



Brookhaven
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Brookhaven MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Class One

CHECKLIST

CLASSES		TO READ
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 1		<input type="checkbox"/> Why Church Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2		<input type="checkbox"/> Westminster Confession of Faith (our church's constitution)
		<input type="checkbox"/> The Apostles Creed
		<input type="checkbox"/> BPC Ministry Plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> BPC Budget
WRITE		
		<input type="checkbox"/> What the gospel of Jesus is and why it's important to you
		<input type="checkbox"/> Your story about how you became a Christian
		<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Application
OTHER		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Attendance for 6 months
		<input type="checkbox"/> Elder interview
		<input type="checkbox"/> Memorize Westminster Shorter Catechism #1
		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 member recommendations

MEMBERSHIP VOWS

These are the vows you will take in order to become a member of BPC.

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of god, justly deserving his displeasure, and without hope save in his sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered in the gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

CLASS 1 OVERVIEW

PART 01

The Gospel

Pages 04-08

- A. The Prodigal Son and the Story of Christianity
- B. Doctrine: What we Believe
- C. Testimony: Your Story

PART 02

BPC Distinctives

Pages 09-11

- A. Values
- B. Structure and Strategy

PART

01

The Gospel

The Prodigal Son and the Story of Christianity

Luke 15:11-31

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. 22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. 25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound. 28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ 31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

A. The Younger Son

What is the younger son saying to the father?

Is he breaking a law?

What is the younger son’s solution to his problem?

What does the younger brother do to restore his relationship with his father?

(Bonus): What would happen if the younger brother fell into shameful sin again? Would the Father receive him again?

How is the power of sin broken in the life of a Christian? [not fear, not pride, not force, not works, but by love]

B. The Older Son

Why is the older brother so angry? What is the effect of his actions?

Is he breaking a law?

How are the older brother and the younger brother alike? What would happen if the younger brother were merely allowed to come in and work off his debt?

Is the older brother happy? Is he good?

Why is there no end to the story?

Which son is accepted by God? Which is a Christian? Why?

C. The Father and the True Older Son

What is the significance of the father running to see the son? How do you see sacrifice on the part of the father?

How does this apply to what God does for us? Where do you see God taking guilt and shame?

Who is Jesus in the parable?

D. Why did we do this?

Doctrine: What We Believe

“In essentials unity, in non-essentials, liberty, in all things, charity.” —Augustine

A. Creation:

- i. God created the world _____.
- ii. We don't care what you think about _____ as a scientific theory.

Biblically: Gen. 1-2

B. Fall

- i. We believe:
 1. We are all _____.
 2. The just penalty for our sin is _____.

Biblically: Gen. 3, effects felt through Malachi

C. Redemption: Atonement:

- i. We believe Jesus died on the cross as our _____, _____.

Biblically: Gospel accounts

D. Resurrection:

- i. We believe in Jesus' _____ resurrection and in his _____.

Biblically: Gospel accounts and Revelation

Apostle's Creed

These are the doctrinal parameters of the Christian church.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PART 02 BPC Distinctives Values

Exercise:

If an idol is anything that might take the place of God (even good things), what do you think are the major idols people hold dearly in Brookhaven?

In many ways, what makes a church unique is its particular and unique witness to Christ in its particular context. Our values are an attempt to counteract the power of these particular idols in order to be a community that prioritizes commitment to Christ over commitment to those things that tempt us to trust in them.

Our Values

1. _____

“...Pray continually...” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

“Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found.” Psalms 32:6

2. _____

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.” 1 Thessalonians 2:8

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” John 1:14

3. _____

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9

“Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.” Luke 12:48

4. _____

“O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is plenteous redemption.” Psalms 130:7

“He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’” Revelation 21:5

5. _____

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you.” Jeremiah 29:7

“Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?” James 2:15-16

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?” Isaiah 58:6

“He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.” Deuteronomy 10:18-19

Two other distinctives

Brookhaven Presbyterian Church is an _____ church as opposed to an _____ church.

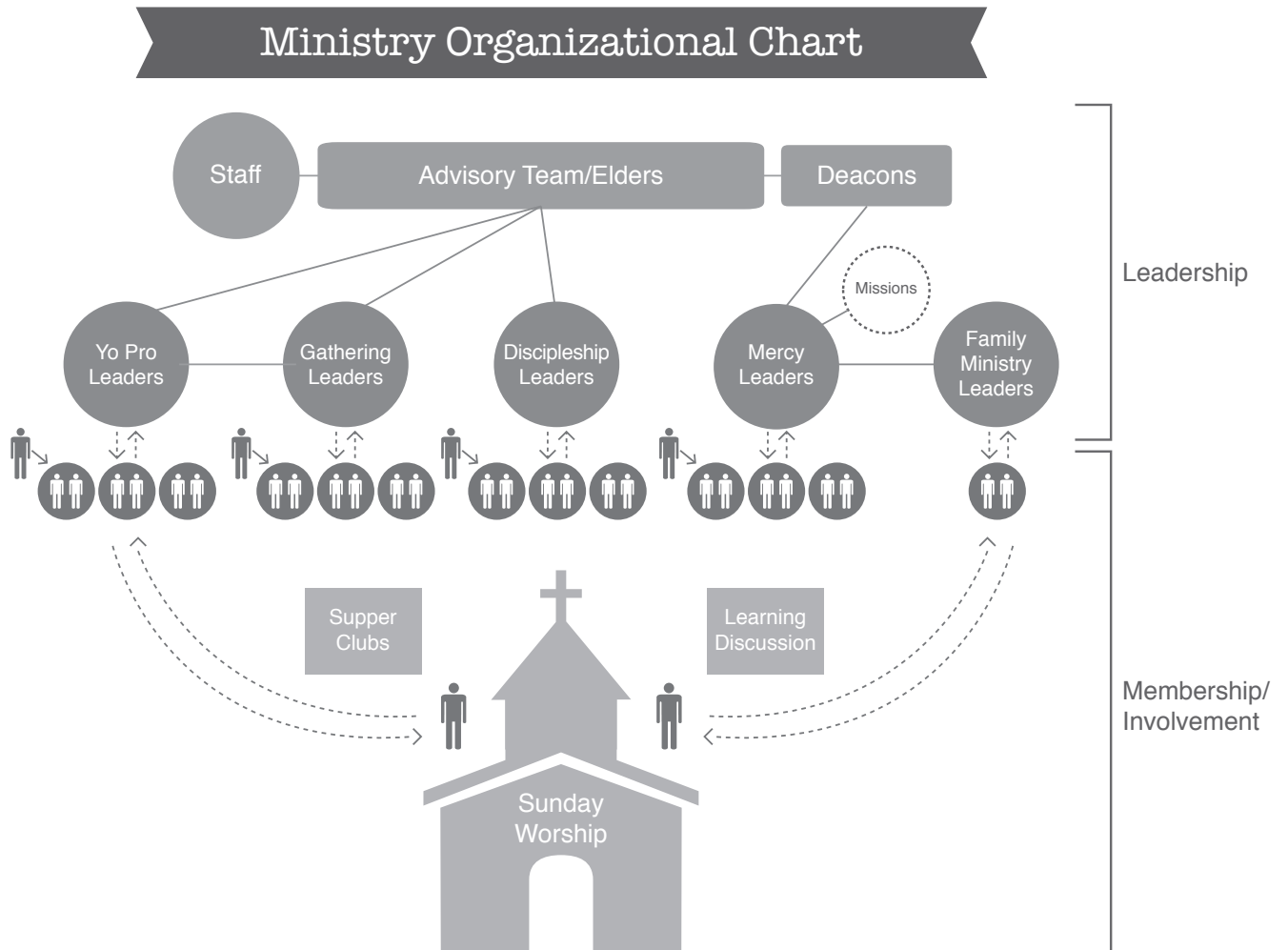
Brookhaven Presbyterian Church is a _____ church as opposed to a _____ church.

Structure and Strategy

1. Five purposes of a church

2. The Three Areas of Ministry at BPC

3. Growth and Leadership: Two levels of involvement



4. Brookhaven Presbyterian Church Job Descriptions

What is the job of our church? (what do people receive from the church?)

- Teach the people (the Bible and how to apply it to their lives)
- Pastoral Care
- Train and Equip how to make the most of your Kingdom potential
- Provide a place where God is corporately worshiped
- Serve the Community

What is the job of the pastor?

- Teach the people (the Bible and how to apply it to their lives)
- Pastoral Care
- Evangelize
- Leadership Training and Equipping
- Cast Vision for the Church
- Pray for the Church
- Specifics: Leadership in Gathering, Discipleship, and Mercy

What is the job of a leader?

- Pour life into a small number of other people in their area of spiritual calling
- Contact: One 1-on-1 meeting per month, e.g. lunch, breakfast, etc.
- Prayer: Pray regularly and specifically for those to whom you're ministering
- Leader Meetings: Attend leader meetings (.5 hrs/wk)
- Weekly Meeting: for mercy, gathering, or discipleship (1.5 hours/wk plus 1-2 hrs/wk prep time)
- Sunday morning responsibility:
 - 1) Meet at 9:45 sharp for prayer
 - 2) Meet new people and sit with them. Sunday is not the time to catch up with other leaders! Nobody should ever come to our church without being talked to by a leader.
 - 3) Sing loudly
- Fulfill other responsibilities of church members

Total: 5 hours/wk

What is the job of a church member?

- Grow Spiritually (Regular Quiet Times, Small Group/Fellowship)
- Worship God corporately and privately
- Serve/be involved using God-given gift (Service, Gathering, or Discipleship)
- Share faith with others
- Work toward leadership in the church

Total: 2 hours/wk

The Strategy and Structure of our church answer the following two questions:

1. How do I get involved?
2. Why doesn't our church have a _____ ministry?

Close: Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #1

Question: "What is the chief end of man?"

Answer: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

"I will build my church." -Matthew 16:18