



(Note to media: Naturally, the Endowment would appreciate your notice of this program in your publication/broadcast. Beyond that, of course, if you know of any pastors and/or congregation members who may be interested in the renewal program, please feel free to share this information with them.)

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### **Lilly Endowment awards clergy renewal grants to 19 Indiana congregations**

Nineteen congregations from 14 Indiana counties have received grants to enable their ministers to participate in the 2011 Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. The program -- now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year -- allows pastors to step back from their busy schedules and renew their spirits for challenges ahead.

The Endowment invites congregations and ministers to consider and plan a period of “intentional reflection and renewal.” It is a time for ministers to take a break from their daily obligations and gain the fresh perspective and renewed energy that a carefully considered “sabbath time” of travel, study, rest and prayer can offer.

Getting away from their ordinary routines gives pastors a chance for private periods of reflection and reading. It also allows real family time together, far from the frequently unpredictable schedules at home. It is no surprise that many will head for points around the globe, from Ohio to China. Seven will head to Europe for study and pilgrimages to some of the Reformation sites in England, Scotland, France and Germany. Others will travel to places of Christianity’s first days -- Rome, Greece, Turkey and the Holy Land. One plans to run in the Greek Marathon.

Two will go to China, one of whom will take her children to see their homeland for the first time since being adopted. Other pastors will retrace ancestral heritages in Korea, Kenya and Nigeria.

Not all will head overseas. An African American pastor will take his family to visit a former plantation in South Carolina. Another seven will go West to camp and explore in the Rocky Mountains. For the first time, two pastors will head “next door” to Ohio and its Amish country, where one will experience a “homestay” to learn what it means to live the simple life.

(more)

Indiana Clergy Renewal Winners  
Add 1

No matter where they spend this special time, they invariably return to their Indiana congregations feeling rested, refreshed and enthusiastic for the years ahead. Previous grantees describe their renewal experience as “profound” and “transforming.”

“We ask these congregations and ministers to consider the question, ‘What will make your heart sing?’ as they devise their plans,” said Craig Dykstra, senior vice president for religion at the Endowment. “They never fail to come up with wonderful and imaginative ways to fulfill their dreams. Their time away frees them up to pursue personal interests and needs in ways that give them new energy for ministry -- and the congregations discover while their pastors are away that they too experience refreshment and a newfound sense of their own strengths.”

The Endowment’s larger goal is to bolster the good work that America’s pastors and congregations accomplish day in and day out, to reinforce and build upon the important work being done on both sides of the pulpit. “In our religion grantmaking, we hope to strengthen the efforts of today’s excellent pastors because it is no secret that pastors who have reconnected themselves to the passions that led them to the ministry in the first place are more likely to lead healthy and vibrant congregations,” Dykstra said.

Indiana congregations were invited to apply for a grant of up to \$50,000. Up to \$15,000 of that amount could be used to fulfill pastoral duties during the minister’s absence and for expenses related to the congregation’s own renewal. The 19 grants this year totaled more than \$891,000. (The average grant amount was nearly \$47,000.)

Since the program began in 1999, 382 renewal grants have been awarded to Indiana congregations. The renewal program will continue next year to benefit even more Indiana congregations and their pastors. Application information for the 2012 program will be available at [indianaclergyrenewal.org](http://indianaclergyrenewal.org) by early September.

(more)

Indiana Clergy Renewal Winners  
Add 2

The congregations and pastors selected for the 2011 Indiana Clergy Renewal program are as follows:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Evansville, \$45,941  
Mitchell C. Gieselman

Calvary Church (nondenominational), Valparaiso, \$49,600  
F. Lionel Young III

Clinton Frame Mennonite Church (Mennonite Church USA), Goshen, \$50,000  
John Troyer

Exodus Church (Missionary Church USA), Bloomington, \$49,433  
Matthew P. Nussbaum

First Baptist Church (American Baptist Churches USA [ABC]), Seymour, \$39,160  
Bruce E. Cochran

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Greencastle, \$46,434  
Paul H. Champion

First United Methodist Church, Anderson, \$49,250  
Donna K. Goings

Friendship Church (independent), Greenwood, \$49,970  
David R. Crandall Jr.

Korean Baptist Church of Indianapolis (Southern Baptist Convention), \$46,250  
James Bahn

Mount Zion Baptist Church (ABC), Indianapolis, \$49,786  
Philip K. James

New Palestine Bible Church (nondenominational), \$50,000  
Brett A. Crump

Open Door Fellowship (nondenominational), Kouts, \$38,225  
Daniel W. Luce

Ovid Community Church (nondenominational), Anderson, \$49,142  
Keith A. Wooden

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Jeffersonville, \$49,109  
Thomas E. Clegg

(more)

Indiana Clergy Renewal Winners  
Add 3

St. Patrick Catholic Church, Terre Haute, \$37,765  
Richard M. Ginther

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Indianapolis, \$45,508  
Steven C. Schwab

Second Baptist Church (Missionary Baptist), Kokomo, \$49,963  
Robert A. Lee

Servants of Christ Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America),  
Indianapolis, \$48,368  
Alan J. Rider

Urban Light Community Church (Church of God, General Conference), Muncie, \$47,460  
Andrew T. Draper