

## NEWS RELEASE

**Disciples Benevolent Services**  
Of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**May 23, 2008**

### **Disciples Benevolent Services Introduces New Program to Jacksonville Senior Adults**

**Jacksonville, Ill.** – A pilot program serving the spiritual needs of senior adults has been introduced in the Jacksonville area. DBS Chaplaincy Care is providing ministerial services and pastoral care, initially to residents of the Barton W. Stone Home, once owned by the National Benevolent Association. The program is in direct response to the requests of senior adults who live in centers that provide no chaplaincy services for its residents. Approximately 200 seniors adults live at the Barton W. Stone Home and an additional 180 staff are there to serve them.

“There are so many people who have no family or friends and they need to know that someone cares and someone will be with them when they ask,” said a resident of the Barton W. Stone Home.

The DBS Chaplain is available to offer pastoral care for persons of different religious needs or for those who profess no faith. The program is offered throughout the Jacksonville area. All costs of the program are borne by DBS – individuals can be assured that they will never be charged for the DBS Chaplaincy Care services.

“DBS is honored to be providing benevolent services to Jacksonville residents. Our partnership with area Disciples and other congregations is taking us in new directions, yet we are still reaching the needs of the people who most need us.” said Dennis Hagemann, DBS President and CEO.

Rev. Dr. Gladys M. Herzog, a Jacksonville resident, has been named as the program’s inaugural chaplain. She has served several Illinois congregations in various pastoral roles, most recently at Salem Evangelical United Church of Christ in Alhambra, Ill., where she assisted in organizing care for senior adults. During her tenure in Alhambra, Herzog served as on-call pastor at two local nursing homes.

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**Disciples Benevolent Services Introduces  
New Program to Jacksonville Senior Adults  
May 23, 2008, page 2**

She is experienced in providing counseling and spiritual care for people in all varieties of crises. Herzog earned both a Doctor of Ministry and a Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary, and is ordained in the United Church of Christ.

“We are excited to open our doors to the ministry of spiritual care for the seniors living at our Home. It responds to a need for so many of our residents and we plan to make Chaplaincy Care part of our care plan.” said Mike Schneider, Administrator at Barton W. Stone Home.

Beth Dobyns, Acting Regional Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois-Wisconsin, said, “chaplaincy services provide vital ministry and guidance for all persons. We are pleased to support the work of DBS in providing chaplaincy care services.”

Headquartered in Maryland Heights, Mo., Disciples Benevolent Services (National Benevolent Association) is the 121 year-old social and health services general unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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