

Classis Huron C.O.V. 2.0

Creative Outreach Venture Fund 2.0

The Classis Huron Mission Team (CHMT) would like to introduce a new fund, which utilizes a portion of their budget to support and encourage Classis Churches and Ministries to engage in their communities in a missional way. Mission is defined as bringing God's Kingdom, Shalom or wholeness to our world, aligning it to His design. Wholeness can be economic, social, physical, psychological or spiritual. As God transforms us – we seek to transform the world around us.

Designed to support exploration, experimentation and community engagement, the fund is an updated version of a similar, earlier project in Classis Huron. The aim then, as is now, is to encourage momentum and community engagement that may lead to congregational growth and community enhancement. Alongside of meeting the practical and spiritual needs within the community and congregation, projects supported by the fund will be shared with others in Classis and beyond, fulfilling Classis Huron's mandate and heart for Mission.

Mission is unique to each congregation based on its unique context and its unique congregation. Who lives in your community? What are the current and pressing issues that you see around you? Where is the heart of your congregation – do you have special skills or passions to offer? Are you ready to try something new or would you like to expand on something that has been successful? The answers to these questions will help you decide how you, as a congregation, can join God's Mission in your community with the support of the Classis Huron C.O.V. 2.0 Fund.

Sample Projects to Consider:

- Hosting a community dinner (food and fellowship), open to all in the community.
- Sponsoring a youth event such as a coffee house, bike rodeo, wake-a-thon in partnership with another community agency.
- Hosting a community garden, seed library and/or a plant exchange
- Coordinate a monthly/bimonthly/semi-annual day of service, serving the community and its citizens in practical ways including home and vehicle maintenance, site clean-up, construction projects and more.
- Consider sharing your space with the homeless population as a warming centre, providing our unhoused neighbors with various amenities for health and wellbeing
- Host a training event for young parents, job seekers, special needs groups and more.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

How to apply

An application can be found on the Classis Huron website or requested from the Classis Huron Mission Team (jbrady@crcna.org)

Funding is available to all churches and ministries that are members of Classis Huron. In a COV 2.0 project which includes partnerships, the Classis Huron member must be the lead applicant. Application details include:

- Funding will be limited to 50% of project costs.
- Applicants must prove their investment in the project – a certain allowance will be made for in-kind contributions.
- Funding requests can vary from \$2,000-\$10,000
- COV 2.0 will support multi-year, multi-phase projects but subsequent applications will not be accepted until the previous is completed.
- Classis Huron Members are only eligible for one project a year.
- Proposals will be reviewed by the CHMT and other designated Classis leaders.
- Applications will be accepted 2 months prior to Classis meetings to ensure adequate time for consideration. Deadlines are December 15, March 01 and July 15, respectively.
- Successful COV 2.0 project holders may be asked to report to Classis.
- Low priority is given to flow-through funding (e.g. purchasing of groceries for a food bank)

For more information or assistance in preparing an application, please contact Joan Brady, Classis Huron Mission Catalyst at jbrady@crcna.org. Joan is also able to assist you in developing a local mission plan or community assessment to determine what a project could look like.

Guidelines for Funding

1. **Should correspond with the vision/mission statement of the local church:** The COV 2.0 should be expand the existing ministries of the local church, and preferably be an integral part of the strategic plan of the church.
2. **Respond to community-expressed needs:** The COV 2.0 focuses on people in the community with specific needs. These needs should be clearly identified and targeted.
3. **Promote sustainable change:** The COV 2.0 helps participants make sustainable change in their lives and limits dependency on COV 2.0 project or services of the local church. Additionally, the project must not be reliant on unlimited COV 2.0 funding for its ongoing success.
4. **Empowers the participants/recipients:** Participants are actively involved in decision-making including planning, delivery and evaluation of the program.
5. **Neighboring with the local church:** The COV 2.0 should provide opportunities for church members to work together with community members towards a mutual goal.
6. **Create partnerships with the community:** Where possible, partnerships with community organizations and agencies as well as with other local churches and ministries are encouraged.
7. **Ensure evaluation and accountability:** The COV 2.0 project, work plan, budget and timeline should be reviewed on a regular basis by the leadership of the sponsoring church. A final report to the Classis Huron Mission Team will be expected at the end of the project.
8. **Supports experimentation:** The COV 2.0 project can support experimentation or the creation of new initiative