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Lilly Endowment announces leadership changes in religion

The Board of Directors of Lilly Endowment Inc. has elected Christopher Coble vice president for religion. He succeeds Craig Dykstra, who retired at the end of July after serving 23 years in the position. Dykstra was elected to serve as a member of the Endowment's Board of Directors.

In announcing the changes, N. Clay Robbins, the Endowment's president and CEO, said, "The Endowment was blessed by Craig Dykstra's superb leadership in its religion grantmaking for nearly a quarter of a century. Shepherding religion grants of more than \$1 billion during this time, Craig was steadfast in pursuing the Endowment's aims of invigorating Christian congregations throughout the country, supporting current pastors in their lives and work, and encouraging younger men and women to consider ministry as a vocation. The Endowment is pleased that it can continue to call on his wisdom and passion for the church through his service on its board."

Regarding Coble, Robbins added, "Throughout Chris Coble's 16 years of service to the Endowment as a program director in its religion division, he has demonstrated keen insights, strategic thinking, a collegial spirit, and a calling to strengthen and support congregations throughout the country and the pastors who serve them. He has a special interest in how the church can better engage younger generations in its ministries.

"The Endowment is confident and gratified that under his guidance the Endowment's future religion grantmaking will build on and enhance all that has been accomplished under Craig Dykstra's excellent leadership."

Coble is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has served congregations in Indiana, North Carolina, Iowa and Massachusetts. He holds degrees from Wabash College (A.B., summa cum laude), Duke Divinity School (M.Div., magna cum laude) and Harvard University (Th.D.). Trained as a historian of American religion, his research

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interests focus on issues of religious formation and the transmission of faith in Christian churches.

After retiring from the Endowment, Dykstra accepted an appointment at Duke Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina, to serve as research professor of practical theology and senior fellow at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. In these roles, Dykstra will conduct research on and write about Christian leadership, as well as teach seminars and courses about what leaders can do to help their institutions flourish.

The Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment is one of the country's largest private foundations, with assets of \$6.2 billion at the end of 2011. Founded in 1937 by J.K. Lilly and his two sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., with gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical enterprise, the Endowment supports its founders' interests in community development, education and religion. While gifts of stock in Eli Lilly and Company remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location.