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UD PROGRAM TO EXPLORE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR DISABLED

DAYTON, Ohio, May 2, 1989—"Merging Two Worlds," a program designed to improve community and church support for persons with disabilities and their families, will be held at the University of Dayton Kennedy Union on Thursday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The hope is that we will begin communication between church and community people and people with disabilities," said Lynn Berlon, project director for Ministry with Handicapped People, a program of UD's Office for Ministry and Religious Education Services (MORES). "We want to be able to better integrate people with developmental disabilities into the church community where their needs can be met and their gifts can be received."

The program will begin at 11 a.m. with presentations by Tom Weaver, director of Choices for Community Living, an association for resident group homes, and Marilyn Bishop, director of UD's MORES Ministry with Handicapped People. Lunch will be held from noon to 1 p.m., and will feature entertainment by the award-winning MORES mime troupe. Performers in the troupe are all adults with mental retardation.

A panel discussion will be held from 1 to 2 p.m., focusing on communities that are effectively meeting the spiritual needs and receiving the gifts of persons with developmental disabilities. Panelists will include Terry Porter of Precious Blood Church, Debbie Peterson of Washington Heights Baptist Church in Centerville, United Methodist minister the Rev. Marla Rudisill and Julie Zink of the International Faith and Light Movement.

Cost of the program is $16, and registration is due by May 12. To register or for more information, contact Lynn Berlon at (513) 229-4325.