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Lilly Endowment awards 37 grants in Indiana clergy renewal program

They will be sent forth from their churches with prayers from their congregations. They will return to welcoming banners, picnics and potluck suppers. In between, they will have the time to renew and refresh themselves for the important ministries to which they are devoted.

Thirty-seven Indiana congregations and their pastors have received grants in this, the fourth year of the Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations in which congregations are invited to apply for up to \$30,000 to support their pastor's sabbatical plans. Up to \$10,000 of the \$30,000 may be used to cover congregational duties in the pastor's absence. The total for this year's Indiana program is slightly more than \$1 million. (For all other states, the Endowment also supports the National Clergy Renewal Program.)

"We are hearing wonderful stories from pastors who have participated in this program," said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. "We're also hearing from the congregations, who have found the renewal programs to be renewing for themselves as well. Most have gained a new appreciation for the energy and stamina that pastors have. At the same time, members have discovered talents and capacities for ministry of their own that came to the fore during their pastor's absence.

"The Endowment firmly believes that strong ministers and vibrant congregations go together. The best ministers bring out the best in their congregations and vice versa.

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This synergy is more and more important in the vortex of today's complex issues in an increasingly fast-moving society," he said.

"Several of these ministers have served 30 years or more without ever taking a sabbatical," he noted. "This opportunity for renewal seems to them like an astonishing gift. Their congregations are very fond of them. This love for their pastors comes across strongly in the proposals we see, and we are indeed heartened by the expressions of affection and hopes for their pastor to return to them with renewed vision and energy."

The following Indiana congregations and pastors have received renewal grants:

Belmont Mennonite Church, Elkhart, \$29,945

The Rev. Duane E. Beck

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), Fort Wayne,

\$30,000

The Rev. Thomas E. Eggold

Christ Temple Apostolic Church of Muncie, \$29,975

The Rev. Stephen M. Millben Sr.

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis, \$30,000

Rabbis Dennis C. and Sandy E. Sasso

Crossroads Community Church, Elizabethtown, \$30,000

The Rev. Tracy V. McIntyre

Crossroads Community Church, Schererville, \$26,240

The Rev. Kris J. Vos

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Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Evansville, \$29,320

The Rev. Dennis R. Davenport

East Side Church of God, Anderson, \$29,978

The Rev. Janet Marie Lilly Wanner

Faith United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne, \$29,897

The Rev. Jack Scott

Family Bible Church, Portage, \$29,942

The Rev. Mark L. Overmyer

First Mennonite Church of Middlebury, \$29,905

The Rev. Linford D. Martin

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America),
Highland, \$27,435

The Rev. James H. Milligan

Grace Evangelical Church of Indianapolis (Evangelical Free Church of
America), \$30,000

The Rev. Bryan J. Hult

Greater First Baptist Church of East Chicago, \$29,524

The Rev. Travis L. Grant II

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King's Chapel Assembly, Fort Wayne, \$29,984

The Rev. Hobart L. Gregg

Maryland Community Church, Terre Haute, \$30,000

The Rev. Vince L. McFarland

Peace Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod), Fremont, \$30,000

The Rev. Wayne C. Berkesch

Plainfield Friends Meeting, \$23,603

Mark A. Tope, pastor

Pleasant Run United Church of Christ, Indianapolis, \$19,517

The Rev. Charles H. Jordan

Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren, South Bend, \$30,000

The Rev. David K. Hendricks.

Russiaville United Methodist Church, \$14,247

The Rev. Richard L. Girton

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Greencastle, \$30,000

The Rev. William D. Wieland

St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Parish, Columbus, \$29,895

The Rev. Clement T. Davis

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St. John's United Church (United Church of Christ and Presbyterian Church), Chesterton, \$30,000

The Rev. Nancy C. Kahaian

St. Joseph Ministries (St. Joseph United Methodist Church) Fort Wayne, \$29,425

The Rev. Curtis R. Sylvester

St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Lafayette, \$22,144

The Rev. Daniel B. Gartland

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, \$28,818

The Rev. Linda S. McCoy

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Decatur, \$28,721

The Rev. Heather L. Olson-Bunnell

St. Paul-Woodland (Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod), Mishawaka, \$30,000

The Rev. Karl A. Brenner

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Catholic Community, Lawrenceburg, \$22,819

The Rev. William G. Marks

Shelbyville Baptist Temple (Baptist Bible Fellowship International Association, \$30,000

The Rev. Edwin E. Mohr

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Sycamore Friends Church, Greentown, \$28,453

Louis R. Herchenroeder, pastor

University Heights United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, \$24,190

The Rev. Todd Outcalt

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Marion, \$30,000

The Rev. Richard A. Schramm

Westview Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, \$29,492

The Rev. James P. Hollis

Woodburn Missionary Church, Woodburn, \$29,916

The Rev. Joel D. DeSelm

Yellow Creek Mennonite Church, Goshen, \$29,630

The Rev. Wesley J. Bontreger

These 37 Indiana congregations join 83 others selected in the past three years.
Endowment officials expect the program to continue.