

CH Mission Catalyst Report – September 2021

In a recent communication from Zach King, Director of Resonate, He reflected on the upcoming ministry year after a full pandemic ministry year 2020-2021. He asked, 'How do we enter the 21-22 ministry year, with a posture of hopeful expectation to see what God will do?'

In conversation, another Resonate leader shared something she had heard about the upcoming season of transition related to Covid 19. In an online session the speaker had asked, 'What if this is the lesson (pandemic, etc.) and the test is yet to come?'

As I look towards the upcoming church season – I see the potential for both exciting and difficult conversations. The 'what now?', 'who do we need to be?', 'how have our communities changed?' 'what support can we offer?' kind of questions. Or perhaps, 'how do we re-enter church life after this universal trauma?', 'what if we are still tired and afraid?' and 'will our church be the same as before?' questions.

I have worked for many years in organizational and community development and have practised participatory learning techniques in various contexts. One of the things I was taught early on – is that it is all about the question. Questions guide our enquiries and directly relate to our discoveries. Questions open the mind and heart to the reasons that lie deep and less obvious. Questions need to be open ended, unbiased, based on your purpose, safe and generally cascading from general to more specific. Questions could be the answer to what happens next.

We are called to discernment and vision casting which by definition is asking questions and guidance of God. In James 1:5-6, we read, 'If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.'

My prayer has been that God use me in this role of Mission Catalyst and Resonate Regional Mission Leader to further his kingdom. I asked that He guide me and the churches and ministries in Classis Huron to use this position to His glory and to further His kingdom. I asked that together we would continue his mission wherever we might be so that all might know.

This summer has been one of study and preparation and at times discovering answers to the questions I was not aware that I had. I have participated in various learning opportunities including:

- Monthly Missional Leadership Circle
- Crossroads Discernment Process
- Glocal conference
- Thrive Leadership Pilot

I am looking forward to this fall and the conversation I am hosting with Leslie Van Milligen. We will consider the question, 'What leadership qualities are we called to develop as church leaders after a year of COVID and other complexities? Join us on Monday, September 13, from 1:30-2:30pm. I also encourage congregations to reach out so that I may support as they consider the questions and current moments in light of His mission for the church.

Finally, I ask that you would update your email contact for me to jbrady@crcna.org as I will discontinue the former email churonmissioncatalyzer@gmail.com in the coming months.

Blessings, Joan Brady