



Note to reporters and editors: Please be sure to check the attached 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 Web site, lillyendowment.org.

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For Immediate Release
December 6, 2010

11th class of clergy renewal recipients selected to participate in Lilly Endowment program

From Maine to Oregon, Idaho to Florida, 149 congregations will send their pastors forth for an extended time of sabbath renewal and reflection as part of the National Clergy Renewal Program, funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. The program allows pastors to step back from their busy lives and gain the fresh perspective and renewed energy that a carefully considered season of travel, study, rest and prayer can provide.

Many of the pastors will venture far from their home grounds to visit the Holy Land or other places of familial or religious significance, to join colleagues who are engaged in ministries and missionary work elsewhere in the world, to hone their skills in music, writing and the arts, or to engage in theological study and spiritual retreats.

Two pastors will literally go to the ends of the earth. One will make a photo voyage to the Arctic wilderness; another will follow the route taken by legendary polar explorer Ernest Shackleton from England to South Georgia, Antarctica, in 1914.

The pastors are members of the 11th class in the National Clergy Renewal Program, and they bring to 1,440 the number of congregations that have participated since the program began in 2000. Through this program, the Endowment invites Christian congregations to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to support an extended period of intentional reflection and renewal for their ministers. The ministers, working with their congregations, design their renewal periods to suit their own needs and aspirations. The pastors are encouraged to include their families in the renewal activities.

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Further, up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used for the congregation to pay for interim pastoral leadership while the pastor is away, as well as for renewal activities within the congregations.

“The intensity and demanding character of pastoral work in most congregations is difficult for many to appreciate,” says Craig Dykstra, senior vice president for religion at the Endowment. “They write and preach sermons, make hospital visits, administer the ‘business’ of their churches, preside at weddings and funerals, and counsel parishioners. And they are expected to ‘be there,’ to be available at both the best and the worst times in people’s lives.

“The National Clergy Renewal Program gives pastors the gift of being able to live for a while at a different pace and in an alternative environment – to live in Sabbath time and space, and to honor that moment as God-given,” Dykstra says. “Many clergy renewal participants have reported to the Endowment that when they returned they found their vision for ministry enlarged and their call and commitment renewed.

“We find that these programs can be transformative for the congregations, too,” Dykstra continues. “Not only do members of these congregations grow in their leadership abilities in the pastor’s absence; they also learn how to create an environment at their churches that supports their pastor’s continued service at a pace that he or she can sustain. Many of them discover ways to renew and refresh their own lives and spirits as well.”

This year’s group includes congregations located in 40 states and the District of Columbia; they are affiliated with 11 different denominational bodies. Nearly half the grantees see between 100 and 400 at worship on Sundays; eight report worship attendance of 1,000 or more. The oldest church – First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown, Pa. – traces its heritage back to 1675 when the first meeting house was built. The newest congregation – Living Water Christian Church in Parkville, Mo. – first “congregated” on Easter Sunday 2004.

What these pastors choose to do with their three- or four-month “gift of time” varies widely. Next summer more than 20 pastors will embark on journeys to biblical sites to participate in archaeological digs, go on pilgrimages to Jordan and Egypt, or trace the footsteps of St. Paul in Greece and Turkey. Twenty-nine more pastors will head for Africa to visit churches, teach in seminaries, work with orphan children – or with orphaned lion cubs.

Storytelling and story collecting are also important themes for renewal programs. This year one pastor will attempt a family reconciliation and then write about it. A Mississippi pastor,

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whose parish was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, hopes his workshops on the Sabbath and journal work will equip his parishioners to tell their Katrina stories. A pastor of Filipino descent will write an ethnic heritage reflection handbook for his congregation, and an Ohio pastor will follow the path of African slaves from sites of bondage to routes of freedom.

Many pastors love music and the arts, and the renewal program gives them the leeway to indulge this passion. One will receive professional instruction in blues guitar so he can write songs based on the psalms of lament in the Bible. Another, once a prolific composer of sacred music, will have an uninterrupted period of time to compose again. One pastor will sing at the Berkshire Chorale Festival. Another will visit sites associated with his “three B’s” – Bach, Beethoven and the Beatles.

Other pastors will take art classes, view the masterpieces of Europe, or attend writers’ conferences and retreats. Another pastor will visit Russia to explore the craft of iconography.

Many pastors find the renewal time an excellent time to get fit – and learn how to stay that way. One will train for a marathon while others will hike the Appalachian Trail or trails in various national parks. One will walk the 500-mile el Camino de Santiago (“the way of St. James”), an ancient pilgrimage route in Spain. Several want to learn to grow, prepare and cook healthy foods.

Typically, many pastors will make spiritual retreats in places of renowned hospitality for meditation and contemplation. This year’s pastors will travel to Iona, Taize, the labyrinth at Chartres and other contemplative retreat centers in the United States, Europe and South Africa.

All these renewal programs exhibit the basic thrust of the Endowment’s program: a chance for congregations and ministers to engage in renewal of a kind that will have 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 way to honor these hardworking, faithful men and women than to help them experience personal growth and renewal in ways that they themselves believe will feed them most deeply.”

The Endowment will continue the program in 2011. Application materials are available at www.clergyrenewal.org.

Please see the attached list of recipients.

National Clergy Renewal Program/2010

149 grants

Alabama

Ozark – First United Methodist Church, \$43,975
Christian E. Eckert

Arizona

Mesa –First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$50,000
William H. Jacobs

Peoria – Life in Christ Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod), \$44,254
George A. Spicer

Colorado

Berthoud – First United Methodist Church, \$25,655
Stephanie C. Munoz

Centennial – Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, \$49,698
Craig MacColl

Evergreen – Church of the Hills (Presbyterian Church of the USA [PCUSA]), \$49,353
D’Ann Cooper

Pueblo – Pueblo Mennonite Church, \$45,018
David A. Foncannon

Connecticut

Hartford – Emanuel Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA]), \$50,000
John A.F. Corgan

District of Columbia

Washington – Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$48,575
Andrew I. Walton

Washington – East Washington Heights Baptist Church (American Baptist Churches [ABC]/Progressive National Baptist (PNB), \$28,575
Kip B. Banks Sr.

Washington – St. Paul’s K Street Church (Episcopal), \$50,000
Andrew L. Sloane

Florida

Port St. Lucie – St. Lucie Catholic Church, \$48,600
Mark A. Szanyi

Sarasota – Presbyterian Church of the Covenant (PCUSA), \$49,403
Michael R. Mansperger

Spring Hill – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, \$49,560
Shanda M. Mahurin

Georgia

Atlanta – All Saints’ Episcopal Church, \$30,149
Noelle York-Simmons

Martinez – Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal), \$28,581
Cynthia N. Taylor

Idaho

Lewiston – Episcopal Church of the Nativity, \$42,848
Gretchen M. Rehberg

Illinois

Champaign – Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$30,215
Laura Aull Johnston

Chicago – Bethel-Imani Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$40,305
Raymond Legania

Chicago – Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$47,925
Thomas N. Terrell

Chicago – Edgewater Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,255
Barbara H. Cathey

Chicago – God Can Ministries (United Church of Christ [UCC]), \$46,431
Sharon Ellis Davis

Crystal Lake – St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, \$49,725
Gregory P. Lucas

Galesburg – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$46,149
Gregory S. and Martha-Jean Fitch

Ingleside – St. Bede Catholic Church, \$48,450
Timothy J. Fairman

Maywood – St. Eulalia Parish (Catholic), \$44,545
Jose del Carmen Mendez

Moline – First Congregational Church (UCC), \$40,953
M. Allen Mothershed

West Chicago – St. Mary’s Church (Catholic), \$39,590
John E. Balluff

Woodstock – St. Ann’s Church (Episcopal), \$49,992
Patricia A. Conley

Iowa

Cherokee – St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, \$45,064
Magrey R. deVega

Kentucky

Lexington – First Alliance Church (Christian and Missionary Alliance), \$33,751
Stephen V. Elliott

Maine

Bar Harbor – First Baptist Church (ABC), \$41,595
Scott T. Records

Kennebunkport – The Church on the Cape (United Methodist), \$49,887
Ruth D. Merriam

Portland – State Street Church (UCC), \$49,962
Jeanette A. Good

Raymond – Raymond Village Community Church (UCC), \$49,206
Nance A. Foran

Maryland

Annapolis – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$39,170
William L. Hathaway

Catonsville – Catonsville Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$37,290
Dorothy L. Boulton

Monkton – St. James Episcopal Church, \$40,878
Loree A. Penner

Silver Spring – Inter-Faith Chapel (nondenominational), \$45,828
Ramonía L. Lee

Massachusetts

Chatham – St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, \$49,886
Brian W. McGurk

East Freetown – St. John Neumann Church (Catholic), \$36,920
Richard E. Degagne

Lunenburg – United Parish Assembly (UCC), \$50,000
Andrew C. Burr

Michigan

Grand Haven – First Christian Reformed Church (Christian Reformed Church of North America [CRCNA]), \$41,983
Richard J. Hamstra

Grand Rapids – Grace Church (CRCNA), \$40,710
Jack Kooreman

Grand Rapids – Immanuel Reformed Church (Reformed Church in America [RCA]), \$43,710
Brian N. Smilde

Grand Rapids – Neland Avenue Church (CRCNA), \$49,940
Ruth A. Boven

Hastings – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$50,000
C. Jeffrey Garrison

Holland – Calvary Church (CRCNA), \$41,000
Franklin T. Wevers

Jenison – Cottonwood Church (CRCNA), \$45,156
Matthew A. Palsrok

Kalamazoo – Kalamazoo Chinese Christian Church (nondenominational), \$49,375
Keh-chiang Wang

Rochester Hills – University Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,579
George W. Portice

St. Joseph – Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, \$41,900
Melanie J. Lawrence

Traverse City – Presbyterian Church of Traverse City (PCUSA), \$44,239
Rebecca A. Chamberlain

Zeeland – Faith Church (RCA), \$49,708
Jonathan C. Elgersma

Minnesota

Brooklyn Park – Our Savior's Church (RCA), \$32,173
Lori L. Walber

Burnsville – St. James Church (ELCA), \$33,442
William R. Nordmark

Hector – First Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$35,200
Keith T. Pearson

Minneapolis – Central Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$44,230
Richard A. Nelson

Minneapolis – University Baptist Church (ABC), \$43,846
Douglas M. Donley

Rockford – Riverwood Covenant Church (Evangelical Covenant), \$44,950
Keith G. Robinson

St. Louis Park – Westwood Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,980
Tania K. Haber

St. Paul – St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$39,213
Glenn E. Berg-Moberg

Spring Grove – Faith Lutheran Church of Black Hammer (ELCA), \$31,213
Leonard E. Liptack

Sunfish Lake – St. Anne's Church (Episcopal), \$49,746
Lydia H. Brown

Mississippi

Long Beach – St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, \$48,913
J. David Knight

Missouri

Cape Girardeau – Christ Episcopal Church, \$25,214
Robert A. Towner

Clayton – Webster Groves Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$23,477
Blythe Denham Kieffer

Kansas City – Broadway Baptist Church (independent), \$48,025
Marcia C. Fleischman

Maplewood – Crossroads Presbyterian Fellowship (Presbyterian Church in America [PCA]), \$49,970
Andrew Vander Maas

Parkville – Living Water Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$32,110
Laura Guy

St. Charles – Trinity Episcopal Church, \$32,950
Tamsen E. Whistler

St. Louis – Hope United Church of Christ, \$50,000
Sarah F. McCann

Springfield – St. John's Chapel United Church of Christ, \$47,456
Becky A. Hébert

Montana

Missoula – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$50,000
Brian L. Marsh

Nebraska

Lincoln – First Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$40,956
Brian D. Maas

New Hampshire

Londonderry – St. Peter's Church (Episcopal), \$37,905
Sarah Rockwell

New Jersey

Mount Tabor – United Methodist Church, \$50,000
Jennifer Y. Cho

Oakland – Ponds Reformed Church (RCA), \$48,088
Nathan S. Busker

Paterson – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, \$48,980
David B. Wolf

Princeton – Nassau Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$43,353
Lauren J. McFeaters

New Mexico

Taos – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,030
Wayne A. Mell

New York

Brooklyn – Concord Baptist Church (ABC/PNB), \$49,700
Gary V. Simpson

Buffalo – University Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,990
Tracy St. Daub

Clifton Park – Christ Community Reformed Church (RCA), \$42,671
Johan G. Bosman

Kingston – St. John's Episcopal Church, \$39,535
Duncan A. Burns

New York - Judson Memorial Church (UCC/ABC), \$45,894
Donna Schaper

Smithtown – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,435
James W. Hulsey

North Carolina

Asheville – St. Mark's Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$42,151
Christopher D. Webb

Charlotte – Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, \$49,318
Nancy Ellett Allison

Charlotte – Hope Community Church (PCA), \$46,944
G. Matthew Guzi

Charlotte – South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$38,560
Matthew S. Brown

Hampstead – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, \$45,137
Pamela Stringer

Kinston – Grace Fellowship Church (nondenominational), \$45,250
Jason T. McKnight

New Bern – Christ Church (Episcopal), \$48,250
Peter B. Stube

Washington – First Baptist Church (SBC), \$48,465
James A. Moore Jr.

North Dakota

Wilton – Sunne Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$32,500
Paul A. Schauer

Ohio

Cincinnati – Northminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$33,300
Nancy Ross-Zimmerman

Columbus – Trinity United Church of Christ, \$45,062
Norman A. Moxley

Gambier – Harcourt Parish (Episcopal), \$50,000
Helen Svoboda-Barber

Huntsburg – Congregational Church (Conservative Congregational Christian Conference), \$24,397
Robert L. Barber Jr.

New Albany – All Saints Episcopal Church, \$14,212
Richard McCracken-Bennett

Olmsted Falls – St. Innocent Orthodox Church, \$38,698
Michael E. Butler

Ravenna – First Church of the Nazarene, \$49,854
Tracy Ogden Johnson

Springfield – First Baptist Church (ABC), \$49,945
Kenneth C. Whitt

Sylvania – Olivet Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$35,311
Christine A. Timm

Tallmadge – First Church of God (Church of God, Anderson, Ind.), \$40,957
William C. Wimmer

Troy – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,977
Richard B. Culp

Oklahoma

Edmond – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$48,067
Chris A. Shorow

Oregon

Eugene – United Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$39,655
Thomas H. Dodd

Milwaukie – Clackamas United Church of Christ, \$41,616
Denise L. Anderson

Pendleton – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$48,635
W. Marc Mullins

Portland – St. Mark Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$24,044
Barbara J. Campbell

Pennsylvania

Boothwyn – Trinity Episcopal Church, \$48,570
Domenic Ndai

Frazer – Frazer Mennonite Church, \$50,000
Brenda Martin Hurst

New Kensington – Mount St. Peter Church (Catholic), \$44,170
Michael J. Begolly

Philadelphia – Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion (ELCA), \$47,953
Karen L. Hart

Philadelphia – Liberti Church East (PCA), \$29,853
Steven J. Huber

Swarthmore – Swarthmore United Methodist Church, \$32,384
Russell J. Atkinson

Telford – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$48,674
David B. Christensen

Whitehall – St. John’s United Church of Christ, Fullerton, \$47,308
Becky J. Beckwith

Williamsport – Christ Episcopal Church, \$50,000
Thomas P. Reeder

Rhode Island

Lincoln – Christ Church in Lonsdale (Episcopal), \$39,821
Scott A. Gunn

South Carolina

Clinton – First Baptist Church (Southern Baptist Convention [SBC]), \$49,772
H. Blake Harwell

Greenville – First Baptist Church (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship [CBF] of South Carolina and Alliance of Baptists), \$48,044
B. Michelle McClendon

North Augusta – Fairview Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$47,919
Robert F. Fuller Jr.

South Dakota

Mitchell – First Reformed Church (RCA), \$42,445
Dean Ulmer

Sioux Falls – The Crossing (RCA), \$27,600
Seth E. Sundstrom

Sioux Falls – First Congregational Church (UCC), \$41,808
Kathryn J. Timpany

Tennessee

Memphis – Idlewild Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,993
Margaret B. Burnett

Texas

Canyon – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$49,916
Deborah L. Huffman

Dripping Springs – Sunset Canyon Baptist Church (CBF and SBC), \$47,833
Lonny D. Poe

Frisco – St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, \$38,833
Clay A. Lein

Fort Worth – Genesis United Methodist Church, \$47,479
James D. Conner

Houston – South Main Baptist Church (CBF), \$49,994
Stephen C. Wells

Vermont

Randolph – Bethany Church (UCC), \$22,617
Kathy Wonson Eddy

Virginia

Annandale – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$46,990
Chris Looker

Arlington – Trinity Episcopal Church, \$50,000
Kim L. Coleman

Pulaski – Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$24,965
Terrie L. Sternberg

Winchester – St. Paul’s on-the-Hill Episcopal Church, \$28,462
Hilary B. Smith

Washington

Montesano – Montesano Church of God (Church of God, Anderson, Ind.), \$49,580
Marc A. Rice

Sammamish – Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,841
John A. LaMunyon

Seattle – University Congregational United Church of Christ, \$36,830
Catherine J. Foote

Vancouver – St. Andrew Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,627
Martha H. Maier

West Virginia

Martinsburg – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$43,000
Rufus T. Burton

Wisconsin

Hartland – Oakwood Church (Evangelical Free Church of America [EFCA]) \$32,995
Roger D. Ellis

Milwaukee – Christ Church (UCC), \$39,015
A. Dale Stohre

Verona – Blackhawk Church (EFCA) \$45,599
Christopher W. Dolson

Waukegan – Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,700
Karen L. Locken

Wyoming

Casper – St. Anthony Catholic Church, \$49,860
Kevin A. Koch