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**Embargoed for release**  
**until Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2002**

### 135 congregations receive Lilly Endowment grants in National Clergy Renewal Program

Several of the 135 churches are older than the country; some have been born in the last decade.

They stand in the inner cities of America, the small towns, the suburbs.

Some congregations number in the double digits; some have more than a 1,000 members.

Some of their ministers have been in their pulpits for five or six years, while others have seen many years of sustained service.

What they all share – congregations and ministers alike – is the opportunity to participate in the 2002 National Clergy Renewal Program funded by Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc.

The ministers will doff their robes and travel to spiritual centers like Iona, Scotland, and Taize, France. They will tour Europe and ponder the art and architecture and “hometowns” of their denominations’ founders; they will search out and renew ancestral family ties in Europe and Africa. They will travel across America to visit other

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congregations facing similar situations as theirs – developing new patterns of worship and ministry, facing increasingly diverse memberships, grappling with social issues such as providing for the needs of the homeless.

They will find new ways to foster their own spiritual growth and to instill a clear sense of purpose and mission in their congregations. They will brush up on their reading, write poetry, go fly fishing, hike, bike, renew college and seminary friendships, and spend good time with their families.

Most will be away from their pulpits for about three months, and their congregations have made plans to “take up the slack.” For them, the program involves accepting some new responsibilities and learning more about their own capabilities. It also provides opportunities for congregational renewal.

The Rev. Jane P. Harmes leads the 145-member congregation of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church in Placitas, N. Mex., (population: 350) at the foot of the Sandia Mountains. The congregation’s faith experience is shaped by the desert-mountain landscape, its Spanish heritage, and Native American influences, and Harmes would like to explore how the landscape, geography and environment affect the faith and theology of congregations.

Mixed among visits with friends, reading, and meditation, she plans trips in the spring of 2004 for spiritual reflection at Ghost Ranch and Christ of the Desert Monastery in New Mexico, a visit to the Presbyterian Border Ministry in Mexico, and spending time at the Taos Pueblo and Chaco Canyon in northern New Mexico. Then she will head for Northern Ireland to places where Catholics and Protestants work and live together and to Shannon, Ireland, home of her ancestors. In Scotland, she will take time for meditation on the barren island of Iona, home of an international center of Celtic spirituality.

The Rev. Michael L. Henning of All Saints Catholic Church in St. Peters, Mo., who has been ordained for 28 years and been at All Saints since 1991, has never taken an

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extended sabbatical, but next summer he will begin a five-month study of the connections between art and faith. He anticipates pilgrimages to the great European cathedrals, interviews with artists and taking classes in art and art appreciation to learn more about how religious art and architecture have been used through church history to communicate and celebrate beliefs.

Inner-city Baltimore has been the heart of the Cathedral of the Incarnation and the home of the Rev. Van Howard Gardner since 1987. He has no intention of letting up, but he would like some time away to step back and learn more about creating communities of reconciliation in an urban context. Incarnation began a Children's Peace Center three years ago, and he would like to learn new ways to develop and expand the program to help young people deal with conflict resolution. Thus, Gardner will spend six weeks studying the issue at the General Theological Seminary in New York City and then head cross country to Los Angeles for further work at the Institute for Urban Research and Development.

After that, he and his wife, Kathleen, will spend a month engaged in worship and spiritual reflection at Taize, France. His final month of renewal will take place back at home, where he will write about his experiences and what they may mean for his 500-member congregation.

In the 10 years that the Rev. Carlton P. Harris has headed Bethel Church of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, the congregation has grown from 70 to more than 500 members – and he has taken no more than three consecutive weeks off. This Baptist congregation is diverse in ethnicity, marital status, education and geography, and Harris wants to learn much more about how to lead a cross-cultural church.

His renewal program agenda includes interviews with a variety of other pastors serving similar congregations, a personal retreat at Osprey Point Leadership Center in Maryland and a trip with his wife, Carol, and his three children to Scotland, England and

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Germany. Attendance at a leadership summit at Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago and a visit to the Center for Church-based Training in Dallas will also be on his agenda.

The 135 programs are as diverse as the congregations themselves.

The National Clergy Renewal Program, now in its third year, awards congregations grants of up to \$30,000 each to plan a well-thought-out, intentional program of renewal for their pastor and themselves. Collectively, the grants for this year's program total \$3.5 million. The congregations may use up to \$10,000 of that amount to pay for pastoral services in their pastor's absence and for expenses related to a congregation's own renewal. In the program's initial year, 118 grants were awarded. Last year, the program's second, 129 grants were awarded.

This year's congregations represent 35 states (the Endowment runs a separate program for Indiana congregations). They represent 15 major Christian denominations and other church traditions. Of the pastors, 24 are women, and three are clergy couples.

"Obviously, we are very pleased with the success of this program," said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. "What strikes one in these proposals is the genuine affection these congregations have for their pastors, the pastors' honest appraisals of their successes and failures and, most important, their deep desire to deepen their own spirituality while searching for insight into how to lead their congregations into the future.

"We have heard wonderful stories from the pastors who already have experienced these sabbaticals," Dykstra noted. "Their time away freed them up to pursue personal interests and needs in ways that have given them new energy for ministry – and the congregations discovered that they didn't fall apart without their minister around. Indeed, they too experienced refreshment and a new-found sense of their own strengths."

The Endowment's larger goal is to bolster the good work that America's pastors and congregations are accomplishing day in and day out, to reinforce and build upon the

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important work being done on both sides of the pulpit. “In our religion grantmaking, we hope to strengthen the efforts of today’s excellent pastors, because it is no secret that pastors who have reconnected themselves to the passions that led them to the ministry in the first place are more likely to lead healthy and vibrant congregations,” Dykstra said.

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Addendum: Complete list of recipients in the 2002 National Clergy Renewal Program.

## **National Clergy Renewal Program/2002**

### **135 grants**

#### **Alabama**

Falkville – Fairview Church of God, \$23,560  
Milan Brown Dekich

Tuscaloosa – Korean Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa (Presbyterian Church USA [PCUSA]), \$30,000  
In Sung Hoang

#### **Arizona**

Peoria – Celebration Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA]), \$27,472  
Paul H. Nelson

Sahuarita – Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, \$26,587  
Randal John Mayer

Tucson – Immanuel Presbyterian Church of Tucson (PCUSA), \$30,000  
Valerie Hicks Moore

#### **Arkansas**

Little Rock – Pulaski Heights Baptist Church (Southern Baptist Convention), \$28,204  
Randy Lee Hyde

#### **California**

Benicia – Heritage Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$30,000  
Beverly C. White

Concord – Concord First Church of the Nazarene, \$29,536  
John Ervin Moore

Fairfax – Fairfax Community Church (United Church of Christ), \$26,126  
Sara Louise Vurek

## California (cont.)

Fallbrook – Fallbrook United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$29,174  
Kirk Bottomly

Garden Grove – Hoi Thanh Chua Cuu The (Episcopal Church of the Redeemer)  
\$24,170  
Hong Xuan Nguyen

Los Angeles – St. Mark United Methodist Church, \$29,800  
L.L.C. Hammond

Los Angeles – Vineyard Christian Fellowship-Westside, \$14,785  
Bradley George Bailey

San Francisco – Presbyterian Church in Chinatown (PCUSA), \$30,000  
Calvin Chinn

San Francisco – Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church of San Francisco, \$19,410  
Jeffrey Steven Gaines

Saratoga – Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$16,218  
James Carl Friedrich

Valley Springs – Good Samaritan Community Covenant Church (Evangelical  
Covenant Church), \$23,591  
Jeffery A. Mitchell

## Colorado

Aurora – All Saints Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$20,372  
John S. Petty

Fort Collins – Christ United Methodist Church, \$27,277  
Edgar Clarkson Bigler III

Littleton – Hosanna Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod),  
\$24,238  
Gregory Glenn Peters

Longmont – Faith Community Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$29,785  
Daniel Paul Hansen

## **Colorado (cont.)**

Palmer Lake – Mountain Community Mennonite Church, \$30,000  
Donald D. Rheinheimer

## **Connecticut**

Woodstock – First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), \$29,900  
James Shepherd Harrison

## **District of Columbia**

Washington – Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal), \$19,900  
Randolph Cassells Charles

## **Florida**

Fort Myers - Lamb of God Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$25,827  
Walter B. Fohs

Jacksonville – Ortega United Methodist Church, \$30,000  
Barbara Williams Riddle

Palm Bay – Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$29,899  
Daniel G. Gilbert

## **Georgia**

Fayetteville – Church of the Nativity (Episcopal), \$30,000  
Robert Andrew Hudak

## **Illinois**

Chicago – Grace Episcopal Church of Chicago, \$25,974  
Edward Wells Curtis

DeKalb – St. Mary Catholic Church, DeKalb, \$29,995  
Karl Peter Ganss

Franklin Park – Resurrection Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$30,000  
Paul Carl Stolz

## **Illinois (cont.)**

Jacksonville – Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$29,300  
Samuel John Roth

Lombard – York Center Church of the Brethren, \$16,532  
Christy Jo Waltersdorff

Naperville – Wheatland Salem United Methodist Church, \$27,966  
Scott Nelson Field

Western Springs – St. John of the Cross Parish (Catholic), \$29,784  
Richard P. Hynes

## **Iowa**

Cedar Rapids – Cedar Rapids Christian Center (Foursquare Gospel Church), \$29,980  
Barry Michael Foster

Cedar Rapids – Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, \$29,168  
Brian Kent Milford

Cedar Rapids – Peace Christian Reformed Church, \$21,492  
Douglas M. MacLeod

Des Moines – Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$25,573  
David Lynn Cline

## **Kansas**

Lawrence – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$24,538  
Jeffrey Merrell Lilley

Pittsburg – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$29,524  
Ruth Ann Moran and Geoffrey H. Moran

## **Louisiana**

Baton Rouge – Trinity Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod)  
\$29,455  
Scott Alan Schmieding

## **Maryland**

Baltimore – Cathedral Church of the Incarnation (Episcopal), \$28,877  
Van Howard Gardner

Bethesda – Vestry of Redeemer Parish (Episcopal), \$30,000  
Susan Cecelia Thon Burns

Hagerstown – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$29,253  
Fred Myers Harris

Silver Spring – Christ Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), \$30,000  
James A. Todhunter

Silver Spring – Church of the Ascension (Episcopal), \$26,000  
Mary Catherine Miller Sulerud

Silver Spring – Transfiguration Church (Episcopal), \$29,756  
Richard George Paul Kukowski

## **Massachusetts**

Arlington – St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$28,685  
Ross S. Goodman

Brewster – Brewster Baptist Church (American Baptist Church), \$25,353  
Douglas Victor Scalise

Cambridge – Cambridge Community Fellowship Church, \$30,000  
Soong-Chan Rah

Cambridge – First Parish (Unitarian Universalist), \$18,250  
Marjorie Agate

East Bridgewater – Union Congregational Church (United Church of Christ),  
\$23,057  
Marcia M. Cham

Northampton – College Church (independent), \$29,200  
David Paul McDowell

Quincy – United First Parish Church in Quincy (Unitarian Universalist), \$26,820  
Sheldon Wells Bennett

## **Massachusetts (cont.)**

Westwood – St. John’s Episcopal Church, \$25,850  
Stephen Vaughn Smith

## **Michigan**

Detroit – Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Episcopal), \$28,414  
Stephen H. Bancroft

Iron Mountain – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, \$27,630  
Charles Edmund Piper

Jackson – Westminster United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$16,315  
Karen (Margaret) Jones Kelley

Livonia – Mount Hope Congregational Church (National Association of  
Congregational Christian Churches), \$29,966  
Steven Bruce Schafer

Williamston – St. Katherine’s Episcopal Church, \$15,438  
Jannel T. Glennie

## **Minnesota**

Blackduck – Zion Lutheran Church of Blackduck (ELCA), \$29,902  
Dean George Oelfke

Bovey – Bethel-Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$14,512  
Judith Claire Anderson-Bauer

Mankato – St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, \$30,000  
Richard M. Colletti

Minneapolis – Plymouth Congregational Church (United Church of Christ),  
\$29,630  
James Curtis Gertmenian

Mountain Iron – Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$22,333  
Kristin Mary Foster

Nevis – Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$23,974  
Daniel Andrew Babine

## **Minnesota (cont.)**

Red Lake Falls – St. Joseph Church (Catholic), \$22,156  
Timothy F. Bushy

St. Paul – Olivet Congregational Church of Merriam Park (United Church of Christ), \$27,312  
John Marcus Cox

## **Missouri**

Eureka – Eureka United Methodist Church, \$29,817  
Jeffrey A. Long

St. Louis – Grace and Peace Fellowship (Presbyterian Church in America), \$16,177  
Kurt Herman Lutjens

St. Peters – All Saints Catholic Church, \$29,305  
Michael L. Henning

## **Nebraska**

Henderson – Bethesda Mennonite Church, \$30,000  
Weldon Roy Martens

Lincoln – Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$15,400  
Lowell Ralph Hennigs

Lincoln – Vine Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), \$25,373  
Ross Norman Tyler

## **New Jersey**

East Orange – Christ Episcopal Church, \$27,500  
William Anthony Guthrie

Liberty Corner – Presbyterian Church of Liberty Corner (PCUSA), \$25,850  
Stephen David McConnell

## **New Mexico**

Placitas – Las Placitas Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$20,850  
Jane Parmalee Harmes

Santa Fe – United Church of Santa Fe (United Church of Christ), \$27,110  
Talitha J. Arnold

## **New York**

Alexandria Bay – Reformed Church of the Thousand Isles, \$28,935  
Jeffrey A. Neevel

Brooklyn – Most Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, \$24,685  
Russell S. Governale

Ithaca – First Ithaca Chinese Christian Church (Evangelical Free Churches of America), \$25,000  
Tony Hsin-Tao Hsu

Penfield – St. Joseph's Church (Catholic), \$28,760  
Kevin P. Murphy

## **North Carolina**

Arden – Lutheran Church of the Nativity (ELCA), \$29,971  
Mark Elmer Fitzsimmons

Cary – Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$28,842  
Joanne Linda VerBurg

Charlotte – Bread of Life Christian Ministry (PCUSA), \$25,321  
James Henry Logan Jr.

Greensboro – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, \$30,000  
Virginia Norton Herring

Huntersville – Hopewell Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$28,453  
Jeffrey Lynn Lowrance

Raleigh – St. Philip Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$30,000  
David J. Amidon and Diane R. Amidon

**North Carolina (cont.)**

Wilson – First Baptist Church (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship), \$25,013  
Douglas Ervin Murray

**North Dakota**

Fargo – Olivet Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$29,962  
Jeffrey L. Sandgren

**Ohio**

Barberton – Summit Mennonite Church, \$28,540  
Jayne Marie Byler

Chauncey – Chauncey Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$29,906  
Stephen Scott Bentley

Cleveland Heights – Bethel Church of Cleveland Heights (Baptist General Conference), \$29,775  
Carlton P. Harris

Lancaster – Grace United Church of Christ, \$27,337  
Robert Charles Tussing

Orrville – Christ Church (United Church of Christ), \$29,921  
Randall L. Gehres

Rocky River – Rocky River United Methodist Church, \$29,832  
David F. Martin

Sandusky – First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), \$27,608  
Lenore Kure

**Oklahoma**

Ardmore – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$24,945  
Douglas Ray Miller

## **Oregon**

Albany – First United Methodist Church, \$14,380  
Donna Marie Lowman Pritchard

Aloha – Reedville Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$22,110  
Jeffrey Scott Sievert

Corvallis – First United Methodist Church, \$24,630  
Herbert Magee Scott

McMinnville – McMinnville Covenant Church (Evangelical Covenant Church),  
\$30,000  
Mark Edward Larson

## **Pennsylvania**

Quarryville – Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren, \$5,433  
Geraldine Mae Godfrey

Sumneytown – Friedens United Church of Christ, \$29,247  
Deborah Rahn Clemens

West Chester – Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$16,350  
Stephen Elliott Godsall-Myers

Wyomissing – First Church of the Brethren of Reading, \$24,772  
Timothy D. Speicher

## **Rhode Island**

Charlestown – St. Andrew Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$30,000  
James E. Hazelwood

## **South Carolina**

Fort Mill – Grace Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$18,142  
Arthur Smith Gatewood

Spartanburg – Mount Moriah Baptist Church (National Baptist Convention),  
\$18,473  
Benjamin Douglas Snoddy

## **South Carolina (cont.)**

West Columbia – Providence Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$22,127  
Michael Terence Bragan

## **Tennessee**

Greeneville – Greeneville Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Cumberland Presbyterian), \$28,550  
James Wesley Lively

Knoxville – St. James Episcopal Church, \$23,531  
Joseph Howard Ballard Jr.

Mount Juliet – Celebration Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$30,000  
Douglas A. Hill

Nashville – Woodmont Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$29,069  
Douglas N. Lofton

## **Texas**

Austin – Trinity United Methodist Church, \$28,279  
Sidney G. Hall III

Georgetown – First United Methodist Church, \$30,000  
Timothy Keith Bruster

Spring – Resurrection Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod), \$28,900  
Stephen Sohns

Wichita Falls – Park Place Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$29,000  
Alice Louise Hupp

## **Vermont**

Burlington – Christ Church, Presbyterian (PCUSA), \$21,967  
Michael Brown and Rebecca Strader

## Virginia

Alexandria – Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, \$20,764  
Pierce Wittfield Klemmt

Lexington – Lexington Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$29,945  
William Murdoch Klein

Lynchburg – Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church (autonomous), \$30,000  
James E. Baucom Jr.

Richmond – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, \$29,052  
David Hickman May

Richmond – St. Mark's Episcopal Church, \$22,193  
Sandra Maria Levy

## Washington

Marysville – Mountain View Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$30,000  
John Metz Mason

Seattle – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$23,000  
Peter W. E. Drury

Seattle – Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$14,450  
Paul E. Hoffman

Sequim – Presbyterian Church of Sequim (PCUSA), \$28,828  
Scott Emil Koenigsaecker

Vancouver – Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$30,000  
Richard E. Jaech

## West Virginia

Charleston – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$28,993  
Reinold Schlak Jr.

Morgantown – Morgantown Church of the Brethren, \$28,313  
Cameron Blake Kaufman-Frey

**Wisconsin**

Eagle River – Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$27,560  
Margaret Stokes Johnson

Madison – Dale Heights Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$30,000  
Daniel Scott Yeazel

Stevens Point – St. Paul's United Methodist Church, \$30,000  
Graham Neville West

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