

A Litany for Health and Human Service

All: Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men!"

One: Gracious God, you have called us to the ever-widening ministry of health and healing. We desire to follow you wherever you lead us. We thank you for giving us the unique ministry of health and healing. You have given us particular skills abilities to address the present health care crisis. Work in us and through us merciful God to be the first-responders in caring for the sick and the injured.

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One: As people of faith, we envision a society where each person is afforded health, wholeness, and human dignity. That vision embraces a system of health care that is inclusive, accessible, affordable and accountable.

All: Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men!" Inclusive: Health care is a basic human right and human need which includes every person. All human beings are created equal, with a divine will that we live together as an inclusive community.

One: Therefore, we are called to treat one another with dignity and compassion with particular concern for those who are most vulnerable. This mandates acting on our concern for the well-being of every person, including the provision of needed health care for the sake of the common good.

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Accessible: All persons should have access to health services that provide necessary care and contribute to wellness. Humanity is sacred and all persons should benefit from those actions which contribute to our health and wholeness.

One: Therefore, we are called to act with justice and, love, to ensure that all of us have access to the health care we need in order to live out the fullness of our potential both as individuals and as contributing members of our society. We must work together to identify and overcome all barriers to and disparities in such care.

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Affordable: Health care must contribute to the common good by being affordable for individuals, families and society as a whole. In the sacred act of creation, we are endowed with the talents, wisdom and abundant resources necessary to meet the needs of one another, including the health care needs of all.

One: Therefore, in our calling to be faithful stewards, we understand our responsibility to use our health care resources effectively, to administer them efficiently, and to distribute them with equity.

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Accountable: Our health care system must be accountable, offering a quality, equitable and sustainable means of keeping us healthy as individuals and as a community. As spiritual and sacred vessels, we are responsible for the care of our bodies to the best of our ability and to care for one another regardless of individual circumstances.

One: Therefore, individuals, families, governments, businesses, and the faith community are called to work in partnership for a system that ensures fully-informed, timely, quality and safe care that treats body, mind and spirit.

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Thank you for calling us to follow your way. Help us to see your vision for health and healing. Help us to always hear the call regularly and give us the courage to respond.

This litany is based on "Faith-Inspired Vision of Health Care" developed by Faithful Reform in Health Care, a coalition of national state and local faith organizations and individuals working to elevate a vision of affordable, quality health care for all.

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