

Report from your Classis Huron Mission Team (CHMT)
September 2021

Greetings from the CHMT. The current members of this committee are Kevin teBrake (chair), Jane Vander Velden (reporter), ex-officio member Joan Brady (CH Mission Catalyzer), and advisor Lesli van Milligen (Faith Formation and Connection rep).

This past year and a half have been difficult for many people and churches. Churches have been presented several challenges, and we have also been presented several opportunities. And as CHMT we are seeking out opportunities and encourage you to do so as well.

One of the roles of CHMT is to encourage church plants in their ongoing initiatives, and encourage existing churches to become healthier and missional with tools and resources to reach out to the communities. God is already at work in our communities, and we have opportunities to join him in His mission.

The CHMT continues to connect with and encourage the existing church plants: The Bridge (Fergus), The Journey (Kitchener), and Vitalpoint Church (Exeter). And CHMT continues to connect with and encourage established churches. As churches, we have opportunities to listen and learn from each other's stories and best practices. The CHMT desires to hear your dreams about church renewal and establishing new church plants. We are excited to see where the Lord leads each of us in 2022 and beyond.

Another role of the CHMT is to oversee the work of the Mission Catalyzer, Joan Brady. We are thankful for the work of Joan, and continue to encourage her in this new season. Presented with this CHMT report is an opportunity on how Classis Huron can utilize this position as we come out of the pandemic into a new season. The report is titled "Mission Catalyzer Position Re-Casting." This "re-casting" looks at the current reality of the position and looks forward to what could be. Please take time to read this report.

Finally, you may have noticed that we have only two committee members. We are seeking two or three more people on this team. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. We typically meet four or five times a year in a central location and by Zoom. Interesting enough, we began the habit of Zoom meetings already before COVID-19 to save driving costs and time. This works well with the team.

We thank you for your prayers and encouragement, and we continue to lift your churches and ministries in prayer as well. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to connect with any one of us.

On behalf of the CHMT,
Kevin teBrake

With CHMT's permission, I would like to add a short note to this report. World Renew USA hosted a webinar series entitled "Welcome to the Neighbourhood". Various speakers shared how they were engaging with their neighbours. I found the fifth and sixth sessions particularly engaging, partly because Ron VandenBrink of Diaconal Ministries Canada described DMC's vision of exploring strengths already in our neighbourhood and allowing the church and neighbours to learn new skills together. The sixth session explores the concept of asset-based community development, or ABCD, and build on the strengths of a community rather than its deficits. You can read more about this webinar series on DMC's website, <https://diaconalministries.com/community-engagement/> or on World Renew USA's website, <https://worldrenew.net/uncategorized/welcome-to-the-neighbourhood>.

Mary Blydorp,
Deacon rep to Classical Ministries Committee