

Appleton/Milan Ministerium
Michelle Rowell, Chair
249 S Behl St
Appleton, MN 56208

November 24, 2015

Minnesota Department of Corrections
1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55108-5219

Dear Department of Corrections,

As residents of the state of Minnesota, we are aware of the shortage of state facilities to care for those whose criminal conviction calls for a time of restraint from society, while attempting to retrain and educate them for responsible living if and when they return to society.

As pastors and leaders who live in and near Appleton, MN, we are also aware of the privately-owned facility that sits vacant in Appleton, and from listening to the news and the debates in our legislature, we believe that you are also aware of this vacant facility.

Though we have responsible citizenry and businesses in Appleton and the communities that surround it, we also have a very high rate of poverty, and few job opportunities for those who live in this area.

We believe you would be wise to utilize the facility in Appleton rather than build new or expand existing facilities elsewhere. 1. It would provide job opportunities for people who live in a poverty-stricken area of the state, not only within the prison but also in expanding services for employees who may move into the area. 2. It would cost the state less to use an existing facility than to build. 3. If the future brings a time when fewer people need to be incarcerated, we will not have facilities in addition to the Appleton facility also sitting vacant. 4. It is our understanding that the State of Minnesota would "make the rules," so that the facility would be on par with others in the state. 5. It would be a step in improving relations between those of us in rural Minnesota and those who reside in more populous areas of the state.

Members of the Appleton Milan Ministerium are also willing to provide appropriate ministerial services at the prison.

We ask that you consider and take seriously our plea to utilize the Appleton prison facility for the good of the people in all of Minnesota.

Member pastors who requested their
names be added to the letter:

Troy Bates
David Grams
Elan Hacker
Kristine Isder
Brenda King
Donald Klatt
Kathleen Soldwisch
Doris Weber

Sincerely,



The Appleton/Milan Ministerium
Michelle R. Rowell, Chair