

# **EMANUEL MEDICAL CENTER MISSION, VALUES AND ETHICAL GUIDELINES**

## **PREAMBLE**

Emanuel Medical Center was founded in 1917 to serve the ill of all social, ethnic and religious backgrounds in its community. It is operated on behalf of the Board of Benevolence of the Evangelical Covenant Church. The mission, core values and ethical guidelines of Emanuel Medical Center are rooted in the historic Christian faith, and, still more broadly, the Judeo-Christian tradition.

As a ministry of The Evangelical Covenant Church, Emanuel Medical Center is governed by a commitment to the Bible as Holy Scripture, the Word of God, the "only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct." "Where is it written?" was and is the Covenant's touchstone of discussion with regard to faith and practice. This commitment to apostolic, biblical authority is fundamental to the mission, values and ethical guidelines of Emanuel Medical Center.

In the interpretation and application of Holy Scripture, The Evangelical Covenant Church is, first of all, a part of the great catholic tradition, the universal church whose faith was given helpful definition by the early Christian creeds and confessions. It also stands in the mainstream of the Protestant Reformation and the Pietist and Evangelical renewal movements of recent centuries. As such, The Evangelical Covenant Church recognizes both the inspiration and authority of the Bible and the impressive freedom and variety of the Holy Spirit's work in the church and the world throughout history.

In the creative tension between the constancy of Holy Scripture and the fluidity of historical circumstances, The Evangelical Covenant Church affirms the role and authority of the Holy Spirit among the people of God. Moral discernment and responsibility are to be exercised by men and women gathered in faith in Jesus Christ, submitted to the Word of God, attentive to the reality of their situation, and loyally covenanted with each other and with God to do what is right and good. Thus endeavoring to be faithful to God, we covenant together in the mission of Emanuel Medical.

In practice, the discussions and actions of the Annual Meeting of The Evangelical Covenant Church, the Board of Benevolence and the Board of Directors, Administration and Ethics Committee of Emanuel Medical Center are ways in which the mission, values and ethical guidelines of Emanuel Medical Center are reviewed, interpreted and applied. This statement is the official policy of Emanuel Medical Center upon approval by its Board of Directors. Nothing in this statement of mission, values and guidelines shall be inconsistent with the official actions and resolutions of the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

## **MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY**

Emanuel Medical Center was founded by two pastors of the Swedish Mission Church, and with the financial help of people within the community developed into a healthcare delivery system. It is committed to caring for members of the community as whole persons, considering their physical, psychosocial and spiritual health in an atmosphere of professional excellence and human kindness. It is committed to providing non-discriminatory care to its multicultural community at reasonable cost, consistent with institutional fiscal soundness.

An early motto describing the mission of the hospital was "A Christian Service Institution". While our mission and ministry have expanded, Emanuel Medical Center continues this same tradition:

The  
MISSION  
of Emanuel Medical Center is to

**Create a Healthier Community**

through:

- \*Operating on the foundation of  
Christian values
- \*Focusing on health promotion and  
prevention of disease
- \*Providing safe, high quality and comprehensive health  
services for our patients and their families
- \*Maintaining fiscal responsibility to allow for  
maintenance, growth and development
- \*Creating a collaborative partnership  
among community health resources.

In carrying out this mission and calling, Emanuel Medical Center is a member of a family of Covenant institutions, including Covenant Benevolent Institutions, North Park College and Theological Seminary, Swedish Covenant Hospital, Covenant Medical Missions, Covenant Retirement Communities and Galter LifeCenter. In the interest of sustaining and strengthening its health care mission and improving the quality of care it delivers to the local community and to the broader region, Emanuel Medical Center collaborates with these and other health care institutions, systems and providers.

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**CORE VALUES**

Since its founding in 1917, Emanuel Medical Center has been an organization that is defined and motivated by its values, those core beliefs that determine its character and behavior. Emanuel's Core Values are outlined in the following six attributes:

**LIFE**

As an umbrella that covers and encompasses all our other core values we affirm that life is the sacred gift of God: God's great works of Creation, Providence and Redemption are on behalf of life. In a biblically based, life-affirming ethic, the following principles and virtues shape our character, decisions and actions.

**JUSTICE**

Justice, also often translated "righteousness", is a central biblical concept that means seeking and doing what is just and right in the eyes of God, the Creator and Lord of all. It is conformity with the character and will of God and when applied in health care means:

Fairness and equity in our treatment of all individuals as men and women created by God.

Respecting the right of others, giving them their due as a divine endowment and not merely as a social compact.

Truthful and honest disclosure in our communications, as God is the God of truth.

Confidentiality, protecting privacy and privileged information.

Protecting the autonomy and the relationships of all persons. The God who has created us both as unique, free individuals and as persons in need of relationships for our humanity to flourish, requires us to protect for others their freedom of information and choice, informed consent, and self-determination at the same time that we support their interpersonal relationships.

Protecting the sanctity, dignity and quality of life of all men and women as persons created by, for, and in the image and likeness of God.

Non-maleficence - never doing intentional harm to another under our care.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

We accept our responsibility and obligation to cultivate and manage our God-given resources in a way that enhances human life, optimizing at the same time healing, and health and wholeness.

Ensuring accountability for the development and use of resources now, and their continued availability for the future.

Developing creativity and innovation in the wise use of resources by emphasizing wellness, prevention and health lifestyles.

Assuring fairness in access to services, and in allocation of resources.

Displaying generosity and sacrifice where prudent.

## **INTEGRITY**

God's goal is to conform us to the image of His Son, Jesus (Romans 8:28). Integrity involves living our lives, and conducting the mission of Emanuel Medical Center, in a way that is patterned after the life of Christ Jesus, as revealed in Holy Scriptures, a lifestyle that brings glory to God.

Integrity includes the following character qualities:

Accountability	Discretion	Objectivity	Submissiveness
Alertness	Enthusiasm	Optimism	Tactfulness
Appreciation	Efficiency	Orderliness	Teachability
Compassion	Fairness	Patience	Thoroughness
Commitment	Friendliness	Peacefulness	Thriftiness
Consistency	Flexibility	Persistence	Tolerance
Cooperativeness	Forgiveness	Punctuality	Truthfulness
Courage	Generosity	Politeness	Understanding
Courteousness	Gentleness	Prudence	Unselfishness
Creativity	Happiness	Purposefulness	Vibrancy
Dependability	Honesty	Respectfulness	Virtue
Decisiveness	Hospitality	Responsibility	Wisdom
Determination	Humility	Resourcefulness	Zealousness
Devotedness	Initiative	Self-Control	
Diligence	Loyalty	Sensitivity	
Discipline	Maturity	Sincerity	

Integrity is a determinant, not just of our behavior, but of the motives behind our behavior and actions, controlling our corporate operations, our fund-raising, our promotions, and our management.

It is not great talent that God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus.

### **COLLABORATION**

We are committed to work together with people who support common values and vision to achieve shared goals. These people will include our customers, our community, our staff, our suppliers, and other providers both within and outside our community.

Clarifying underlying values, mission and goals.

Building relationships with family, friends, colleagues, neighbors and others.

Seeking input from those impacted by our decisions and work.

Promoting mutual respect and building community both within and outside the organization.

Recognizing and appreciating individual and team contributions.

Encouraging development of individual gifts, talents and skills.

Fostering an environment of hospitality and trust between caregivers and those served.

### **EXCELLENCE**

Forming the foundation for our values, excellence is the commitment to exceed expectations at every level of the organization through teamwork, innovation, and an obsession for quality. We are entreated in scripture that whatever we do, we are to do it with excellence and enthusiasm, as unto the Lord.

Creating an environment where excellence can flourish.

Developing an inner attitude demanding excellence.

Pursuing continuous quality improvement as a management and personal philosophy.

Connecting personal goals and behavior with the organization's mission and values.

Building teamwork everywhere in the organization.

## **ETHICAL GUIDELINES**

These guidelines represent a consensus on the ways our values should be applied to some important aspects of health care practice today. This is not an exhaustive account of the ethics of health care but rather some practical guidance appropriate to our current systems and activities. Modifications, additions or exceptions to these guidelines are subject to the structures and procedures alluded to in final paragraph of the Preamble. We summarize our ethical guidelines in two general categories.

**Patient Care Guidelines:** Patient care is one of the purposes of Emanuel Medical Center. We affirm the notion of "patient's rights" but wish to be guided by more than a minimal, legalistic, respect for rights. Ethical patient care means:

**Non-discriminatory access to safe and competent care.** Regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, handicap, sex, age, condition or ability to pay, patients are provided safe health care at the highest level of competence and to the broadest possible

population, subject only to the limitations required by the responsible stewardship of our resources.

**Treatment with dignity and respect under all circumstances.** Irrespective of physical, psychological, financial or other conditions, patients are treated with a respect consonant with their dignity as persons made in the image of God. All patients are treated as ends, never as means. Patients are treated as responsible persons and decision-makers involved in their own health care, not in a paternalistic way.

**Privacy and confidentiality.** Patients are provided with privacy appropriate to their needs during their interview, examination, treatment and care, within the law and the resources of the hospital. Medical records and information concerning patients are treated with discretion and confidentiality.

**Information, consultation and consent.** Patients are informed of their diagnosis, of the possible and proposed courses of treatment and their probable outcomes, and of the identity and professional status of their primary caregivers. Patients have access to consultation and second opinions and participate in decisions regarding their health care (alone or with their family, friends, agents or surrogates or by means of advance directives).

**Spiritual care.** Patients are viewed as whole persons, body, soul and spirit, by the health care team. They are provided information about, and access to, the pastoral ministry of a Christian chaplain. Patients who wish to be visited by clergy of their own religious communions are free to so arrange.

**Guidelines on Specific Issues:** Given the mission of Emanuel Medical Center, not all health care procedures or bioethical dilemmas call for comment here. However, in the following areas of potential controversy, EMC health caregivers carry out their healing vocation within the specified ethical affirmations and guidelines:

**Reproduction and Birth Control.** We affirm that the provision of medical assistance to husbands and wives for the responsible stewardship of their procreative calling and possibilities can be good and appropriate. This may include assistance with conception (utilizing their own gametes) as well as contraception.

**Childbirth and Abortion.** We affirm life from conception to death as a sacred gift of God and provide health care, education and spiritual care throughout pregnancy and childbirth. Participation in the abortion of embryonic and fetal life is not considered except in the tragic circumstances of rape or incest or where it is necessary to safeguard the life of the mother.

**Dangerous or Experimental Procedures.** We affirm the purpose of medical intervention to be the benefit of patients. Dangerous or experimental procedures are only justifiable on the basis of a proportionate good likely to result. Advances in medical knowledge in the course of treating patients are desirable but no patient is to be used as an experimental means to such advances. In all cases the safety and well being of patients is the uppermost concern; consultation and consent are essential.

**Organ and Tissue Transplantation.** We affirm the preservation of life by means of anatomical gifts, organ and tissue donations on the condition that donors have given consent and the donation does not deprive them of life itself or of the functional integrity of their bodies.

**Death and Euthanasia.** We affirm life as a sacred gift of God and offer our best efforts to heal and preserve the lives of our patients. We provide the best palliative measures we can to relieve the pain, discomfort and suffering of our patients. We offer spiritual care and counseling to patients and their families and friends to cope with dying and death. We do not act in any way intentionally to cause, assist or accelerate the death of patients. Within this policy we respect the freedom and wishes expressed by patients and their families, personally or by means of Advance Directives (including Living Wills and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care).