

Report to the 107th Council

Appleton Episcopal Ministries

In Central Georgia

Formally Appleton Family Ministries

The Board of Governors for Appleton Episcopal Ministries began a prayerful conversation to discern the future of Appleton Family Ministries. We knew God was calling for a broader and much more active ministry for the Macon Convocation. It was clear that Appleton could, and should, be a catalyst for moving into a coordinated convocational relationship for ministry and mission.

On May 18, 2013, Bishop Keith Whitmore led a one-day retreat for the Board of Governors. At that time, Bishop Whitmore helped the board to focus its vision and develop a new purpose statement for Appleton's call to mission:

The purpose of Appleton Episcopal Ministries in Central Georgia is to share God's love by promoting health, education, and safety of underserved children and families in the Macon Convocation.

The new purpose statement was presented to representatives from the parishes of the Macon Convocation in June. At roundtable discussions during the meeting, each group discussed the needs that had been identified through the outreach work of each parish and how Appleton might best support the ministries already in place and assist in identifying and implementing new ministry throughout Central Georgia.

From that meeting, the board analyzed the information and discussed the commonality of mission and structure concerns expressed by each group. Briefly, those issues are as follows:

- "Episcopal" must appear in the name. The board approved a motion that the name be changed from Appleton Family Ministries to Appleton Episcopal Ministries.
- Each parish in the convocation should share equally representation on the board. The board will be seated by one member from each parish, either lay or clergy, for a three-year term. The Bishop Diocesan or a representative will be an ex-officio member of the Board with voice but no vote.
- A missioner will be selected for a half-time position to oversee and coordinate all programs according to the direction of the AEM Board of Governors.
- Each parish of the Macon Convocation will be asked to make an annual contribution for the fulfillment of the mission statement.

At the Macon Convocation's Annual Pre-Council meeting the above proposals were presented to the clergy and lay representatives present. After a question-and-answer period, the proposals were unanimously accepted. The work to discern God's call to mission and ministry will begin under the new structure on January 1, 2014.

Deacon Barbara Windom, Chair