

Mission Catalyst Report – September 16, 2023

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I have shared previously that when I examined the initial job posting for the role of Classis Huron Mission Catalyst, the term Vision Casting (part of the job description) gave me pause as I was not familiar with it. I soon did some research to find that it meant discerning God's preferred future for us and:

- It is to take what is received from God and share it with others, to encourage and in-spire what the Spirit has given.
- It is helping people hear from God (Holy Spirit infused) with discernment about how to imagine the future of where he is leading.
- For a leader it is specifically about hearing God, being receptive to however God might speak.
- Leaders articulating and narrating a vision to provide the direction needed to face uncertainty with confidence.
- Revisioning: looking at the past and trusting in the Lord's leading to further refine us into the people He wants us to be.

In February 2022, I was invited to facilitate an update of the Classis Huron Ministry Plan. I have conducted visioning exercises with a number of Classis entities to begin to populate that plan. These included the Classis Huron Mission Team, the Diaconal Ministries Team, Youth Ministry Leaders and the CMC as well as a number of Churches outside of this process. ([See the full reports here – Mission Catalyzer – Classis Huron.](#))

The process began with Contextual Analysis – a close look at the reality of the day. What are the societal trends and conditions within the world, our country, our communities and our churches and denomination that we should consider? How is God working in these elements? This was followed by a blue-sky exercise: **If Classis Huron were everything that God has called it to be and do – what would that look like?** And, finally, as time allowed, certain aspirations were explored, in depth, to offer activities and the challenges to achievement that may need to be overcome.

The following transversal/core values (intersecting or overarching each priority) emerged from these conversations:

- Intentional discernment: seeking out where God is already working within us and our communities and world.
- Grounded in prayer: seeking His will and acknowledging his gifts with praise and thanksgiving.
- Obedience and trust in God's vision, even in the new spaces and uncomfortable places, that He might bring us.

The priorities that were shared amongst the various conversations included:

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Intentional Fellowship | • Corporate Responsibilities |
| • Discipleship | • Our Mission |

Please see the table below for another representation of the Classis Huron Ministry Plan conversations to date.

Leading with Discernment --- Prayer --- Trust/reliance/obedience to God			
Intentional Fellowship	Discipleship	Sustaining our Corporate Responsibilities	Our Mission
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling • Meaningful conversations • Inclusive • Building connections • Sharing joys and burdens • Proactive change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership training • Discipleship of all ages • Emphasis on youth – equipping youth leaders and supporting Campus Ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Church planting, Campus Ministry, Youth Champion, Mission Catalyst, Prayer Catalyst, ministry students • Administration • Connecting to the Denomination • Safe Church • Financial giving • New approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighboring • Church Planting • Supporting Classical and denominational ministries • Encouraging mission: as individuals, families, churches, denomination

Next Steps

At our February Classis meeting, we will take time, in roundtables to examine and affirm or adapt these core values and priorities. A Classis Huron Ministry Plan will only be effective with maximum engagement and input from Classis members.

In preparation for these roundtables, **Church and ministry councils and boards are asked to review the work to date and offer their prayers for the final development of the Classis Huron Ministry plan.**

Considering the core values and priorities from the perspective of our collaborative and collective work – Is there any missing elements or expressions of a vision that will carry Classis Huron through the next 5-10 years? What changes or adaptations may be required to achieve these priorities? How will we know when we have been successful? These and many more considerations will be welcomed and I look forward to meaningful and dynamic conversations as we move forward in God's vision together.

For His Kingdom,

Joan