



**Note to reporters and editors: Please be sure to check the list to see if one or more congregations and pastors in your area have received this award. This release and the list are also available on our website, [lillyendowment.org](http://lillyendowment.org)**

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For Immediate Release  
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Lilly Endowment selects 132 recipients of national clergy renewal grants

“What will make your heart sing?” is the question Lilly Endowment Inc. asks pastors of congregations all across the country every year. And every year for the past eight years their congregations have responded with proposals including remarkable ideas and plans for the rejuvenation of their pastors.

The question is at the heart of the Endowment’s National Clergy Renewal Program, which seeks to “strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for the pastor to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection.”

This year 132 congregations in 37 states have been selected to participate in the program. They represent 18 denominations, along with one multidenominational and two nondenominational congregations. Their average worship numbers range from 33 at Wellspring Community Church in Des Moines, Iowa, to 5,500 at Holy Family Congregation in Fond du Lac, Wis. Nine congregations have church budgets of under \$100,000; 17 have budgets of more than \$1 million. With this “class” the Endowment has awarded since the program began 1,014 national grants in 48 states to Christian congregations whose pastors have earned a master of divinity degree. (The Endowment conducts a separate program for Indiana congregations.)

(more)

National Clergy Renewal Program 2007  
Add 1

Each congregation may apply for an award of up to \$45,000 and up to \$15,000 of that amount may be spent for congregational support during the absence of the pastor. The average grant amount for this year is \$39,965.

This year's class of pastors will travel to every continent but Antarctica. They will rest, pray, study, read, reconnect with family and friends, improve pastoral skills, go on short-term missions, paint, take music lessons, and enjoy wonders of the natural world.

"Many people do not realize that part of a pastor's calling, part of his or her 'job description,' is to be spiritually growing all the time. Periodically, that requires an extended time away from the daily press of one's usual responsibilities," says Craig Dykstra, Endowment senior vice president for religion. "These usual responsibilities are persistent and demanding. Pastors write and preach sermons, make hospital visits, administer the 'business' of their churches, preside at weddings and funerals, counsel parishioners, are active in denominational activities, and play important roles as community leaders. And they are expected to be available whenever they are needed. They usually are – often at both the best and worst times in people's lives.

"That's where this clergy renewal program steps in. It provides pastors the opportunity to work alongside their congregations to plan an intentional time away for rest and renewal that will fit their own unique interests and needs," he continues.

Rev. Perry Henry's chance to get away will come after almost three years of ministry in the midst of unbelievable upheaval in his New Orleans congregation, St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

As in many inner-city areas across the country, the expenses of maintaining the huge historic building once threatened to close the church. By the mid-1990s, however, attendance began to rise, and so as ministries expanded, hundreds of volunteers from throughout the metro area came to "St. Joe."

In 1999 the parish established a community development corporation to improve the neighborhood. By 2005 the CDC had built and sold its first home, was in the process of building three more and had grants to build six more.

(more)

## National Clergy Renewal Program 2007

### Add 2

Then Katrina hit, and the levees broke. The church sustained more than \$1 million in damages; many parishioners left and have not been able to return. Those who have returned continue to struggle to rebuild their lives. Much of Perry's time and energy has been spent trying to reconnect with parishioners. Making repairs to church property is underway. A collaboration of Catholic and other faith-based organizations has been organized to establish a multiservice recovery center.

Members of the congregation report that "we are now moving into a time of rebuilding the infrastructure of our parish life. This is a good moment to reflect on our history and heritage, future needs, hopes and concerns."

A renewal grant will help with that process. It will allow Henry to journey to Corinth, Ephesus, Thessalonica, Athens, Delphi, Istanbul and Troy, tracing the footsteps of St. Paul. Then in Dublin he will enroll in a renewal in ministry program at All Hallows College.

While Perry, the first African American priest at St. Joe's, is studying and reflecting on opportunities for collaboration with others in the New Orleans area, his congregation will be engaged in an effort to educate new parishioners on the Vincentian heritage and church history of St. Joe and invite them to begin forming a master plan.

The Rev. Rebecca L. Littlejohn serves the First Christian Church in Anniston, Ala., with about 30 in attendance each Sunday. "Authenticity, passion and creativity" will be her guiding words as she sets out on her renewal program with her husband, Todd. They will rent a small apartment in Florence, Italy. Todd is a scholar of religious art, and it has been a lifelong dream for both of them to drink in the sights, sounds, arts, and landscapes of Italy.

After they return, Littlejohn will pack up her art supplies, her Bible, her journal and laptop computer, and head for three weeks at the Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat near Fort Mitchell, Ala., for rest, creative work and spiritual direction. "Creativity," she says, "has been an important part of my approach to worship," and she wants to "focus on what it means to be created in the image of a Creator and how this is manifested in my life and ministry."

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National Clergy Renewal Program 2007  
Add 3

In the five-plus years she has been at this church, the congregation has reached a new point in their life together. Two years ago, when the concept of a sabbatical was first brought up, one person protested, “We’ve never had anyone take a sabbatical before!” Another quickly replied, “We’ve never had anyone here long enough to take a sabbatical before!”

Littlejohn sees the break as a chance most of all to rest. “It is time,” she claims, “to renew my spirit, my faith and my passion for ministry.”

Her congregation thinks that she has provided such good leadership that they are “in danger of becoming too dependent on her. We need to find confidence in our own strengths which we will be forced to do in her absence,” they write.

For the Rev. Alec C. Park at the Vernon (N.J.) United Methodist Church it’s been de ja vu all over again, only in reverse. Park came to this country with his Korean family when he was 8 years old, the youngest of four children. His father was a 40-year-old Methodist minister. As he grew up, he began to turn away from all things Korean. Even service as a youth pastor in a Korean congregation didn’t change his mind. But times change. He is now nearly 40 himself with an 8-year-old son of his own who has asked him, “Dad, can you teach us Korean?” “Go figure,” says Park.

Next summer will find him and his family headquartered in Seoul and taking weekend trips to his ancestral homes in remote parts of the country. His boys will attend an after-school academy a few days a week where they will interact with Korean children, be immersed in their environment, and learn the language and culture.

His congregation thinks this is the right time. “His pastorate has taken us in entirely new directions,” they report. “His tenure has been a period of intense learning and growth. The time is right for the whole congregation to learn and understand our call in fresh, new ways.”

(more)

National Clergy Renewal Program 2007  
Add 4

“Building the Beloved Community” is the theme of the renewal program of the Rev. Channing R. Smith and his congregation at the Transfiguration Episcopal Church in San Mateo, Calif. The minister’s sabbatical will focus on a four-week internship at Fair Oaks Community Center, one of seven “core service” agencies throughout San Mateo County that provide basic emergency and support services.

San Mateo, with a population of about 92,000 (about 20 percent Latino), is one of the larger suburbs on the San Francisco peninsula. To prepare for his internship at Fair Oaks, which is in a Latino neighborhood, Smith and his wife will head for the Cuauhnahuac Spanish Institute in Cuernavaca, Mexico, for language training, followed by 20 days at a retreat center and 10 days with the Mexican Benedictine sisters.

His congregation claims that both they and their minister are ready for this experience. “When he arrived (10 years ago), we were a parish still in many ways tied to the traditions of the founding families from the 1950s. Now as a thriving parish with many new families, we are seeking to apply our traditions and values to today’s issues,” they say.

All these renewal programs exhibit the basic thrust of the Endowment’s program: a chance for congregations and ministers to engage in mutual renewal that will have an important impact on their churches, their individual members and their communities.

“The wealth of imagination unleashed by this program is truly wonderful to see,” says the Endowment’s Dykstra. “We can think of no better reward for these hardworking men and women than to help them experience personal growth and renewal in ways that they themselves dream up and feel will feed them most deeply.”

The Endowment plans to continue the program for 2008, and an announcement is expected soon.

**Please see the attached list for recipients.**

A complete list of the 2007 clergy renewal recipients follows.

**National Clergy Renewal Program/2007**

**132 grants**

**Alabama**

Anniston – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$35,602  
Rebecca K. Littlejohn

Huntsville – First Baptist Church (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship [CBF] and Southern Baptist Convention [SBC]), \$45,000  
David W. Hull

**Arizona**

Tempe – Desert Palm United Church of Christ, \$33,030  
John F. Herman

**California**

Carlsbad – Christ Presbyterian Church of Rancho La Costa (Presbyterian Church USA [PCUSA]), \$44,528  
Douglas J. Kelly

Clayton – Clayton Community Church (Evangelical Presbyterian), \$40,750  
Shawn A. Robinson

El Dorado Hills – Lakehills Community Covenant Church (Evangelical Covenant), \$41,734  
Ronald F. Short

Lakeport – United Christian Parish (multidenominational), \$34,160  
Shannon Kimbell-Auth

Lincoln – Granite Springs Church (Christian Reformed Church), \$44,898  
Kevin J. Adams

Long Beach – St. Luke's Episcopal Church, \$14,240  
Gary Commins

Sacramento – Parkside Community Church (United Church of Christ [UCC]), \$43,090  
Susan C. Hamilton

San Mateo – Transfiguration Episcopal Church, \$18,807  
Channing R. Smith

## **California (continued)**

Santa Cruz – First Congregational Church (UCC), \$42,550  
David C. Grishaw-Jones

Visalia – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$44,921  
Richard P. Hansen

## **Colorado**

Centennial – Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA]), \$36,959  
Thomas A. Renquist

Denver – St. John’s Church in the Wilderness (Episcopal), \$45,000  
Peter D. Eaton

Franktown – Trinity Lutheran Church and School (Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod), \$40,933  
Terry D. Beltz

Littleton – Littleton United Methodist Church, \$42,352  
Richard J. Hendry

## **Connecticut**

Hartford – Immanuel Congregational Church (UCC), \$40,700  
Edward G. Horstmann

## **Florida**

Miami – Christ Congregational Church (UCC), \$44,790  
R. Steven Hudder

Sarasota – Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$44,645  
Stephen P. Winemiller

## **Georgia**

Atlanta – St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church, \$38,503  
William M. Thigpen III

Dalton – St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, \$41,504  
Charles D. Taylor

**Georgia (continued)**

Morrow – St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, \$44,715  
Barry Q. Griffin

**Idaho**

Pocatello – First Congregational United Church of Christ, \$27,980  
Janie S. Gabhardt

**Illinois**

Chicago – Morgan Park Church of God (Church of God Anderson), \$45,000  
Carl E. Flewellen

Highland Park – Highland Park Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,000  
David A. Perkins

Murphysboro – Christ Community Church (nondenominational), \$45,000  
Philip C. Nordstrom

Riverside – Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$37,076  
Roger E. Timm

**Iowa**

Des Moines – Wellspring Community Church (American Baptist Churches/USA  
[ABC, USA]), \$24,203  
Naomi Kirstein

Rock Valley – Carmel Reformed Church (Reformed Church of America [RCA]),  
\$41,475  
Mark K. Heijerman

**Kansas**

Lawrence – Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC), \$25,860  
Peter A. Luckey

Prairie Village – Prairie Baptist Church (ABC, USA), \$42,740  
Heather S. Entekin



## **Kentucky**

Newport – St. John’s United Church of Christ, \$29,265  
Steven W. Hecky

Owensboro – Trinity Episcopal Church, \$39,216  
G. Patterson Connell

## **Louisiana**

New Orleans – St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, \$41,125  
Perry Henry

## **Maine**

Bar Harbor – St. Saviour’s Episcopal Parish, \$45,000  
Jonathan B. Appleyard

## **Maryland**

Baltimore – First and Franklin Street Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$39,200  
Alison Halsey

## **Massachusetts**

Framingham – Edwards Church (UCC), \$44,175  
Deborah L. Clark

Lenox – Church on the Hill (UCC), \$42,862  
Natalie C. Shiras

Westford – First Parish Church United (UCC), \$44,831  
Cynthia L. Worthington-Berry

## **Michigan**

Grand Rapids – Sherman Street Christian Reformed Church, \$41,095  
David Kromminga

Grand Rapids – Westview Christian Reformed Church, \$44,190  
Ronald G. Baker

## **Michigan (continued)**

Holland – Grace Church (Episcopal), \$35,697  
Jennifer L. Adams

Lansing – Immanuel Community Reformed Church (RCA), \$39,423  
Richard K. Heusinkveld

## **Minnesota**

Crookston – Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic), \$20,832  
Robert C. Schreiner

Duluth – Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$38,479  
David E. Tryggestad

Duluth – Pilgrim Congregational Church (UCC), \$44,047  
Charlotte L. Frantz

La Crescent – Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$42,600  
Michael J. Woods

Minneapolis – Church of Christ the Redeemer (ELCA), \$38,576  
Mary E. Albing

Minneapolis – Knox Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$44,641  
Peter D. Santina

Naytahwaush – St. Columba's Episcopal Church, \$44,617  
Lisa White Smith

Richfield – Church of St. Richard (Catholic), \$45,000  
Thomas W. Krenik

## **Mississippi**

Hattiesburg – Court Street United Methodist Church, \$44,045  
J. Bruce Case Jr.

## **Missouri**

Kansas City – Central Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$43,073  
Heidi A. Peterson

## **Montana**

Bozeman – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$44,228  
Dan P. Krebill

## **Nebraska**

Albion – Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$35,952  
Larry L. Sydow

## **Nevada**

Sparks – Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, \$45,000  
Terry L. McCray Hill

## **New Jersey**

Trenton – Church of Our Lady of the Angels (Catholic), \$45,000  
Jeffrey E. Lee

Vernon – Vernon United Methodist Church, \$44,411  
Alec C. Park

## **New Mexico**

Albuquerque – Albuquerque Mennonite Church, \$31,204  
Anita F. Amstutz

## **New York**

Brooklyn – St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, \$45,000  
Sylvester O. Taylor

Buffalo – Kenilworth United Church of Christ, \$34,295  
Sara D. Smith

Jamestown – Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity (ELCA), \$43,920  
Alison L. Leitzel

Rochester – St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church (American Baptist/Progressive  
National Baptist Convention), \$41,199  
James H. Evans Jr.

**New York (continued)**

Rochester – Trinity Episcopal Church, \$45,000  
Donald B. Hill

South Hempstead – Congregational Church (UCC), \$45,000  
Patrick G. Duggan

Wallkill – New Hurley Reformed Church (RCA), \$44,706  
Kenneth B. Kobza

Watertown – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,000  
Fred G. Garry

**North Carolina**

Asheville – Cathedral of All Souls (Episcopal), \$38,159  
Todd M. Donatelli

Boone – Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$43,654  
Timothy M. Smith

Burlington – First Reformed United Church of Christ, \$44,000  
Phillip R. Myers

Cary – Cary Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$40,984  
Katherine L. Kussmaul

Fayetteville – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, \$44,452  
Raymond F. Brown

Huntersville – New Beginnings Moravian Church (Moravian Church in America),  
\$37,509  
Christopher C. Thore

New Bern – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,000  
William L. Hawkins

Winterville – Peace Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$44,994  
Paul H. Lang

## **Ohio**

Beloit – Bethel United Church of Christ, \$34,115  
Jeffrey G. Davis

Columbus – St. Philip Episcopal Church, \$45,000  
Jerome Burns

## **Oklahoma**

Oklahoma City – Western Oaks Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$35,750  
John I. Regan

Ponca City – Woodlands Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$41,884  
Paul M. Krueger

Tulsa – Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$37,260  
David A. Frerichs

## **Oregon**

Condon – United Church of Christ, \$40,413  
Laurel L. Allen

Estacada – Springwater Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$36,863  
Eileen K. Parfrey

Eugene – Church of St. Mary (Catholic), \$18,326  
Mark V. Bachmeier

Eugene – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$44,708  
Daniel E.H. Bryant

Lake Oswego – Lake Oswego United Methodist Church, \$44,970  
Steven J. Sprecher

McMinnville – McMinnville United Methodist Church, \$24,975  
Stephan W. Ross

Mill City – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$44,450  
Bruce M. Sexton

Milwaukie – Oak Hills Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$42,538  
Gregory J. Lund

## **Oregon (continued)**

St. Helens – Plymouth Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$26,460  
Marilyn K. Allen

Yamhill – St. John Catholic Church, \$29,164  
David Janes

## **Pennsylvania**

Beaver – Park Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$38,150  
William A. Teague

Boalsburg – Calvary Baptist Church (Baptist General Conference [BGC]), \$44,955  
Daniel R. Nold

Butler – Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$44,070  
Thomas M. Pierotti

Fairview – Fairview Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$39,575  
Charles Cammarata Jr.

Glenshaw – Glenshaw Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,000  
Michael J. Hoyt

Grantham – Grantham Brethren in Christ Church, \$44,979  
Terry L. Brensinger

Greensburg – First United Methodist Church, \$44,032  
Duane L. Morford

Malvern – St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church, \$40,350  
Glenda Ruppe-Melnyk

Philadelphia – Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church, \$42,544  
Linda Noonan

Philadelphia – Circle of Hope (Brethren in Christ Church), \$44,468  
Rodney L. White

State College – University Mennonite Church, \$43,553  
David B. Miller

## **South Dakota**

Freeman – Salem Mennonite Church, \$42,075  
S. Roy Kaufman

## **Tennessee**

Memphis – Church of the Holy Communion (Episcopal), \$37,200  
Thomas A. Momberg

## **Texas**

Austin – Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$43,674  
Laurance W. Coulter

Austin – St. John's United Methodist Church, \$42,498  
Bobbi K. Jones

Austin – University Baptist Church (ABC, USA), \$45,000  
Larry L. Bethune

Austin – University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$34,050  
Mary Lu Johnston

Fort Worth – Birchman Baptist Church (SBC), \$41,270  
Robert A. Pearle

Tomball – Christ Bridge Fellowship (nondenominational), \$38,820  
Rick A. Brown

## **Vermont**

Barre – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$44,659  
Carl Hilton VanOsdall

Montpelier – Bethany Church (UCC), \$45,000  
Amy and Mark Pitton

## **Virginia**

Alexandria – Bethlehem Baptist Church, \$45,000  
Darrell K. White

## **Virginia (continued)**

Alexandria – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, \$44,325  
Oran E. Warder

Great Falls – St. Francis Episcopal Church, \$21,770  
Penelope M. Bridges

Greenwood – Emmanuel Episcopal Church, \$45,000  
Charles F. Mullaly Jr.

Norge – Olive Branch Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$43,685  
Ronald H. Riffle

Richmond – Northminster Baptist Church (Alliance of Baptists and CBF), \$44,590  
Samuel F. Williams Jr.

Roanoke – Calvary Baptist Church (SBC and ABC, USA), \$44,270  
Donna H. Britt

## **Washington**

Auburn – Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$28,220  
Gregory S. Kaurin

Puyallup – Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$43,026  
Gary E. Mathiesen

Seattle – Evangelical Lutheran Bethany Church (ELCA), \$30,425  
Dennis A. Anderson

Spokane – Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$40,872  
D. Robert Eyman

## **Wisconsin**

Fond du Lac – Holy Family Congregation (Catholic), \$31,632  
Patrick E. Heppe

Fond du Lac – Pilgrim United Church of Christ, \$39,773  
Edmond T. Drewsen III



**Wisconsin (continued)**

Mauston – Bible Baptist Church (BGC), \$44,184  
Peter L. Bergeson

Menomonee Falls – Good Shepherd Congregation (Catholic), \$45,000  
Kenneth A. Mich

Milwaukee – English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Incarnation (ELCA), \$40,826  
Dennis A. Jacobsen

Nelson – Lyster Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$21,519  
Michael R. Vetsch

Nelsonville – Nelsonville Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$36,488  
Gretchen E. Anderson

Sheboygan – First Congregational Church (UCC), \$44,895  
James and Julia Hollister

Verona – St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, \$43,710  
Kurt M. Billings