



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Disciples Benevolent Services Introduces Chaplaincy Care Program in Austin, Texas**

**July 22, 2009** – DBS Chaplaincy care is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Janice A. Spence as Chaplain ministering to the spiritual needs of residents, clients and staff of the Retirement and Nursing Center, The Continental, and the Austin Recovery Center. As DBS Chaplain, Spence will also be available to provide pastoral care for residents of the community at large.

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

“Until now, DBS has not had a presence in the Austin area and we were honored to be invited to establish our chaplaincy program in this community. We worked in cooperation with local clergy and lay persons to identify the locations that could initially be served by this program, and also to select the best candidate for the position. It is through our partnership with the Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the generosity of our past and current supporters that we can offer this ministry at no cost to the recipients,” said Dennis Hagemann, DBS President and CEO.

Rev. Spence is a longtime Austin resident who brings with her nearly 20 years of experience in chaplaincy and social service care in the area. Her experience and educational focus combine to make Spence ideally suited to minister to people in crisis situations and those dealing with end of life issues. Spence has a bachelor of arts in substance abuse services and a master of arts in theology. She was ordained by the American Baptist Church in 2000.

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“I am thrilled to become part of the DBS Chaplaincy care program. This is an exciting and much-needed ministry and I’m looking forward to building relationships with the people in the three facilities and bringing a spiritual connection to those who are missing that in their lives,” Spence said.

DBS Chaplaincy care is a program of the Disciples Benevolent Services Senior Care Ministries. Launched in June 2008, DBS Chaplaincy care currently has programs in Jacksonville, Ill., Des Moines, Iowa, and Los Angeles, Calif.

Headquartered in Maryland Heights, Mo., Disciples Benevolent Services (National Benevolent Association) is the 122 year-old social and health services general unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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Contact: Mary Ruth Crawford  
Disciples Benevolent Services  
149 Weldon Parkway, Suite 115  
St. Louis, Missouri 63043  
314-993-9000  
mrcrawford@nbacares.org