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Lilly Endowment sets Sept. 28 for clergy renewal information session

Ordained pastors who would like to learn more about the Lilly Endowment's Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations are invited to attend an information session Sept. 28 at North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Their spouses and a member of their congregations also are invited.

2007 will mark the ninth year for the program, which provides ordained ministers serving Indiana congregations an opportunity to plan – in collaboration with their congregations – an extended time of personal, professional and spiritual renewal for themselves and their families.

Awards will be made for as much as \$45,000, and each congregation may use up to \$15,000 of that total to help the congregation fulfill pastoral responsibilities during its minister's absence and/or to support renewal activities for the congregation itself.

The Sept. 28 program will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will include presentations from three former renewal program participants: the Rev. Ivan D. Hicks, First Baptist Church of North Indianapolis; the Rev. Linda Jo Peters, Unity Presbyterian Church in Terre Haute, and the Rev. Jeffrey H. Godecker of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Indianapolis.

Also, Craig Dykstra, Endowment senior vice president for religion, and Jean M. Smith, program director in religion, will answer questions about the program.

Since the renewal program began in 1999, more than 175 Indiana congregations have received grants.

If you are interested, please call the Endowment at 317/916-7350.