



JUSTICE + MERCY

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Justice and mercy at City On A Hill means “*loving in word and deed.*” It means bringing the preview of the restoration of all things, new heavens and new earth, to our city and neighborhood.

THE CALLING Since the dawn of time, our relationship as humanity with God has been inseparably tied to our relationships with one another. To this day, most people would agree that we are responsible for the well being of one another, though we have failed to do so since the fall of mankind (Gen 4:9).

Jesus arrived in history and took the cost of our failure on Himself, opening the way for both reconciliation with God and one another, enabling us to love like He did:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us ... For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 2 Cor 5:17-21

Jesus brought us forgiveness and reconciliation by His death and resurrection. His life and ministry demonstrated that He had come to restore both body and soul, to reverse the effects of humanity's fall!

This is why Christians throughout history, when acting according to the leading of the Holy Spirit, have been at the forefront of bringing about restorative justice while bringing the good news of the ultimate restoration to come. Christians adopted children throngs of unwanted children in ancient Rome, brought about the end slavery in several nations, and have always cared for those in need wherever they might be, all the while proclaiming the good news that Jesus who was coming again.

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HOLISTIC MINISTRY AND ITS GOALS As a church, we recognize that oppression, unmet needs, and poverty are the result of broken relationships:

- Relationships that do not work
- Relationships are not just
- Relationships that are not for life
- Relationships and that are not harmonious or enjoyable

We fully admit that all of us have somehow contributed to this brokenness, and in repenting of this, we turn towards restoring all that we have collectively broken.

To truly meet the needs of those in our midst and in our neighborhoods, we must engage in a ministry of reconciliation: moving people closer to glorifying God by living in right relationship with God, with self, with others, and with the rest of creation.

Therefore, *reconciliation of relationships* is the ultimate guiding principle for all of our efforts in mercy and justice. In other words, what all of us need is Jesus, and so we must engage with the marginalized and oppressed in ways that point to Christ, to find reconciliation receive the full shalom (peace) of God.

OUR GOALS ARE NOT

- To make people who have less into middle-to-upper-class North Americans
- To make sure that people have enough money
- To complete projects or produce products for people

RATHER, OUR GOALS ARE

- To restore people, through the power of the gospel, to a full expression of humanness in God
- To demonstrate what a just, loving, peaceful relationship is as we point our neighbors to Christ.
- To equip or develop our neighbors to fulfill their callings of glorifying God by working and supporting themselves and their families with the fruit of that work.
- To genuinely care for those in our neighborhoods and invite them to share in our lives, and not just our moments of service.

HOW WE PRACTICE JUSTICE AND MERCY AT CITY ON A HILL We encourage the church to follow Christ by providing various opportunities with local non-profits and partnerships. Each of these opportunities allow us to be a resource and blessing to our neighborhood while deepening our relationships, ultimately leading to opportunities to share the good news about Jesus with all we encounter.

To find out how to serve through CoaH at any of these partners, please contact mike@coahchurch.org.

THE BROOKLINE HOUSING AUTHORITY provides affordable public housing for eligible families, seniors, and persons with disabilities. CoaH is proud to have an ongoing partnership with the BHA in seeking ways we can better serve and love its residents.

STEPS TO SUCCESS (STS) is a comprehensive achievement program for low-income students and their families, most living in Brookline's public housing. Each year, STS serves approximately 250+ young people in Grades 4-12 and an additional 70+ students in college or other post-secondary programs.

CoaH partners with STS to serve as volunteers with the adult ESL program, after-school homework centers for students, and sponsors a back-to-school "*Party In The Park*" before the beginning of the school year.

STEP BY STEP SUPPORTIVE SERVICES provides both residential and outreach services to adults living with a variety of psychiatric and or developmental disabilities.

CoaH partners with Step By Step by through volunteering for outings with residents as a part of their Saturday Events Program, informal relationships (a couple of SBS residents are a part of the CoaH community), and volunteer administrative assistance.

BOSTON CENTER FOR PREGNANCY CHOICES is a 501 C(3) non-profit, non-denominational, non-political organization that is committed to helping individuals make informed decisions about unplanned or unwanted pregnancy and to providing support after those decisions are made.

We are glad to be one of BCPC's many contributors and currently support them via financial and volunteer partnership.



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