

Classis Quinte Home Missions Report
(From recent meeting of CQHMC - August 28, 2019)

Church Plants update:

Part of our conversation was spent sharing the grief regarding the closing of **Ecclesia** church plant and now the **B.O.A.T Church** – church plant initiative with Classis Toronto. Jana Koh and family had to leave Canada due to immigration issues. (Shared at Classis in May 2019) The Taff's, who were in the VERY early stage of planting, received a cancer diagnosis (Elena). Jason and Elena decided after much prayer, to return to London to be close to family and friends due to the need for a support network when one has cancer, which they didn't have yet in Pickering. Although both situations were beyond anyone's control, as a committee we want to reflect on and learn from these 2 church plants. We would like to share this with Classis at the next meeting and spend time praying for the Koh's and the Taff's.

We had a discussion about our role as a Home Missions committee in terms of what do future church plants look like. We asked some questions: If parachute type church plants (drop in a planter – usually – people support is lower in these types so building relationships takes a lot longer) don't work as well and have a lower rate of success, do we need to talk to established churches in our classis to see if they might start a church plant with the mother church backing a new church plant and then Classis would come alongside and help? Do we raise up church planters within the Classis? Do we look for immigrant church plants or house churches or other ministries that have their boots on the ground and are getting started and need us to come alongside for support and have them come under the CRC umbrella?

What are realistic expectations when we look at planting new churches? Do we as a committee and Classis need more education on this? A reminder: The B.O.A.T. Church (a plant of Classis Toronto in which Classis Quinte was a financial partner) was set up as a Bi-vocational plant. That means that the church planter was part-time (Jason & Elena Taff have a painting business). This creates another set of questions. How can we as Classis and churches in Classis Quinte best support bi-vocational pastoring/church planting? What are realistic expectations for the planter and those who support the plant? We have lots of questions and are at work trying to find answers. Alas like Thomas Edison learned 1000's of ways that didn't work re: storage batteries before discovering what did work, we won't stop learning about church planting.

Missional Development Updates:

Discovery Church – Missional Development Grant - Thanks to this grant major work had been accomplished in the area of connecting with not yet believers. They have been able to expand on events geared "outward" and able to connect with 3 times as many people as in past years. These efforts of outreach are happening this Fall through the following: presence at Orono Fair

this year, running ALPHA, and other invitational and informational events to come i.e. Christmas and Easter. Pray for continued fruit from their labours.

Mandarin Ministry – Missional Development Grant: 2018 was the final funding year from the Missional Development Fund. However, we hadn't had a chance for a wrap up conversation. Pastor Darren Hoogendoorn shared about the Mandarin Ministry at Hebron CRC. Pray for continued blessing as they go through growing pains.

Geneva House: Queens University/Loyalist College/St. Lawrence College:

Queens University- Steve Kooy shared about his work at. They are planning another *Student Global Leadership Summit* for January. *FIT program* -First year integration team. Get them connected to upper year "buddies" and connected to Geneva *Grad ministry* combined with 2 local churches. Doing Life Groups for grad and beyond, now called *22-30*. Steve went to the Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Association (CRCMA) conference in Chicago in May and connected with some other campus ministers and they are meeting once a month to gain momentum and inspire each other. **CRCMA Conference in May 2020** –will be hosted by Geneva House.

Loyalist College-great ministry partnerships- met with Collin from YFC (Youth For Christ) and Darrel Brown from Maranatha – Bellville. In May, Steve and a few leaders went to Loyalist and spoke about Spirituality and Wellness on Loyalist campus. They are looking for program team and team leader.

St. Lawrence College – Building relationships with the administration of St. Lawrence College. College challenges include shorter term studies for these students thus faster turn-over. Pray for more leaders.

Church Planters Institute: A group of CRC leaders will be attending the Canadian Church Planters Congress in Montreal this year. Pray for the team as plans are being made to speak with Tyndale regarding students who might like to do a bit of work at CRC churches to be mentored in ministry or for church planting as well as seeking out those who are already feeling the call into church planting.

Roles on CQHM Committee: Thank you to Hank Nieuwstraaten for his service to our committee. For health reasons, Hank, has recently resigned his membership on our team. He is missed by our team.

Your current Classis Quinte Home Missions committee consists of: Pastor Adam Veenstra, AJ Spoelstra - Chair, Pastor Darren Hoogendoorn, Hans Vink - CMC liaison, Julia Kooy - Secretary, Pastor Mike Nanninga, Pastor Ryan Braam, and Pastor Steve Kooy - Geneva House rep. We welcomed Pastors Adam Veenstra and Mike Nanninga to our team. We also say thank you to AJ Spoelstra for staying on an additional year past her 2nd term limit date and being Chair as we continued to look for more committee members. As of September 25th, 2019, Pastor Mike Nanninga will be the new Chair with Pastor Ryan Braam is the new Vice-Chair.