

A Brief Introduction to Ministries of
The Hope and Healing Center
And
The Hope and Healing Institute

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Houston, Texas

A key characteristic of the life and ministry of Jesus was, and continues to be, healing. Luke tells us "*Jesus welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing,*" (Luke 9:11). The early followers of Jesus believed that Jesus' healing was evidence of the Kingdom of God breaking into the day to day lives of those who experienced this kind of encounter. As a result, hope, not just for an eternal kingdom, but hope in the midst of everyday life became a fruit of active and faithful Christian discipleship. Thus, the one to whom Jesus entrusted with the keys to God's kingdom, Saint Peter, would write to early Christians, "*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have,*" (I Peter 3:15).

An outgrowth of a parish-wide study conducted in the early 2000's, and subsequent study and inquiry by the Vestry and Rector of the Parish, the members of St. Martin's have as a primary goal reaching out to all those who may be broken by life's circumstances.

The Hope and Healing Center and *The Hope and Healing Institute* are ministries grounded in the Judeo-Christian faith and designed, through education and support, to provide a comprehensive response to ministry of awareness, prevention, and recovery for families and individuals in all stages of life. Our objective is to provide resources that will help create healthy family systems, and, when needed, the support to move from places of pain to acceptance, forgiveness, and peace of mind, and the accompanying emotional, mental, physical and spiritual health.

Toward that end, the following Case Statement, most recently revised February 24, 2011.

CASE STATEMENT FOR THE:
HOPE AND HEALING CENTER, and
HOPE AND HEALING INSTITUTE
**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR
PURPOSES, PRIORITIES, PROGRAMS, DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE**

I.

The Hope and Healing Center of St. Martin's Episcopal Church seeks to provide a comprehensive ministry of awareness, prevention and recovery for families and individuals in all stages of life. Our objective is to provide resources that will help create healthy family systems, and when needed the support to move from places of pain to acceptance, forgiveness, and peace of mind, and the accompanying emotional, mental, physical and spiritual health.

Specifically, the Hope and Healing Center is to be organized, funded and operated:

- To Serve the Full Life Cycle Needs of the Family Experience**, and those with established extended relationships to such families (all defined broadly and inclusively), for:
 - Birth through childhood, with security and a sense of belonging,
 - Adolescence, with healthy individuation and self esteem,
 - Adulthood, with awareness of good parenting practices and family development,
 - Elder-hood including, empty nest status, lost of spouse, illness, dementia, financial stress, and end of life issues.
- To Establish a Hierarchy of Programs and Facilitations** designed to enrich family relationships and allow the Family to enter the Hope and Healing system at increasing levels of individual assistance, as needed:
 - **Enhancing Awareness** of behavioral and other factors which threaten or impair the Family Experience, achieved through
 - **Educational Programs** designed to specifically address discrete areas of dysfunctional behavior, interpersonal and communications breakdown, addiction, etc.,
 - **Assessment** of factors present which are negatively affecting the Family Experience,
 - **Identification and Prevention** seminars, courses and programs to aid those assessed with Hope and Healing needs, and
 - **Providing Healthy Tools** for those afflicted, and those affected thereby, with assessed negative behavior and conduct.

- **Helping, When Needed: Through Counseling and Therapy** available either within the Center or through referrals to external professional providers
 - Professional lay and ordained counseling and therapy when needed or desired to further healing,
 - Provided within the appreciation and embrace of Judeo-Christian traditions.
- **Helping, When Needed: Through Recovery and Support Groups** with established access to the rooms and facilities of the Center and the Parish for purposes of conducting
 - Recovery Group meetings, such as Twelve Step Programs serving many areas of addiction,
 - Support Group meetings, such as Alzheimer’s Caregivers, Depression and Bipolar Disorders, Divorce Recovery, The Wellness Series, and others now present in the Parish and to be formed,
 - Educational presentations by acknowledged experts in the field.
- **Helping: Through Prayer**, based on the understanding of the healing power of prayer and the well established evidence that wellness and recovery are materially enhanced by ones level of spirituality
 - Prayers of the clergy and members of the Parish prayer groups,
 - Through the offering of Quiet Days, Meditation Experiences, as well as education and seminar experiences on prayer and prayer techniques.

II.

Design for Implementation: The Hope and Healing activity of St. Martin’s will function through two operational entities. Each entity will function in furtherance of their separate and specific missions. But, they will be highly complementary and provide programs and content to each other such that the existence of the two entities will yield higher effectiveness of the Hope and Healing purpose than either entity would likely achieve functioning independently.

The Two Operational Entities are:

- **The Hope and Healing Center (the HHC)**, the scope and activities of which are described above in I. The HHC is the delivery system which enables awareness: Of what is occurring within the Family; That there is hope to be found; That there is healing to be found; and Of actions which can be taken by individuals and the Family to release them from pain and heal them. It is taking the hands-on, practical, essentially clinical aspects of the Hope and Healing mission and ministry directly to the Parish members and the community. The HHC is the “visible to the people” element toward which they will look

for their access to hope and healing and to move from pain to acceptance, forgiveness, and peace of mind, and the accompanying emotional, mental, physical and spiritual health.

- **The Hope and Healing Institute (the HHI)**, to be formed to aid the HHC realize its goal of delivering the opportunity for hope and healing to the Family at the highest level of effectiveness achievable. The HHI is to be a catalyst for leadership and is expected to arm and equip the HHC with the best thinking available from the academic, medical, therapy and caregiver communities. The HHI would ensure it is aware of the best practices, avoid wasteful duplication, encourage research and boldness in thought and discovery of new avenues and means of delivering hope and healing, and encourage coordination and collaboration among other similarly purposed entities, agencies and philanthropic sources.

February, 2011

HHC&HHI Case Statement-Distribution 2-24-2011