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### Lilly Endowment selects 30 Indiana congregations for Clergy Renewal Program

Thirty congregations – from tiny Princeton in the south to Indianapolis in mid-state to South Bend in the north – have been selected to receive awards in the second year of Lilly Endowment’s Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations. The awards allow the pastors of these congregations to take time away from their regular and constant duties to plan sabbaticals that will rejuvenate them professionally and personally – and thus make them better pastors.

Ranging from \$14,728 to \$30,000, the awards total \$767,060. Each congregation was allowed to request up to \$30,000 for the pastor’s renewal program and to provide for services in the pastor’s absence.

This year’s “class” of pastors will travel from Costa Rica to Siberia to the Holy Land. They will visit sites important in the history of their denominations, engage in personal retreats, learn about storytelling, revamp their health habits, improve their writing, study other churches, learn to sail, visit colleagues, and spend time with their families.

“Few people realize the enormous demands made on pastors,” said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. “They are on call 24 hours a day and are seldom encouraged or helped to develop consistent patterns of personal and spiritual renewal. Some have never had the opportunity, even after years of service, to take an extended

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time away for such a purpose. The Clergy Renewal Program allows them to do that. We think it makes for better ministers and healthier congregations.”

He noted: “This program is one of several that the Endowment is engaged in to support strong pastors all across the country who are doing good work. We also are engaged in a wide variety of efforts that help congregations become more vibrant communities of faith. We think the Clergy Renewal Program addresses both of these aspirations.”

Selected from 91 applications, the following churches and pastors have received renewal grants:

<u>Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church, Zionsville</u> <u>The Rev. John W. Fiene</u> Return trips to Russia and Israel; visit with relatives in Denmark and Sweden	\$29,800
<u>Allisonville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</u> <u>Indianapolis</u> <u>The Rev. Robert A. Riester II</u> Travel to London and British Isles to explore historic churches	14,728
<u>Bonneyville Mennonite Church, Bristol</u> <u>The Rev. Ken Livengood</u> Travel to Israel; visit European sites in Holland and Germany important in Mennonite history; visit family in Pennsylvania; attend storytelling conference in Tennessee	25,250
<u>Broadway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</u> <u>Princeton</u> <u>The Rev. John R. Dunn</u> Develop role as “spiritual guide;” travel to Alaska and Canada; attend program at San Francisco seminary; spend time with family in California	30,000

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<u>Chesterfield Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</u> <u>The Rev. Debra E. Harmon</u> Travel to European cathedrals to study liturgies, symbols and images of the church; visit Holocaust memorials; engage in spiritual retreat in Indiana	23,310
<u>Church of the Saviour United Methodist, Indianapolis</u> <u>The Rev. Jane E. Voelkel</u> Travel to Israel; audit storytelling classes at East Tennessee State University	27,463
<u>Crest Manor Church of the Brethren, South Bend</u> <u>The Rev. Larry D. Fourman</u> Explore “spiritual community” at retreat center in Albuquerque; attend retreat near Three Rivers, Mich.; attend Wellspring Gathering in Washington	29,586
<u>Elkhart Valley Church of the Brethren, Elkhart</u> <u>The Rev. Frank Ramirez</u> Study Mogollon and Anasazi cultures and art; travel to Silver City, N. Mex., and related sites in Arizona, Utah and Colorado; work on book of prose and poetry	16,115
<u>Evangelical Covenant Church, South Bend</u> <u>The Rev. Kendall B. Dahlstrom</u> Rest and relaxation with family; travel to England and Sweden; participate in Berkshire Choral Festival in Canterbury, England; visit friends and family in Midwest and West	30,000
<u>First Baptist Church, Seymour</u> <u>The Rev. Bruce E. Cochran</u> Study issues facing long pastorates; visit with pastors in Midwest; travel to London to explore regions where Baptist tradition has roots	16,404

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<u>First Baptist Church of South Bend</u> <u>The Rev. Kennard R. Wilson</u> Engage in personal retreat at Donaldson, Ind.; study American Shakers and visit related sites in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire; work on reflective writings in Nova Scotia	23,817
<u>First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville</u> <u>The Rev. J. Christy Wareham</u> Travel to South Africa to study spiritual transformation and healing; travel to Nova Scotia for reflection, reading and writing	30,000
<u>Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church, Greencastle</u> <u>The Rev. Rick Miller</u> “Immersion trip” to study Celtic spirituality in England and Ireland; visit relatives in Scotland and friends in Norway and Sweden	28,085
<u>Huntertown United Methodist Church</u> <u>The Rev. David Michel</u> Family will attend Hillsongs Conference in Sydney, Australia; spend time in that country and New Zealand to study faith issues of aboriginal people; engage in personal prayer retreat near Tipton	22,575
<u>Iglesia Del Pueblo-Christian Church</u> <u>(Disciples of Christ), Hammond</u> <u>The Rev. Juan A. Rodriguez</u> Focus on mission, family ministry and midlife spirituality; travel to Holy Land and Rome	28,140
<u>Indianapolis Monthly Meeting of Friends</u> <u>J. Stanley Banker, Pastor</u> Relax, read at “soak-in” pace while skippering a live-on boat through intracoastal waterways of southeastern United States; travel to Costa Rica and meet with Quakers involved in social development missions	29,185

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<u>Marshall Federated Church</u> <u>The Rev. Donald Eugene Perry Jr.</u> Visit American pottery museums and sites; take New York theater trip with daughter; experience worship “from the pew”	25,999
<u>Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, Kokomo</u> <u>The Rev. Franklin S. Kemper</u> Do research on forgiveness and race relations; join family gathering at Ely, Minn.; meet with Indiana Southern Baptists; travel to Holy Land with wife and daughter	23,994
<u>New Palestine United Methodist Church</u> <u>The Rev. Paul D. and the Rev. Beverly J. Perry</u> Attend Pin Mill Healing Fellowship at Suffolk, England; take study trip to Cambridge; visit Methodist mission in Tanzania; visit Israel	30,000
<u>North Webster Church of God</u> <u>The Rev. Paul E. Rigel</u> Participate in High Road Wilderness Program in Wisconsin; attend Jungian Institute Summer Seminar in Zurich, Switzerland; travel to Oxford for study at Christ Church College; visit congregations in London, Paris, Kassel (Germany) and Aarhus (Denmark)	29,211
<u>Northside Baptist Church, Indianapolis</u> <u>The Rev. Rusty Kennedy</u> Interview Southern Baptist youth ministers in six cities: Seattle, Los Angeles, Houston, Miami, Orlando, New York	30,000
<u>Ogden Dunes Community Church (Presbyterian), Portage</u> <u>The Rev. Nancy D. Becker</u> Take course in spiritual formation at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Ga.; attend preaching conference in North Carolina; travel to Costa	25,900

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Rica for Spanish course; take “journeys of Paul trip” around Mediterranean countries; visit son and family in Czech Republic

St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, Indianapolis 29,175

The Rev. M. Sue Reid

Attend Jesuit Retreat Center in Milford, Ohio; confer with faculty at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass.; visit Boston-area churches; take study course at St. George’s College in Jerusalem; visit Florence and Rome and cultivate cooking hobby

St. Andrew United Methodist Church, West Lafayette 28,120

The Rev. Timothy Burchill

Attend Regent’s College in Vancouver, B.C.; visit West Coast and Pacific Rim churches in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu; save time for reflection and exercise on island of Kauai

St. Jude Catholic Church, Fort Wayne 15,350

The Rev. William C. Schooler

Visit literary “sacred places” in British Isles; tour biblical sites in Greece, Turkey and Holy Land; attend weeklong session at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago

St. Matthew’s United Church of Christ, Evansville 19,235

The Rev. Daniel R. Schroeder

Attend German classes at University of Southern Indiana; travel to Exter, Germany, for Schroeder family research and for study of German Evangelical church; attend clergy development institute at Estes Park, Colo.; read; write; attend services at other churches

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Mishawaka 26,916

The Rev. David K. Ottsen

Attend month-long retreat at Sand Hills, Okla.; travel to England for research at Oxford

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Evansville 24,069  
The Rev. Elisabeth L. Baer

Go on retreat at Pendle Hill Center in Pennsylvania; study sources of Quaker spirituality in England; take learn-to-sail course and then go sailing on Kentucky Lake

**Trinity Episcopal Church, Bloomington** 24,683

The Rev. Linda C. Johnson

Attend Institute for Christian Spirituality at Sarum College in Salisbury, England; visit Canterbury and Iona; explore historic churches and cathedrals in London

Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, Goshen 29,950  
Steve Thomas, Pastor

Attend retreat at Mount Athos, Greece, and take study tours of Paul's journeys in Greece and Turkey; visit Mennonite community in rural Belize with family and snorkel, hike in jungle and explore Mayan Indian ruins

These 30 congregations join 23 others that were selected last year to inaugurate the Indiana program. Endowment officials expect the Indiana program to continue.

The Endowment, pleased with the results of the statewide program, has begun a National Clergy Renewal Program that will award as many as 100 grants of up to \$30,000 each to congregations all across the country (except Indiana). Those awards will be announced by December.