their 100-hour certificate to continue the training in case of your absence or if the prisons lock down. Please consider the following:

1. Are they approved by the Chaplain?
2. Unlike Facilitators who haven't seen a book, they have been in the program long enough to be very familiar with the books and how you have facilitated the classes. In case of facilitating two classes again with the potential peer facilitator, have them facilitate two classes and you critique.



This method will prepare the peer facilitator in a way that is not available to facilitators receiving their initial training and be helpful when unexpected circumstances arise.

Peer Facilitators/Facilitators Assisting Inmates who have Missed a Class

A question has risen concerning the course completion policy, especially concerning attendance. As of now, one miss may be excused per course. However, what happens to an inmate misses due to circumstances on their control? If a facilitator or peer facilitator is anticipating a makeup class for the inmate and checked the completed course work, the following must be considered:

Was the absence out of the inmate's control? Scheduled call outs are in the inmate's control. (Returning to the class as soon as possible is very helpful in determining if there is an absence situation.)

- ◇ *Is the makeup class duration the same as the regular class length?*
- ◇ *Is the required class preparation ready at the makeup class start?*
- ◇ *Is the inmate participating?*
- ◇ *Is this a unique, one-time situation or one that appears to be repeating? If it is not a one-time situation, then there should not be a makeup session under any circumstance.*

The goal of the course completion policy is to insure class effectiveness through active preparation and participation. The curriculum is designed to chart a new direction for the participants instead of becoming a checkoff. If a person is sincerely seeking change, these courses will assist those who will work for it.