Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Michael Ugwueke, President and Chief Executive Officer

At Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH), our mission is to enhance your health and well-being through high-quality, innovative and compassionate care. We are a faith-based institution, proudly affiliated with the United Methodist Church since our founding more than 100 years ago, and our vision is to be nationally recognized for excellence in clinical quality, patient safety, and compassionate care to improve every life we touch.

Today, MLH has grown from one hospital into a comprehensive health system offering a full continuum of care to every corner of our community, including five adult hospitals, nationally ranked Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, a home health agency, ambulatory surgery centers, outpatient facilities, hospice residence and more than 60 physician practices serving residents across the Mid-South. As Tennessee's largest provider of care to TennCare/Medicaid and uninsured patients, we are committed to living out our culture of providing care and compassion to all regardless of circumstances

Reimagining Healthcare across the Mid-South

Leading MLH is our President and Chief Executive Officer, Michael Ugwueke, MPA, DHA, FACHE. In 2022, as healthcare systems worked to recover from challenges brought on by the pandemic, MLH celebrated important milestones, formed transformative new partnerships, and made significant advances in our mission to improve every life we touch. Under Dr. Ugwueke's leadership, MLH has become the safest and highest quality health system in the region and has been nationally recognized as a top leader for diversity.

Faith-Based Mission at Work

The faith-based mission of MLH continues to be at the heart of all that we do. Leading our Mission Integration Division is Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff Cato Johnson, who guides many of our faith-based and community-engagement programs. Those programs include our clinical chaplaincy services, volunteer services, the Employee Assistance Program and Dennis H. Jones Living Well Network, Clinical Pastoral Education, the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health Equity, the Humanitarian Fund, United Methodist annual conference connections, the Office of Community Outreach, the Congregational Health Network, and many other initiatives and projects. Mission Integration offers guidance and direction for the integration of MLH's mission, vision, values, and guiding behaviors, especially from the perspective of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. Additionally, Mission Integration ensures that the relationship with the United Methodist Church and relevant social, ethical, and pastoral teachings are understood and integrated appropriately and consistently across the entire system.

Responding to Community Need

In 2022, Mission Integration programs and associates continued their life-changing work in many different ways. Our chaplains offered spiritual care for patients, families, and associates and also responded to the wider community through a spiritual care helpline. The "My Sister's Keeper" program continued its work to empower and highlight the voices of Black women in our community on healthcare, leadership, advocacy, and more. The Congregational Health Network and Office of Community Outreach helped distribute thousands of COVID-19 vaccines to the community at hospitals, clinics, and pop-up sites, while also running community clinics, home visitation programs, and school-based interventions. Our partnerships with local churches continued to be crucial, as leaders and congregations repeatedly used their voice to raise the profile of important education and awareness about everything from disease prevention to mental health to effective partnerships. Our Employee Assistance Program and Living Well Network responded directly to districts and pastors who sought support and education for how pastoral leaders could both care for their people and themselves in the midst of trying times. Our Foundation raised millions of dollars and worked closely with Mission Integration on many community engagement projects and programs as well as on our MLH Humanitarian Fund, which distributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to MLH associates and their families in need of emergency assistance.

We are deeply appreciative of the support of the three annual conferences who founded our system and continue to be vital partners. The healing ministry of Christ continues to be at our center.