

# Covenant Presbytery & Beginning Again in Christ, Inc.

BAIC, the oldest prison ministry in the United States, was founded by Odell Fish, an ex-offender, and incorporated as a 501(c)3 in 1975. BAIC ministers 40 to 50 times each month in Parchman (a federal prison), state prisons, county jails, work centers and detention centers in the state of Mississippi. BAIC leads small group Bible studies, worship services and counsels inmates one-on-one. BAIC also ministers to the families of inmates. Dr. Sal Pelicano, the Executive Director of BAIC, holds a Bachelor degree in Theology, a Masters degree in Counseling Psychology, and a Doctors degree in Christian Counseling. He has been a chaplain in six different penal institutions in four states.

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- In May 1985, Odell Fish transferred to Covenant Presbytery with a call to oversee Faith Prison Ministries.
- In October 1987, Faith Prison Ministries became a ministry of Covenant Presbytery.
- In October 1996, Covenant Presbytery approved the merger of Faith Prison Ministries and Beginning Again in Christ (BAIC) under the following stipulations:
  1. We agree jointly upon a statement of creed.
  2. The board of the newly merged ministry will maintain at least a representation of fifty percent PCA elders, coming from Covenant Presbytery through the nominating committee of Covenant Presbytery, and the initial board coming from Faith Prison Ministry with the details of their appointment being governed by the by-laws of said ministry.
  3. We will work promptly to secure a staff person to focus upon the state penitentiary at Parchman, Mississippi, along with other opportunities for prison and jail ministry in North Mississippi.

A list of the members of Covenant Presbytery currently on the BAIC board can be found at [Covenant Presbytery Committees](#)

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