MISSION
We, Trinity Health, serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities.

CORE VALUES
REVERENCE
We honor the sacredness and dignity of every person.

COMMITMENT TO THOSE WHO ARE POOR
We stand with and serve those who are poor, especially those most vulnerable.

JUSTICE
We foster right relationships to promote the common good, including sustainability of Earth.

STEWARDSHIP
We honor our heritage and hold ourselves accountable for the human, financial and natural resources entrusted to our care.

INTEGRITY
We are faithful to who we say we are.

VISION
As a mission-driven, innovative health organization, we will become the national leader in improving the health of our communities and each person we serve. We will be the most trusted health partner for life.
THE ART OF STORYTELLING

Storytelling has always been an important way to connect people with each other, strengthen community and expand awareness.

Storytelling is used in all faiths and traditions because it helps to increase awareness of commonality and universal truths. Stories also help people to understand and honor the uniqueness, diversity and giftedness that each tradition brings.

Jesus himself was a master storyteller. Within the Christian scriptures, we hear parables and stories that Jesus used to teach some of the most fundamental messages of Christianity. The Good Samaritan teaches us about helping our neighbors.

Both the Jewish and Muslim (as well as Christian) traditions have stories of the prophets and events in the history of the religion (e.g. Abraham, Moses). The Muslim tradition also includes general stories for the purposes of moral instruction (see Quran 18:32-43).1

The Native American tradition uses storytelling to pass on their legacy and to describe their sense of mystery through legends (e.g. creation myths).2

Katha is an Indian form of storytelling which is a regular ritual within the Hindu practice. Storytellers will share a portion of their sacred texts followed by a commentary.3

Modern day Buddhists are using the traditional form of Japanese storytelling to inform others of their philosophy.4

“Life lessons” are remembered because of the stories that have been passed down from generation to generation to help illustrate them.

There have also been great learnings about the role and power of story in the healing process. Stories exhibit unfolding possibilities for creating an atmosphere that promotes healing and health.5

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1 Luke 10:25-37
4 The Japan Times, “Spreading Buddhism via old-style storytelling” by Takeshi Nishide, 2/6/2015
5 See http://healingstory.org, Narrative Medicine: The Use of History and Story in the Healing Process by Lewis Mehl-Madrona
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USING STORYTELLING FOR SPIRIT AT WORK

Trinity Health and its ministries encourage institutional storytelling because it provides a means of preserving the culture of our organizations, the traditions of our founders, and the sharing of spiritual wisdom.

In an effort to more deeply integrate the principle of storytelling, there has been a re-emphasis on the fact that stories need to message the “big story” of Mission and of Trinity Health being a transforming healing presence.

Here are some ideas of how you can use storytelling:

- Identify/invite managers to share stories at meetings
- Have Mission leaders highlight story-worthy moments
- Use different sources for stories (staff, physicians, patients, leaders, etc.)
- Provide story boards and/or story walls to display significant points of history in the organization
- Offer residents the opportunity to share stories of exceptional staff
- Identify and invite colleagues to share stories reflective of our values
- Collaborate with Communications department to use existing publications and media to share stories
- Promote education sessions on Core Values and Catholic Social Principles: invite colleagues to submit stories reflecting the focus of each Core Value or principle

INTERFAITH STORYTELLING WEBSITES*

godfriends.org/Vol15/No1/heart-other.html A storytelling issue, with an article on Interfaith Circles.
healingstory.org Healing Story Alliance’s website.
sacred-texts.com An internet sacred text archive.
story-lovers.com An on-line database of stories categorized by topic.
timsheppard.co.uk/story/index.html An on-line catalog of many story-telling websites.

If you have a story to share or see a story in the making, please share it with any of the following people in your organization: Mission Leader, Spiritual Care Leader, or Spirit at Work Leader.

*Trinity Health does not control, monitor, or endorse the content, messages or information found in any of these websites. Opinions expressed and subject matter contained on these websites may not reflect the values or views of Trinity Health.