

Classis Huron Mission Team (CHMT) Mission Catalyzer (MC) Position Re-Casting September 2021

The Mission Catalyzer (MC) position began in June 2019. Momentum was gained early on, until March 2020, where COVID-19 changed how many churches gathered and fulfilled their mission. This had an impact on the MC position as well. The MC position has now completed 24 months, with 16 months in a pandemic. Ministry continues subsequent to COVID-19, but it may continue in different ways.

This report is not a review of the MC position, but a discussion on how Classis Huron can utilize this position as we come out of the pandemic into this new season.

For background information and the recommendation for this position, and for the job description of the position, please refer to documents on our Classis Huron website.

<https://classishuron.ca/wp-content/uploads/CH-Mission-Catalyzer-Background-and-Recommendation.pdf>

<https://classishuron.ca/wp-content/uploads/CH-Mission-Catalyzer-Job-Description.pdf>

The MC position continues to be shared with both Classis Huron and Resonate Global Missions.

With Resonate Global Missions, there are monthly team meetings with staff, regular meetings with the Regional Director and other Mission Catalyzers from nearby Classis, as well as ongoing professional development. This continues to encourage growth and support.

With Classis Huron, the MC is in an advisory position to the Classis Huron Mission Team (CHMT) and is supported and held accountable by the chair and committee of the CHMT. The CHMT will continue to annually review the ministry work of the MC.

CHMT will continue to encourage, support and hold accountable the continued objectives for the MC which include:

- Connecting with the CH Youth Champion, when the position is filled, to support our youth in mission.
- Continuing an ongoing emphasis on recognizing/celebrating/empowering mission within a congregation at all levels – personal, collective and denominational.
- Encouraging the sharing of stories of where God is already at work in our communities and where He is calling us to partner with Him.
- Partnering with key leaders in the churches to identify and recruit local missional leaders and encouraging and equipping them to disciple others.
- Being aware and educated on racial and cultural justice and other current issues, and how these intersect in the life of the church.
- Create, promote, support and encourage the development of resources and outreach conferences in Classis Huron and the denomination.
- Assisting with vision casting for churches especially pertaining to what does ministry look like after a pandemic.
- Intentionally connecting and networking existing church plants to listen, learn and share ideas with one another and with established churches.

- Intentionally connecting and networking with key leaders in Classis Huron such as church visitors and pastors to further connect with congregations.
- Partnering with other classis and denominational ministries such as Connections, Faith Formation, local and global missionaries, etc. in order to refer and connect churches to these denominational resources.
- Providing ongoing reports and communications to CH to create an awareness of activities and available resources.
- Continue to encourage healthy missional congregations and church plants.

Practices Applied to Local Churches:

Lucknow Community CRC, Lucknow

The Lucknow Community CRC Council invited the Mission Catalyst (MC) to lead them in a preliminary vision-casting exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to celebrate the current moments in the congregation's life, and to generate commitment and leadership towards the church development process. It would be a beginning to discovering the parameters, and hoped for outcomes and goals that would lead to the next steps in congregational vitality and renewal. It was grounded in prayer and began with reading Exodus 3:1-6 (the calling of Moses/Burning Bush), and these leaders spent a Saturday morning looking at their past, present and hopes for the future.

The session concluded with an understanding of the pivotal moments of the past and how these reflected on current and future moments. It highlighted 5 areas of focus to ensure that the Community CRC would be vibrant and vital in the coming years. At the same time a deeper discussion of these areas identified related challenges and opportunities.

The Leadership at Lucknow Community CRC felt empowered and eager to continue discovering what God has in store for their congregation. The next step was a community celebration, dissemination of the insights to the congregation and plans for further activity. Covid changed those immediate plans, but the congregation continues to seek His guidance.

Water St. CRC, Guelph

The Water Street CRC (WSC) Consistory Executive invited the MC to an exploratory discussion to outline her role in Classis and to share their heart for the community around them. This preliminary conversation identified that WSC would like to be a community church that was welcoming to all and that would like to share their recently renovated space with the community for relevant uses. Subsequent questions, still in discussion, included:

- Who needs to be part of this conversation – members of the community and congregation?
- Was there a particular need or niche within the community that WSC could fill?
- Considering a current opening, what staffing profile would help WSC be a church on a mission?

Follow-up conversations explored some of these aspects deeper and a tentative commitment was made to continue these discussions as a congregation in the future.

Recognizing the role of Classis in the success of the Mission Catalyst initiative, CHMT will continue to encourage CH churches and ministries to commit to these objectives:

- CH has committed to the MC position and is encouraged to use the MC as a resource. Please intentionally reach out to the MC.
- As the MC reaches out to your church, please receive the MC and utilize this position and resource in your local church.
- Partner with the MC to identify and recruit missional leaders in your churches.
- Partner with the MC to identify opportunities to be supported and to be served.

- Recognize the MC as a way to network some of your missional stories and best practices to other churches so we might all learn from each other.
- Consider the MC as a resource to denominational information and the lived experience of other churches in Classis and beyond. The MC is a resource, but each church can be a resource to one another as well.

The CHMT is enthusiastic how the MC position has already shaped ministries over the past 24 months in Classis Huron despite COVID-19. And the CHMT is excited where God will continue to use the MC position in the next 24 months, and if Lord willing, beyond that.

On behalf of CHMT
Kevin teBrake