



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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149 congregations selected for grants in Lilly Endowment's National Clergy Renewal Program

Over the course of next spring and summer, pastors from 149 Christian churches in cities from Philadelphia to Seattle will disappear from their pulpits. One by one they will fan out across the world to see sights they've only dreamed about, to learn new languages, take up a new hobby or relearn an old one, and use this time to reengage themselves in their calling. And they will do this with the support – the encouragement – of their congregations.

The pastors are members of the 10th class in the National Clergy Renewal Program funded by Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. Through this national 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 that ministers, working with their congregations, design to suit their own needs and aspirations for pastoral renewal. The pastors are welcome to include their families in the renewal activities. Further, up to \$15,000 of the grant can be used for the congregation to pay for worship and pastoral care support while the pastor is away, as well as for renewal activities within the congregation.

“The workload and lifestyle of most pastors are difficult for many to understand,” says Craig Dykstra, Endowment senior vice president for religion. “So many activities command a pastor’s time and attention – often urgent activities like leading worship, counseling, visiting the sick and grieving – that there is little time left for the pastor to attend to his or her own spiritual growth, reflection and family life.

(more)

2009 National Clergy Renewal Program
Add 1

“The National Clergy Renewal Program gives pastors the gift of being able to live in sabbath time, to honor that moment as God-given,” Dykstra says. “Many clergy renewal participants have reported to the Endowment that they found their vision for ministry enlarged when they returned and that their call and commitment were renewed.

“We find that these programs can be transformative for the congregations, too,” Dykstra continues. “Not only do they have the opportunity to grow in their leadership abilities in the pastor’s absence, but they also learn that they need to create an environment at their churches that supports their pastor’s continued service at a pace that he or she can sustain. Such a pace can serve as a model for members of the congregation.”

This year’s class of grantees brings to 1,290 the number of congregations that have received clergy renewal grants since 2000. This year’s group includes congregations in 36 states affiliated with 17 denominational bodies; two are nondenominational, two are multidenominational; and two are Independent Christian. Almost two-thirds of the congregations see between 100 and 300 at Sunday worship services. Twelve congregations have more than 1,000 at worship.

The oldest congregation, Green’s Farms Church in Westport, Conn., was founded in 1711 and is nearing its 300th anniversary. Seven other congregations in this year’s class also have 18th century origins. The newest, Sherwood (Ore.) Presbyterian Church, was founded in the 21st century, in 2004.

The class of pastors counts 40 women, four of them members of clergy couples.

For their renewal time, some pastors will focus on gathering and telling the stories that give their lives meaning and purpose – family stories, denominational stories, the sacred story. They will visit places related to their families of origin or their churches’ heritages by traveling, studying and taking time for reflection in biblical lands like Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Greece and Turkey.

Other pastors will return to longtime interests, revive old hobbies or learn new ones. Gardening seems to be especially popular this year. The musically inclined will study guitar, dulcimer and upright bass. One pastor will devote time to vocal training, songwriting, and trying out a variety of musical styles in anticipation of making a recording with a well-known Christian musician.

As in past years, Spanish-language immersions will be an important feature of many pastoral renewal periods, with pastors studying and being welcomed into homes in Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and Argentina. Ecuador and the Galapagos, Peru and the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu also are on the travel lists of several pastors.

(more)

2009 National Clergy Renewal Program
Add 2

At least 20 will “cross the pond” to visit places of special religious and spiritual significance in the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Germany. Six will be in Oberammergau, Germany, for the 2010 presentation of the Passion Play. Several will travel to Spain for the rigorous walking pilgrimage known as the Camino de Santiago de Compostela (the way of St. James). Thirteen pastors plan to study, tour or participate in an archaeological dig in Israel.

Two will go to sailing school; two others will undertake the ambitious Boundary Waters canoe trip in northeastern Minnesota. Most will tackle their physical fitness goals on dry land by biking, hiking, working with a personal trainer and learning good diet habits.

Within three or four months, all these pastors will return home to their congregations, many of which – in their pastor’s absence – will have developed creative renewal programs for themselves. They will be involved with various artistic endeavors, participating in planned programs of prayer and spiritual direction, or in workshops and seminars with visiting theologians. Both pastors and congregations will have much to tell each other, and much to look forward to.

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 way to honor 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 2010; an announcement is expected soon.

Please see the attached list of recipients.

A complete list of the 2009 clergy renewal recipients follows.

National Clergy Renewal Program/2009
149 grants

Alabama

Birmingham – Shades Crest Baptist Church (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship [CBF]), \$50,000
Dennis W. Foust

Montgomery – Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal), \$48,413
E. Drake Whitelaw

Arizona

Cave Creek – Genesis Church (Evangelical Covenant), \$49,521
Patrick J. Stark

Mesa – Desert Heritage Church (United Church of Christ [UCC] and Disciples of Christ), \$48,624
Paul A. Whitlock

Phoenix – St. Mary Roman Catholic Basilica, \$27,445
Vincent J. Mesi

Tempe – Desert Cross Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA]), \$37,980
Steven A. Holm

Colorado

Austin – All Saints Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$18,430
Janice J. Johnson

Colorado Springs – Springs First Church (Nazarene), \$47,637
Phillip E. Grate

Denver – Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Church of the USA [PCUSA]), \$38,095
I. Greg Cummins

Durango – First United Methodist Church, \$50,000
Jeffrey S. Huber

Englewood – Wellspring Church (Anglican Mission in America), \$49,844
William H. Waters

Greeley – Fellowship Church (Christian Reformed Church), \$47,633
Donald R. Orange

Littleton – Centennial Covenant Church (Evangelical Covenant), \$49,401
Stephen J. Thulson

Connecticut

Enfield – Calvary Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$40,008
Steven L. Thayer

West Hartford – First Church (UCC), \$31,450
Charles G. Campbell

Westport – Green’s Farms Church (UCC), \$49,714
Jeffrey P. Rider

Florida

Daytona Beach – Basilica of St. Paul (Catholic), \$42,398
Timothy P. Daly

Delray Beach – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, \$47,685
William H. Stokes

Miami Lakes – Miami Lakes Congregational Church (UCC), \$49,810
Jeffrey E. Frantz

New Smyrna Beach – Coronado Community United Methodist Church, \$49,955
Robert C. Brown

Orlando – St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church, \$41,761
David J. Scotchie

St. Petersburg Beach – Pass-A-Grille Community Church (UCC), \$21,350
Keith A. Haemmelmann

Venice – Venice Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$15,800
Christopher J. Romig

Georgia

Carrollton – St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church, \$50,000
Hazel S. Glover

Illinois

Aurora – New England Church (UCC), \$48,500
Gary L. McCann

Bloomington – St. Paul Evangelical United Church of Christ, \$47,907
Brandon D. Woosley

Chicago – Morgan Park United Methodist Church, \$38,900
Eun-Hye Choi

Flossmoor – Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church, \$49,982
Michael A. Nacius

Gurnee – Annunciation Episcopal Church, \$43,196
C. Clyde Elledge II

Kankakee – St. John United Church of Christ, \$47,350
Barbara A. Lohrbach

Moline – Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$29,994
Laura Ann Koppenhoefer

Northfield – Northfield Community Church (UCC), \$41,315
Duayne R. Meyer

Oak Forest – Hope Christian Reformed Church, \$44,245
Roger A. Nelson

Oak Lawn – Mount Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$47,812
Nancy Goede

Pawnee – Pawnee United Methodist Church, \$45,000
Troy D. Benitone

Stillman Valley – The Red Brick Church (independent), \$49,131
Christopher D. Brauns

Wheaton – First Baptist Church, \$46,480
Michael A. Rowe

Wheaton – St. Paul Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$37,428
Melody Beckman Eastman

Iowa

Marshalltown – Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$45,800
K. Gail Thiessen

Waterloo – Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$42,909
Patricia S. Jacobs

Kansas

Lawrence – Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$23,450
Gary W. Teske

McPherson – First Mennonite Church, \$31,090
Kathy N. Dunn

Topeka – West Side Baptist Church (American Baptist Churches), \$21,251
Arthur J. Campbell

Kentucky

Bowling Green – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$28,279
John P. Wesley

Georgetown – Faith Baptist Church (CBF), \$49,611
Robert M. Fox Jr.

Lexington – Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$49,400
Michael W. Mooty

Maryland

Annapolis – Bay Area Community Church (nondenominational), \$49,964
Casely B. Essamuah

Bethesda – St. Luke's Episcopal Church, \$40,911
Stephanie J. Nagley

Cabin John – Cabin John United Methodist Church, \$46,820
Ek Ching Hii

Chevy Chase – North Chevy Chase Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$26,215
Cheryl L. Tatham

Massachusetts

Baldwinville – Memorial Congregational Church (UCC), \$50,000
Robert C. Johansen

Beverly – Living Hope Church of the Nazarene, \$47,850
Kim L. Richardson

Groveland – St. James Episcopal Church, \$49,716
Marya L. DeCarlen

Pittsfield – St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, \$42,918
Hannah P. Anderson

Westford – St. Catherine of Alexandria Church (Catholic), \$33,750
David P. White

Michigan

Ann Arbor – Memorial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$50,000
Irvin W. Green

Jenison – Fairway Christian Reformed Church, \$43,170
David E. Den Haan

Kalamazoo – St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church, \$46,770
Mary E. Perrin

Kentwood – Unity Reformed Church (Reformed Church in America), \$41,942
Mark J. Bergsma

Lansing – Cristo Rey Church (Catholic), \$34,588
Frederick L. Thelen

Memphis – Memphis Free Methodist Church, \$40,830
Steven P. Tungate

Newaygo – St. Mark's Episcopal Church, \$30,721
Mary J. Frens

Portage – Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$32,035
Gerald W. and Janet Robertson Duggins

Shelby Township – St. Thomas Community Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$50,000
Jaime L. Klinger and James R. Porter

Minnesota

Lauderdale – Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$38,253
David Greenlund

Minneapolis – Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (ELCA), \$30,789
Kelly Chatman

Minneapolis – University Lutheran Church of Hope (ELCA), \$38,642
Craig M. Shirley

Roseville – North Como Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,253
David M. Maghakian

Rushford – St. Joseph Church (Catholic), \$50,000
Joseph P. Pete

Mississippi

Canton – Grace Episcopal Church, \$36,721
Calvin J. Meaders Jr.

Oxford – Oxford-University United Methodist Church, \$38,603
Warren C. Black

Starkville – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$47,028
Olin W. McBride

Missouri

Lee's Summit – New Summit Church (PCUSA), \$49,802
David C. Moore

Raytown – Raytown Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$33,689
Dawn D. and Joseph A. Weeks

St. Charles – St. John United Church of Christ, \$47,276
Richard S. Zuch

St. Louis – Trinity Episcopal Church, \$35,069
Anne H. Kelsey

Nebraska

Crete –First Congregational (UCC), \$26,455
Jeff Hagaman

New Hampshire

North Hampton – United Church of Christ, \$38,960
Michele L. Bagby Allan

New Jersey

Flanders – Crossroads Community Church (Christian Reformed), \$49,970
Paul M. Ingeneri

Long Branch – St. Luke's United Methodist Church, \$46,410
Sunny M. Shim

Moorestown – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,651
Richard H. Herman

Somerset – Praise Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,223
David S. Choi

Tenafly – Church of the Atonement (Episcopal), \$35,753
Lynne B. Weber

Tinton Falls – Grace Christian Church (nondenominational), \$41,370
Vincent H. Rife Jr.

Toms River – Christ Episcopal Church, \$50,000
Joan M. Pettit Anders

Warren – Trinity United Church (PCUSA and UCC), \$34,923
Elsie A. Rhodes

New Mexico

Albuquerque – St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church \$34,660
Brian C. Taylor

New York

Bayside –Holy Martyrs Church (Armenian Apostolic), \$30,350
Vahan S. Hovhannessian

LaGrangeville –Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$39,555
Paul D. Lent

Mayfield – Central Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$50,000
Bonnie M. Orth

Nesconset –Holy Cross Catholic Church, \$35,695
James M. McNamara

Poughkeepsie – St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$46,759
Daniel B. Ward

Rochester – Light of Christ Catholic Church, \$45,978
Michael A. Mayer

North Carolina

Albemarle – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$42,795
Elizabeth McNair Aysche

Cary – Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, \$48,775
F. Patrick Russell

Charlotte – Candlewyck Baptist Church (Southern Baptist Convention [SBC]), \$49,298
D. Allen Schuyler Sr.

Clinton – First Baptist Church (CBF/SBC), \$38,550
Ronald S. Cava

Hayesville –Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal), \$37,639
John D. S. Rice

Lexington – First Baptist Church (CBF), \$47,735
Ray N. Howell III

Mount Airy – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$44,450
Stephen B. Lindsley

Raleigh – Raleigh Moravian Church, \$48,685
Craig S. Troutman

Wake Forest – North Wake Baptist Church (SBC), \$49,505
Larry D. Trotter

North Dakota

West Fargo – Community Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$39,641
D. Matthew Stith

Ohio

Athens – Christ Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$34,127
Lynn Miller

Lancaster – Fairfield Christian Church (Christian Churches/Churches of Christ), \$39,975
Thomas L. Alexander

South Charleston – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$50,000
William B. Reisenweaver

Oklahoma

Muskogee – First Baptist Church (SBC), \$35,630
W. Lance Sawyer

Tulsa – St. Paul's United Methodist Church, \$31,576
Twila Gibbens-Rickman

Oregon

Beavercreek – Beavercreek United Church of Christ, \$27,684
C. Bunny Oliver

Bend – Nativity Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$34,230
David C. Nagler

Hubbard – Zion Mennonite Church, \$49,279
Todd A. Lehman

Lebanon – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$48,749
Peter J. Santucci

Portland – Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$32,370
Laurie M. Vischer

Sherwood – Sherwood Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$44,615
Leonard J. Tang

Pennsylvania

Bedford – Bedford Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$48,227
Douglas J. Friant

Cochranville – Manor Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Church in America), \$49,300
David E. Tate

Lancaster – James Street Church (Mennonite), \$50,000
Stanley R. Shantz

New Wilmington – New Wilmington Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$43,073
Lisa N. Hickman

Philadelphia – First Presbyterian Church in Germantown (PCUSA), \$49,770
Nancy E. Muth

Philadelphia – St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$50,000
Neil A. and Gwendolyn Johnson-Bond

Pittsburgh – First United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights (PCUSA), \$45,550
David B. Carver

Reading – Christ Episcopal Church, \$37,981
John R. Francis

State College – Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, \$47,492
John M. Reeves

Yardley – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, \$42,725
Daniell C. Hamby

South Carolina

Rock Hill – Epiphany Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$29,397
Jeffrey L. Lingle

South Dakota

Rapid City – Atonement Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$34,741
Jon Mapa

Sioux Falls – Heartland Community Church (Christian Reformed Church), \$46,680
James Hoogeveen

Tennessee

Nashville – Glendale Baptist Church (CBF), \$49,814
Amy L. Mears

Texas

Austin – St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, \$46,753
J. Merrill Wade

Cypress – Cypress Bible Church (independent), \$49,060
David F. Gibson

Fort Worth – Southcliff Baptist Church (SBC), \$31,200
Carroll D. Marr

Houston – Grace United Church of Christ, \$49,207
David M. Pantermuehl

Katy – Living Word Church (ELCA), \$41,190
R. Michael Aus Jr.

Utah

Salt Lake City – Holladay United Church of Christ, \$34,030
Erin B. Gilmore

Vermont

Chittenden – Church of the Wildwood (United Methodist Church), \$44,586
Shirley G. Oskamp

Vergennes – Congregational Church (UCC), \$35,797
Gary F. Lewis

Virginia

Alexandria – St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, \$41,325
John A. Weatherly

Norfolk – Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, \$47,784
Robert A. Davenport

Norfolk – Freemason Street Baptist Church (CBF), \$29,250
Stephen N. Jolly

Richmond – Third Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$30,885
Nelson E. Ould

Washington

Anacortes – Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$47,585
Stephanie D. Hankey

Cashmere – Cashmere Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,362
Charles C. Clarke

Mercer Island – Mercer Island Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$42,790
Paul L. Barrett

Monroe – Cascade Community Church (Baptist General Conference), \$47,902
Nathan J. Hettinga

Seattle – Japanese Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,899
Kerry L. Kaino

Seattle – Maple Leaf Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$44,918
Julie M. Blum

West Virginia

Weirton – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$47,150
Kevin L. Bowers

Wisconsin

Beaver Dam – Grace Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$46,634
John E. (Jack) Harrison

West Bend – Congregation of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic), \$48,884
Michael F. Moran