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Parishioners, pastors encouraged to learn about Lilly Endowment's
2005 Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations

Time is running out for Indiana pastors and congregation members who would like to learn more about the Lilly Endowment 2005 Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations. The information meeting will be held Oct. 28 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis.

The clergy renewal program offers ordained Indiana congregations grants of up to \$45,000 each for a program of renewal and refreshment for their pastor. Each congregation may use up to \$15,000 of the grant for its own renewal purposes or for "filling in" duties while the pastor is away.

2005 will mark the seventh year for the program, which has seen more than 200 congregations participate. Up to 40 congregations will be selected for the 2005 program. The deadline for applications is Feb. 17, 2005, and the recipients will be announced by June.

"The application cannot be put together quickly," said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. "It requires a deliberate process of thinking and planning that involves collaboration between the congregation and the pastor. These renewal programs work best when everyone involved has a shared vision for what will be truly renewing for the pastor, his or her family and the congregation."

Many pastors have received an application brochure for the program, which contains an invitation to the information meeting. To respond, pastors and congregations may return the card or print the information card off the Endowment's Web site (lillyendowment.org and click on Religion) and mail it to the Endowment, e-mail indianaclergyrenewal@yahoo.com or call 317/916-7350. The Endowment would appreciate a response by Oct. 22.