

Retreat Topics:

- 1- Growing the deaconate
- 2- Planning classis meetings for October, February and May  
Safe Church- learning, lament and also Chad Schreur "Everyone a Warrior" from Hillcrest
- 3- Grants/approvals
- 4- How we handle future requests procedurally (monetary and those seeking a platform to present their cause
- 5- Pledging ministry shares
- 6- Classis staff interviews- findings and recommendations
- 7- Calendar and budget items
- 8- Enhancing table conversations at classis- What more can we do and what should we be lifting up?
- 9- Dreams, hopes, wishes

Notes – Executive meeting on August 12, 2019 On growing the deaconate-

- Sanction a point person after the Habitat model
- How will we differentiate from the Love, Inc. model
- Thinking of a classis wide care team that utilizes deacons to equip
- Continue to be aware of past attempts like Hebrews 10:24 and learn from them
- Figure out common goals from the churches and gather the top 3 needs, interests etc needs of the community including justice and mercy items
- Do together what we are not able to do alone as churches
- Possibly be a resource for sexual abuse victims and survivors
- Address high housing costs and medical insurance costs (help people with needs)
- Meet with individual churches and learn (deacons)
- What are you doing? What would you like to do? What can we do collaboratively?
- Possibly more and broader work with programs like “Feed My Starving Children”
- Parallels to the Deaconal Conference of days past
- Common service causes, ministry causes
- Combine elders/deacons in care ministry
- Mission insight- Resonate (Amy Schenkel)
- Listening , not research
- What we have learned from Habitat for Humanity
- Float a proposal for a point person – Marc N.

Jim Roskam

# Growing Classis Georgetown Diaconate

## Concept:

Following the success of the Classis-wide Habitat for Humanity project, that Classis appoint a point person to explore ways in which the churches of Classis Georgetown might discover ways to work together in partnership for more *shared* ministry.

The point person would be charged with the responsibility of engaging in a discovery process with both community leaders and Classis Georgetown deacons. The exploration would include three parts: ***Learning, Listening, and Reporting.***

The point person will:

1. **Learn** - Engage non-profit, ministry based, governmental, law-enforcement and “secular” community leaders and inquire about what they deem to be the most significant needs of our geographical area.
2. **Listen** - Engage in listening sessions with Classis Georgetown deacons (en masse and/or from each congregation) and hear:
  - what is going well for them in their community ministry
  - what community ministry is carried by the diaconate and what ministry is carried by an “outreach” or “community ministries” team
  - their ideas and dreams for what could be done together as Classis churches
  - their interest and willingness to work together as a Classis in shared ministry to address community needs
3. **Report** - Circle back to the Vision Team by the summer of 2020. The goal of the report would be to share what has been learned and heard from the churches and community helping organizations. Following this reporting, the Vision Team would identify these needs for Classis in ways that would help us work together toward a shared community ministry or ministries.

In addition, we recognize that *these conversations themselves* may produce new connections, new possibilities and new ministries that present themselves in ways that are worth pursuing immediately *and not waiting until the summer or fall of 2020*. In that sense, we regard this proposal as the construction of our “Plan B” in the event that the Spirit shows us a “Plan A” along the way.

## Grounds

- The Classis wide Habitat for Humanity project demonstrated that Classis can work well together in joint projects.

- The deacons of the CRC are called to a ministry of hands and feet, justice and mercy and we believe Classis has a role in fostering those ministries.
- Classis Georgetown has good rapport as a body of churches, but Deacons and churches need *encouragement* to think about ministry that could be done jointly. This strategy of *listening and learning* unto working together could empower a movement to be born.