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## Lilly Endowment invites Indiana pastors to learn about renewal program

Ordained Indiana pastors interested in Lilly Endowment's Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations are invited to attend an information session Oct. 7 at North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Their spouses and members of their congregations also are invited.

2004 will be the sixth year for the renewal program, which aims to strengthen Indiana congregations by allowing their pastor a period of time away from the daily demands on them and their families.

Each award may be for as much as \$45,000, and the congregation may use up to \$15,000 of that total to cover pastoral functions while the minister is away.

The Oct. 7 program will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will include a presentation from the Rev. Melissa Bane Sevier, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Aurora and a 2001 recipient of a clergy renewal grant. Sevier has chronicled her renewal experiences – from the “what if?” stage through the actual experience and return – in a new book called *Journeying Toward Renewal*, a publication of the Alban Institute.

Culling thoughts from her own journals and notes, Sevier writes about the beginning of the process: “I moved from the expectations of others to daydreaming about what would fulfill my own needs and desires ... A sabbatical is primarily for the renewal of the pastor, but when the pastor is rejuvenated, so is the congregation.”

(more)

Indiana Clergy Renewal Information Meeting  
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Other former renewal recipients will engage in a panel discussion about the program and their experiences with it: the Rev. Dagne Assefa, 1999, Shalom Mennonite Church in Indianapolis; the Rev. Nancy D. Kahaian, 2002, St. John's United Church in Chesterton; and the Rev. Linda McCoy, 2002, St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis.

Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion, will launch the meeting with an overview of the Endowment's purposes in offering this program. Jean M. Smith, program director in religion, will outline application procedures and answer questions about the program that potential applicants might have.

If you are interested, please contact the Endowment by calling 317/924-5471.