

United Evangelical Church

3200 Dillon Street,
Baltimore, MD 21224
(301) 276-0393
276--0621 Parsonage

2-26-91

Administrator
The Francis Scott Key
Medical Center
4940 Eastern Ave.,
Baltimore, MD 21224

Dear Sir:

I was shocked to learn that Pastors, Rabbis, and Priests would no longer be able to obtain a parking pass while visiting patients at your hospital. This is a policy which must be challenged by all compassionate and loving people who are concerned about the care of the sick and aging persons in our city. These clergy provide, on a voluntary basis, service at no cost to your patients at a time when such services are vital to the health and welfare of persons who are often in conditions of extreme stress. Many of these patients are dying persons who look to clergy to provide them with comfort in the closing moments of their lives. I believe that your policy is designed to discourage these visits.

The cost of visiting patients in hospitals is substantial when you think that the clergy could be in a parking lot for four or five hours in making rounds to visit patients and to provide these needed services. If a clergy person makes such visits four or five times a week it could amount to over \$500 per year for visits to your hospital alone.

When you think of the average cost of \$657 per day per hospital stay in Maryland, it seems to me that charging clergy who provide that extra tender loving care at no cost to the patient or the hospital will not substantially affect your operating budget nor is it in keeping with goals of fostering tender loving care delivered by these professionals nor in promoting good relations with the community.

On behalf of the religious community of which I am a part, please note my vigorous objection.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Robert M. Armstrong,
Pastor

cc: The Rev. Thomas Hamilton, Associate Conference Minister
United Church of Christ
The Rev. Herbert Valentine, Executive Presbyter,
Presbytery of Baltimore