

A PROSECUTOR'S VISION FOR A BETTER JUSTICE SYSTEM

Sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church's PEACE AND JUSTICE WORK GROUP



Hear internationally acclaimed reform advocate Adam Foss lay out a vision for criminal justice reform and the important role of the prosecutor in ending mass incarceration. The 2017 Nelson Mandela Changemaker of the Year will passionately make the case for change and inspire our community to do its part in pushing for a better justice system. Local speakers will share plans for progress in Delaware including legislative reforms and new guidelines for prosecutors in the Delaware Department of Justice.

A former Assistant District Attorney in the Juvenile Division of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (SCDAO), Boston, MA, Mr. Foss believes that the profession of prosecution is ripe for reinvention by requiring better incentives and more measurable metrics for success beyond, simply, "cases won." In 2016 he founded not-for-profit Prosecutor Impact (PI) to develop training and curriculum for prosecutors to reframe their role in the criminal justice system.

During his nine years as a prosecutor, Mr. Foss collaborated with courts and community to develop programming that continues to have a positive impact on the neighborhoods in which he prosecuted. Recently Mr. Foss appeared in the critically-acclaimed 2018 CNN feature-length documentary "American Jail." The NAACP awarded Mr. Foss with the 2017 Roy Wilkins Next Generation Leader Award. In February of 2016, Mr. Foss delivered a [TED talk](#) that has already eclipsed 2 million views.

Free, but
space is
limited!

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019

10 AM – 12 PM (check-in and coffee at 9:15)

Westminster Presbyterian Church • 1502 West 13th Street • Wilmington, DE 19806

Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/Foss-WPC> or call (302) 654-5214 ext. 100

Join us! Listen, be inspired and learn how YOU can make change happen!

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Intervention – Support – Opportunity

BACKGROUND

The United States incarcerates its citizens at a higher rate than any other country in the world. We are home to 5% of the world's population yet have 25% of the world's prisoners. Our prison population has grown from 200,000 in 1972 to 2,300,000 today, as our criminal justice culture moved toward maximizing the number of people sent to prison, now at a cost of \$80 billion a year.

Delaware imprisons people at a rate higher than the national average and higher than any of our neighboring states. This is a crisis for the individuals involved, for their families, for the local, state and federal entities that bear the cost burden and, by extension, the taxpayers. By any measure, the staggering economic and social costs incurred by the current system are unsustainable and immoral.

As momentum builds for criminal justice reform in Delaware and across the nation, we invite you to learn about the issues, as well as potential solutions to this crisis. While discussions of criminal justice reform traditionally focus on police, sentencing laws, and prisons, our speaker Adam Foss focuses on the role of the prosecutor as the most powerful actor in the criminal justice system and the opportunity to use that role in innovative, effective ways to bring about accountability, public safety and true justice.

Follow Adam Foss:

Twitter/IG: **@adamjohnfoss** and **@prosecutorimpct**

Web: www.prosecutorimpact.com

TED Talk: *A Prosecutor's Vision for a Better Justice System*

(https://www.ted.com/talks/adam_foss_a_prosecutor_s_vision_for_a_better_justice_system)

Westminster Presbyterian Church's (www.wpc.org) PEACE AND JUSTICE WORK GROUP was formed in May 2018 to combat violence in Wilmington and promote racial justice. We sponsor this event as the third in a now semi-annual speaker series that in the past has featured Father Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries and author of *Tattoos on the Heart*, and David Kennedy, director of the National Network for Safe Communities and author of *Don't Shoot*. Our work in criminal justice reform is done in collaboration with The Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow and the newly formed Delaware Coalition for Smart Justice.