

# *Interfaith Spiritual Center*

*Sanctuary • Resources • Healing*  
**At Renown Regional Medical Center**

Healing involves the whole person - mind, body and spirit. To better address the spiritual needs of patients in the region, Nevada Clergy Association, a not-for-profit interfaith network of religious and spiritual leaders, has partnered with Renown Health, the community's only locally owned, not-for-profit health network, to bring a more comprehensive spiritual care program to northern Nevada.

Headquartered in Reno, the Nevada Clergy Association's purpose is to foster and promote interfaith relations and encourage the sharing of information among its members and promote a climate favorable to and respectful of religious and spiritual expression and freedom.

Research has shown when patients' emotional needs are met, they experience shorter hospital stays, better pain management, improved heart rate and blood pressure, and a greater motivation to heal. The goal of spiritual care is to create a sense of well-being that promotes

***“Hope lies in having more faith in the power of God to heal us than in the power of anything to hurt or destroy us.”***

***– Marianne Williamson***  
*Author, Healing the Soul of America*

healing in patients, leading them to maintain a level of health into the future.

The current Chapel at Renown Regional Medical Center was dedicated to Henry Kahl 50 years ago. Since then, it has received basic updates, but a transformational renovation and expansion would better suit the needs of the diverse, growing community.

The vision for the Spiritual Center includes creating a resource center and multi-use space that will fully embrace all faith practices and the diversity of patients, their loved ones and caregivers.

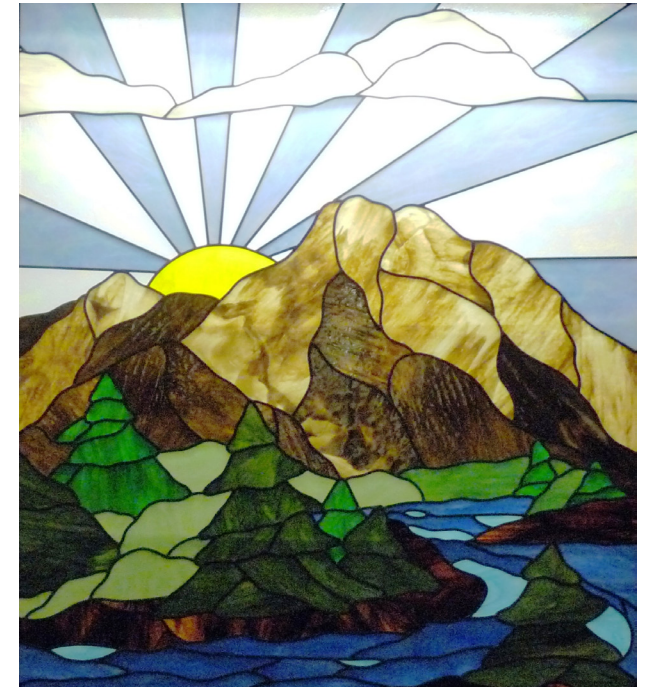
By working side-by-side with the Nevada Clergy Association to create the Interfaith Spiritual Center, Renown can offer patients in the region better access to more comprehensive spiritual care programs. The Center will become a cornerstone for programs where patients and families can gather for fellowship, guidance, peace, reflection, comfort and strength.

The Interfaith Spiritual Center, its programs and the community of leaders will also provide Renown Health caregivers the opportunity to receive additional culture-specific training for religious and spiritual best practices, including how to offer palliative and hospice care.

In addition to holding formal services, classes and events, the Interfaith Spiritual Center will offer a resource center, equipped with online access to a network of clergy, religious and spiritual leaders, and a library of inspirational materials used in spiritual counseling.

Renown's chaplains will have an improved structure in place to reach out to interfaith leaders, including a larger network of volunteer chaplains, to continue to fulfill the healing needs of all patients.

Chapel at Renown Regional Medical Center, Reno, Nevada



A survey of religious leaders contacted through the Nevada Clergy Association suggested the following needs for planning and developing the Interfaith Spiritual Center:

- A visual representation of all faiths.
- A calming environment that promotes healing, unity, prayer, meditation, comfort, reflection, worship, hope and peace.
- A resource center with online access to religion-specific and interfaith materials.
- A place to offer trainings on meditation, mindfulness, spirituality.
- A place that embraces a common humanity during times of crisis and helps assist those seeking answers through individual or group prayers, meditations and consult.
- A place for monthly programs facilitated by rotating leaders that highlight the common thread among all religions.
- A setting for commemorative services and fellowship events.

Interfaith Chapel at Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City



### **Project Details:**

The Interfaith Spiritual Center plans include the renovation and expansion of the existing chapel and the corridor leading to it.

The project's estimated cost is \$300,000. The recent launch of fundraising efforts has secured \$35,000 toward the goal. The fundraising phase will continue through summer 2015, with construction to be completed by 2016.

The space will accommodate up to 50 guests, which presents an ideal setting for services, small family gatherings, trainings and classes.



Indiana University Health Arnett Hospital, Lafayette, Indiana

### **What can I do? How can I help?**

There are many ways to support the Interfaith Spiritual Center project:

**Program Team** - Volunteers will work with the Nevada Clergy Association and Renown's Chaplains to coordinate the interfaith needs and the desire to serve with the spiritual needs of the community at Renown.

**Outreach Team** - Provide strategic promotion of the center to constituents, friends, family, and fellow congregation members. Disseminate approved project literature to the interfaith clergy, spiritual leaders and other faith-based organizations and non-profits that would use the Center and those willing to support it.

**Design Team** - Team members will offer input concerning the creation of the Center and the transformation of the space to meet the needs of the associated interfaith groups.

**Funding Team** - Members will assist the Renown Health Foundation in identifying people who have spiritual interests and will support the Center's development and creation by providing financial support to the project.

To participate in or contribute to the Interfaith Spiritual Center, please contact Rev. Sean Savoy, Nevada Clergy Association, 643 Ralston St., 775-786-1800; Renown Chaplain Brent Hoy-Bianchi, 775-982-7676; or Renown Health Foundation, 1300 Mill St., 775-982-5545, [Foundation@renown.org](mailto:Foundation@renown.org).