

East and West Sioux Classes

Classis Leader

Job Description

Vision for NW Iowa

Our dream for the next 10 years is to develop **healthy churches** in **strategic partnerships** in order to **parent new ministries** so that the people of NW Iowa are coming to faith in Jesus Christ and making disciples who make disciples.

- **Healthy Churches**—We believe that God has placed great potential in the Reformed Churches of NW Iowa. Our dream is that they will all grow in health and develop unique ministries in their communities.
- **Strategic Partnerships**—We believe our churches share much in common. Our dream is that they will find ways to mutually support one another, sharpen one another, and partner with one another to be the hands and feet of Christ in their communities.
- **Parent New Ministries**—We believe that the best way to birth new ministries is out of the context of a local church. Our dream is that all of our congregations will be seeking to multiply themselves in order to reach their communities for Jesus.

The Position

East and West Sioux Classis are partnering to hire a Classis Leader (CL) to be a catalytic leader and coach in the two classes. The CL will help us achieve our vision for NW Iowa by coming alongside of pastors, consistories, and congregations to inspire, equip, and empower them to multiply ministry in our region. The CL will work primarily in the areas of Multiplication and Revitalization as well as being a member of both Classis Executive Teams.

REVITALIZATION

- The CL will seek to develop relationships with all the pastors in both classes as well as the consistories of all the churches.
- The CL will encourage pastoral participation in pastoral networks, equip network facilitators, and use those networks as opportunities to develop relationships with pastors.
- The CL will not know all pastors or churches equally well. The CL will focus on areas of need and/or strategic opportunity (such as times of vacancy, conflict, or congregational vision-casting)
- The CL will be a “first-responder” in times of crisis or conflict; but will “hand-off” the long-term care of the conflict to appropriate teams within the classes.
- The CL will be a coach to churches that are seeking revitalization: getting to know the church, listening to their needs, and helping them to discover the best path to health in their situation.
- The CL will be a resource for leadership development within congregations.
- The CL will be a part of both Classis Revitalization Teams and a coach helping them to be more effective in their service to the Classes.

MULTIPLICATION

- The CL will “raise the temperature” for multiplication in NW Iowa; encouraging churches to reach their community and keeping the vision in front of both Classes.
- The CL will network churches with similar goals and ideas; helping to tell the stories of outreach and generating new ideas.
- The CL will be a coach to new ministry leaders in the area and lead a regular meeting of new ministry leaders helping to resource them, encourage them, and share ideas.
- The CL will facilitate conversations that will help congregations discover their unique role in God’s multiplying kingdom.
- The CL will be a part of both Classis Multiplication Teams and a coach helping them to do strategic planning and vision casting.

Desired Characteristics

1. Love for Jesus and a desire to see others come to faith in Him.
2. Love for the local church and a passion for leading churches to kingdom faithfulness and effectiveness.
3. Understanding that every church is uniquely shaped by God and must be treated fairly with kindness, love, respect and dignity.
4. Love for NW Iowa and belief that God wants to do something great in this area.
5. Familiar with and supportive of RCA doctrine and the Classical structure.
6. Possess the spiritual gifts appropriate for effective functioning in this role.
7. Great people skills for building trust with pastors, consistory members, and congregants.
8. The ability to inspire, encourage, and equip people to execute the vision for NW Iowa.
9. Visionary leadership and skills for planning, developing, organizing and implementing processes or methods to fulfill the vision for NW Iowa.
10. Team player, willing to work effectively within the organizational structure of the two Classes and the Regional Synod.
11. Proven track record of developing networks and forming effective ministry partnerships.

Accountability

The CL will be a member of the Synod of the Heartland staff.

The CL will be accountable to both Classis Executive Teams through a joint steering team made up of equal representatives from each classis and a peer member of the Synod staff. At least one member of each Classis Executive Team will also serve on the CL Steering Team (it is recommended that the past president from each classis serve on the CL Steering Team).

The CL will make regular reports at Classis meetings and Synod meetings.

The CL will be encouraged to live in a centrally-located area relative to the churches of both classes.