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**Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program cites 23 Indiana congregations**

Twenty-three Indiana clergy – representing tiny rural congregations, changing urban congregations and burgeoning suburban congregations – will have an opportunity for a well-deserved break from pastoral duties in the next year.

Their period of R&R – in this case, reflection and renewal – comes thanks to the encouragement of their congregations and the inaugural of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program.

Announced last year, the program provides grants of up to \$30,000 for each congregation to support a renewal program for the pastor. Up to \$20,000 may be used to fund the costs of the pastor's renewal program, and up to \$10,000 may be used to help the congregation replace the pastor or fulfill pastoral duties during his or her absence.

“The Clergy Renewal Program is one strand of the Endowment's effort to help build vibrant, healthy congregations led by vigorous and effective ministers,” said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. “Pastors are on duty 24 hours a day

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seven days a week. We ask so much of them. We expect them to be spiritual leaders, orators, administrators, counselors and comforters, fund-raisers, social workers and civic leaders. There comes a time when they need to step back and take time to renew their own wellsprings of faith and commitment.

“Their congregations know this, too, but often tight church finances don’t allow such a break. The Clergy Renewal Program gives them the necessary budgetary ‘breathing space.’”

Noted Dykstra: “We were most impressed with the thoughtfulness and intentionality on the part of both the pastor and the congregation in these applications. The congregations’ affection and concern for their leaders’ well-being were evident; they want to keep them at their church. At the same time, they realize that they will have more responsibilities in the pastor’s absence. They are willing to step up to the plate – and they are enthusiastic about doing so. In the process, it will be not only the pastors who feel renewed, but the congregations also anticipate their own sense of renewal.”

The pastors’ plans include traveling to the Holy Land and European sites of the Reformation, visiting missions in this country and former ministries in South America, spending time at American and European seminaries and theology schools to re-study the roots of their faith, enjoying time with family, writing journals, poetry and book manuscripts, and conferring with colleagues in other cities. Most of the renewal programs last from eight to 12 weeks.

The program drew 107 applications from around the state. With grant awards totaling \$609,733, the 23 recipient congregations and their pastors are:

<u>Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, Goshen</u>	\$10,690
<u>The Rev. Richard A. Litwiller</u>	
Retreat and study at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif.	

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<u>Bethany Presbyterian Church, Lafayette</u> <u>The Rev. H. Ann Smith</u> Personal renewal; travel to Germany, Scotland, Switzerland; study of worship patterns	30,000
<u>Bethel United Church of Christ, Evansville</u> <u>The Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Fraccaro</u> Study dialogue between religion and science; visit observatories in United States and Europe	28,355
<u>Broadway Christian Parish, United Methodist Church, South Bend</u> <u>The Rev. Michael Mather</u> Visits to India and Bangladesh; renewal in New Mexico	30,000
<u>Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, Fishers</u> <u>The Rev. Joseph M. Freeman</u> Visit the lands of John Wesley (England), John Knox (Scotland), John Calvin (Switzerland) and Martin Luther (Germany), plus Paris and Rome	30,000
<u>Deer Creek Presbyterian Church, Camden</u> <u>The Rev. Dr. David Smook</u> Travel to South Africa, where he was born; chronicle his family's and church's story; develop relationship with sister church in South Africa	23,375
<u>Episcopal Cathedral of St. James, South Bend</u> <u>The Very Rev. Frederick E. Mann</u> Study at University of Notre Dame; vocational retreat at Order of the Holy Cross; research course at Georgetown University; study at St. Andrew's University in Scotland in Celtic spirituality and its impact on Anglican methodology and ecclesiology	30,000

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<u>First Church of God, Kokomo</u> <u>The Rev. Ray Houser</u> Leadership workshop in Florida; personal retreat at lake cottage; attend conference in Chicago and retreat center in North Carolina, mission trip to Bolivia; fishing at lake; church visits, conference in Dallas	29,320
<u>First Presbyterian Church, Lebanon</u> <u>The Rev. Thomas P. O'Brien</u> Study of Celtic spirituality and history, writings and prayers of early Celtic Christian church; travels to England, Ireland and Iona Community in Scotland	29,500
<u>First United Methodist Church, Warsaw</u> <u>The Rev. Dr. Cathy S. Johns</u> Leadership development programs in Dallas and Estes Park, Colo.; "Journeys of Paul" trip to Greece and Asia Minor	23,091
<u>Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. John</u> <u>The Rev. Mark R. Vance Jr.</u> Attend seven educational conferences; visit fast-growing, suburban congregations in Illinois and Texas; personal retreats; trip to Greece to visit sites of the Apostle Paul's missionary travels	30,000
<u>Lutheran Church of the Cross, Muncie</u> <u>The Rev. James B. Hilleson</u> Ecumenical interests; study and tours of Holocaust Museum in Washington; study at Midwestern colleges and seminaries; trip to Jerusalem includes visits to Galilee, Masada, Jordan River, archaeological sites; family week at Holden Village in Washington	25,125

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<u>New Hope Presbyterian Church, Fishers</u> <u>The Rev. Dr. Charles S. Denison</u> Family tours to England, Scotland, Paris; stay at cottage on Maine coast to work on poetry and novel; visit with family	30,000
<u>Pleasant View Mennonite Church, Goshen</u> <u>The Rev. Ron Diener</u> Revisit Bolivian churches and people, enjoy and re-experience spirited Bolivian worship services; spend time with family	19,296
<u>Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes, Angola</u> <u>The Rev. Thomas E. Smith</u> Travel with family to Iona Community in Scotland; study at University of Oxford; personal retreat (garden, visit with friends, paint the house)	30,000
<u>Robinson Community African Methodist Episcopal Church, Indianapolis</u> <u>The Rev. E. Anne Henning Byfield</u> Alternate week of travel and week at home; travel to six churches to study how worship and worship styles have an impact on church growth: Jamaica, N.Y; Montclair, N.J.; Baltimore; Atlanta; Chicago; Los Angeles	28,357
<u>St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Valparaiso</u> <u>The Rev. Dr. C. Patrick Ormos</u> Renewal program called "Ancient Celtic Wisdom and Modern Church Leaders;" three months in British Isles in directed reading and research with Welsh academics and theologians; family travel in Wales and Scotland	30,000

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<u>St. David's Episcopal Church, Nashville</u> <u>The Rev. Jonathan Hutchison</u> Travel with wife to British Isles; visit landmarks of Christianity; engage in guided or silent retreats; practice writing; celebrate 25th wedding anniversary	27,545
<u>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Fort Wayne</u> <u>The Rev. Robert C. Schulte</u> Participate in Israel Study Program (Greece, Turkey, Jordan, Israel), plus travel to Rome and Ireland; "re-entry session" at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago	15,490
<u>St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Decatur</u> <u>The Rev. Thomas L. Olson</u> Travel with family to investigate world of Martin Luther and the Pre-Reformers; stops in England, Czech Republic, and "Luther tour" in Germany	26,254
<u>Shalom Mennonite Church, Indianapolis</u> <u>The Rev. Dr. Dagne Assefa</u> Establish "global partnership" with Ethiopian Mennonite Church (Assefa has family there); work on how church can help combat racism in the community; study at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis	24,235
<u>Wabash Friends Church, Wabash</u> <u>Pastor David W. Phillips</u> Travel with family to California to visit relatives; attend pastoral clinic; become computer literate with new laptop computer; take mission trip to Cuba; sit on back porch swing	30,000

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<u>Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne</u>	29,100
<u>The Rev. Matthew C. Harrison</u>	
Travel with family to Germany to visit Luther/Reformation sites; travel with family to Adelaide, Australia, for two months of directed renewal/reflection/study/relaxation; spend afternoons with family at beach or wherever the road leads	

Endowment representatives said that an announcement about the future of the Clergy Renewal Program would be made soon.

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NOTE: Since this release was issued, the Rev. E. Anne Henning Byfield of the Robinson Community African Methodist Episcopal Church in Indianapolis has been reassigned to a church in Detroit. She will not be able to participate in the Clergy Renewal Program.