



SYSTEM POLICY #: 1

SUBJECT: Catholic Ministry Identity

APPROVAL DATE: 12/11/17

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/11/17



President & CEO, Ascension

POLICY

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

This System Policy #1 supersedes and replaces Ascension Health Policy #1. The former System Policy #1, Governance Authority Matrix and Health Ministries Model Bylaws, has been renumbered as System Policy #8.

PRINCIPLES

Based on the foundational Catholic teachings on human dignity, the common good and justice, Ascension integrates the following elements of ministry identity into its strategic, operational and financial planning and practices and will adopt procedures to ensure:

1. **Solidarity With Those Who Live in Poverty** – Ascension is committed to serving the needs of individuals and communities, demonstrating special attention for those persons who are poor and most vulnerable and advocating for a compassionate and just society.
2. **Holistic Care** – Ascension cares for the integrated physical, psychological, social/relational, and spiritual needs of persons.
3. **Respect for Human Life** – Ascension respects the sacredness of every human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
4. **Stewardship** – Ascension sustains this ministry into the future by stewarding all resources entrusted to it, including human, financial and environmental resources.
5. **Participatory Community of Work and Mutual Respect** – Ascension maintains a spiritually-centered and inclusive environment of work—bringing together associates of diverse faiths and backgrounds—characterized by subsidiarity and mutual respect, that fosters the

flourishing of associates in community.

6. **Act as a Ministry of the Church** – Ascension manifests communion within the church, maintaining trusted relationships with the Ordinaries of the dioceses in which we serve and collaborating with other Church ministries and stakeholders.
7. **Fidelity** – Ascension and its subsidiaries regularly assess their 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.