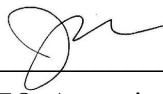


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**SYSTEM POLICY #1****SUBJECT: Catholic Ministry Identity****EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/11/2017****REVISION DATES: 7/6/2022, 7/29/2025**  
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CEO, Ascension

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**POLICY**

It is the policy of Ascension to function as and fully express its identity as a ministry of the Catholic Church consistent with Church teaching. This includes adherence to the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (ERDs) as approved and promulgated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This further includes operating in accord with our Mission, Vision and Values, guided by the Ascension Sponsor, which is the Ministerial Public Juridic Person accountable to the institutional Church (Holy See).

Consistent with the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (ERDs) and our Mission, Vision, and Values, Ascension will distinguish itself by service to and advocacy for those people whose social condition puts them at the margins of our society and makes them particularly vulnerable, ensuring they are treated as unique persons of incomparable worth, with the same right to life and to adequate health care as all other persons.

**PRINCIPLES**

Ascension integrates the following elements of ministry identity into its strategic, operational and financial planning and practices and will adopt procedures to ensure Ascension is:

- **Promoting and Defending Human Dignity** by encountering people with kindness and compassion, while respecting and defending the right to life.
- **Promoting the Common Good** by working to increase access for all persons, rationalizing care and advancing the social determinants of health to improve health equity.
- **Attending to the Whole Person** by caring for the whole person, body, mind and spirit, in and out of the hospital to improve the life and health of individuals and the community.
- **Caring for Those Who Are Poor and Vulnerable** through the provision of care regardless of the ability to pay and through initiatives specifically designed to serve and improve the health and lives of those who struggle with economic poverty and/or are particularly vulnerable due to social or economic conditions.
- **Acting on Behalf of Justice** by working to ensure basic human rights are met and all persons receive high quality, safe care, while improving social structures to offer equal access to both resources and opportunities.
- **Stewarding Resources** by lowering costs, improving efficiency and minimizing waste, protecting the environment and ensuring financial sustainability for the ministry.

- **Serving as a Ministry of the Church** by abiding by *The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, the social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church, and Canon Law, especially as they pertain to partnerships with non-Catholic organizations.
- Regularly assessing our **Fidelity** to Catholic ministry identity and reports the results to the Sponsor.

### **APPLICABILITY**

This policy of Catholic ministry identity shall apply to Ascension and all its direct and indirect subsidiaries.

### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit I - Mission, Vision, Values and Expectations

## **EXHIBIT I**

### **MISSION, VISION, VALUES AND EXPECTATIONS**

#### **OUR MISSION**

Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spiritually centered, holistic care which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities. We are advocates for a compassionate and just society through our actions and our words.

#### **OUR VISION**

Answering God's call to bring health, healing and hope to all.

#### **OUR VALUES**

We are called to:

**Service of the Poor** - generosity of spirit, especially for persons most in need

**Reverence** - respect and compassion for the dignity and diversity of life

**Integrity** - inspiring trust through personal leadership

**Wisdom** - integrating excellence and stewardship

**Creativity** - courageous innovation

**Dedication** - affirming the hope and joy of our ministry.

#### **OUR EXPECTATIONS**

*We hold Catholic healthcare as a sacred trust, recognizing it as a call and a precious gift. The Mission, Vision and Values are evident in all of Ascension's ministries. We believe that every person serving in sponsorship, governance, management and delivery of services has the power and the responsibility to live the Mission, Vision and Values of Ascension.*