
Mission Team

Brookdale Presbyterian Church



Brookdale Church is called to bring the beauty of the gospel to the brokenness of life.

A Picture of Mission

We see Brookdale as a place where people are sharing the gospel, embracing their vocations, seeking the shalom of the city, and going to the nations.

We see Brookdale as a place where people are sharing the gospel. We envision the church as a place where people are being so transformed by the beauty of the gospel that other people in their lives will be unable to ignore the change that is taking place in them. We envision the church as a place where people are going out and loving others with surprising, radical, and sacrificial love that expresses the heart of the gospel. We envision the church as a place where people are talking about the gospel with their families, their circle of friends, their co-workers, and their neighbors in personal, natural, and relational ways, such that people are regularly coming to know Jesus, being baptized, and beginning a life of discipleship.

We see Brookdale as a place where people are embracing their vocations. We envision the church as a place where people see their work as more than just a way to make a living, but as a personal calling from God that is a significant way they live for him in the world. We envision the church as a place where people understand that their work has an important and vital part to play in God's kingdom work in the world. We envision the church as a place where people endeavor to use their work as a way to help bring renewal to the city.

We see Brookdale as a place where people are seeking the shalom of the city. We envision the church as a place where people are passionate about seeing the city become a place of peace, justice, righteousness, harmony, well-being, health, and human flourishing. We envision the church as a place where people are partnering with neighbors, other churches, and organizations, ministering alongside one another to pursue and promote the common good, so that the city begins to look increasingly like the beauty of the new creation. We envision the church as a place where people are entering into the most broken places of the city, with Christ-like love, cross-shaped humility, and kingdom-driven purpose, in order to touch them with the compassion, mercy, and healing power of the gospel.

We see Brookdale as a place where people are going to the nations. We envision the church as a place where people are burdened to pray for the nations of the world because they long to see people from every tongue, tribe, and nation come to know Christ. We envision the church as a place where people are so passionate about missions that they are giving generously, sacrificially, and regularly to support missionaries and missions organizations that are doing gospel-centered ministry among the nations. We envision the church as a place where people are regularly so gripped by the gospel and so committed to the kingdom that they are moved to go out to the nations themselves, through both short-term and long-term trips, in order to bring the beauty of the gospel to the most broken places of the world.

A Plan for Mission

Brookdale will need to cultivate a deep passion for those who do not know Christ, the restoration and redemption of the city, and the Great Commission in the world.

Brookdale will need to encourage and equip members to share the beauty of the gospel with others in a way that is personal and natural, in the workplace and throughout the community

Brookdale will need to equip people in a gospel-centered and kingdom-focused approach to vocation.

Brookdale will need to identify specific areas of brokenness in our neighborhood and city where we can seek shalom by ministering alongside our neighbors and fellow citizens, moving across racial, religious, and socio-economic boundaries in order to promote a culture of peace, justice, and integrity within our city.

Brookdale will need to provide vision, support, and resources for those who are called to take the beauty of the gospel to the brokenness of the nations so that they might come to know the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ, especially supporting those from within our own congregation and giving priority to particular areas and ministries in the world that fit with our history and vision.

Mission Team

Purpose

The purpose of the Mission Team is to develop concrete ministry efforts that will move the congregation towards the vision for mission. This will include:

- Development of specific ideas on how to accomplish the three objectives listed in “A Plan for Mission”
- Evaluation and possible implementation of “Possible Steps” suggested by the Vision Team
- Development of new ideas that will help the church live out “The Vision for Mission”

Composition

The Mission Team shall be composed of at least one elder and several members of the congregation who have a passion for local and/or international missions. The team will have one leader who will plan and lead the team meetings. The team leader role will rotate on an annual basis.

Annual Goals

Short-Range Goals

- Develop a training program in evangelism for the congregation (this may be done through other existing ministries such as Sunday School or small groups, in coordination with that ministry team)
- Determine which three areas of brokenness in our city our church should focus on, develop ministries for those three areas (this could be partnering with already existing ministries), and build the ministry through vision-casting and recruitment of congregation members
- Plan and execute an annual missions conference that will focus the congregation’s attention on international missions
- Coordinate, cheerlead, and celebrate at least two short term missions projects for the congregation each year

Medium-Range Goals

- Develop and implement a plan for celebrating professions of faith and baptism in the life of the church
- Develop a strategy for assessing the gifts and passions of congregation members and connect them to areas of ministry inside, but especially outside, the church.
- Communicate with missionaries our church supports and work to get at least two of them to speak at the church each year

Long-Range Goals

- In coordination with the pastor(s), develop a strategy for helping members of the congregation integrate their faith and their vocational work
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- Develop a plan for identifying those in the congregation with a calling to the mission field and then a pathway for helping them transition and launch into missions work

Assessment

- Each summer, the Mission Team will meet for an extended period to do the following
 - to evaluate how well they accomplished their goals during the past year
 - to assess the church's progress toward the vision
 - 1: Not progressing 2: Some progress 3: Significant progress
 - Are we as a congregation sharing the gospel more?
 - Are we as a congregation embracing our vocations as a part of God's kingdom work in the world?
 - Are we as a congregation seeking the shalom of the city in real practical ways?
 - Are we as a congregation growing in our giving and going to the nations?
 - to revisit the vision and develop new goals and strategies for the upcoming year

Team Leader

- This position should rotate on an annual basis among the non-staff members of the missions team
 - The leader organizes meetings no less than once a year, and preferably once a semester, plus an annual retreat for assessing the previous year and planning for the upcoming year.
 - The leader is an active participant in the Ministry Leadership Team
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Vision Team Suggestions: Some Possible Steps to Get There

In order to begin developing this heart and the skills needed, Brookdale may take these steps:

- Begin praying that God will give us a passion to communicate the gospel, a sense of calling in our vocations, a heart for seeking the shalom of the city, and a desire to go to the nations.

Evangelism

- Provide encouragement and training on how to share the gospel in personal, relational, and natural ways.
- Celebrate as a congregation when someone comes to faith and make baptisms a significant, exciting, and joyful event within the life of the church

Vocation

- Explore hosting a conference on faith and work
- Provide education on a gospel-centered approach to vocation that encourages the congregation to be a “faithful presence” in the world and the marketplace
- Develop a Faith and Work group within the church that would explore how their vocations fit in with God’s kingdom work through reading, discussion, and application

City

- Focus on specific areas of need within the Sherwood neighborhood, especially areas where we could join our neighbors in seeking the good of the community. A first step would be for members of Brookdale to become involved in the Sherwood Neighborhood Association to develop relationships with our neighbors and discuss what partnered-ministry they would like to see in their neighborhood.
- Increase visibility of ministries we are already doing, such as Mark Twain, Hillcrest, Faith in Action, Open Door Food Kitchen, Summer Lunch Program, Haven House, GriefShare, Interserve of St. Joseph, and KidZone. Ways of doing this would include local ministry fairs, local missions moments during worship services, local missions of the month in the newsletter, and regularly celebrating local missions.
- Encourage and equip members of Brookdale to include themselves into community events, gatherings, and organizations to look for (and become involved in) ministry opportunities out in the city. This would include helping Brookdale members identify what local existing ministries in St. Joseph are an expression of their own passions and spiritual gifts and then helping them get involved.

World

- Identify areas of brokenness in a particular nation each month and pray as a church for that nation
 - Highlight one of our missionary partners in each monthly newsletter in order to keep the congregation informed about Brookdale’s involvement in kingdom work among the nations.
 - Promote further awareness of global missions by inviting missionaries to speak at Brookdale about their personal involvement in gospel-centered ministries around the world, particularly in areas of the world we and our presbytery have identified as mission priorities.
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- Encourage and empower Brookdale members to grow in their passion for missions by providing opportunities to participate in short term missions trips, especially to those prioritized by our church and presbytery, either by going personally or by supporting those who go through prayer and giving.
 - Identify Brookdale members who have been so moved by the gospel that they are becoming passionate about serving in long-term mission work. Come alongside them to consider prayerfully this calling, provide encouragement, guidance through sending teams, training resources, and planning for their financial needs.
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