

Moving our mission forward, together



I, along with a few members from our Regional Mission Integration Team, recently had the opportunity to sit down with the Sisters from the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes. During our time together, much of the conversation focused on one ever-present theme: our Mission. It's easy to see why. Our Mission drives us to do the work we do. It connects us to our colleagues, our communities and our patients.

It is clear that the Sisters were truly called to health care ministry. The Founding Sisters' desire to meet the needs of the communities they served compelled them to explore a new ministry in health care. More than a century later, that desire to meet the needs of others is what brought our organizations together. We are grateful to the Sisters for trusting us and we are humbled to be carrying their ministry forward.

As we talked and reflected on what brought us together we also looked at what the Sisters and SSM Health jointly believe the future holds for our organization and its Mission. To continue in our exceptional care for the communities we serve there are five key points we must look to as guideposts on our journey:

- Together we must **do the right thing**. Always.
- We will **be resilient together**. We are bonded in this journey for the long haul.
- We must **stay grounded in the spiritual life**. The Missionary spirit is a core part of the work we do in our health ministries and in our daily lives.

- Together we must **develop and strengthen our sense of community**.
- Each of us must **commit to being supportive** and building support mechanisms for ourselves and our teams.

Some of these tasks will take time. We continue to work towards fully integrating our teams, systems and cultures through the diligent work of our Project Community Integration Workgroups. As we do this important work we will lean into our Mission and values to guide us in the decision making that lies ahead.

As we move forward as one organization we will continue to remember what brought us together and honor the Sisters and their legacy. As our time together ended, the Sisters offered a poignant blessing from St. Francis of Assisi, "I have done what is mine to do, now you must do what is yours to do."

I look forward to move our mission forward together as one to do the work that is now ours to do.

Sincerely,



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