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Grand Rounds



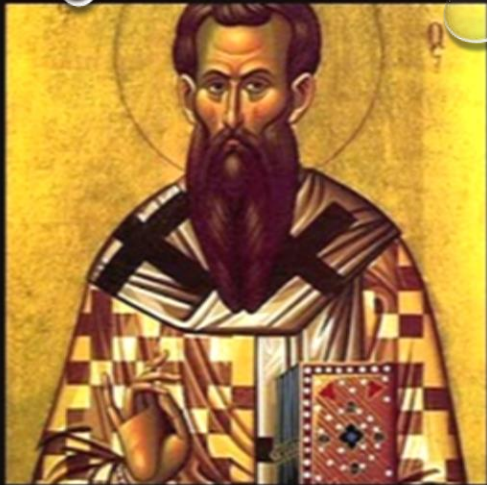
Athens or Jerusalem? Virtues for 21st Century Professionalism

Presented by:

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Director of Ethics, Alaska Region

Providence Health & Services



What has Athens to do with
Jerusalem.

~ Tertullian

AZ QUOTES

VIRTUES FOR 21ST CENTURY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALISM

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Alaska Region Director of Ethics

Providence St. Joseph Health

I have six statements with associated comments and questions. I'll move quickly so we can have time for discussion.



1. Tertullian was wrong, Athens and Jerusalem are inextricably intertwined with each other. It is time to highlight theological commonalities.

A. Sectarianism may be good for building a sense of community, however:

- i. Adventists are no better than any other type of Christian. Christians are no better than Muslims, etc. To put it another way, humility is essential.**
- ii. Cooperation is better than competition. “Witness, Identity, and Common Ground in Collaborative Arrangements: A Partner’s Perspective.” Catholic Health Association, U.S.**
- iii. Gnosticism is an old and present delusion. Oxford English Dictionary word of the year, 2016 “Post-Truth.” And then there were “Alternative Facts.” Honesty may be a helpful virtue.**

2. Professionalism in healthcare is more complex and difficult to practice than I thought.

- A. If we want to improve and increase professionalism, put it in the curriculum.
 - i. Put it on every exam you give. Put it on every competency list you can. Put it on every important measurable outcomes list you have access to.****
- B. Personal vs. Professional boundaries may be the most difficult lines to manage.**
- C. Professionalism in healthcare vs. Professionalism in business (American College of Healthcare Executives). How many of you are members of your professional societies?**
- D. What does Adventist higher education have to offer us in this area?**

3. Finding virtuous candidates may be the best strategy for the present system.

- A. We can force people to obey the law and follow the regulations, but we can't make them be Compassionate or Empathetic. Remember the "Be Nice" policy here at LLU?**
- B. Education and practice of the virtues gets pushed down and off of our "To Do" list.**
- C. The two most important virtues in the present American Healthcare Industry. Egoism and Altruism.**
 - i. Business sub-culture is egoistic: Milton Friedman**
 - "There is one and only one social responsibility of business...increase its profits."**
 - "eleemosynary business" sub-sub-culture must prevail**
 - ii. Healthcare sub-culture is altruistic. Or is it?**

4. What do Seventh-day Adventist Theologians and Ethicists have to offer?

- A. A non-judgmental, aspirational disposition (virtuous) toward the other. In other words altruism without judgmental, exclusion-oriented Adventist/American Christian culture.**
- B. Theologically, Whole Person care should be enhanced.**
- C. Ethically speaking, do we bring something unique and essential?**
- D. Echoing Roy Branson, what does the Prophetic witness tradition of Adventism offer here?**
 - i. Working with non-Adventist healthcare corporations?**



Monica Anderson
Chief Mission Integration Officer
Providence Health
& Services Alaska



Ira Byock, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Providence Institute
for Human Caring

“We Believe Health is a Human Right”

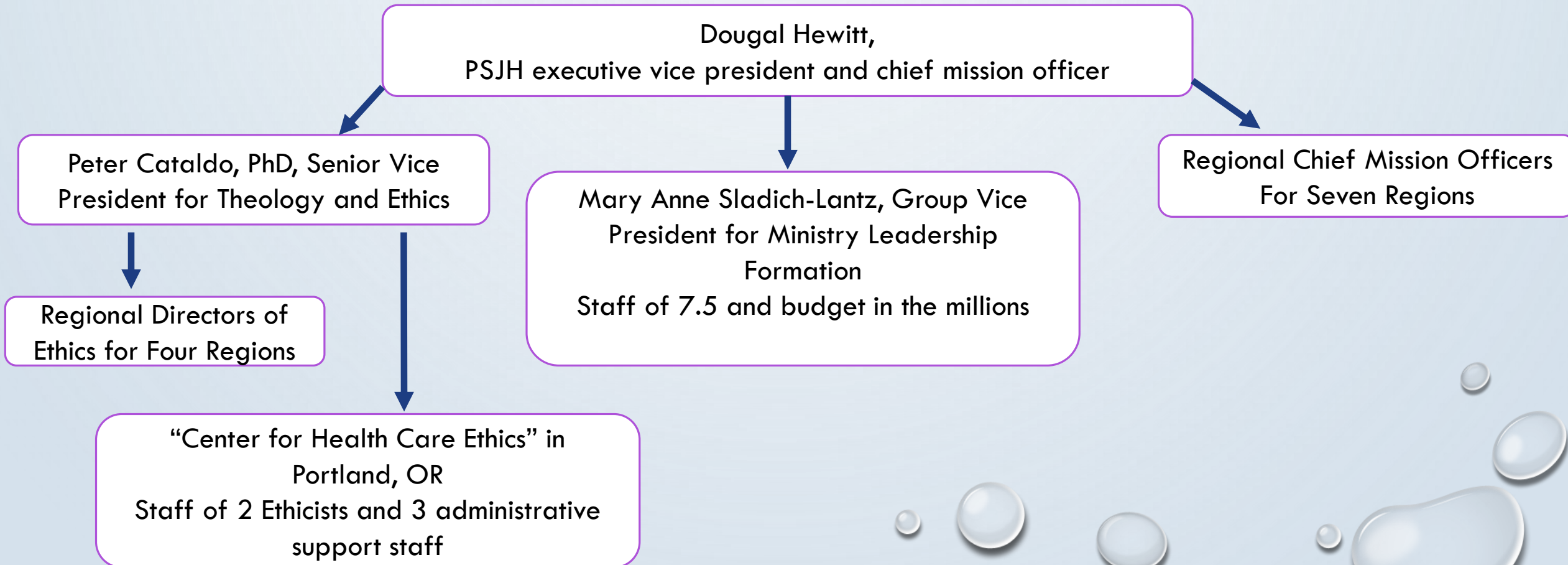


5. Without dedicated budget, Mission and Ethics, and Professional/Leadership development will suffer.

- A. Hospitals are generally dominated by one of three sub-cultures: Medical, Nursing, or Business/Corporate.**
- B. Developing leaders takes serious, ongoing financial and personnel investment. This is true in each of the sub-cultures.**
- C. Ethics investment depends on our corporate aspirations.**
 - i. Ethics services in a hospital are not billable. We are pure expense.**
 - ii. Time and money for professional and leadership development is expensive.**
 - iii. The Joint Commission requirement for ethics services is too simple for our own good.**

6. Finally, what does Loma Linda University have to offer Adventism? While I'm here I might as well do a little meddling....

- A. Invest in leadership development in mission and ethics across all sub-cultures. PSJH has at least 5 “Leadership Formation” programs for chosen cohorts at an expense of many millions.



6. Finally, what does Loma Linda University have to offer Adventism? While I'm here I might as well do a little meddling....

- B. On-going, dedicated relationship with the General Conference. Battle Creek and subsequent split set the pattern we should follow, namely, a theological and professional voice within the Church that dedicates itself to an altruistic approach to the Other. Such response will necessarily:**
- i. Challenge Church Administration. This is as it should be. All faith-based healthcare systems who maintain a relationship with their faith struggle with this tension.**
 - ii. Challenge the wooden literalism in biblical hermeneutical method. University support for theological excellence should be a major investment.**
 - iii. Help the Church balance Religion and Science in a more healthy manner.**

Let's talk.

