

Religious Leaders Supporting Fair Treatment for Legacy RNs

Dear Friends in the Religious Community,

We are writing to you as leaders of faith groups who affirm the moral right of workers to form unions at their place of work.

Registered Nurses through out the five Legacy Hospitals – Emanuel, Good Samaritan, Mt Hood, Meridian Park and Salmon Creek - are seeking to improve patient care. In order to do this they need a respected and strong voice at their work place. To achieve this goal the nurses are seeking union representation with the American Federation of Teachers AFT Healthcare NW, Oregon Federation of Nurses and Healthcare Professionals Local 5017, calling themselves United Nurses of Legacy.

Enclosed you will find two important documents : 1) The report from the recent Worker's Rights Board on Safe Patient Staffing and Collective Bargaining for Legacy RNs, and 2) an open letter affirming the moral right of Legacy nurses to form a union. We urge you to sign this affirmation.

The Worker's Rights Board heard moving testimony from RNs about the dangers to patients when hospitals cut corners by reducing the number of available RNs, and how nurses need a formal voice in establishing standards of safe patient care. Nurses also need to be protected from mandatory 12 hour shifts with no breaks, forced overtime, being assigned to departments in which they have no training, or forced to use faulty equipment - all of which are dangerous to patients and nurses alike. The Legacy RNs are forming a union so they can have a legally protected voice for safe patient care.

The attached 'Open Letter from Religious Leaders' is a way of communicating to Legacy that religious leaders support the moral right of nurses to democratically organize a union without fear of reprisals or intimidation.

If you would like to offer your support to the Legacy nurses, please sign the enclosed open letter by September 15th and fax it to 503 288-6608, or mail to "Religious Leaders Supporting Fair Treatment for Legacy Nurses" 1631 NE Broadway PMB 202 PDX, OR 97232
If you have questions please call Inger McDowell 503-806-6052.

Towards a more just world,

The Reverend Alcena Boozer
St Philips Deacon Episcopal Church

Reverend Terry Moe
Redeemer Lutheran Church

Reverend Patricia S Ross
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Reverend Eugene Ross
United Church of Christ, Retired

Reverend Chuck Lienert
St. Andrews Catholic Church

Reverend John Schwiebert
Metanoia Peace Community
United Methodist Church

Rabbi Aryeh Hirshfield
Congregation Pnai Or