Introduction

The goal of fostering a spirituality of work is to provide an environment that deepens our sense of meaning through the mission of Ascension. This affects how we work and provide services. In a spiritually centered workplace, there is a greater potential for people to become whole. They have a deeper connection with the significance of what they do. From that experience comes vital energy, real commitment, creativity and a generosity of spirit in contributing to our mission. Through fostering spirituality, the workplace grows as a true community of mutual care and service. Organizational practice is infused with depth and reflective process. In this context, there is potential for both individual and organizational transformation.

For Ascension Workplace Spirituality Is…

**Diverse**

The human spirit makes us unique. It is the basis of our common humanity and our personal uniqueness. Connecting with the human spirit begins and continues in our total present reality. That is, it is discovered through experience. While humans share certain universal spiritual experiences, there are individual, personal events we encounter throughout our life's journey to becoming the true self we are created by God to be. Our diversity provides a complement of abilities which support the Ascension healing mission.

**Inclusive**

“Spirituality” is distinguishable from "religion." Each and every person is spiritual by nature. Spirituality is a universal reality. Many people find intersections between their spirituality, their faith and the expression of that faith in a community of believers (religion). These intersections greatly impact our spirituality. And, we find that the workplace benefits from the personal gifts that all associates bring from their various religious and spiritual traditions as well as from their diverse personalities.
Relational
God interacts with us personally and continually throughout our daily lives. God engages us. We do not “make ourselves whole” by doing the right things in isolation, or determining the proper “practices.” Rather, we realize our wholeness in a community. We are called to serve by the community and respond to that call, by creating space, openness and listening to the experiences of ourselves and others. Because we are human, we are continually in relationship with God, self, others and the universe. We discover, in the course of our adult spiritual journey, the God who IS, the God with whom we are already in relationship, by virtue of our creation. We become more consistent in seeing all aspects of human experience as the meeting place with God.

Life-giving; soul-satisfying
We are vital and live with purpose. We sense connection with a larger meaning. For example, we experience our call as “continuing the healing ministry of Jesus,” or as “participating in God’s healing presence to humanity.” We find satisfaction in our work because in it we are given the opportunity to employ our gifts and abilities. Contributing helps us discover and express our identity in this world. This is where passion and the potential for creativity reside. When we view our work as life-giving, we want others to experience their own work in a similar fashion. The values of Ascension (Service of the poor, Reverence, Integrity, Wisdom, Creativity and Dedication) provide specific guidance on offering life and healing to those we serve, especially the poor and vulnerable and supporting a workplace environment that is life-giving for our associates.

Rooted in reality and truth
We bring our whole selves to the workplace. And while we have to be focused, we do not have to be fragmented. Ordinary experiences and events are the place of encounter with the Sacred. Spirituality does not imply “out of the ordinary” but rather leads us to be whole in the ordinary (If God wants to create extraordinary experiences for me, God will do so...this is not something I have to strive for.)

Discoverable—in awareness
It is not necessary to travel to a mountaintop to know our spirit. Our spirit is where we are right now. We live where action and contemplation meet, as we learn to become more aware in the present moment. This isn’t solely a matter of intellectual learning. The deeper self can know without the mind constructing definitions or labels.

Effective in service
There is a connection between service and the meaning of service, between action and reflection. As we find meaning, satisfaction and a sense of calling, we are led toward faithful, passionate, excellent service. We are also led toward greater generosity in our work because we discover the impact it has on others and ourselves. We accept accountability for, and become stewards of our Ministry. In our sense of common humanity with those who are vulnerable, we may come to a deeper compassion and a greater acceptance of our own needs. We may discover how God is acting through us. We may encounter God present and acting in others. Such awareness leads to reverence and a desire to serve even more fully. In the workplace, as in all of life, we become our true selves—the unique, unrepeatable selves that are discovered over the course of our lifetime. When we live from that true sense of self, we come to wholeness and contentment.

We, as Ascension, seek to nurture spirituality in the workplace out of reverence for each person in the service of the healing ministry.

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MI-16-2014