

Presentation to
Classis CA South
May 10, 2012

Strategic Plan 2012-2020

Some History

—for you history buffs



- Prior to 1998 it was classis doing business as usual.
- In 1997-1998, several churches left classis because of denominational issues.
- In May, 1998 a revisioning document was adopted that has essentially guided our work since then.

From May 1998



- **Our Vision:**
- We envision a network of 30 healthy, outreaching, discipling, biblically sound, doctrinally reformed congregations in the Southern California region by the year 2010, which are united and excited about partnering together as a classis in God's Mission

May 1998--continued



- **Our Mission:**
- As a classis, we are committed to three basic purposes: accountability, encouragement, and shared ministry for the churches of the classis.

May 1998--continued

■ Our Values:

- We value the local congregation - the ultimate authority and most important place for ministry is in and through the local congregation.
- A shared commitment to the Great Commission - those congregations who desire to be part of this classis must have a passion for the mission of God+which is to reach and disciple lost people.
- A shared commitment to the Reformed Faith - those congregations who desire to be part of this classis must have a passion for and commitment to the historic doctrines of the Reformation.
- Efficiency and effectiveness - there is a commitment amongst the churches to avoid a burdening effect of bureaucracy and busy work+ by streamlining any and all teams in their work and reporting.

May 1998-continued

- Revised Structure of Classis
 - Classis meetings held in the evenings only 3 times a year.
 - Classical Examinations drastically restructured
 - Classical partnerships established

May 1998-continued

- Four Ministry Teams established
 - Classical Leadership Team
 - Classical Prayer Team
 - Leadership Development Team
 - Ministry Development Team

May 1998-continued

- Accountability

Everyone was accountable to the Classical Leadership Team. The CLT was to process all motions, presentations, and credential items prior to classis. All items would come to classis with a recommendation from the CLT.

February 2005

- In February 2005 an eleven point Classis Revisioning plan was adopted.
 - Changed the names of some teams
 - Resurrected the Prayer Team
 - Eliminated the Classical Partnerships
 - Called for the establishment of a Youth Ministry Team
 - Added a value on the importance of relationships and created what are now called LEAD Teams

February 2005--continued



- Added deacon delegates and called for a Classis Deacon Team to be established
- Called for a focus on church health

Recent Work Done



- In 2010 celebrated the milestone of 300 churches by 2010.
- CET began work on developing an updated strategic plan
 - Requested the CLT and the CDT to contribute to the plan.
 - Received contributions from the CLT and CDT

Recent Work Done--continued



- Held a special classis meeting on November 17, 2011 to further develop a new strategic plan.
- CET met on December 15 and focused on the vision, mission, and values.
- CET gave a progress report at the Feb. 9, 2012 classis meeting.
- CET meets on March 15 to discuss work needing to be done on the strategic plan. Decides to schedule a day-long meeting on April 20, 2012.

Recent Work Done--continued



- On April 20 CET holds meeting at Crossroads CRC, San Marcos. Our facilitator is Mike Vander Pol. He is assisted by Mr. Jim Den Ouden. We also receive advice from denominational classis coach, Mr. Karl Westerhof. We develop a plan to present to classis on May 10. Will Verhoef is assigned to make the presentation.

Background materials and work

- The documents developed by the CLT and the CDT which were merged by the CET.
- Work done on November 17, 2011 particularly the categories developed in the Practical Vision+ document about what we want to see 5-7 years from now.
- CET's work on vision, mission, and values. We slightly reworked the great foundation built back in 1998.
- Decision to develop an initial 18-month plan.

What's the role of a classis? (CRC Church Order Art. 39-44)

- **Classis California South is a regional group of Christian Reformed Churches which recognizes the value of the local congregation while also committing to work together in shared ministry that grows God's kingdom.**

Proposed Vision



- Our Old Vision: We envision a network of 30 healthy, outreaching, discipling, biblically sound, doctrinally reformed congregations in the Southern California region by the year 2010, which are united and excited about partnering together as a classis in God's Mission.
- New Vision: **"Classis California South is a diversified growing group of 50 outreaching, discipling and biblically based reformed churches by 2020."**

Classis mission (unchanged)



- As a classis, we are committed to three basic purposes: accountability, encouragement, and shared ministry for the churches of the classis.

Proposed Values



- We value relationships and diversity within classis among leaders and members of our churches. It is the means of creating accountability and unity in the midst of diversity.
- We value the local congregation. The primary place for ministry is in and through the local congregation.
- We value a shared commitment to the Great Commission. Those congregations who desire to be part of this classis must have a passion for the mission of God.
- We value a shared commitment to the Reformed Faith. Those congregations who desire to be part of this classis must have a passion for and commitment to the historic doctrines of the Reformation.
- We value efficiency and effectiveness. There is a commitment amongst the churches to avoid a burdening effect of bureaucracy and busy work by streamlining any and all teams in their work and reporting.

What do we want to see in place by 2020 (from the Nov. 17, 2011 mtg.)

- More ethnic and cultural diversity in churches and classis.
- Active and growing campus ministries.
- Clear and consistent communication that informs and engages churches.
- Mutual partnership ministry that strengthens the local church.
- Passionate and prayer filled classis meetings.

2020? --continued



- Contextual and accessible resources for ministry.
- Biblically and doctrinally sound congregations proficient in ministry.
- Multiplication ministry culture.

Internal Strengths



- Lead teams and evangelist training program
- Culture of experimentation
- Deacons at classis
- Denominational support
- Ease of decision making
- Strong leadership
- Diversity
- Fellowship
- Collaboration
- Desire to plant new churches
- Accountability
- Mutual discipleship
- Strong relationships
- Doctrinally Sound
- Prayer
- Time(short and accessible)



External Opportunities

New church planters

RCA/CRC collaboration

Satellite Seminary i.e. Calvin and Newbigin

Calvin Seminary online program fall of 2012

Larger diverse community

Eighteen month commitment (July 2012-December 2013)



- **Make prayer and testimony significant parts of each of the next three classis meetings. Completion date: May 2013. Classis team assigned: Classis Prayer Team.**
- **One network event scheduled for inspiration, information sharing, community-building. Completion date: December 2012. Classis team assigned: Classis Executive Team.**
- **A plan for a Classis Diaconal Team will be proposed to classis at its October 2012 meeting with a team established by the end of 2012. Classis Team assigned: Classis Executive Team.**

Eighteen Month Commitment (continued)



- **Two new churches birthed. Completion date: December 2013. Classis Team assigned: Church Development Team.**
- **Create and implement a plan to train pastors, council members, staff, and lay leaders in the church to be mentors and teachers in the congregations and community. The plan includes providing references and resources on how to become discipling churches. Completion date: September 2013. Classis Team assigned: Classis Leadership Development Team.**
- **Schedule visits with five churches to help them do an evaluation and share with them the resources so that those churches will become more externally focused. Completion date: December 2013. Classis Team assigned: Church Development Team.**

Looking beyond 2013



- Strengthening our fellowship
- Growing our capacity
- Helping congregations and their communities

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