



Note to media: Please check the list of recipients in the body of this release to see if a congregation(s) in your community is among award recipients. This release and a full list of recipients is available at www.cpx.cts.edu/renewal and www.lillyendowment.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Christian Theological Seminary Announces 87 Congregations Awarded Lilly Endowment 2013 National Clergy Renewal Program Grants

Christian Theological Seminary, in its role of administering the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program, has awarded grants to 87 congregations located in 31 states and the District of Columbia. The 2013 program allows congregations to support their pastors with the gift of extended time away from their ministerial duties and responsibilities. Pastors use their respite from congregational leadership for reflection and renewal, which often includes travel, scholarly research, and immersive experiences with different cultures and traditions.

Congregations awarded the National Clergy Renewal Program grants nominated their pastors to receive this honor. Pastors in the 2013 program represent a diverse group that includes Protestant, Catholic, nondenominational and multid denominational congregations. Each recipient, in consultation with the congregation, determines how he or she will use the grant to replenish, restore and renew their ministry. Travel to varied destinations and journeys into nature are popular activities for grant recipients: one grant recipient will travel to the ancient holy locations of Nestorian Christians and Buddhist ascetics, another will travel to America's national parks integrating imagery from biblical Psalms through painting and photography, and several recipients will participate in the ancient Christian tradition of walking as pilgrims in various countries.

In addition to travel as a form of renewal, some pastors will use their time away from congregational leadership to explore music and the arts or enjoy extended periods of tranquil solitude and reflection. One 2013 program grant recipient will send its pastor to serve as a lighthouse keeper near Seattle, Washington, while taking an intensive course in piano performance. Another pastor will explore author Ernest Hemingway's Paris as a backdrop for a creative writing experience.

Since Lilly Endowment introduced the National Clergy Renewal Program grants in 2000, more than 1,800 congregations across the nation have participated in the program. Congregations in the 2013

program received grants totaling nearly \$4 million. The grants recognize the tremendous amount of energy, time and leadership that pastors invest in their congregations.

“Lilly Endowment intends for this program to enable pastors to live for a while at a different pace and in a new environment, in Sabbath time and space,” said Dr. Christopher L. Coble, vice president for religion at the Endowment. “We can think of no better way to honor these hardworking, faithful men and women than to help them experience personal growth and spiritual renewal in ways that they themselves design and find meaningful. We regularly hear that these renewal experiences are transformative for pastors, their families and their congregations.”

Christian congregations were invited to apply for program grants of up to \$50,000. The application process was participatory in nature, involving congregations and their pastors in the design and development of the renewal experience. Up to \$15,000 of the grant could be allocated to fund interim pastoral leadership, as well as renewal activities within the congregation. Pastors were encouraged to include their families in the renewal activities.

Rev. Dr. Robert Saler, research fellow and director of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs, part of the Center for Pastoral Excellence at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, noted that the National Clergy Renewal Program leverages the reciprocal dynamics of support, trust and encouragement reflective of healthy congregations. “The program is designed to respect the innate human need for times of service and replenishment. It provides a means for congregations to express appreciation for their leader’s service and respect for his or her health and energy for continued ministry,” said Saler.

Christian Theological Seminary’s Center for Pastoral Excellence was selected in 2012 to administer the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs. “At a time when society is experiencing unprecedented levels of change at ever increasing speeds, it is rewarding to offer programs that recognize the value of retreat and renewal,” said Saler. “We are honored and privileged to work with Lilly Endowment in its support of congregational leaders.”

Award Recipients:

Alabama

Birmingham – First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham
Pr. Jon Webster

Alaska

Juneau – Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Pr. Tari Stage-Harvey

Arizona

Chandler – Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pr. Leroy Rehrer

California

Auburn – Bayside Auburn Church
Pr. Gene Maynard

Santa Monica – Thad's Episcopal Church
Pr. James Bartz

Colorado

Denver – House for All Sinners and Saints
Pr. Nadia Bolz-Weber

Fort Collins – Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Pr. J. Peterson

Connecticut

West Hartford – Westminster Presbyterian Church
Pr. Gretchen Sausville

District of Columbia

Washington – Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church
Pr. Charles Parker

Washington – Washington Mosaic Church of the Nazarene
Pr. Rob Kazee

Delaware

Wilmington – Christ Church Christiana Hundred
Pr. Ruth Kirk

Florida

Cape Coral – Cape Christian Fellowship
Pr. Dennis Gingerich

Jacksonville – Riverside Presbyterian Church
Pr. William Goyer

Georgia

Atlanta – The Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church
Pr. Marthame Sanders

Atlanta – Park Avenue Baptist Church
Pr. Anthony Lankford

Atlanta – Trinity Presbyterian Church
Pr. Erin McGee

Hamilton – St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
Pr. Jeffrey Jackson

Marietta – Pilgrimage United Church of Christ
Pr. Kimberleigh Buchanan

Marietta – St. Catherine's Episcopal Church
Pr. Susan Johnson

Illinois

Bolingbrook – The Episcopal Church of St. Benedict
Pr. Heidi Haverkamp

Chicago – Ellis Avenue Church
Pr. Jonathan Friesen

Cicero – Our Lady of Charity Parish (OLC)
Pr. Mark Bartosic

O'Fallon – Saint Clare of Assisi Roman Catholic Church
Pr. James Deiters

Schaumburg – Salem Korean United Methodist Church
Pr. Theddeus Kim

Kansas

Manhattan – Faith Evangelical Free Church
Pr. Stephen Ratliff

Massachusetts

Boston – Covenant Congregational Church
Pr. Frederick Elliott-Hart

Harwich Port – Christ Church
Pr. Judith Davis

Marion – Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church
Pr. Geoffrey Piper

Newburyport – St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Pr. Martha Hubbard

Weston – St. Julia Parish
Pr. George Evans

Woods Hole – Church of the Messiah
Pr. Deborah Warner

Maryland

Columbia – The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
Pr. Sue Lowcock Harris

Silver Spring – Woodside and Marvin Memorial United Methodist Churches
Pr. Rachel Cornwell

Michigan

Albion – Holy Ascension of Christ Orthodox Church
Pr. Joshua Frigerio

Ann Arbor – Grace Ann Arbor Church
Pr. Sung Kim

Grand Rapids – Servant's Community Reformed Church
Pr. Jeffrey Philip and Pr. Jennifer Suzanne Petersen

Troy – Northminster Presbyterian Church
Pr. Charlotte Sommers

Minnesota

Alexandria – First Lutheran Church
Pr. Gregory Billberg

Milaca – Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Pr. Timothy Bauer

New Brighton – Salem Covenant Church
Pr. Mark Pattie

St. Anthony – Nativity Lutheran Church
Pr. Glenn Seefeldt

Wayzata – Wayzata Community Church
Pr. Allen Hilton

Missouri

Jefferson City – Grace Episcopal Church
Pr. Niranjani Molegoda

Montana

Great Falls – First Presbyterian Church
Pr. Stephen Hundley

Nebraska

Omaha – First United Methodist Church
Pr. Betsy Florence

New Hampshire

Dunbarton – The First Congregational Church
Pr. Cynthia Bagley

New Jersey

Princeton – Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church
Pr. Muriel Burrows

Somerset – First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
Pr. DeForest Soaries

New York

Amenia – St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Pr. Elizabeth Fisher

New York – The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
Pr. Scott Johnston

Rochester – Immanuel Baptist Church
Pr. Rachel McGuire

Webster – Webster Baptist Church
Pr. Michael Ware

Williamsville – North Presbyterian Church and Society
Pr. William Hennessy

North Carolina

Durham – Durham Presbyterian Church
Pr. Franklin Golden

Greensboro – Saint James Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Pr. Diane Givens-Moffett

Hickory – The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Pr. Karla Woggon

Pinehurst – Community Presbyterian Church
Pr. Roderick Stone

Ohio

Canton – Christ Presbyterian Church
Pr. David de Vries

Garrettsville – The Garrettsville United Methodist Church
Pr. Kristen Patt

Shaker Heights – Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights
Pr. Shawnthea Monroe

Oregon

Forest Grove – United Church of Christ (Congregational)
Pr. Jennifer Yocum

Newburg – North Valley Friends Church
Pr. Lynn Clouser Holt

Shedd – Oakville Presbyterian Church
Pr. John Carpenter

Pennsylvania

Lancaster – Habecker Mennonite Church
Pr. Karen Sensenig

Pittsburgh – Valley View Presbyterian Church
Pr. Chad Collins

Wexford – Perry Highway Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pr. Dennis Ferguson

South Carolina

Bluffton – Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Pr. Jon Heiliger

Greenville – St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Pr. Furman Buchanan

West Columbia – Holy Apostles Orthodox Church
Pr. George Moore

Tennessee

Brentwood – Forest Hills United Methodist Church
Pr. James Hughes

Milligan College – Hopwood Memorial Christian Church
Pr. Benjamin Lee

Texas

McKinney – Trinity Presbyterian Church
Pr. Mary Baum

Olton – Saint Peter the Apostle
Pr. John Smith

Waco – DaySpring Baptist Church
Pr. Eric Howell

Virginia

Arlington – St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Pr. Ann Martens

Charlottesville – Meadows Presbyterian Church
Pr. Thomas Goodrich

Richmond – Tabernacle Baptist Church
Pr. Sterling Severns

Washington

Sammamish – Sammamish Presbyterian Church
Pr. Jeffrey Linicome

Seattle – Bethany Presbyterian Church
Pr. Lynne Blessing

Seattle – Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church of West Seattle
Pr. Erik Kindem

Seattle – St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Pr. Melissa Skelton

Shoreline – Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pr. Pamela Ressel

Wisconsin

Etrick – North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church
Pr. Elizabeth Albertson

Hales Corners – Emanuel Church, Hales Corners
Pr. William Utke

Milwaukee – All Peoples Gathering Lutheran Church
Pr. Steven Jerbi

Milwaukee – St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Pr. Donna Brown

River Falls – First Congregational United Church of Christ
Pr. Christopher Myers

About Christian Theological Seminary

Located in Indianapolis, IN, Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) is a fully accredited ecumenical seminary, open to all, affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It offers eight graduate-level degree programs, including programs in theology, ministry, and counseling, with specializations in ministries that emphasize the arts and programs for lifelong learning. More than 30 denominations are represented among CTS faculty and students. Additional information about CTS is available at www.cts.edu.