

**Our Mission:** Renewing lives through spiritual growth, healing and transformation, and service to others.

## Characteristics of Franciscan Ministry at the Franciscan Renewal Center

- 1) We follow the Gospel call to serve others [This is what makes our service Franciscan]**  
The Centerpiece of our ministry is the Franciscan response to the Gospel's call to serve others, operating with a preferential option for the poor, the forgotten and marginalized, following the example of Francis and Clare of Assisi and the social justice tradition of the Catholic Church. Our Franciscan identity must be clear and visible and celebrate both our historical, global, and local traditions. We are servants and advocates for those in any kind of need today.
- 2) We recognize the dignity of each individual [This is who we serve]**  
Everyone is our brother and sister, and so people come first. Attention to the whole person — as spiritual beings who desire communion with God; as physical beings whose dignity demands that their basic needs are met; and as social beings who need human community and nurturing relationships to flourish — sets the agenda for Franciscan ministry. We strive to create safe environments for all who come to us and all we meet in the course of our ministry.
- 3) We are peacemakers [This is who serves]**  
Those who serve are to ministers of welcome and peace, respectful of everyone and of differences. We engage in honest conversations and share ourselves with others, attending to the situation of each person as an individual. Our speech, our actions, and service is non-violent and caring even with those who oppose us. We collaborate with each other as humble servants, with grateful hearts for all of God's gifts.
- 4) We honor the connectedness of all of creation [This is the how we serve]**  
Care for creation must characterize every aspect of our Franciscan ministries, from how we use and conserve our resources to the size of the footprint our ministries leave on God's earth. In a spirit of poverty, we exercise careful stewardship of the resources made available by our benefactors, and we practice the reality of our interconnectedness with everyone and everything that exists in our caring for the poor and caring for mother earth.
- 5) We recognize the good [This why we serve]**  
Our Franciscan ministry celebrates the God given goodness of every person and everything. It is the goodness of others that motivates our care for those who suffer injustice and exclusion in our society, and it in the goodness of our co-ministers, volunteers, and benefactors as well as those who come to us for help and sustains our service.

