

## The Classis Huron Youth Ministries Team Report April 2015

The purpose of the Classis Huron Youth Ministries Team (CYMT) is to walk alongside churches and offer support and encouragement to youth ministries and youth workers within Classis Huron in the following ways:

1. By working to achieve the adopted vision statement of Classis Huron, with a particular emphasis on High School-aged youth and maintaining an active interest in ministry to young adults.
2. By encouraging and/or sponsoring leadership training opportunities and retreats for youth leaders and key student leaders and by making youth leaders and churches aware of various opportunities throughout the year. Specifically this can include:
  - a. Youth Worker Gatherings in conjunction with Classis Meetings **This continues to be a great way to serve as support for our youth leaders and pastors who attend. Lesli regularly contacts these folks with personal invitations to classis. It would be helpful to have churches and lead pastors encourage their staff to attend, especially given the possibility for sharing ministry successes and ideas.**
  - b. Leadership Studios for youth and young adults, in partnership with Muskoka Woods, **I will need to give an oral report on a Pastors' Studio sponsored by our classis and Syd Hielema's Faith Formation and Discipleship Office. This event was given as a very generous gift from Muskoka Woods to help encourage a deepening partnership in training up the next generation of church leadership.**
  - c. Partial Bursary for volunteer leaders wanting to take Youth Ministry courses through Redeemer University College's Youth Ministry Certificate Program, **We are waiting to hear if the Certificate Program will be continuing at Redeemer before promoting the bursary.**
  - d. Support for the Ontario Youth Ministries Team (OYMT) in hosting an annual Soul Care for Youth Leaders weekend. **Classis Huron had a good turnout of youth leaders for this event. The date next year will be moved into January to help increase attendance. Our CYMT is encouraging churches to budget funding to help their leaders attend this event. This year focused on spiritual care and advice for youth workers and was very well received. The event takes place in Hamilton which keeps travel costs down.**
3. By offering opportunities for worship, community, and celebration through events such as Fall Retreat, as well as supporting local congregations in hosting regional youth services and events. **Fall Retreat Team has begun to meet again. We have 2 new members and are looking for a young adult who can lead our Tech Team. Another Event that Classis churches are being made aware of is a Pre-AOYC event in Woodstock that will hopefully whet the appetite of youth and garner support of parents and church leaders as they are also invited to attend.**

4. By maintaining regular email, phone and face-to-face contact with churches, pastors, and youth workers to celebrate God at work in and among our youth, and to understand the needs and the joys of Youth Ministries within Classis Huron, and to communicate upcoming opportunities for youth, youth leaders, and churches.
5. By working in partnership with and in support of the OYMT by way of providing 1-2 representatives of Classis on the OYMT. **Because of CMC support (thanks to all of you) Lesli will be attending a work retreat in Chicago next month to begin the work of creating a stronger CRC youth ministry bi-national support network, leveraging the current energy that OYMT, Canadian youth workers and Syd Hielema's office have begun to establish. Report on this event will be ready for May Classis meeting.**
6. By reporting on the work of CHYMT at Classis Meetings by way of written report at the September meeting and oral report and discussion in the February meeting as well as by participating in Classis Discussions relating to youth ministry (i.e. discussions on Faith Formation).

**We need an ordained person on this team. Lesli served in this role while at New Life, but is no longer ordained. We continue to need at least 2 more members to fill out this team. As a classis we have served as leaders in this area of ministry and we dare not drop the ball now when momentum is gearing up for youth ministry.**

Revisions to mandate which is reflected in smaller print in this report were made April 24, 2014,  
Approved by email by CHYMT on April 29, 2014,  
Presented at Classis on May 7, 2014  
Classis Huron Youth Ministries Committee

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