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Lilly Endowment announces that
National Clergy Renewal Program will continue

Applications due July 19 for popular program

In the two years of the National Clergy Renewal Program, nearly 250 congregations and pastors have joined hearts and hands to plan for sabbatical leaves for the pastors and stepped-up responsibilities for parishioners. The Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. announces that the program will continue for a third year. Approximately 100 congregations across the country will receive grants of up to \$30,000 in the National Clergy Renewal Program/2002.

Recipients in the second year of the program were announced last month: 129 pastors in 38 states are anticipating a time to step aside briefly from the myriad duties that they are expected to perform every day. (In 2000 the Endowment funded 118 renewal programs in 33 states.)

“We have been greatly touched by the affection these congregations have for their pastors,” said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. “They want to keep them at their churches, and they have enthusiastically supported plans for them to take time for reflection and renewal. Often the congregations and pastors plan ‘thematic’ renewals together, such as focusing on prayer or worship, and the activities of the pastor and the congregation complement each other.

(more)

National Clergy Renewal Program
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“Uniformly, the pastors appreciate the chance to get away for a period of time that allows them to travel, reconnect with family and friends, pursue hobbies, go on mission trips, write novels and hymns, conduct research on topics of special interest – whatever will give them a fresh look at their work and lives.

“The vitality of the clergy is extremely important in these troubled times, and it is important, we think, that this country has many bright, talented, enthusiastic, and compassionate ministers to carry on their vital and unceasing work,” Dykstra said. “We think that the National Clergy Renewal Program is one way to help pastors become refreshed and renewed for the days ahead.”

The program is open to all Christian congregations whose ordained pastors have a master of divinity degree. Each congregation may receive up to \$30,000, and each congregation may use up to \$10,000 of the \$30,000 for expenses it will incur to fulfill pastoral functions during the pastor’s absence. The program covers 49 states, excluding Indiana. (The Endowment conducts a separate, similar program annually for Indiana congregations.)

Applications for the National Clergy Renewal Program/2002 are now available. Send an e-mail to clergyrenewal@yahoo.com, call the Endowment at 317/916-7302, contact the program’s Web site at www.clergyrenewal.org, or write Lilly Endowment, 2801 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 88068, Indianapolis, Ind. 46208.

Applications must be postmarked by July 19, 2002, and the award announcement will be made by December 2002.