## Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc. Faith Nondiscrimination Policy

## **Faith Based Organizations:**

This note is an effort to help clarify the intent of the nondiscrimination clause. We acknowledge and appreciate your statements of values and faith that guide the practices of yours and many other faith-based organizations. If however, your organization precludes or prohibits individuals of a different faith from participation, or receiving services from your organization, and/or from serving on the governing Board of your organization, the Foundation asks that you seek funding from other sources. We appreciate the values of principles and not changing them for either expediency or gain. To clarify further, even if you have volunteers, employees, and serve clients from ALL faith traditions, if you have never had non-Christians on your Board and have no plans to select non-Christians to serve on the Board, our request is that you please not evade this issue by claiming to have no document to explicitly prohibit their membership as part of the governing body. We have sometimes accepted applications in good faith with the expectation that faith based organizations behave ethically and tell the whole truth, only to be told by a peer organization that we have been misled. We ask that you "walk your talk" and not hide your light.

The Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc. owes its legacy to Christians and non-Christians who built a hospital, whose eventual sale resulted in its formation. As a private Foundation, we are guided by a commitment to serve individuals and organizations within our community irrespective of ethnicity, gender, creed, national origin, religion, or disability status. We trust that the value you provide to others and the community will merit consideration from donors who may have a different history and may be guided differently.

**Please note:** There are two checkpoints where you will be asked to confirm compliance with our Faith Non-Discrimination Policy:

- 1. In the eligibility quiz, which will not allow you to progress to an application if you do not comply.
- 2. In the Certification and Acceptance Form, which must be signed by your Executive Director and a board member.

We sincerely appreciate your honest responses to the eligibility quiz, which helps ensure your efforts are not invested in requests that do not meet our criteria.