



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TASH and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Host Conference on Faith and Disabilities

WASHINGTON, DC – TASH, an international leader in disability advocacy, and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities will host *Faith & Flourishing: Embracing Inclusion for People with Disabilities, Their Families, and Congregations* on Friday, April 22 in Nashville, TN.

"For many people with disabilities and their families, their faith and involvement in a congregational community are central to their flourishing," said Erik Carter, professor in the Department of Special Education at Vanderbilt University and keynote speaker. "This conference is about helping churches and other places of worship welcome people and to find a home for their gifts."

This unique one-day conference will bring together faith community members and leaders, people with disabilities and their families, disability service providers and advocates, and many others for a day of inspiring presentations, practical learning, and networking. Sessions will focus on topics such as, welcoming people with disabilities and their families into faith communities, the nuts and bolts of disability ministry, empowering congregations to support people with disabilities in finding good jobs, the role of a faith community in enriching lives, and more.

Conference sponsors include Anthem, the Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee, SRVS, and the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities. The conference will take place on Friday, April 22 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at Christ Presbyterian Church (2323 Old Hickory Blvd, Nashville, TN 37215). To request a media pass for the event, please email Bethany Alvaré at balvare@tash.org. Registration and schedule details can be found at www.tash.org/nashville.

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A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, TASH is an international grassroots leader in advancing inclusive communities through research, education and advocacy. Founded in 1975, we are a volunteer-driven organization that advocates for human rights and inclusion for people with the most significant disabilities

and support needs – those most vulnerable to segregation, abuse, neglect and institutionalization. The inclusive practices we validate through research have been shown to improve outcomes for all people. More information about TASH can be found at www.tash.org.

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center on Research and Human Development is a Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (EKS IDDRC) as well as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDD). VKC staff and researchers are dedicated in serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. For more information about the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, visit <http://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu>.