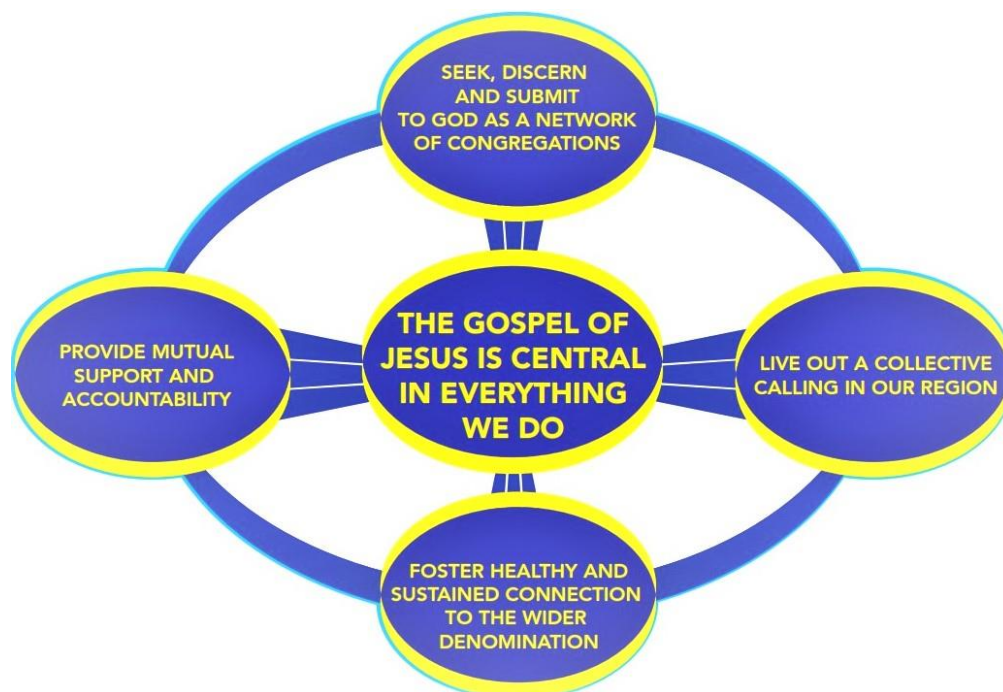


Classis Hamilton Ministry Plan Mission, Vision, Values, and Ministries



OUR MISSION

Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the mission of Classis Hamilton is:

1. To seek, discern, and submit to God as a network of congregations;
2. To provide mutual support and accountability;
3. To live out a collective calling within our region; and
4. To be a healthy and sustained connection to the wider denomination.

OUR VISION

A healthy network of Christian Reformed churches supporting each other and collaborating in gospel ministry.

OUR VALUES

1. **Gospel centred ministry** – classis exists to demonstrate the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. All classis sponsored ministries will reflect this core value.
2. **Humble submission** – classis is called to humbly submit to Christ and to other member churches. In all our activities, we will devote ourselves to scripture and prayer, seek wisdom and discernment in cooperation, and submit to one another out of love and grace.
3. **Mutual encouragement** – our ministries will both extend the work of the local church through sharing resources and reinforce/undergird the work of the local church through mutual support and accountability.
4. **Supportive structures** – ministries should be well supported by policies and accountable governing bodies. We will adhere to all legal requirements and denominational church order, and our committees will submit all their work to classis for approval.
5. **Pursuit of excellence** - effectiveness of ministries will be measured through clearly defined outcome objectives.

OUR MISSION LIVED OUT

Each ministry and activity of Classis Hamilton must fit within one of the four foci of the Mission Statement. These ministries fall into one of two categories: Mandated and Covenanted.

1. **Mandated Ministries** – Activities necessary to our practices as a Classis within the Christian Reformed Church of North America. These activities are determined by Church Order and decisions of Synod.
2. **Covenanted Ministries** – Where we agree together as a network of churches to create and support a regional ministry that benefits the greater Hamilton area. Covenanted ministries will develop a plan to become self-sustaining in order to create space for future ministry opportunities.

APPENDIX

Classis Hamilton Ministry Funding and Evaluation

OUR FUNDING OF MINISTRIES

1. Mandated ministries will receive 100% funding, subject to periodic evaluation regarding their continued usefulness and effectiveness to qualify for continued funding as determined by the CIC.
2. Covenanted ministries will receive classis funding determined and agreed upon by classis. Ministries will be urged to develop self-sustaining funding models.

OUR EVALUATION PROCESS

There are two evaluation processes: (1) to determine original support or (2) to determine continued support.

Original Support

Classis will consider a sponsorship proposal if it substantially meets the following criteria. When the proposed ministry:

1. lives out a collective calling within our region.
 - Through local church support and mutual accountability.
2. is gospel centred and supports the ministries of the local church.
 - Word and deed ministry must both be pursued.
3. has a clearly defined supervision and accountability structures.
 - Primary consideration will be given to accountability to the sponsoring local church(es).
 - Classis committees may give support to the ministry of the local church(es).
4. provides evidence of clearly defined outcome objectives.
 - Examples of outcomes (to consider among others) – to be developed by each ministry for proposed projects:
 - The minimum number of active ministry participants and ideal target to be involved with this ministry.
 - Description of networking relationship with other churches and organizations.
 - Number of persons impacted who became followers of Jesus Christ and active participants in a local church, etc.
 - Evidence of active participants regularly contribute their time (# of volunteer hours), and financial contributions (% of total ministry budget), leadership skill development (# of people trained), etc.
5. provides a long-term funding model that demonstrates a diminishing need for financial support from classis, achieving complete financial independence from classis within three years, wherever possible.
 - Evidence must be provided as to how the ministry proposes to achieve financial self-sustainability.
 - A responsible estimate must be provided to indicate the length of time it will take to achieve financial self-sustainability for the ministry.
 - If financial self-sustainability will not be possible in a three-year time frame, provide compelling reasons why classis should commence sponsoring the ministry.
6. provides a risk assessment profile for the ministry and paid or unpaid staff who carry out the ministry, particularly as it relates to harassment and abuse. This is to be done in consultation with the Classis Hamilton Safe Church Director.

Continued Support

1. Every ministry financially supported by Classis Hamilton shall provide:
 - A detailed annual report to classis demonstrating:
 - How the ministry continues to adhere to the mission, vision and values of Classis Hamilton.
 - How progress toward each of the outcome goals have been measured and include achievements to date.
 - The progress that has been made to secure financial support from individuals, corporations, organizations and churches both within and outside of classis.
 - A detailed budget outlining all expenditures for the coming year as well as the percentage of financial support expected from Classis Hamilton.
 - A detailed statement as to how Classis Hamilton can support the ministry to achieve its outcome objectives.
2. provides a risk assessment profile for the ministry and paid or unpaid staff who carry out the ministry, particularly as it relates to harassment and abuse. This is to be done in consultation with the Classis Hamilton Safe Church Director.