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**Lilly Endowment funds programs to encourage youth
to “think theologically”**

Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded grants totaling \$14.3 million to help 53 theological seminaries across the country develop, maintain and enhance their theological programs for high school youth. These programs will encourage a new generation of young people to engage in theological inquiry and consider vocations in Christian ministry.

“We have been delighted by the programs many of these schools have already begun,” said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. “Young people – high-school-age youth – have attended the wide variety of programs these schools offer. They are eager to explore the Bible in depth, and they are excited by what they discover about how faith affects so many aspects of contemporary personal and community life.

“We think the ministry should certainly be presented to young people as a fascinating and rewarding profession that offers the intellectual challenges and sense of gratification that the brightest young people want from their lives,” Dykstra said. “We are finding that this age group is more than willing to explore what they believe as they explore what they want to do with their lives.”

Since 1991 the Endowment has supported theological programs for high school youth at 25 theological schools. Perhaps the longest-running youth theological institute

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Theological programs for high school youth
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has been that at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, which greeted its first young summer guests in 1992 for a four-week, residential program for high-school seniors.

For this round of grants the Endowment approved 22 proposals for renewal grants to schools that received implementation grants in earlier rounds. These grants will allow them to continue their programs and raise the funds necessary to keep the programs thriving. They are the following schools:

Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Mass., \$75,000, continuation of the Faith Youth Institute, a weeklong summer program for 30 high school students.

Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Mich., \$225,000, support for Facing Your Future, a highly selective, monthlong summer program for 24 talented high school juniors and seniors to explore the Reformed tradition; program culminates in a trip to Israel or Greece and Turkey.

Concordia College (Concordia Theological Seminary), St. Louis, \$75,000, continuation of Exploring Church Careers Event, an annual four-day retreat for 200 gifted high schoolers.

Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, \$600,000, continuation of the Youth in Ministry Initiative, a program that includes summer conferences, coffeehouses, newsletters and creating a youth ministry resource center.

Duke University, Durham, N.C., \$600,000, support for the Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation, an annual, two-week summer program for 70 high school juniors and seniors.

Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, \$600,000, continuation of Start Something! God's Calling You project, a series of 24 regional retreats for young people in the United Church of Christ; events involve about 5,000 youth and 500 adult leaders.

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Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill., \$257,070, continuation of Faith Passage, an annual program that involves 30 youth in the greater Chicago area from United Methodist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal, Zion Church and Christian Methodist Episcopal Church denominations; program involves a three-week summer institute and three follow-up retreats.

Huron College, Condon, Ontario, Canada, \$75,400, continuation of Ask and Imagine, an annual, two-week residential program for 25 young people from seven Anglican dioceses in Ontario.

Lincoln (Ill.) Christian College and Seminary, \$262,095, continuation of the WorldviewEyes, a program to teach young people to view the world theologically; program emphasizes personal mentoring, maintaining a Web site, and weeklong summer seminars.

Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., \$427,500, in collaboration with Bethel Theological Seminary and Youth Leadership, support for the Urban Leadership Academy, an intensive summer program to strengthen the theological skills of 50 talented, urban, high schoolers each year.

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, \$250,669, continuation of Theological Education with Youth, a program that includes a two-week summer theological academy for 40 youth and weeklong theological training sessions for counselors-in-training at six Lutheran outdoor ministry centers.

Multnomah School of the Bible, Portland, Ore., \$70,000, continuation of Credo, a two-week residential theological program for 40 select high school students annually.

Newman Theological College, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, \$75,000, continuation of the Littlemore Program for high school youth, a mix of one-day and one-week sessions, a speaker's bureau and a Web site featuring a popular "Ask a Theologian" corner.

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Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif., \$75,000, continuation of Life Together, a program to help Bay-area Lutheran youth delve into the disciplines of theological study; program features study, service and fellowship opportunities for 70 participants at annual retreats and 20 youth each year at weeklong summer institutes.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary of the United Presbyterian Church (USA), \$300,000, support for its Summer Youth Institute, a two-week summer program for 30 youth.

Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, \$20,000, continuation of Theological Foundations for Youth, an annual summer program of theological training for high school youth in the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

St. John's University School of Theology, Collegeville, Minn., \$600,000, continuation of Youth in Theology and Ministry program that features teams of two youth and one adult mentor from the same parish who attend two, two-week summer institutes and organize and implement a service project in their home parish.

St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, \$210,073, support for the Youth Theological Studies program, a project to foster Christian leadership development in gifted high school youth by introducing them to rigorous theological study and by encouraging ecumenical and interfaith dialogue; program includes annual one-day Youth Interfaith Forums involving students from 30 high schools, a college-credit course in Christian doctrine for select high school juniors and a religion faculty seminar for high school teachers.

St. Meinrad (Ind.) Archabbey, \$564,181; continuation of St. Meinrad Youth Liturgical Leadership; program includes one-week, annual liturgical leadership conferences involving 200 high school youth, a Web site and training seminars.

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Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, \$48,488, continuation of Summer Seminary Sampler, a three-week residential program for Lutheran high school juniors and seniors from across the country.

Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, Va., \$386,750, continuation of Project Burning Bush, a multilevel program that includes LeaderQuest courses at summer conferences, two-week summer theology institutions and extended mentoring in home congregations.

Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, \$75,000, continuation of Wartburg Youth Leadership School; seminary will develop a youth leadership curriculum and use it with youth in settings like one-week conferences at the seminary, two outdoor ministry centers and a Hispanic ministry site.

The Endowment approved eight proposals to fund the creation of new youth theology programs. The recipients are the following schools:

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., \$180,000, funds will expand Christ Academy, a two-week theological study program for Lutheran high school-aged young men, by increasing the number of participants; offer a wider variety of theology and biblical study classes; incorporate tours of churches, social agencies and historical sites; provide resources for a national Lutheran youth gathering, and create a Web site.

Emmanuel School of Religion, Johnson City, Tenn., \$794,874, funds will launch Partnership for Youth in Ministry, a program to encourage a new generation to understand Christianity in its historic context, examine the practical wisdom of the Christian tradition and explore vocational aspirations in the context of spiritual discernment; multifaceted program will include intensive summer theology workshops, youth summits, weekend retreats, mentoring program and Web site.

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Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif., \$941,000, funds will establish the Student Leadership Project, a program that centers on a three-week intensive summer institute at the seminary where 30 high school youth will study classic theological literature, engage in cultural analysis and serve in urban ministry settings.

Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, N.C., \$1,254,317, funds to begin the Ministerial Vocation Program for Youth, a combination of efforts to engage high school youth in theological inquiry and encourage them to explore a life in ministry; program includes a two-week theological camp; key aim is to create within the Baptist system the support structure necessary to help young people explore ministry as a possible vocation.

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Mass., \$1,228,810, funds for the Ministry Center for Christian Youth, a multidimensional program to guide 50 youth each year from New England, the Carolinas and Latino communities through a five-year process of exploring their call to ministry.

Lancaster (Pa.) Theological Seminary of the United Church of Christ, \$1,615,300, funds for Leadership Now: Spiritual Formation of Youth, a set of mutually supporting programs for high schoolers, starting with the time of their confirmation; program will include events to examine vocational issues, retreats and workshops, worship and service, a Web site and a tracking and mentoring program.

North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, S.D., \$416,960, funds for the Youth Leaders Project, a program that includes a four-week summer immersion experience involving theological study, leadership development, ministry training and cross-cultural engagement; a mentoring program and a series of one-day seminars.

Western Seminary, Portland, Ore., \$1,225,171, support for Life Quest, a program to help youth understand the significance and meaning of God's call in their lives; components include a 10-day summer seminary experience, ongoing follow-up events connecting youth with local church mentors, and conferences for high school teachers and youth ministers.

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Also, 23 planning grants were awarded. They are the following:

American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, Calif., \$25,768

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind., \$10,900

Azusa (Calif.) Pacific University, \$29,996

Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Va.), \$30,000

Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Ind., \$30,000

Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, Tex., \$28,275

Catholic Theological Union at Chicago, \$30,000

Chicago Theological Seminary, \$30,000

Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, \$30,000

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley, Calif., \$30,000

Drew University, Madison, N.J., \$30,000

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va., \$30,000

Illiff School of Theology, Denver, \$24,101

Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, \$30,000

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, \$30,000

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (Pa.), \$30,000

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C., \$30,000

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Fresno, Calif., \$30,000

Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Calif., \$30,000

Queen's Theological College, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, \$30,000

St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Mo., \$10,000

Southern Methodist University (Perkins School of Theology), Dallas, \$30,000

Western Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in America, Holland, Mich., \$14,715

Proposals for implementation grants ranging from \$30,000 to \$1.2 million are due at the Endowment by April 1, 2002. Inquiries should be directed to Lilly Endowment, Religion Division, 2801 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 88068, Indianapolis, Ind., 46208-0068.