

**Ministry Innovations Task Force
Report to Annual Council
November 2016**

In calendar year 2015 the Ministry Innovations Task Force (MITF) received seven (7) proposals for innovations in ministry grants and funded two (2).

The innovations in ministry receiving grants were Theology from the Margins and the Hannah Project Atlanta.

Theology from the Margins received \$5,500 for a pilot year of a theological studies certificate program for people experiencing homelessness in Atlanta. Similar to the very successful certificate in theological studies offered at Lee Arrendale State Prison, Theology from the Margins offered a well-organized schedule of courses and class meetings in space donated by Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, staffed by professors, graduate students, and seminarians from various institutions around the metro. It has extended the presence of the Diocese of Atlanta among new populations of persons not previously connected to any of our other ministries. The first cohort of eight (8) students completed the program in August. The pilot year is being evaluated at this writing, and the next year's programming costs will be covered through other partnerships.

The Hannah Project Atlanta was awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,400 to offer an alternative to jail for women arrested for prostitution modeled on the successful Hannah Project Nashville. Space, equipment, and support are being donated by the Kroc Center of the Salvation Army's Southeastern Territorial Headquarters. Upon the recommendations of prosecutors in DeKalb and Fulton counties, the official launch of the Hannah Project Atlanta has been postponed until 2017. The original grant amount is held in trust until such time as the innovation launches. This innovation can reach full sustainability within three years by establishing a parallel Prostitution Solicitation School as an alternative to jail time for men arrested for paying for sex and funneling the fines paid by the men into the Hannah Project.

In calendar year 2016 the MITF received two (2) proposals for innovations in ministry grants and funded one (1).

Freedom School® Macon 2017 will receive \$26,384 (or 26% of the total costs of \$101,385) to provide a seven-week Freedom School for fifty (50) rising first through third graders in Macon from the lowest performing schools in Macon-Bibb County. Freedom School® Macon will utilize the proven methods of this Children's Defense Fund model to support, sustain, and increase literacy among children in poverty. Freedom School® Macon 2017 will extend the reach of the Diocese of Atlanta to 50 young people plus their families and networks which are not currently connected to any diocesan presence or ministry. The main site of Freedom School® Macon will be historic St Paul's, Macon, the original home of the Appleton Church Home and the predecessor of the current Appleton Ministries.

All grants awarded by the MITF come from the Innovations in Ministry Fund, which is funded by the generosity of a number of worshipping communities around the diocese that give above their 10% fair share diocesan assessment.

The parishes providing funding for Innovations in Ministry across Middle and North Georgia are—

2014

St Teresa's - Acworth
Emmanuel - Athens
Emmaus House Chapel - Atlanta
St Clare's - Blairsville

St James - Cedartown
St Paul's - Newnan
St Matthias - Toccoa

2015

Emmanuel - Athens
Holy Comforter - Atlanta
Holy Innocents' - Atlanta
El Buen Pastor - Austell
St Clare's - Blairsville
St Timothy's - Calhoun

St James - Cedartown
St James - Clayton
St Thomas - Columbus
Santa Maria - East Point
Christ the King - Lilburn
St Matthias - Toccoa

2016

Emmanuel - Athens
Emmaus House Chapel - Atlanta
St Martin in the Fields - Atlanta
El Buen Pastor - Austell
St Timothy's - Calhoun

St James - Cedartown
St James - Clayton
Santa Maria - East Point
St Matthias - Toccoa

In addition, all proceeds beyond production costs of *The Go Guide: 10 Steps for Innovations in Ministry from Luke 10* by Robert C. Wright and Donna S. Mote flow into the Innovations in Ministry Fund (<https://www.episcopalatlanta.org/Resources/ministry-innovative/the-go-guide/>).

The MITF looks forward to the transforming connections that have been and will be made through these funded innovations and to a growing number of worshipping communities contributing to the Innovations in Ministry Fund. In addition the task force eagerly anticipates receiving formal proposals from innovations currently in development. Annual deadlines for proposals are January 1, May 1, and September 1.

If you are interested in contributing to the Innovations in Ministry Fund, please contact Canon Bonnie Burgess, Director of Finance (bburgess@episcopalatlanta.org).

If you are interested in serving on the MITF, please contact the Reverend Donna S. Mote, Missioner for Engagement and Innovation (innovate@episcopalatlanta.org).

If you have an idea for a ministry innovation, please contact Donna+ and/or review the Innovations in Ministry pages at <https://www.episcopalatlanta.org/Resources/ministry-innovative/>.