

Bellefield Presbyterian Church Mission, Vision, Values and Ministry Initiatives

Our Mission: To be witnesses of Jesus in every area of life, developing committed disciples of Christ and caring for the Oakland community.

Our Vision: Love. Share. Grow. Serve.

*“We are a congregation that **LOVES** others, **SHARES** the gospel, **GROWS** in relationship with Christ and others, and **SERVES** sacrificially.”*

- We **love** by caring, by doing and by giving of ourselves. We earn the right to be heard by being present. We make special efforts to reach out to others, showing them that we love them, not just saying the words, but doing the deeds of love. Our love for each other is what draws others to us, both believers and non-believers. *We love because he first loved us. - 1 John 4:19*
- We freely **share** the Gospel. Christ’s message is life-giving and for all people, believer and non-believer alike. We share the Gospel with humility to our friends, our neighbors, and anyone God has put in our lives. This is reinforced through relevant, gospel-centered preaching and effective teaching. *As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. - Acts 4:20*
- We **grow** daily in Christ. We are committed to spiritual growth, not just head knowledge, but growth in making the Word of God real in our lives by the daily application of his truth in and through us. We grow through the preaching of the Word, through the study of the Scriptures, and through applying the Scripture to our lives with mutual encouragement and fellowship. *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness. - Colossians 2:6-7*
- We **serve** as workers, as leaders and as supporters according to the Holy Spirit’s leading. We serve not to get anything in return, but as a means of giving thanks for the love, sharing the growth we have received. *Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people. - Ephesians 6:7*

Our Values: Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional

- To be **Presbyterian** is to be part of a local church that is led by elders and intentionally connected to other like-minded local congregations in our region and across the country.
- To be **Reformed** is to embrace and expound the theological heritage of the Protestant Reformation, specifically as it is expressed in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*.
- To be **Evangelical** is to believe in the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to share that good news with others.
- To be **Missional** is to look outwards and see how we can serve our local community, region, and world as we bear witness to Christ’s Kingdom.

Our Ministry Initiatives: Spiritual Leadership, Belonging, and Becoming

In greater detail, this includes the following definitions and emphases:

- **Spiritual Leadership - we will work to identify and develop leaders to provide mature spiritual guidance to the Bellefield Congregation**

- **Ministry Team Expansion**

1. Create a team charter that includes a purpose statement, broad objectives and the team members for each of the six ministry teams (formerly councils)
2. Publicize the teams and their ministry focus on the website and through other appropriate church communications vehicles
3. Actively recruit new members to the ministry teams to engage the congregation in ministry while creating a larger pool of potential elders and deacons
4. Create a monthly ministry team prayer focus similar to how we currently pray for our key missionaries

- **Leadership Development**

1. Have all ministry team members take MCore, StrengthFinders or some other gift assessment tool other than Hout's
2. Expand the "Growing the Core" ministry to train and develop new members as they join ministry teams
3. Explore ways to develop the gifts identified in the new team members by placing them in the proper team/role
4. Provide elder training at all session meetings using the Westminster Confession of Faith and instruction on spiritual leadership duties at Bellefield
5. Identify and implement initiatives that provide increased spiritual care for elders and deacons

- **Nominating Committee**

1. Update the elder "job description" document with special emphasis on biblically-based, spiritual leadership responsibilities
2. Initiate the work of the committee early in the year allowing more time for prayer and discernment
3. Consider the array of gifts needed to have a robust session and an effective board of deacons when nominating new officers

- **Session Meetings**

1. As much as possible drive the leadership of the individual ministries down to the Ministry Team level and not at session meetings
2. Elders to be accountable to submit reports on time, read the session packet in advance and come prepared to address motions quickly
3. Focus meetings on evangelism, discipleship, spiritual growth, fellowship, elder care and prayer, keeping discussions on administrative issues to a minimum.

- **Belonging** - we will work to reach new people and get them meaningfully connected to others within the Body of Bellefield

- **Sunday Worship Experience**

1. Recruit, train, energize and deploy a Greeting and Welcoming Team to take the lead on this vital ministry
2. Create a welcoming culture in the congregation by stressing its importance and by offering suggestions for making greeting time less stressful and more effective
3. Reengineer our visitor follow-up process to make it more effective at getting contact information and timelier in responding to visitors
4. Stay externally focused by orienting announcements to visitors and those less connected with the church

- **Personal Outreach and Evangelism**

1. Create a culture of outreach making it the norm to invite friends, co-workers and neighbors to Bellefield.
2. Build structures that support outreach by relaunching an expanded Outreach and Connections Council that includes new outreach-minded members.
3. Teach the essentials of outreach regularly including name recall techniques, conversation transition ideas, personal testimony sharing and the basics of doing evangelism.
4. Strengthen collaboration with our key ministry partners, CCO and PRISM, by encouraging members to participate in these important outreach efforts.

- **Strong Relationships**

1. Develop a “with me” culture by encouraging people to be intentional about living life together around shared interests
2. Augment the “with me” culture with some planned activities that are well advertised to create awareness and participation
3. Create an active mentorship program that matches, equips and supports intentional mentoring
4. Provide basic training on outreach that is very practical in nature and utilizes personal testimony

- **External Communications**

1. Formalize our mission, vision and values into a short, clear document that guides our messaging
2. Have a clear brand identity making sure that the message and reality match with each other
3. Use all forms of social media to reinforce that brand identity making sure we have good alignment of messaging across all communications

- *Becoming - we will work to help people grow and mature in their faith so that they can reflect Christ at all times and be part of caring for the Oakland community*

o **Sunday Worship Experience**

1. Teach on what it means to properly prepare for and engage in worship and adjust the pre-service routine and the overall worship experience to allow for better preparation and engagement
2. Add elements to our worship service that allow for more active participation by the congregation such as personal testimonies, prayers by the congregation, reports on answered prayers and other appropriate use of gifts.

o **Spiritual Disciplines**

1. Evolve the session from an administrative body to a shepherding role
2. Roll-out and stress the importance of participation in a church-wide Bible reading program
3. Develop and promote a similar program to encourage revitalization of personal and corporate prayer
4. Actively support and model through regular participation the adult spiritual initiatives, especially the Sunday spiritual growth hour.
5. Broaden the opportunities for developing spiritual disciplines beyond the Sunday spiritual growth hour to capture and include a greater percentage of the congregation
6. Identify best practices for integrating CCO and PRISM ministries into the whole church
7. The goal of these disciplines is to enable the congregation to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, manifested in actions of service, stewardship and sacrifice.