



Note to media: Please check the list of recipients in the body of this release to see if a congregation(s) in your community is among award recipients. This release and a full list of recipients are available at www.cpx.cts.edu/renewal and www.lillyendowment.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 2014

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Christian Theological Seminary Announces 26 Indiana Congregations Awarded Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program Grants

INDIANAPOLIS - Christian Theological Seminary, in its role of administering the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs, has awarded 26 grants to congregations in 16 Indiana communities to enable their pastors to step away from daily responsibilities for a period of reflection and renewal. The 2014 Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations provides pastors with time for travel and immersive experiences in different cultures, opportunities to participate in spiritual retreats and pilgrimages, and focused periods for writing and research about challenges facing Christian communities.

“Pastors play an indispensable role in guiding the work of congregations and the daily demands of leadership are unending,” said Dr. Christopher Coble, vice president for religion at the Endowment. “Lilly Endowment is pleased that this program enables hardworking pastors to step away briefly from their ministerial responsibilities for rest and renewal.”

Congregations that are awarded the Clergy Renewal Program grants nominated their pastors to receive the honor. They represent a diverse group that includes Protestant, Catholic and nondenominational congregations. Congregational leaders worked with their pastor to design their renewal program and to determine how their pastor would use the grant funds to replenish, restore and renew their pastor’s ministry. Travel to domestic and international destinations and journeys into nature are popular activities for participating pastors. One pastor plans to travel to Italy and Uganda to explore global Ignatian spirituality, while another will engage in a walking pilgrimage in Spain. Another pastor will pursue a passion for watercolor painting.

“We can think of no better way to honor these hardworking, faithful men and women than to help them experience personal growth and spiritual renewal in ways that they themselves design and find meaningful,” Coble said “We regularly hear that these renewal experiences are transformative for pastors, their families and their congregations.”

Congregations were invited to apply for program grants of up to \$50,000. Up to \$15,000 of the grant could be allocated to fund interim pastoral leadership, as well as renewal activities within the congregation. Pastors were encouraged to include their families in the renewal activities.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Saler, director of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, noted that the Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations gives congregations an opportunity to demonstrate support, trust and encouragement for their pastors.

“The program is designed to respect the innate human need for times of service and replenishment,” Saler said. “It provides a means for congregations to express appreciation for their leader’s service and respect for his or her health and energy for continued ministry.”

Since Lilly Endowment introduced the Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations in 1990 and the National Clergy Renewal Program grants in 2000, more than 1,900 congregations across the nation have participated in the programs. In the 2014 round of funding, Indiana congregations received grants totaling more than \$1 million.

“At a time when society is experiencing unprecedented levels of change at ever increasing speeds, it is rewarding to offer programs that recognize the value of retreat and renewal,” Saler said. “We are honored and privileged to work with Lilly Endowment in its support of congregational leaders.”

The Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations and the National Clergy Renewal Program are part of Christian Theological Seminary’s Center for Pastoral Excellence, which has administered the clergy renewal programs since 2012.

Award Recipients:

Bloomington – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Pr. Helen Hempfling Ervin

Bloomington – Trinity Episcopal Church, Pr. Charles Dupree

Brownsburg – Messiah Lutheran Church, Dr. Charles J. Miller, II

Chesterton – Liberty Bible Church, Pr. Robert Wayne Nienhuis

Columbus – New Hope Christian Church of Columbus, Pr. John Mark Sighting

Dale – Dale Presbyterian Church USA, Pr. Martha FrizLanger

Elkhart – Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, Pr. Charles Wesley Geiser

Elkhart – Southside Fellowship, Pr. David Palmer Moser

Elkhart – True Vine Tabernacle, Pr. Nancy Yvette Rodroquez-Lora

Fishers – Holy Family Episcopal Church, Pr. Michael Joseph Galvin

Fort Wayne – Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, Pr. Brian Theodore Flory

Indianapolis – Castlevew Baptist Church, Pr. Eric James Bancroft

Indianapolis – Common Ground Christian Church, Pr. James R. Matthies

Indianapolis – Eunhye Korean Presbyterian Church, Pr. Paul E. Cho

Indianapolis – First-Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church, Pr. Tricia Steede Lisa

Indianapolis – St. Joan of Arc Church, Pr. Guy Russell Roberts

Indianapolis – Tuxedo Park Baptist Church, Pr. Tommy L. Jackson

Kokomo – Crossroads Community Church, Pr. Kevin L. Smith

Marion – Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Pr. James Warnock

Marion – Maple Run Friends, Pr. John Kevin Key

Mentone – Mentone United Methodist Church, Pr. Amber Karkosky-Litten

Mishawaka – Oak Creek Community Church – Pr. Darin Vance Garton

Mount Vernon – St. John's Episcopal Church of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, Pr. Allen Dale Rutherford

South Bend – Redeemer Missionary Church, Pr. Jason Andrew Nicholls

Warsaw – First United Methodist Church, Pr. Toni Lynn Carmer

Warsaw – Touch of Life Church, Pr. Charley Ricky Cooper

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly and his two sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., with gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical company. The Endowment exists to support the causes of religion, education and community development. Lilly Endowment's religion grantmaking is designed to deepen and enrich the religious lives of American Christians. It does this largely through initiatives to enhance and sustain the quality of ministry in American congregations and parishes. More information can be found at www.lillyendowment.org.

About Christian Theological Seminary

Located in Indianapolis, IN, Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) is a fully accredited ecumenical seminary, open to all, affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It offers eight graduate-

level degree programs, including programs in theology, ministry, and counseling, with specializations in ministries that emphasize the arts and programs for lifelong learning. More than 30 denominations are represented among CTS faculty and students. Additional information about CTS is available at www.cts.edu.