From Death to Life – A Statement on Capital Punishment
(Adopted with thanks, from the Diocese of Louisiana - Community of Deacons)

While we acknowledge that Christians of good conscience hold a variety of opinions about capital punishment, and while we recognize the depth and difficulty of this subject, the Prison Ministry Commission shares the following vision.

We believe that capital punishment should be abolished for the following reasons:

- Is it unnecessary for public safety and civil order.
- It has unsubstantiated and dubious value as a deterrent.
- It is less effective than life imprisonment, which addresses the legitimate need of society to punish the worst kinds of criminal behavior.
- It is applied in an inconsistent, unfair, and discriminatory manner.
- It involves the possibility of execution of innocent persons.
- It perpetuates violence and destruction.
- It deprives the criminal of the opportunity for reform, rehabilitation and restitution.
- It deprives survivors of the opportunity of forgiveness.
- It is at odds with the teaching and example of Jesus Christ to fight evil with good and to forgive injury.

While abolition of the death penalty is not a simple solution for the complex problems of crime and violence, it can and should be part of an overall approach that supports human life and dignity, spiritual healing, and restoration. We invite all Christians and others of good will to join us in calling for abolition of capital punishment.