

E/W Sioux Classis Leader Admin Team Report – April 2015

Activities & Celebrations

- West Sioux Classis has restructured its bylaws and we are beginning to behave our way into T & T.
- Rejoice Community Church has completed redevelopment successfully and is doing well this side of redevelopment, including calling a First Call pastor with whom we are engaging in healthy ways thru a First Call team, mentor & coach.
- East Sioux Exec is leaning into some difficult conversations that have been avoided in previous years.
- Five new ministers (4 churches) have been installed in East Sioux Classis in the past several months; and another call is being extended that would eliminate all vacancies.
- Two West Sioux vacant churches are nearing the completion of their searches.
- CL helped to broker conversations between a Guatemalan house church and First Reformed Church of Sioux Center. First has provided the growing worshipping body facilities and the possibility of new relationships exists!
- The CL is engaging RCA/CRC leaders in NW Iowa, along with CMI and Tim Vink, around a Together in Mission grant possibility in NW Iowa.
- Preliminary conversations are happening with another congregation that is actively thinking about extending its ministries, looking at its missional footprint.
- The CL church health team continues to administer Church Health Assessment within the bounds of East & West Sioux Classis, documenting results and presenting findings. The hope is that a mentor/be mentored approach among churches would take hold, or that learning communities can be formed based on these findings.
- The CL is actively engaged in the redevelopment process with First Reformed Church of Boyden.
- The CL has helped to start two new pastor networks, remains engaged with a third, and led a group of 6 pastors through the Leadership Development Journey last year. CL is still coaching several of these pastors.
- The CL is actively recruiting churches in E/W Sioux Classis to participate in the Ridder Church Renewal process.

Concerns

- As we administer the Church Health Assessment, our healthiest congregations show lowest marks in outreach and personal piety. Our churches are great, but personally I am not overly engaged and I don't share my relationship with Jesus with other people is, in effect, what we are saying. This is not shocking, but it is a concern.
- My job description says that healthy churches will plant churches. This is a slow process as most of our congregations are more inward focused than outward focused.

Goals/objectives for 2015

- 1.) Love Jesus more every day thru the Scriptures, prayer and worship.
- 2.) Continue administering Church Health Assessment in E/W Sioux Churches
- 3.) Be a catalyst for T & T in E/W Sioux Classis, particularly in Cultivating Transformation (Ridder, pastor networks, learning communities, lean into conflict, etc.) and Engaging in Christ's Kingdom mission (new WS mission/vision; create local/nat'l/global missional engagement opportunities)