

June 15, 2009

Dear Council,

At its May 21 meeting Classis adopted a new mission for Classis and approved new Ministry Guidelines for a period of three years. To accomplish its mission, Classis is creating a new six-team structure coordinated by team leaders and a Ministry Coordinator.

To help Classis begin to implement these new guidelines, your council should take the following steps:

1. Identify two council members (a minister and elder) who will serve as delegates to Classis meetings for at least one year (September 17, 2009, January 21, 2010 and May 20, 2010). Communicate the names of the delegates to Stated Clerk Al Mulder by August 31, 2009.
2. Identify two congregation members (including at least one deacon or former deacon) to serve on Classis ministry teams. Short descriptions of the six teams are enclosed. The individuals should have some interest, passion, or experience in one of the six areas of our ministry priorities. They can be current or past office holders (ministers, ministry associates, elders, deacons), church staff, or anyone in your congregation who would like to participate in the ministry of Classis GR East. Communicate the names of the two nominees and their preferred teams to Tom Bulten by August 31, 2009.
3. We are also looking to identify a leader for each of these ministry teams. These leaders will receive a \$1200 annual stipend from Classis for the additional work they will be doing. Please also communicate the names of individuals that you feel should be considered for team leadership.

The **purpose** of Classis Grand Rapids East is to be a community of congregations that are encouraging, equipping, and challenging one another to be vibrant and missional.

#### **Why Participate in Classis?**

1. Your congregation has ideas to offer to the other congregations of classis.
2. Your congregation can benefit from the ideas and resources of other congregations of classis.
3. Our testimony and ministry can be more effective and efficient when we work together.

Someone from the Classis Renewal Implementation Team is willing to meet with your council or church leadership to talk more about the Classis Renewal process. We will be contacting you soon about this offer.

Very truly yours,

Classis Renewal Implementation Team

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# **Classis Grand Rapids East Ministry Teams**

## **Leadership Development and Support Team**

The purpose of the Leadership Development and Support Team is to develop, identify, and equip leaders, both ordained and unordained, for the congregations of classis.

## **Prayer and Worship Team**

The purpose of the Prayer and Worship Team is to promote prayer and worship in and among the congregations of classis.

## **Revitalizing and Starting New Churches Team**

The purpose of the Revitalizing and Starting New Churches Team is to help create and nurture healthy, missional congregations in southeast Grand Rapids.

## **Early Faith Formation Team**

The purpose of the Early Faith Formation Team is to help congregations nurture and disciple children and youth in the faith.

## **Adult Faith Formation Team**

The purpose of the Adult Faith Formation Team is to help congregations nurture and disciple adults in the faith.

## **Partnerships Team**

The purpose of the Partnerships Team is to develop and sustain partnerships with other Christian traditions, congregations and organizations.

*Classis Grand Rapids East is a community of congregations that are encouraging, equipping, and challenging one another to be vibrant and missional. Congregations can be effective and efficient by working together. Classis is looking for two or more members from each congregation to serve on Classis ministry teams. Please contact your council if you are interested in one of these ministry areas and wish to serve on a team.*