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Media Advisory

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February 6, 2002

Contact: Sherry Wallace, 309/556-3181

Media Advisory

Event: Chapel Hour and Special Events and Services: Rabbi Capers Funnye, senior Rabbi at the Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation in Chicago, Ill., will speak.

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2002

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

Program: This program is co-sponsored by the Illinois Wesleyan Jewish Student Association.

About Rabbi Capers Funnye

Rabbi Capers Funnye, senior Rabbi and spiritual leader at the Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation, and executive director of the Blue Gargoyle Youth Service Center in Chicago, originally grew up in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. However, his intense study of Judaism in Chicago and New York in the early 1970s led to his and his family's conversion, in accordance with Jewish Law, to Judaism.

Rabbi Funnye earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Hebrew Literature and rabbinical ordination from the Israelite Board of Rabbis in New York, which emphasizes training rabbis to the leadership of Black congregations of Jews. He also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jewish Studies and a Master of Science in Human Services Administration from Spertus Institute of Judaica, Chicago.

Rabbi Funnye has served as a consultant to the DuSable Museum of African American History and the Spertus Museum of Judaica, Chicago; the Chicago Historical Society; the Black Holocaust Museum, Milwaukee and the Afro-American Museum of Los Angeles, Calif.

Rabbi Funnye, who has lectured at numerous churches, colleges and universities and community organizations and synagogues throughout the United States, also has appeared on several national and local television programs. He is a member of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, American Jewish Congress and the Israelite Board of Rabbis Midwest Region.

Note: The Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation, the oldest such Temple in Chicago, is the successor of the Ethiopian Hebrew Association, founded in 1915 by Rabbi Horace Hassan.

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

