

God's Vision: "A Ministry of Wholeness"

May God make us holy: in mind, body, and soul.

Rev Dr Patricia StandTal Clarke, MD – September 2020

These last four decades, I have blended ministry (DMin) with medicine (MD) to serve God as a Healer. In my Eastern Band Cherokee culture, a Priest must be a Physician, and a Physician must be a Priest. In today's vernacular, UCC calls this work: "Wellness Ministry," and society calls it "Integrative Medicine." During the past four years, Shadow Rock UCC and I have crafted such a work: "A Ministry of Wholeness."

As an Ordained Minister, I am called to meet the needs of the Church, the Body of Christ, that She may do God's work in the world. I use the tools of preaching, teaching, healing, and the sacraments to make whole these children of God. My ministry is firmly rooted in the local Church.

In keeping with our Shadow Rock UCC covenant with one another to be that sensitive and responsive part of human society which perceives and responds to God's newest thrust in the midst of history; and

The acknowledgement by persons in our pews expressing a need for healing and wholeness, and

With the knowledge that health is harmony with self and others, the environment, and with God—a continuum of physical, social, psychological, and spiritual well-being; and

The realization we are currently living in a world that is broken, fragmented, and at dis-ease such we yearn for a whole-person (body, mind, soul) approach to healing; and

Matthew's (Matt 9:35) account of historical Jesus moving about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the good news of the gospel, while healing every sickness and every disease among the people; and

Luke's blending ministry with the healing arts in his thirteen accounts of Jesus healing: Luke: 4:31-37; 4:38-44; 5:12-16; 5:17-26; 7:1-10; 7:11-17; 7:21; 8:26-39; 8:40-56; 9:37-45; 13:10-17; 17:11-19; 18:35-43; and

Paul's prayer for his Church in Thessalonica (1 Thess 5:23): "Now may the God of Wholeness make you holy in every way and may your spirit, soul and body be kept whole;" and

In light of scientific studies' evidence that faith-community's positive impact on health and wholeness is more compelling than the evidence for the commonly accepted assertion that chronic underlying hostility is a risk factor for coronary heart disease; and

In response to the Twenty-first General Synod (UCC) resolution encouraging local congregations to develop an ongoing health ministry committed to the health and wholeness of its members and the community it serves;

Shadow Rock, RedRoad Medicine, and I, hold that God has a vision: "A Ministry of Wholeness."

Within Native tradition, RedRoad Medicine (RRM), a 501©3 non-profit, has the mission: to provide a Whole Person approach to healing available to all persons in the State of Arizona. My role is Director. Projects proposed for 2021 include UCC Wellness Ministries Network, diversity training and empowering, National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) and the Holy Spirit, Auricular Acupuncture and Faith Community Nursing.

With COCAM-A's blessing, this Four-way Covenant provides a framework in which my ministry may flourish, providing support and accountability.

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NB: For legal purposes, my private medical practice, SheDoc Family Practice, is separate from this Covenant. All medical liability is confined to SheDoc, Inc. In experience, however, my ministry informs how I approach my medical practice.