

## **Addendum to the Home Missions Report on the Fergus Church Plant**

### **Recommendation for a Church Planter**

After a thorough search process, the Fergus Subcommittee has recommended to the Home Missions Committee (HMC) that John Vanderstoep be the candidate for the potential church plant in Fergus, which is pending classis approval.

In what follows, we will summarize the search process and share some of the reasons why John has been identified as the potential planter. Note that, because we addressed questions about John's perceived "conflict of interest" in our previous report, we will not be revisiting them here.

### **The Search Process**

The search for a potential church planter proceeded as follows:

- The Fergus Subcommittee began by asking Adrian Van Giessen, our Home Missions Regional Leader, for the names of all the available church planters who had gone through the Assessment Process (the Assessment Process is a joint CRC/RCA evaluative process that is used to determine an individual's aptitude for church planting). The subcommittee was given the names and profiles of three available planters.
- Of the three available planters, one planter received a call before the subcommittee had the opportunity to review his/her profile in depth.
- Upon reviewing the profiles of the two remaining possibilities, the Fergus Subcommittee decided to focus its interview efforts on one of the candidates: John Vanderstoep. The subcommittee arrived at this decision for two reasons: first, John's score in the Assessment Process was very good and significantly higher than the score of the other candidate; second, the profile of the other candidate included some significant cautions about his/her readiness for planting.
- In its initial interview with John, the subcommittee asked John and his wife Carol introductory questions about ministry and church planting. For example, John and Carol were asked about their call to ministry, their interest in church planting, their spiritual lives, their marriage, their risk tolerance, *etc.*
- Prior to subsequent interviews with John, the subcommittee compiled a list of questions for John. This list included questions such as: What kind of church planting model would you use and why? Given your preferred church planting model, what kind of initial core team would you be looking for? As you see the church plant emerge in the first one to three years, how would you proceed in the following areas: prayer mobilization, fundraising strategy, community engagement strategy, assimilation/discipleship strategy, multiplication strategy? These questions were sent to John, and John was asked to provide detailed, written responses.
- After reviewing and evaluating John's written responses, the subcommittee conducted two further interviews with John. In these interviews, John provided more details about his preferred model of ministry, his evangelism strategy, his expectations regarding growth, *etc.* The subcommittee evaluated John's ability to think clearly and realistically about these issues.
- At the conclusion of these follow-up interviews, the Fergus Subcommittee recommended John Vanderstoep to the HMC as a planter for the potential church plant in Fergus.

## **The Reasons for Calling John Vanderstoep**

After conducting its search process, the Fergus Subcommittee gave several reasons for recommending John to be the planter for the potential church plant in Fergus:

- John is a person of deep faith and prayer.
- John has expressed a sense of calling both to church planting and to Fergus.
- John scored highly in the CRC/RCA church planting “Assessment Process.”
- By nature, John is an initiator.
- John has demonstrated a gift for connecting with new people and for developing relationships.
- Though John has never planted a church himself, he has connected with several other church planters and has demonstrated a good grasp of what planting a new church involves.
- John has demonstrated a willingness to learn and to adapt to changing circumstances.
- John is interested in connecting ecumenically with churches of other denominations.
- John is passionate about the broader work of the Christian Reformed Church and he is eager to engage the other churches of Classis Huron.
- John has demonstrated an ability to fundraise – over the past year he raised over \$90,000 to support his work with CRWM in Haiti.

## **Next Steps**

If Classis Huron approves and endorses the HMC’s plan to plant a church in Fergus, then the HMC will work with and through the designated parent church to extend a call to John Vanderstoep.

## **Questions**

If you have any questions, either about this report or our earlier report, it would be helpful if you could contact the HMC before the May classis meeting so that we have opportunity to consider your question.