

Chapel at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center

Background

Legacy Emanuel Medical Center was founded by The Reverend Carl Renhard of Swedish First Immanuel Lutheran Church in 1912. He and his congregation saw providing healthcare to the community as an extension of their faith and call to care for the soul. This abiding vision remains present on this modern medical campus where a diverse mix of patients and families from all faiths, cultures, ethnicities, and socio-economic groups seek healing at Legacy Emanuel, Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel, and the Legacy Oregon Burn Center.

A sacred space on a medical campus is rarely noticed until it is needed. Nowhere is such a space more necessary than in this place of vital services including critical care, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), LifeFlight, and the treatment of trauma and burns. Here, the human conditions of health and birth, illness and injury are experienced every day.



Legacy Emanuel Medical Center has a chapel and professional chaplains available 24/7 who, upon request, support people of all faiths, providing spiritual, emotional and non-judgmental support regardless of religious affiliation or spiritual path. The chapel is open to all and is used for both secular and spiritual occasions.

Legacy Health's Board of Directors is a volunteer group that includes healthcare providers, business and community leaders, and church representatives who provide invaluable guidance and leadership. A board member representing the Lutheran faith serves on the board because of the historical significance of this relationship in Legacy Emanuel's founding.

Project need and impact

The new Emanuel Chapel will function as a visible reminder of Legacy's commitment to care for the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. It will serve as a place of solace, creating a sacred space for physicians, nurses, staff, patients, families, and for all who need it. A dedicated sacred space greatly assists the creation and nurturing of a healthy workforce and an unparalleled patient experience.

There are currently two chapels that serve the Legacy Emanuel Medical Center campus: the main chapel near the entry of Legacy Emanuel (518 square feet) and the Sparks Memorial Chapel at Legacy Oregon Burn Center (180 square feet).

This larger chapel is routinely used by patients, families, staff and volunteers for private prayer and meditation. Staff members often use the chapel daily prior to reporting for work. The Sparks Chapel at Legacy Oregon Burn Center is also used daily and will be decommissioned within the next four years when the building where it resides is planned to be demolished. There is no formal chapel in Randall Children's Hospital.

Portland metropolitan area demographics are increasingly diverse in terms of religious and spiritual affiliation. In Portland, 35.89% of people are religious, meaning they affiliate with an identified religion. People who indicate they are "spiritual but not religious" lead all religiously identified people at nearly 37% of the population. A new multi-faith chapel would address these combined populations.



Project plan

The new campus chapel at Legacy Emanuel will be 1,200 square feet and accommodate 50 people, up from 20 in the existing chapel. The chapel will always be accessible and will serve several main functions.

To provide a welcoming and sacred space for patients, their loved ones, and hospital staff to find solitude for pause and prayer, reflection and meditation.

The chapel will not be solely Christian in appointment and thus will be witness to a Lutheran Christian expression of regard for people of other faiths and spiritual practices. Features will include an inlaid labyrinth and areas for meditation and prayer.



To serve as a space for education and enrichment of hospital staff and healthcare workers.

This will both raise awareness of the vital dimension of spirituality in healthcare and provide resources for hospital staff. With the longest, continually running Clinical Pastoral Education program on the West Coast, we will continue to educate professional chaplains and Association for Clinical Pastoral Education Certified Educators of the future as well as community faith leaders.



To provide a sacred space for public gatherings that serve the spiritual and emotional life of the hospital and the community it serves.

We envision seasonal events, musical performances, and artistic multi-media programs as well as ceremonies and events hosted by Spiritual Care Services, from graduation for residents and interns to staff memorial services for grieving colleagues and families. Other activities such as grief support services for those who have experienced the death of a loved one; good health events (e.g., good nutrition, healthy habits, blood pressure checks); restoration opportunities (e.g., yoga, tai chi, reiki); Coda conversations (e.g., end-of-life health care decisions, living and dying well) and more are anticipated.



Cost

The overall cost of the Emanuel chapel is anticipated to be \$750,000. Legacy Health has dedicated \$200,000 toward this important project.



Join us

These are challenging times in healthcare, but the team at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center is undaunted, keeping focus on the mission of providing life-saving care. Legacy Emanuel strives to heal patients physically, emotionally and spiritually. Providing excellent spiritual care in a modernized setting will require a community-wide effort.

Our donors have always been the very foundation of our work. Your commitment transforms the lives of our patients and their loved ones every day.

Help transform the Legacy Emanuel Chapel.

Make your gift at

legacyhealthgiving.org/chapel

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Legacy Health Foundation

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