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A Place for Transformation



Students attend university to fulfill their dreams. Along the way they find meaning, build relationships, and become difference makers. As a partner in this process, AdventHealth University (AHU) provides an environment where students explore their assumptions about life and develop the capabilities to transform their world. In this important work, the University is guided by Biblical principles informed by its Seventh-day Adventist heritage.

OUR FAITH

At AdventHealth University we believe:

God brought the universe into existence.

Therefore,

We know God through creation
We believe everything is within God's interest and care
We recognize God as the Source of truth and goodness

All Truth is God's Truth.

Therefore,

We find truth in both scripture and science
We believe only God has complete knowledge and wisdom
We honor God when we expand the boundaries of our knowledge

All Goodness is God's Goodness.

Therefore,

We accept God as the Source of all life-promoting values
We thrive when we live by God's values
We believe all who live by these values are connected to their Creator

Jesus Christ is our clearest picture of God.

Therefore,

We encounter Him as Immanuel (God with us) – the First Advent
We find Him when we accept His life, death, and resurrection
We invite others to know God through Him

Each person is created in the Image of God.

Therefore,

We accept the immeasurable value of each person
We treat everyone as a child of God
We build with them the family of God

We experience brokenness in our relationship with God.

Therefore,

We commit to restoring that connection
We seek, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the healing of the whole person
We nurture, with God, a community of wounded healers

Sabbath is God's sacred shelter.

Therefore,

We rejoice in the harmony it brings to our lives
We connect with God and others within its tranquil hours
We experience in it a foretaste of eternity ushered in at the Second Advent

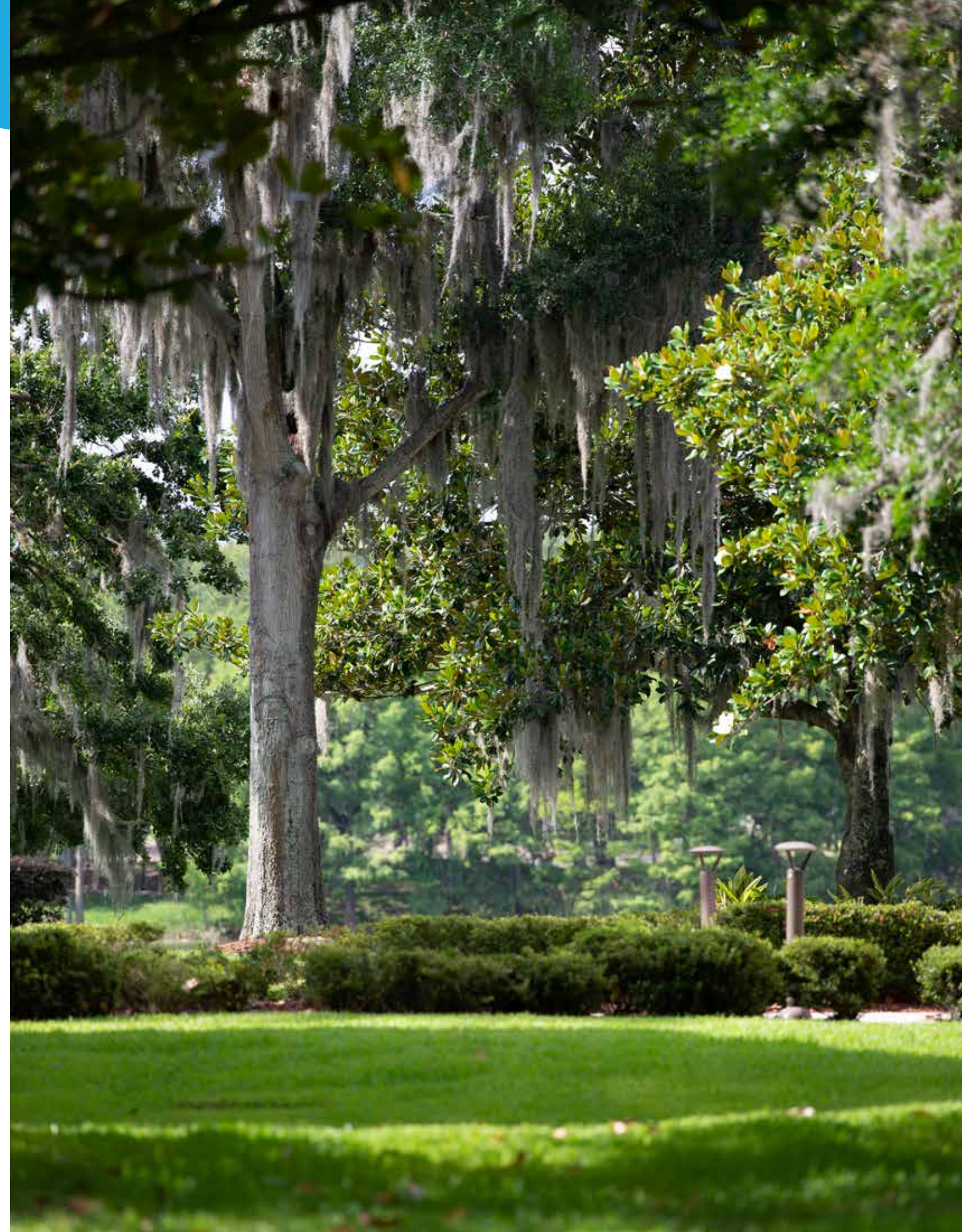
Christ is the Great Educator.

Therefore,

We learn from His example
We guide our students through His wisdom
We honor Him by teaching them to serve others

At AdventHealth University, we prepare students to extend the healing ministry of Christ by

*affirming faith • advancing knowledge • transforming learning
cultivating uncommon compassion*





OUR AIM

The mission of our parent organization, AdventHealth, is extending the healing ministry of Christ to its patients and community. The University's part in that Mission is developing skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ.

What are the healing values of Christ?

Jesus exemplified the Fruits of the Spirit.

GALATIANS 5:22

*Love and joy, peace and patience,
kindness, gentleness, and self-control.*

Jesus brought justice and mercy to all He encountered, because of His walk with God.

MICAH 6:8

He taught from the mountaintop but worked in the valley.

He turned society's values on its head when He blessed the poor in spirit, comforted those who mourn and empowered the meek. He honored those who hunger and thirst for wholeness, and encouraged the pure in heart, the peacemakers and the persecuted. MATTHEW 5:3-10

In all of this, He spoke truth to power and demonstrated the paradoxical power of grace.

We partner with Him in inspiring our students to become the persons God made them to be.



OUR VALUES

The University values are **Nurture, Excellence, Stewardship,** and **Spirituality**. These ideals reflect our Aim and are closely connected to the healing values of Christ.

AHU fosters NURTURE by creating a respectful, inclusive, supportive, and empowering environment for all.

AHU expands EXCELLENCE by advancing innovative teaching, experiential learning, and serious scholarship.

AHU promotes STEWARDSHIP by optimizing human potential, positive relationships, and valuable resources.

AHU cultivates SPIRITUALITY by offering opportunities for all to grow in relationship with God.

Developing (nurture) skilled professionals (excellence) who live (stewardship) the healing values of Christ (spirituality).



OUR HERITAGE

AHU is proudly and profoundly Christian. AHU's beliefs align with the central doctrines of the Christian faith.

Our Seventh-day Adventist heritage is an honored and essential component of our identity and mission. Given the diverse makeup of our faculty, staff, and students, it is important to understand this heritage and its implications for all who are a part of the AHU family.

The name Seventh-day Adventist identifies two distinctive Adventist beliefs.

THE SABBATH

It is a day set apart, a bulwark against the tyranny of time. A reminder that God is our Creator and we are stewards of that creation.

It is a weekly reminder that the valuable things in life are not possessions, but people; not just work, but worship.

The Sabbath is a day to build community, reminding us we are not just providers, but friends and lovers, sons and daughters, and children of our heavenly Parent.

The Sabbath nurtures the whole person — body, mind, and spirit. In keeping it, we experience a foretaste of eternity when the restoration of creation, including ourselves, will be complete.

THE ADVENT

The second distinctive belief is the Second Coming of Jesus — the Advent in our name. This belief encompasses three essential elements of the Adventist faith: love, justice, and hope.

God is love. 1 JOHN 4:16

Hope overcomes death and suffering. REVELATION 21:4

God's justice is a manifestation of that love. ROMANS 3:26

Life is not fair, but God is. We are convinced that ultimately, all will be made right, justice will be served, and love will prevail.

Until then we partner with God in establishing beachheads of love, little oases of eternity, one person at a time.



OUR QUEST

Stand for a few minutes in the middle of the AHU campus and you will be impressed by the tapestry of humanity weaving its way around you. The University's commitment to this economic, ethnic, and religious diversity grows out of our conviction that:

***God considers everyone
His child... and expects us
to do the same.***

How can our faith, which is so central to who we are, be an attractor rather than a divider?

It begins with an awareness that all are on a quest to understand the meaning of life. A quest like this begins with questions like:

How do I make sense of suffering... or know if there is a God... or discover whether there is a plan for my life?

Our Statement of Belief reflects our understanding of how the Bible answers these and other important questions.

However...

Many students come with answers different from our own. Some believe we create our own truth. Some believe another scripture is the source of all truth. Others may not believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

Why would we run a faith-based University and accept students with a faith different from our own, or perhaps no faith at all?

First, where else would we want them to be? Second, we are convinced that only God is the final source of truth (in this case, the Answer to our questions). Third, no one consciously believes a lie. For those who have arrived with different answers, they do so because they believe them to be true. That conviction alone does not mean they are right or wrong, but it does mean we need to respect that they are doing their best to find answers.

To accept these students does not mean we believe all things are true, or nothing is true, or that anything goes. It does mean we respect the integrity of another's quest.

AdventHealth University is richer because of our diversity. Studying in this environment prepares our students to thrive in the multicultural and multi-religious environment they will encounter in the workplace.



OUR HOPE

At AHU we do not see students as either in or out based on whether they agree with our beliefs. Rather, we want to attract anyone who desires to achieve professional excellence in a faith-based environment. We hope all who come will realize excellence occurs when we embrace our profession as a God-given calling and equip ourselves through our relationship with Him.

In America, if a farm has livestock, a fence is built to keep them in. It is done to be clear which animals belong to whom.¹ In Australia, the farms (called stations) are much larger than in America. It would cost too much to build a fence around the land. They keep their animals centered by digging a well. The water draws the livestock in.

Just so at AHU.

We do not build fences of beliefs or membership, of ethnicity or socio-economic strata to keep people out. We have dug a well by making our campus a place where, if they choose, anyone can strengthen their relationship with God. That “well,” that relationship, is the central organizing principle, the attractor of our institution.

Jesus said, if He was made the center, all would be drawn to Him (JOHN 12:32). Another time He challenged a broken and alienated woman to see Him as an artesian well, a sweetwater spring providing a never-ending source of life and hope and courage (JOHN 4:14).

We want that “well” to be the center of life at AHU.

¹The Centered and Bounded Set concept was developed by Paul Hebert in *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch shared the idea of wells and fences in their book, *The Shaping of Things to Come*.



OUR PROMISE

AdventHealth has four Service Standards which guide our work. Each of the standards has a Biblical foundation.

Love me

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Let love be genuine. ROMANS 12:9

Owe no one anything except to love one another. ROMANS 13:8

We love because He first loved us. 1 JOHN 4:1

STANDARDS

1. I treat others with uncommon compassion.
 - a. I extend grace to others
 - b. I am helpful to all I meet
 - c. I respectfully acknowledge the presence of others
2. I nurture whole-person care.
 - a. I model life-balance and self-care
 - b. I create a healthy environment for those I associate with
3. I treat others with fairness and respect.
 - a. I lift others up with my words and actions
 - b. I respond to others' concerns in a timely manner
 - c. I pledge to treat others according to the golden rule
4. I listen and communicate effectively using Introduce, Connect, Anticipate, Reinforce, Extend (ICARE).
 - a. I listen to responses
 - b. I ask clarifying questions
 - c. I confirm what I understand
 - d. I practice empathy

Own it

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Rather speaking the truth in love, put on Christ. EPHESIANS 4:15

Therefore, putting away all falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors. EPHESIANS 4:25

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. EPHESIANS 9:10

STANDARDS

1. I am positive and aim to exceed expectations.
 - a. I make it a priority to know my goals and the goals of my department
 - b. I set high standards for my work
 - c. If I have caused a problem, I own it and work towards its resolution
 - d. If I see a problem, I seek to be part of the solution
2. I follow through on commitments.
 - a. I meet my deadlines
 - b. I communicate updates to key people
 - c. I set times for follow-up
3. I use discretion with my personal devices.
 - a. I do not let my e-devices distract me from doing my work and connecting with others
 - b. I am considerate of others with my personal e-device use
4. I recover and restore trust using Acknowledge, Apologize, Correct, Thank (ACT).
 - a. I empathize with others.
 - b. I do not avoid difficult situations
 - c. I practice patience
 - d. I take personal responsibility

Make it easy

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

If anyone expects you to go one mile, go the second mile and do so with a smile. MATTHEW 5:41

You lead by serving. JOHN 13:12-16

Giving your life is how you save it. MARK 8:15

STANDARDS

1. I help others in meaningful ways.
 - a. I respect the time of those I am serving
 - b. I look for opportunities to assist others
 - c. I go beyond what is expected
2. I speak respectfully of others.
 - a. I give positive affirmations to and about my team and the University community
 - b. I facilitate seamless interdepartmental and interprofessional collaboration
3. I collaborate to create solutions, not excuses.
 - a. I highlight the positive and collaborate to address issues
 - b. I proactively partner within and external to my department to achieve solutions
 - c. I think and act like a team member, not an individual employee
4. I innovate and continually seek ways to improve my work.
 - a. I am proactive in my work and service
 - b. I am respectful when I share and receive feedback
 - c. I seek to be innovative and be open to the ideas of others
 - d. I am prepared

Keep me safe

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

If you have done it to the least, you have done it to me. MATTHEW 25:40

If you harm this child. MATTHEW 18:6

He who is without sin, cast the first stone. JOHN 8

STANDARDS

1. I make safety a priority.
 - a. I follow all directives in the AHU Safety and Security Manual
 - b. I hold myself and my department to high safety standards
 - c. I document safety incidents according to policy
 - d. I watch for and report potential safety concerns to the appropriate individual
2. I protect privacy and practice confidentiality.
 - a. I understand and adhere to FERPA and HIPAA when applicable
 - b. I do not share confidential information
 - c. I properly dispose of sensitive documents
 - d. I properly label and store confidential information
3. I keep my environment clean.
 - a. I keep the areas I'm responsible for safe and clean
 - b. I organize my workspace and properly store supplies and equipment
4. I dress professionally.
 - a. My attire is appropriate for my work
 - b. I encourage students to dress professionally
 - c. I wear my ID badge so that it is visible

We commit to making AHU
a place of transformation
for ourselves and for those
who come here to fulfill
their dream to serve.

Author: Don Williams Photographer: Paul Martin

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