

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Cloydia Hill Larimore  
Vice President for Resource Development  
Phone: 217/367-3728  
Email: clarimore@cunninghamhome.org  
www.cunninghamhome.org

**CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME WELCOMES NEW CHAPLAIN**

July 19, 2004 (Urbana, Illinois) — Cunningham Children's Home warmly welcomed Rev. Gay King Crede as its new Chaplain at a staff meeting on July 7. "We are so pleased that Rev. Gay is joining the Cunningham family," said President and CEO Sam Banks. "She has already impressed many staff and kids with her caring and prayerful presence, and we feel lucky to have her as our chaplain."

Prior to her appointment at Cunningham by Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference, Rev. King Crede served as co-minister of Grace United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Illinois for four years, with her husband Rev. Dan King Crede. Rev. Gay holds a Masters of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology and a Bachelors of Arts in Religion from Illinois Wesleyan University.

As Chaplain, Rev. Gay will fulfill the mission of Cunningham by providing spiritual services for staff, children, and families associated with the agency. She will provide spiritual support during times of crises, as well as ongoing individual and group reflection and worship opportunities.

Rev. Gay has begun her work as Chaplain seeking to get to know the staff and young people and learn more about them. She explains, "I believe that God is big on listening and love, and I hope that those are qualities the staff and kids will find in me as their chaplain."

Cunningham Children's Home provides residential treatment, special education, day treatment services and supervised independent living programs for children and youth with behavioral and emotional disorders. Cunningham is a mission and ministry of the United Methodist Women of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference in partnership with the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

###

