Theses on Healing (and Cure)
by The Reverend Frederick W. Reklau

Christians are called and empowered to use the resources of faith in caring for the sick, whether the sickness is physical, mental, spiritual, or relational. In the distinctions I make, I invest these two words—*cure* and *healing*—with my own meanings.

1. Cure may occur without healing; healing may occur without cure.

2. Cure separates body from soul; healing embraces the whole. [Cure looks at what sort of disease a person has; healing looks at what sort of person has the disease—*derived from Hippocrates.* Cure categorizes; healing individualizes. Cure addresses disease; healing addresses illness.]

3. Cure isolates; healing incorporates. [Cure is technical; healing is relational. Cure is serious; healing can be playful.]

4. Cure costs; healing enhances.

5. Cure combats sickness; healing fosters wellness. [Cure fixes; healing corrects. Cure is reactive; healing is proactive.]

6. Cure fosters function; healing fosters purpose.

7. Cure alters what is; healing offers what might be. [Cure controls; healing frees.]

8. Cure is an act; healing is a process. [Cure closes the past; healing opens the future. Cure is a goal; healing is a quest. Cure seeks to change reality; healing embraces reality. Cure takes charge; healing takes time.]

9. Cure acts upon another; healing shares with a sister, a brother. [Cure speaks; healing listens. Cure is produced by power; healing grows from surrender.]

10. Cure manages; healing touches. [Cure depends on dispassionate skill; healing depends on compassionate care.]

11. Cure seeks to conquer pain; healing seeks to transcend pain. [Cure is taunted by suffering; healing is taught by suffering.]

12. Cure avoids grief; healing assumes grief.

13. Cure encounters mystery as a challenge for understanding; healing encounters mystery as a channel for meaning. [Cure often issues from fear; healing usually issues from faith.]

14. Cure rejects death and views it as defeat; healing includes death among the blessed outcomes of care.