

• **Commissions:**

The Classis wrote new By-laws and is now living into them. I have assisted in the conversations of merging T & T with the old structure of the four Leadership, Missional Support, Revitalization, and Stewardship Commissions. These Commissions are in the early stages living into of how T & T can give direction and the focus of their ministry.

- The Leadership Commission has been asking the question, how T and T may give direction to the next steps of developing leaders in the Classis, and is also contemplating what might be good ways of providing leadership for pastors, elders, or leadership teams through coordinated efforts of this Commission.
- The Revitalization Commission is changing chairs and the current discussion is not only about how to best utilize and implement T and T, but how best to come along side of the concerns that the elders articulated in the September 2014 Classis meeting – a process which I facilitated.
- The Missional Support and Stewardship Commissions are working to discern how best to make available to Classis congregations the funds that have come as a result of the selling of the First Evansdale property.

• **Executive Committee:**

Resourced the Executive Committee in its work on behalf of the Classis, conversations about identity, vision, goals, and addressing needs... .

• **Pastor Networks:**

There are ½ dozen of formal and informal pastor networks; with some functioning strong, and others, perhaps not so much. One meets every other week and the others all meet monthly. But they all provide the core component of checking in with each other for support and prayer. Some have a learning component such as swapping a good book, viewing a cd from the Willow Leadership Summit, or offering each other a best practice resource one to another. Many of the members in the networks also stay connected with each other outside of the network at a one to one level or they may periodically gather together with their spouses and families.

• **1:1, Coach, Mentor:**

There is a periodic check in or on an as needed basis for one to one conversations with pastors. Some meet just to catch up, some to search out ideas or resources, or others to contemplate a growing or declining sense of call in their ministry or in another ministry. Nearly all conversations focus around the current issues they are facing and determining a best practice or a best plan of action. For the few who may be considering, pursuing, or candidating for a call, I stay engaged with them in that processes of discernment, as well as a reference check for them.

• **Vacancies:**

The one vacancy in the past year was filled months ago, but there has been an adjustment of leadership of Orchard Hill ministries in the Grundy, Lincoln Center, and soon to be Waverly communities.

• **Prayer Network:**

The Classis has two vehicles for sharing prayer needs one to another. The first is that at each of the Classis meetings, each pastor or elder present highlights on a master sheet the current prayer needs that they face or want to celebrate. In addition to this, the second method is where each Sunday, the Classis congregations pray for one of the congregations. They offer items of petition and praise.

• **New Church Development:**

I currently serve on the leadership team of the Bridge of Hope (BOH) in Waterloo, and I serve as a coach for founding pastor Kevin Van Wyk. Through an extended process, BOH has decided to leave the movie theater and begin worshipping at the Grace Reformed Church. We are not sure what will happen next, but we trust God's hand is in this – especially after their intense searches for a new church home out of which to worship and serve their community have not come to fruition.

I'm honored to serve God in these ways. Thank you for this opportunity to do so. Jim