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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Clergy renewal information program set for Oct. 16 in Indianapolis

Pastors and congregational representatives from all over Indiana are invited to attend a program Oct. 16 about Lilly Endowment's Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations/2001. The meeting will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St. It is the only such informational session scheduled for the 2001 program.

Open to all Indiana congregations with an ordained pastor, the clergy renewal program provides up to \$30,000 for each congregation selected to participate. The program calls for the congregation and pastor to forge a sabbatical program for the pastor that will contribute to his or her professional and personal renewal.

"The reasoning is that such intentional programs will, in the long run, strengthen the quality and commitment of ministers and contribute to developing healthier congregations," said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. "Better pastors and more vibrant congregations are twin emphases of the Endowment's grantmaking in religion, and the clergy renewal program is one avenue to address these concerns."

For the Oct. 16 session, Dykstra and Jean M. Smith, program director in the Endowment's Religion Division, will explain the details of the program and the application procedure.

Also, three pastors who received clergy renewal grants in 1999, the first year of the program, will discuss their experiences, how they worked with their congregations to formulate the program, how they went about writing their proposal and designing their renewal experience.

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Panelists will be Cathy S. Johns, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Warsaw; Michael Mather, pastor of Broadway Christian Parish, United Methodist Church, in South Bend, and David Smook, pastor of Deer Creek Presbyterian Church in Camden.

Linda McKiernan-Allen will discuss what she has learned from interviewing grantees from the 1999 and 2000 programs. McKiernan-Allen is a consultant to the Alban Institute, a Bethesda, Md.-based, ecumenical organization that focuses on strengthening local congregations through publications, educational events, consulting and training, and research.

Altogether, 52 congregations and pastors have been selected for the Indiana program – 22 in 1999 and 30 this year.

Pastors and their congregational representatives who are interested in the Oct. 16 program are urged to call the Endowment – 317/924-5471 – to request an invitation or make a reservation.

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Note: The Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations is similar to but separate from the Endowment's National Clergy Renewal Program. The first awards in the national program will be announced by the end of the year.

1999 Recipients/Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations

Angola – Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes, Thomas E. Smith

Camden – Deer Creek Presbyterian Church, David Smook

Decatur – St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Thomas L. Olson

Evansville – Bethel United Church of Christ, Joseph W. Fraccaro

Fishers – Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, Joseph M. Freeman

New Hope Presbyterian Church, Charles S. Denison

Fort Wayne – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Robert C. Schulte

Zion Lutheran Church, Matthew C. Harrison

Goshen – Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, Richard A. Litwiller

Pleasant View Mennonite Church, Ron Diener

Indianapolis – Shalom Mennonite Church, Dagne Assefa

Kokomo – First Church of God, Ray Houser

Lafayette – Bethany Presbyterian Church, H. Ann Smith

Lebanon – First Presbyterian Church, Thomas P. O'Brien

Muncie – Lutheran Church of the Cross, James B. Hilleson

Nashville – St. David's Episcopal Church, Jonathan Hutchison

South Bend – Broadway Christian Parish, United Methodist Church, Michael Mather

Episcopal Cathedral of St. James, Frederick E. Mann

St. John – Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Mark R. Vance Jr.

Valparaiso – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, C. Patrick Ormos

Wabash – Wabash Friends Church, David W. Phillips

Warsaw – First United Methodist Church, Cathy S. Johns

2000 Recipients/Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations

Bloomington – Trinity Episcopal Church, Linda C. Johnson

Bristol – Bonneyville Mennonite Church, Ken Livengood

Chesterfield – Chesterfield Christian Church, Debra E. Harmon

Elkhart – Elkhart Valley Church of the Brethren, Frank Ramirez

Evansville – St. Matthew's United Church of Christ, Daniel R. Schroeder

St. Peter's United Church of Christ-Highland, Elisabeth L. Baer

Fort Wayne – St. Jude Catholic Church, William C. Schooler

Goshen – Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, Steve Thomas

Greencastle – Gobin Memorial Church, Rick Miller

Hammond – Iglesia Del Pueblo-Christian Church, Juan A. Rodriguez

Huntertown – Huntertown United Methodist Church, David Michel

Indianapolis – Allisonville Christian Church, Robert A. Riester II

Church of the Saviour United Methodist, Jane E. Voelkel

Indianapolis Monthly Meeting of Friends, J. Stanley Banker

Northside Baptist Church, Rusty Kennedy

St. Alban's Episcopal Church, M. Sue Reid

Kokomo – Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, Franklin S. Kemper

Marshall – Marshall Federated Church, Donald Eugene Perry Jr.

Martinsville – First Presbyterian Church, J. Christy Wareham

Mishawaka – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, David K. Ottsen

New Palestine – New Palestine United Methodist Church, Paul D. and Beverly J. Perry

North Webster – North Webster Church of God, Paul E. Rigel

Portage – Ogden Dunes Community Church, Nancy D. Becker

Princeton – Broadway Christian Church, John R. Dunn

Seymour – First Baptist Church, Bruce E. Cochran

South Bend – Crest Manor Church of the Brethren, Larry D. Fourman

Evangelical Covenant Church, Kendall B. Dahlstrom

First Baptist Church of South Bend, Kennard R. Wilson

West Lafayette – St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Timothy Burchill

Zionsville – Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church, John W. Fiene