



CONTACT: Gretchen Wolfram
317/916-304
317/255-2640 (home)

For Immediate Release
Sept. 30, 2002

Lilly Endowment offers clergy renewal program information session

Ordained Indiana pastors interested in Lilly Endowment's Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations are invited to attend an information session Oct. 10 at North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Also invited are their spouses and members of their congregations.

The 2003 program will mark the fifth year for the program, which aims to strengthen Indiana congregations by allowing their pastors a period of time away from the daily demands on them and their families.

Awards may be made for as much as \$45,000, and congregations may use up to \$15,000 of that total to cover pastoral functions while the pastor is away.

The Oct. 10 program will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will include a presentation from Richard Bruesehoff, co-author with A. Richard Bullock of *Clergy Renewal: The Alban Guide to Sabbatical Planning*.

Since 1999, 120 Indiana congregations have been awarded these grants, and three of these pastors will form a panel to talk about the impact of the program on their lives and ministries. They are the Rev. James Hillseon, Lutheran Church of the Cross in Muncie; the Rev. Juan Rodriguez, Iglesia Hermanidad Christian Church in Hammond, and the Rev. Melissa Bane Sevier, First Presbyterian Church in Aurora.

In addition, Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion, and Jean M. Smith, program director in religion, will answer questions about the renewal program.

If you are interested, please contact the Endowment by calling 317/924-5471.