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IWU News Advisory

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January 14, 2005

Event: *Illinois Wesleyan University Chapel Hour* presents Chaplain Dennis E. Groh: "What We Saw When the Waters Parted: Civil Rights and the Christian Churches"

Date: Jan. 19 (Wednesday)

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington

Admission: Free and open to the public

Background: Chaplain Groh will speak on the subject of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the slain civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, and the racial problems that exist in our society. He will also speak on the subject of his life as a young pastor during the civil rights movement.

The chapel hour will also include a duet of *Amazing Grace* by senior Michael McHugh from Glenview, Ill., and junior Justin Barnish from Downers Grove, Ill. The hour will also feature the new chapel organist Susan Klotzbach.

Dennis E. Groh, class of 1961, has been University Chaplain and Professor of Humanities and Archaeology at Illinois Wesleyan University since 1996. He is also Associate Director of the University of South Florida Excavations at Sepphoris.

A specialist in early Christianity and the archaeology of Israel in the Roman and Byzantine Periods, Groh has authored, co-authored, or coedited five books. His articles appear in a number of published works, including *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Near Eastern Archaeology* (edited by Eric M. Meyers), *The Dictionary of Judaism in the Biblical Period* (edited by Jacob Neusner), and *Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism: A Parallel History of Their Origins and Development* (edited by Hershel Shenks).

Groh is a past President of the North American Patristics Society and a past Vice President of the Chicago Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. He has been a Rockefeller Doctoral Fellow in Religion (for study at the American Academy in Rome); both a Fellow and a Senior Fellow of the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada; the James Alan Montgomery Fellow and the Annual Professor of the American Schools of Oriental Research at the William F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (Jerusalem); and the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow of the Institute for Social Ecology, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Beer Sheva, Israel).

Groh, who is actively interested in Inter-Faith dialogue, is an ordained Elder of the United Methodist Church (Northern Illinois Conference). He holds degrees from Illinois Wesleyan University (BA in History, Phi Kappa Phi), Garrett Theological Seminary (BD, with highest distinction), and Northwestern University (Ph.D.).

Contact: For additional information, contact Illinois Wesleyan University Chaplain's office at (309) 556-3005.