

DAKOTA CLASSIS' VISION/MISSION STATEMENT

The Classis of Dakota is a fellowship of congregations and ministries called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the very presence of Christ in the Dakotas. Our shared task is to equip congregations for ministry by developing a community of nurture, vision and accountability, by being responsible one to another, sustained by prayer and enlivened by the Holy Spirit. We are called to focus on three main areas of ministry, namely revitalization, multiplication and leadership development.

CLUSTER MODEL—DAKOTA CLASSIS -

(This is an attempt to describe the purpose and process of the cluster model as it relates to the support and development of effective "Leaders" and "Leadership Teams" or Consistories, who in turn lead effective, "missionally focused ministries". This does not attempt to address the more "administrative"/ "business", or "decision-making" side of classis business, which is more defined in our by-laws.)

PURPOSE: Churches journeying together, supporting one another in order to build effective leaders and church leadership teams (Consistories) who lead "missional" churches, making a kingdom difference in their communities.

CONCEPT: Entire Consistories/Leadership Teams of each ministry gather together for support, continued learning and accountability.

CLUSTER MEMBERSHIP- all classis churches/ministries in a defined area are assigned to a Cluster, determined by the larger classis.

CLUSTER LEADERSHIP- the Cluster is facilitated by a designated "Cluster Coordinator". There are three ministry coordinators within each cluster who coordinate their area of ministry, namely:

1. Multiplication; 2. Revitalization and 3. Leadership Development

WHO ATTENDS CLUSTER MEETINGS- All cluster church pastors, ALL Consistory members (all deacons and elders), all church "staff" members where possible and applicable as well as other key, influential lay leaders who are not on the current Consistory.

CLUSTER FOCUS: Focus is on the LOCAL CHURCH/MINISTRY making a kingdom difference in their community/region- with an emphasis on LEADERSHIP—helping pastors, elders and deacons (or “board members) to work together more effectively as a LEADERSHIP TEAM, intentionally leading their churches/ministries in the direction they believe God calling them to pursue.

SUPPORTIVE SYSTEM TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE AND FOCUS

1. each pastor of a cluster church/ministry is in a pastor network comprised of the other cluster pastors.
2. each pastor has a “personal calling statement” and “leadership strategy”.
3. each pastor has a personal “coach”.
4. each church/ministry has a current vision/mission/values statement that is used to make decisions for their current and future life.
5. All Consistory members, staff, key lay leaders attend all Cluster meetings as scheduled.
6. each Consistory develops a “Leadership Strategy” based on their church’s vision.
7. each Consistory member strives to develop a “personal calling statement”
8. each pastor consider “coaching” their Consistory members