



**Note to reporters/editors: Please review the enclosed list of National Clergy Renewal Program recipients for congregations and pastors from your area.**

Contact: Gretchen Wolfram  
317/916-7304  
317/255-2640 (home)

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### 118 congregations selected in Lilly Endowment's National Clergy Renewal Program

Their plans include archaeological digs in the Holy Land; travels to retreat centers in Scotland, France and Colorado; seeing the natural wonders of the world and kayaking with whales; writing poetry and plays; working on genealogies; reconnecting with their families; going on personal retreats, and studying other congregations.

“They” are pastors from 118 congregations in 33 states whose churches have been selected to participate in the 2000 National Clergy Renewal Program funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc.

The congregations and their pastors were selected from hundreds of applications that responded to a nationwide invitation to congregations to consider and plan a period of “intentional reflection and renewal” for their pastors so they could step back from their busy lives and replenish their energy and vision for ministry.

“The Endowment cares deeply about the health and vitality of congregations,” said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. “We seek to honor the high calling of pastors who do a good job of serving their congregations and also to provide opportunities for them to strengthen and renew themselves for their important and difficult work. Congregations are not always easy places, and it is good for pastors to have the time to step back and take time to get re-energized and rejuvenated.”

(more)

National Clergy Renewal Program  
Add 1

Some of the selected congregations have roots deep in American history; others are just a few years old. They worship and serve in college towns, farming communities, inner cities and suburbs. Some, like St. John United Church of Christ in Valmeyer, Ill., have faced natural disasters. Both town and church were wiped out in the Mississippi River flood of 1993 and had to relocate to bluffs two miles east. Some churches – Otey Memorial Parish Church in Sewanee, Tenn., and Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., for example – faced challenges in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and have emerged as racially integrated congregations.

All of them face challenges of some sort: how to respond to difficult community issues, how to minister to multiple generations, how to reach out to new neighbors from other cultures. And, always, the minister is a pivotal figure in the drama.

Launched in January, the National Clergy Renewal Program invited Christian congregations and their pastors in 49 states to describe their congregations and their ministries, outline their renewal program plans, and present budgets of up to \$30,000. Up to \$10,000 of that amount could be used to help the congregation fulfill pastoral duties during his or her absence. (The national program complements the Endowment's separate Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations begun in 1998.) The grants announced today total nearly \$2.7 million.

Noted Dykstra, "We were so pleased with the thoughtfulness expressed in the applications. The congregations' affection for their pastors was evident, and they demonstrated considerable creativity in finding ways to handle ongoing responsibilities while their pastors are away. Likewise, the ministers were plainly thrilled at the notion of planning programs that would give them time to get to 'get away from it all' and then 'come back to it all' as better pastors."

(more)

National Clergy Renewal Program  
Add 2

Plans and application procedures for the 2001 national program will be announced in a few weeks.

One of the country's largest private philanthropic foundations, Lilly Endowment was established in 1937 and honors its founders wishes by supporting the causes of religion, community development and education.

**See following pages for recipients of National Clergy Renewal Program grants**

## **National Clergy Renewal Program/2000**

118 grants

### **California**

California City – Community Church of California City (United Church of Christ), \$21,250  
Ronald A. Sparks

Castro Valley – First Presbyterian Church of Hayward, \$30,000  
Aahmes E. Overton

Culver City – Culver-Palms United Methodist Church, \$9,018  
W. Terry Van Hook

Davis – Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, \$30,000  
William A. Wong

Moorpark – Moorpark Presbyterian Church, \$23,449  
David A. Wilkinson

Petaluma – Elim Lutheran Church, \$27,970  
Timothy P. Kellgren

Riverside – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, \$28,280  
Bradley R. Stienstra

South San Francisco – St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, \$20,110  
Lynn E. Bowdish

Santa Clarita – Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Santa Clarita Valley, \$29,992  
Craig W. Goodman

Westlake Village – Westminster Presbyterian Church, \$28,859  
Dale A. Ridenour

### **Colorado**

Broomfield – Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, \$9,130  
Ann M. Hultquist

Evergreen – Evergreen Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$26,550  
Victor L. Hunter

Security – Faith Lutheran Church, \$18,130  
Curtis L. Zieske

### **Connecticut**

Newtown – Christ the King Lutheran Church, \$20,344  
Gregory J. Wismar

### **Florida**

Lee – Lee United Methodist Church, \$10,089  
Richard H. Quackenbush

Rotonda West – Faith Lutheran Church, \$17,890  
Carl F. Kelly Jr.

## **Georgia**

- Augusta – St. Paul’s Church (Episcopal), \$28,000  
Donald A. Fishburne
- Decatur – Oakhurst Baptist Church, \$26,325  
Lanny L. Peters
- Edison – Fellowship Baptist Church, \$17,280  
Stacey E. Simpson
- Macon – Wesley United Methodist Church, \$20,105  
Jimmy R. Asbell Jr.

## **Idaho**

- Aberdeen – First Mennonite Church, \$27,043  
Monty Ledford
- Parma – Sterry Memorial Presbyterian Church, \$8,465  
Philip J. Hughes

## **Illinois**

- Cary – St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, \$11,195  
Richard E. Holmer
- Chicago – Congregational Church of Park Manor (United Church of Christ),  
\$28,763  
Luther Holland Jr.
- Chicago – Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, \$27,450  
Jeffrey E. Doane
- Chicago – Living Water Community Church (Mennonite), \$20,350  
Sally A. Schreiner
- Downers Grove – First Presbyterian Church, \$29,160  
John D. Bianchin
- Libertyville – St. Lawrence Episcopal Church, \$30,000  
Jedediah D. Holdorph II
- Valmeyer – St. John United Church of Christ, \$27,323  
David F. Riebeling

## **Kansas**

- Olathe – St. Andrew Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$30,000  
Holly C. McKissick
- Tonganoxie – West Haven Baptist Church, \$18,411  
Rick Lamb
- Topeka – Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, \$30,000  
David E. Grimm
- Wichita – Plymouth Congregational Church, \$22,900  
William M. Chittum

### **Kentucky**

Paducah – Lone Oak United Methodist Church, \$27,760  
Rick C. Dye

### **Maine**

Casco – Casco Alliance Church (Christian and Missionary Alliance), \$29,000  
Lee K. Nanfelt

### **Maryland**

Baltimore – Unity United Methodist Church, \$26,468  
Norman A. Handy Sr.  
Hyattsville – Woodridge Mennonite Church, \$28,598  
Melvin D. Schmidt

### **Massachusetts**

Jamaica Plain – First Congregational Society in Jamacia Plain Unitarian, \$28,731  
Terry M. Burke  
Newton – Our Lady Help of Christians Church (Roman Catholic), \$26,882  
Walter H. Cuenin  
Northampton – First Churches of Northampton (United Church of Christ),  
\$30,000  
Peter B. Ives  
South Boston – Fourth Presbyterian Church, \$27,200  
Burns F.D. Stanfield  
Winchester – Winchester Unitarian Society, \$22,750  
Arline C. Sutherland

### **Michigan**

Ann Arbor – Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, \$24,190  
Paul W. Brink  
Grand Rapids – First United Methodist Church, \$28,915  
Laurie A. Haller  
Iron Mountain – First Evangelical Lutheran Church, \$23,681  
Peter M. Jonas  
Iron Mountain – Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, \$21,300  
Stephen P. Cowen  
Muskegon Heights – Covenant Community Church (Reformed Church of  
America), \$28,840  
Mark and Miriam Bush

### **Minnesota**

- Duluth – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, \$12,800  
John W. Sippola II
- Little Falls – First English Lutheran Church, \$15,776  
David L. Steffenson
- Minneapolis – Minneapolis Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, \$30,000  
Patricia E. Jones
- Sacred Heart – Our Savior’s-Opdal Lutheran Church, \$26,786  
John D. Hopper

### **Missouri**

- Kansas City – Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$26,289  
Robert L. Hill
- Kansas City – Hillside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$9,437  
Bruce D. Frogge
- Lee’s Summit – Longview Chapel Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$11,375  
Janet K. Keeler
- St. Louis – Glendale Presbyterian Church, \$12,072  
Nancy L. Rowland

### **Montana**

- Missoula – University Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), \$22,262  
Peter S. Shober

### **Nebraska**

- Lincoln – First Baptist Church, \$29,100  
Lee B. Spitzer
- Omaha – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$29,970  
Rene Rodgers Jensen

### **New Hampshire**

- Concord – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, \$18,650  
David P. Jones

### **New Jersey**

- Baptistown – Our Lady of Victories (Roman Catholic), \$16,561  
David I. Fulton
- Burlington – Presbyterian Church of Burlington, \$12,445  
Deborah G. Brincivalli
- Edison – Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, \$26,700  
Richard L. Oppelt

## **New Jersey, continued**

- Murray Hill – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, \$30,000  
Alan C. French
- New Brunswick – Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, \$27,175  
Jeffrey C. Eaton
- Park Ridge – Pascack Reformed Church, \$21,900  
Paul G. Janssen
- Westfield – Presbyterian Church in Westfield, \$29,254  
William R. Forbes

## **New Mexico**

- Albuquerque – Iglesia Congregacional Unida (United Church of Christ), \$15,700  
Daniel R. Erdman

## **New York**

- Brentwood – Brentwood United Presbyterian Church, \$28,380  
Kennedy M. McGowan
- Bronx – Bronx Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, \$30,000  
Suzan D. Johnson Cook
- Brooklyn – St. John’s Church (Episcopal), \$18,274  
Clarence H. Powers
- Buffalo – Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal), \$30,000  
David O. Selzer
- Fayetteville – Trinity Episcopal Church, \$13,180  
William C. Redfield
- New York – Church of St. Luke in the Fields (Episcopal), \$30,000  
Roger A. Ferlo
- Poughkeepsie – First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), \$28,925  
Todd Hensley-Weir

## **North Carolina**

- Lincolnton – First Presbyterian Church of Lincolnton, \$24,490  
Mary O. McKey
- Morehead City – First Presbyterian Church, \$15,852  
Timothy J. Havlicek

## **Ohio**

- Cincinnati – Greenhills Community Church (Presbyterian), \$22,860  
Thom M. Shuman
- Columbus – Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church, \$19,300  
William A. Hartfelder Jr.



**Ohio, continued**

- Dayton – Stillwater United Methodist Church, \$23,925  
Duane A. Anders
- Dayton – Westminster Presbyterian Church, \$30,000  
George H. McConnel
- Hiram – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$29,983  
Robert D. Bowen
- Lancaster – Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, \$27,848  
John C. Davidson
- Niles – Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Roman Catholic), \$29,537  
Robert P. Reidy
- Xenia – Westminster Presbyterian Church, \$17,744  
Timothy S. Shapiro

**Oklahoma**

- Broken Arrow – St. Patrick’s Protestant Episcopal Church, \$16,782  
Shelby H. Scott

**Oregon**

- McMinnville – First Baptist Church, \$25,250  
Kent D. Harrop
- Salem – Calvary Baptist Church, \$29,840  
Gregg A. Sneller

**Pennsylvania**

- Erie – Glenwood United Methodist Church, \$15,807  
William L. Kemp
- Fleetwood – St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, \$28,285  
Barbara Kershner Daniel
- Solebury – Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, \$23,928  
David R. Anderson

**South Dakota**

- Brookings – Ascension Lutheran Church, \$9,786  
Paul N. Hanson

**Tennessee**

- Knoxville – Central Baptist Church of Bearden, \$23,650  
Larry W. Fields
- Powell – Powell Presbyterian Church, \$19,057  
C. David Garnett
- Sewanee – Otey Memorial Parish Church (Episcopal), \$25,089  
Thomas E. Macfie Jr.
- Tullahoma – Trinity Lutheran Church, \$25,480  
Garry A. Vogelpohl

## **Texas**

- Alvarado – First United Methodist Church, \$18,000  
Shelly A. Brooks
- Beaumont – St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, \$30,000  
W. Patrick Gahan III
- Brenham – Brenham Presbyterian Church, \$30,000  
William B. Munroe
- Dallas – Grace United Methodist Church, \$22,636  
Charles Cox
- Lubbock – St. John’s United Methodist Church, \$30,000  
Bobby J. McMillan
- Richardson – North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship (nondenominational),  
\$22,175  
Leslie W. Smith
- Stephenville – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$9,087  
Paul E. Ganther
- Whitesboro – First United Methodist Church, \$12,350  
Roy L. Spore

## **Virginia**

- Richmond – First Baptist Church of South Richmond, \$30,000  
Dwight C. Jones
- Williamsburg – Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, \$22,481  
Randolph W.B. Becker

## **Washington**

- Auburn – Family of Grace Lutheran Church, \$20,987  
Terrie R. Anderson
- Lynden – First Reformed Church, \$30,000  
Dirk Marc de Waard
- Tacoma – Immanuel Presbyterian Church, \$21,900  
Paul H. Galbreath
- Tacoma – Tacoma First Church of the Nazarene, \$23,364  
Kevin D. Newburg

## **West Virginia**

- Morgantown – St. Thomas a Becket Episcopal Church, \$10,370  
Dorothy L. Brown
- Salem – Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, \$21,700  
Dale D. Thorngate
- Shepherdstown – Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, \$29,340  
Randall W. Tremba
- Wheeling – St. Joseph Cathedral Parish (Roman Catholic), \$22,210  
Larry W. Dorsch

**Wisconsin**

Elm Grove – St. Mary’s Congregation (Roman Catholic), \$23,185  
Daniel J. Pakenham

Germantown – St. Boniface Parish (Roman Catholic), \$2,065  
Bernard S. Sippel

Shawano – Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. James, \$14,735  
Fred T. Zimmermann

Twin Lakes – Messiah Lutheran Church, \$8,257  
Lawrence H. Henning

Wauwatosa – St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, \$23,200  
Gary Lee Erickson