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Lilly Endowment selects 30 Indiana congregations for renewal grants

Their congregations will send them off with prayers and funny gifts and welcome them home again with block parties and potluck suppers. “They” are the 30 Indiana men and women who are pastors of caring congregations selected as recipients in the 2001 Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations.

Funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. for the third year, the popular program seeks to refresh, reinvigorate and re-energize congregations by funding a period of renewal for their pastors. Ranging from \$9,189 to \$30,000, the grants total \$787,522. Each congregation was eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$30,000; up to \$10,000 of that amount could be used to provide services in the pastor’s absence.

“Not many people may appreciate the constant demands on today’s pastors,” says Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. “They are on call 24-7 and fill many roles, from spiritual adviser to community leader to religious educator and worship leader. It is important for the health of their congregations that their pastors be at their best and most effective.

“The Endowment sees talented pastors leading healthy congregations as vital both to the lives of church members and to the well-being of American society as a whole. Attracting to the ministry talented people who can help build healthy congregations and nurturing those who are already doing it are mainstays of our religion grantmaking. We think this renewal program addresses those aims in a direct and helpful way,” he said.

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Indiana Clergy Renewal
Add 1

Under the Indiana Clergy Renewal Program, pastors, with the involvement and support of their congregations, design a plan for spending several months – often with their families – away from the press of their usual responsibilities.

The Endowment invites congregations to propose a set of activities and experiences that they feel will be most renewing for their particular pastor. In response, these congregations develop well-balanced plans that enable their pastors to rest and relax a bit, visit places and people of significance in their religious traditions and their ministries, and practice spiritual disciplines that reconnect them with the forces that led them into ministry in the first place.

This year's class of pastors will travel from the Grand Canyon to Greece, from Israel to Iceland, Texas to Taize, Cairo to Quito. They will go on spiritual retreats, keep journals, attend family reunions and deepen family ties through shared experiences. Some will go mountain biking, learn photography or take a writing workshop; others will trace the steps of Luther or participate in archaeological digs in the Holy Land. All have planned their sabbatical times thoughtfully and carefully; for many, it will be their first extended time away in years of pastoral service.

The following congregations and pastors have received renewal grants:

Brookside United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, \$20,483

The Rev. Jennifer Charles

Spend time with new adoptive children—eating out, bowling, going to movies, visiting Children's Museum and Indianapolis Zoo; go camping and spend time with grandparents; engage in reading centered on contemporary worship styles; visit other congregations with children

Christ Temple Church of Fort Wayne (Pentecostal Assemblies of the World),

\$29,825

The Rev. Elbert Clark Haywood

Travel to Greece and Italy with wife for biblical exploration, sightseeing, reflection and renewal

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Indiana Clergy Renewal
Add 2

Christ's Community Church (Reformed Church in America), Fort Wayne, \$27,104

The Rev. Dale David Matthews

Tour Israel with wife for "lifelong dream" of Holy Land tour;
go on archaeological dig near Jerusalem; visit relatives in Netherlands

Clinton Frame Mennonite Church, Goshen, \$29,430

The Rev. Terry Lee Diener

Take family trip to South America to reunite with friends
from former service in Brazil; visit Machu Picchu in Peru; spend
days at spiritual retreat; visit family in Kansas

Crooked Creek Baptist Church, Indianapolis, \$30,000

The Rev. Michael W. Snow

Attend World Mission Conference in Wisconsin; visit Israel;
go camping in Europe; visit international seminary in Prague; visit
American Baptist missionaries in Bangkok

East 91st Street Christian Church, Indianapolis, \$28,293

The Rev. Gary Gordon Rowe

Visit White Mountain Apache Reservation in Arizona and
Navajo reservation in New Mexico; visit Grand Canyon with wife
and daughters; keep journal; take family vacation to Michigan;
make pilgrimage trip to Rome and Assisi with wife and children

Elm Grove Congregational Christian Church of Manson, Frankfort, \$29,990

The Rev. Bruce Allen White

Sightsee in Chicago with wife and daughter; with wife tour
Holy Land from Golan Heights to Jerusalem to Petra and Masada;
attend annual meeting of Conservative Congregational Christian
Conference in Spokane, Wash.

First Baptist Church of Fort Wayne, \$24,142

The Rev. William Anderson Deans III

Rest and recreation with wife and grandson at Green Lake, Wis.;
travel to Scotland to see ancient holy places and do genealogical
research

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Indiana Clergy Renewal
Add 3

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Kokomo, \$20,481

The Rev. Thomas H. Madden

Spend time with family; read mysteries; play golf; take spiritual retreats to Georgia and St. Meinrad; keep journal; write and reflect

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, \$30,000

The Rev. Joseph B. Doh

Renew family ties in Georgia, Texas and California; attend retreat at Abbey Monastery in Kentucky; travel with wife (also a minister) to London and Scotland for programs at Oxford School of Theology and St. Andrews; discover the connection of the Korean American Presbyterians and the Presbyterian connection of family in Korea

First Presbyterian Church of Aurora, \$24,109

The Rev. Melissa Bane Sevier

Attend writing and photography workshops; travel with husband to Scotland and Red River Gorge, Ky

First United Methodist Church, Cambridge City, \$30,000

The Rev. Judith Ann McGuire Marshall

Sabbatical entitled "Peace, Passion and Pictures with the Psalms;" visit Ireland and England and United States sites

First United Methodist Church, Mooresville, \$27,146

The Rev. Morris Gene Young

Tour Israel and Rome with wife; then on to Delhi to visit daughter and three grandchildren at Woodstock School in Mussoorie, India; reflection time at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

First United Methodist Church of Michigan City, \$29,956

The Rev. Gregory Lynn Enstrom

Spend time at home to decompress, reflect, read, and keep journal; go on family trip with wife and two children to England, Ireland and Scotland; upon his return, fond congregation plans reception entitled either: "Thank God You're Back" or "Oh!...It's You Again Already"

(more)

Indiana Clergy Renewal
Add 4

First Wayne Street United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne, \$30,000

The Rev. Robert Dygert-Gearheart

Travel with wife to Turkey, Greece and Egypt; travel to Rome for walking tour of Italy

Grace Lutheran Church, Elkhart, \$20,586

The Rev. Gene W. Hollingsworth

Personal retreat to St. Meinrad; vacation with family; reading and relaxing time; attend clergy development institutes in Denver and at Pacific Lutheran Seminary; attend retreat at Holden Village in Cascade Mountains; go on family retreat to Pokagon State Park

Grace United Methodist Church, Lafayette, \$26,320

The Rev. Norman Richard Nellis Jr.

With wife travel to Iceland, then to Zimbabwe to help with children's ministries and with English classes at Africa University; travel to Florida to begin to edit 15 years of devotional thoughts for book, walk beaches and watch sunsets

Hope Evangelical Covenant Church, Indianapolis, \$22,464

The Rev. Daniel R. Johnson

Travel with wife and three children to Ecuador and visit Quito churches, take excursions to regional churches, schools and camps; visit Guayaquil

Olivet Presbyterian Church, Evansville, \$30,000

The Rev. David Michael Mills

Spend time in London with wife and three children, then to Rome, Paris and Munich; visit parents in Los Angeles

Pittsboro Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$24,375

The Rev. Richard Haynes

Travel with wife and son to San Francisco; attend retreats and programs, including Paraclete Retreat Center in New Mexico; reconnect with family; write

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Indiana Clergy Renewal
Add 5

Prince of Peace Church (Catholic), Madison, \$9,189

The Rev. John A. Meyer

Start sabbatical at 2002 Winter Olympics; go skiing and explore outdoors; travel to St. Mary's Franciscan Mission in Tohatchi, N.M., then to retreat center near Las Cruces, then to San Miguel Allende and Oaxaca in Mexico

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, \$18,978

The Rev. James A. Shafer

Travel to England and Ireland, Rome and Athens to join Catholic Theological Union's fall program in Israel; travels will include Delphi, Ephesus, Jerusalem, Galilee, Jordan, Negev and Sinai deserts

St. Francis of Assisi University Parish (Catholic), Muncie, \$28,765

The Rev. John David Kiefer

Go on 30-day directed retreat to Sedalia, Colo.; get reacquainted with siblings by traveling with one brother to Spain and Portugal, to Paris with his sister, and to Italy and Greece with another brother; visit mother in Florida

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, \$17,984

The Rev. M. Kent Millard

Engage in family and personal renewal at home, retreat with wife to lake cabin in northern Indiana; travel with wife to England for a Wesley tour and attend World Methodist Conference; go on silent retreat at St. Meinrad monastery

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, \$27,347

The Rev. Robert W. Myers Jr.

Travel with wife to London, Paris, Taize and Rome; spend special time at Waycross Camp and Conference Center in southern Indiana

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, \$29,900

The Rev. Donald Dale Nord

Education time at home to complete doctor of missiology exam; travel with wife to Germany for two weeks (Martin Luther history study and family history); go on family retreat at Elbow Cay in Bahamas with wife and children (no TV, radio or newspapers); learn to sail; work on memoirs about 36 years of married life

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Indiana Clergy Renewal
Add 6

Southside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), South Bend, \$19,021
The Rev. Martha L. Carroll

Visit home, extended family and friends in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi; immersion in Nicaraguan culture in May; New York City for retreat period and for time to attend writing workshop and see plays.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis, \$22,050
The Rev. Bruce John Johnson

Spend family time with sons at Lake Superior; visit Ireland, Denmark and Sweden (Swedish ancestors lived in Malmo) for biking and folklore study; on to Finland, then to Geneva; then to Israel for storytelling research; attend "Storytelling as Sacred Art" seminar in Jemez Springs, N.M.

Valparaiso Mennonite Church, \$29,947
The Rev. Mario Bustos

Travel with wife and two sons to Caracas and Cali, Colombia (investigate city prayer movement); visit churches in Bogota; travel to Colorado with family; spend two weeks at Dove Church School in Harrisburg, Pa., for study and research

West Richmond Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, \$29,745
Joshua U. Brown, pastor

Base of renewal will be cottage in northern Vermont where family will spend retreat time; also travel to Italy, then to Kenya (Quakers' largest mission field); family trip to Buffalo, N.Y.; retreat to Trappist monastery

These 30 Indiana congregations join 53 others selected in the past two years. Endowment officials expect the program to continue.

The National Clergy Renewal Program, also funded by the Endowment, offers similar sabbaticals to congregations in the other 49 states. Selection of the 2001 recipients in the national program will be announced later this year.