



Note to reporters and editors: Please be sure to check the attached list to see if one or more congregations and pastors in your area have received this award. This release and the list are also available on our website, lillyendowment.org.

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Lilly Endowment awards clergy renewal grants to congregations in 40 states

A record number of congregations – 158 – have been selected for the 12th class of the National Clergy Renewal Program, funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. The program allows these congregations to send their pastors for an extended time of renewal and reflection. They can step back from their busy lives and gain the fresh perspective and renewed energy that a carefully considered season of travel, study, rest and prayer can provide.

Many of these pastors will work to regain spiritual vitality through the ancient Christian practice of walking as pilgrims in several countries: the path of Jesus in Israel, the path of the Exodus, some or all of the 500-mile Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) in Spain. Others plan extended time in retreat settings or monastic communities in the United States, Europe and Australia to devote themselves to Ignatian spiritual exercises or the Benedictine practice of hospitality. Still others will seek spiritual guidance and sustenance by becoming part of the Taize community in France known since 1940 for its strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Many pastors participate in the prayer and worship of the community on Iona, a tiny island off the west coast of Scotland whose monastic history goes back to the 6th century.

This class of 158 brings to 1,598 the number of congregations that have participated since the program began in 2000. Through this program the Endowment invites Christian congregations to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to support an extended period of intentional reflection and renewal for their ministers. Working with their congregations, the ministers design their renewal periods to suit their own needs and aspirations. The pastors are encouraged to include their families in the renewal activities. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used for the

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congregation to pay for interim pastoral leadership while the pastor is away, as well as for renewal activities within the congregations.

“The intensity and demanding character of pastoral work in most congregations is difficult for many to appreciate,” said Craig Dykstra, senior vice president for religion at the Endowment. “They write and preach sermons, make hospital visits, administer the business of their churches, preside at weddings and funerals, and counsel parishioners. And they are expected to ‘be there,’ to be available at both the best and the most difficult times in people’s lives.

“The National Clergy Renewal Program gives pastors the gift of being able to live for a while at a different pace and in an alternative environment – to live in sabbath time and space, and to honor that moment as God-given,” Dykstra said. “Many clergy renewal participants have reported to the Endowment that when they returned they found their vision for ministry enlarged and their call and commitment renewed.

“We find that these programs can be transformative for the congregation, too,” Dykstra continued. “Not only do members grow in their leadership abilities in the pastor’s absence, they also learn how to create an environment at their churches that supports their pastor’s continued service at a pace that he or she can sustain. Many of them discover ways to renew and refresh their own lives and spirits as well.”

What these pastors do with their three- or four-month “gift of time” varies widely. Music makes the heart sing for many of these pastors, whether it’s singing or lessons in flute, piano, cello or double bass. Pastors also plan to build guitars, study drumming in Uganda and attend the Oregon Bach Festival.

As in past years, clergy continue to pay attention to their health. Hikers will walk among the world’s natural wonders – the Himalayas, Swiss Alps, mountains of Nepal, rim of the Grand Canyon. Bikers will cycle the coasts of England or take a riding tour of France. One runner will invite others to join him on a 30-mile leg of his planned 300-mile marathon. Many pastors will join health centers, begin or intensify a regular exercise program, or take classes to learn healthy cooking and food choices.

While several pastors will travel to the Mediterranean to follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul or to Israel for an archaeological dig or to take classes at St. George’s College, one pastor will trace the footsteps of Dr. David Livingstone in England and Africa. Another is a descendant of John Knox, so his travels will lead him to his ancestral roots in Scotland. Other pastors will visit relatives in Vietnam, Korea, China and India or do mission work in Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Kenya or other areas of Africa. Three plan to make a pilgrimage to the major sites of the

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American civil rights movement, while several others will be in South Africa to learn about that country's efforts at reconciliation.

This year's group includes congregations in 40 states. For the first time, Alaska is represented with two Anchorage congregations. The grantees are affiliated with 23 denominational bodies; one is nondenominational and one is a union of two denominations. The average size of the grants is \$43,177, and Endowment support for this 2011 program is \$6.8 million. While 13 churches regularly see more than 1,000 at worship services, 75 report attendance ranging from 51 to 200.

All these renewal programs exhibit the basic thrust of the Endowment's initiative: a chance for congregations and ministers to engage in renewal of a kind that will have an important impact on their churches, their individual members and their communities.

"The wealth of imagination unleashed by this program is truly wonderful to see," said the Endowment's Dykstra. "We can think of no better way to honor these hardworking, faithful men and women than to help them experience personal growth and renewal in ways that they themselves believe will feed them most deeply."

The Endowment will continue the program in 2012. Application materials are available at clergyrenewal.org.

Please see the attached list of recipients.

National Clergy Renewal Program/2011

158 grants

Alabama

Cullman – Grace Episcopal Church, \$49,074
Robert H. Blackwell

Lillian – Advent Church (Episcopal), \$31,164
Martha H. Kremer

Alaska

Anchorage – Central Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA]), \$14,426
Lisa S. Fiegel

Anchorage – Trinity Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Church of the USA [PCUSA]), \$48,820
Thomas C. Letts

Arizona

Scottsdale – Coolwater Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$49,525
David A. Shirey

Arkansas

Bentonville – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$46,360
Donald B. Morrow

Mountainburg – Mountainburg Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$42,071
Susan R. Gray

Colorado

Aurora – Parkview Congregational Church (United Church of Christ [UCC]), \$36,563
Stephen W. Hoffman

Cherry Hills Village – Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$44,955
Ronald T. Glusenkamp

Colorado Springs – First Congregational Church (UCC), \$45,408
Benjamin J. Broadbent

Denver – First Christian Reformed Church (Christian Reformed Church in North America [CRCNA]),
\$49,845
Barbara J. Engelsman

Denver – St. Luke's Episcopal Church, \$37,978
Douglas R. Dunn

Englewood – Korean Emmanuel United Methodist Church, \$49,945
Jung Sup "Jay" Ahn

Fort Collins – Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), \$50,000
Berton B. Wright

Green Mountain Falls – Church in the Wildwood (UCC), \$39,836
David A. Shaw

Lakewood – Concordia Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod), \$43,920
Thomas W. Teske

Connecticut

Darien – Noroton Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$48,400
Gregory M. Doll

Manchester – Concordia Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$50,000
JoAnn A. Post

Delaware

Wilmington – Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$44,014
Gregory K. Jones

District of Columbia

Washington – Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ (Progressive National Baptist Convention/American Baptist Churches [ABC]/UCC), \$50,000
Dennis W. Wiley

Washington – Nineteenth Street Baptist Church (ABC), \$48,487
Derrick Harkins

Florida

Dunedin – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,470
Victoria G. ByRode

Palm Bay – Riviera United Church of Christ, \$36,600
Scott O. Elliott

Pensacola – First Baptist Church (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship [CBF])/Southern Baptist Convention [SBC], \$50,000
Barry C. Howard

Sarasota – St. Andrew United Church of Christ, \$43,048
Philip A. Garrison

Wellington – St. Michael Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,864
Marjorie E. Weiss

Georgia

Atlanta – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$33,994
Connie S. Lee

Canton – St. Clement's Episcopal Church, \$22,346
James B. Stutler

Hawaii

Honolulu – Nuuanu Congregational Church (UCC), \$50,000
Mary Paik

Illinois

Chicago – Holy Trinity Church (nondenominational), \$50,000
Jon M. Dennis

LaGrange – St. Cletus Catholic Church, \$49,035
Robert J. Clark

Nashville – St. Paul United Church of Christ, \$50,000
Susan E. Artt

North Riverside – Mater Christi Church (Catholic), \$49,553
Louis Tylka

Oak Lawn – First United Methodist Church, \$42,750
Haeran Kim

Ottawa – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,992
John W. Walker

Quincy – Central Baptist Church (ABC), \$47,461
Ivan E. Greuter

Park Ridge – Park Ridge Community Church (UCC), \$28,828
Brett W. McCleneghan

St. Charles – St. Charles Congregational United Church of Christ, \$47,560
John R. Rodgers

Sauk Village – Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA), \$48,019
Timothy Koster

Urbana – First Mennonite Church, \$43,971
Janet E. Rasmussen

Iowa

Council Bluffs – St. John's United Church of Christ, \$50,000
Anthony D. Portero Paff

Davenport – Christ's Family Church (Reformed Church in America), \$31,185
Brian L. Akker

Iowa City – Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$46,533
Mark W. Pries

Kansas

Mission – Countryside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$45,322
Clare “Suzi” Goldt

Louisiana

Baton Rouge – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$18,710
Michael E. Karunas

Maine

Lewiston – Calvary United Methodist Church, \$44,501
Casey Collins

Maryland

Baltimore – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, \$48,925
Mark A. Stanley

Indian Head – St. James’ Episcopal Church, \$40,905
Denise E. Cabana

Massachusetts

Boston – St. Paul’s Cathedral (Episcopal), \$41,500
John P. Streit Jr.

Harwich – St. Peter’s Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,997
Christian Nicely and Tiffany Nicely Holleck

Ipswich – Ascension Church (Episcopal), \$44,760
Bradford D. Clark

Lowell – Christ Church United (UCC), \$41,804
Peter A. Lovett

Milford – Trinity Episcopal Church, \$40,497
William “Mac” Murray

Stockbridge – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, \$43,882
Thomas H. Damrosch

Upton – United Parish of Upton (UCC/United Methodist Church [UMC]), \$38,950
Jan Gregory-Charpentier

Wellesley – Village Church (UCC), \$49,889
Christina Braudaway-Bauman

Winchester – First Congregational Church (UCC), \$34,032
Judith B. Arnold

Michigan

Ann Arbor – Huron Hills Church (Baptist General Conference), \$45,180
Kenneth J. White

Grand Rapids – Woodlawn Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA), \$46,000
Michael F. Abma

Grandville – Ivanrest Church (CRCNA), \$33,462
Anthony J. Meyer

Holland – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$29,614
Linda Knieriemen

Hudsonville – First Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA), \$42,903
David L. Jolman

Lake Orion – St. Joseph Church (Catholic), \$31,917
C. Michael Verschaeve

Manistee – Faith Covenant Church (ECC), \$49,111
Marc L. Eix

Spring Arbor – Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church, \$48,924
J. Mark VanValin

Minnesota

Circle Pines – Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$45,011
Stephen H. Sylvester

Foley – Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,987
Timothy J. Wittwer

Inver Grove Heights – Bethesda Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$30,514
Terry I. Nordheim

Mankato – St. John’s Episcopal Church, \$34,697
Paul G. Rider

Minneapolis – Trinity Lutheran Congregation (ELCA), \$43,994
Alemseged Asmelash

Plymouth – Plymouth Covenant Church (ECC), \$49,660
Daniel K. Johnson

St. Paul – Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, \$44,105
Michelle M. Hargrave

Mississippi

Jackson – Galloway Church (UMC), \$49,800
John “Joey” Shelton IV and Connie M. Shelton

Long Beach – St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, \$27,749
Louis Lohan

Missouri

Columbia – Bethel Baptist Church (ABC), \$44,480
Bonnie V. Cassida

St. Joseph – First Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$50,000
Roger C. Lenander

St. Louis – Third Baptist Church (ABC/SBC/CBF), \$49,200
Warren J. Hoffman

Nebraska

Omaha – Metropolitan Community Church, \$29,595
Thomas R. Emmett III

New Hampshire

Hopkinton – St. Andrew's Church (Episcopal), \$36,775
Kevin D. Nichols

New Jersey

Lawrenceville – Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville (PCUSA), \$48,997
Jeffrey A. Vamos

Lebanon – Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal), \$47,695
Philip Carr-Jones

Point Pleasant Beach – St. Mary's By-the-Sea Church (Episcopal), \$39,880
John Thompson-Quartey

Scotch Plains – Willow Grove Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,679
Cynthia Cochran-Carney

New York

Buffalo – St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ, \$49,798
Richard A. Danielson

Ithaca – Christ Chapel (Independent), \$49,967
Steven D. Felker

New York – West End Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$48,650
Alistair J. Drummond

Old Forge – Niccolls Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,700
Lawrence H. Bartel

Patchogue – Congregational Church (UCC), \$41,733
Dwight L. Wolter

North Carolina

Chapel Hill – United Church of Chapel Hill (UCC), \$47,671
Jill R. Edens

Charlotte – Carmel Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,321
James M. Szeyller

Durham – Christ the King Moravian Church, \$50,000
Francis P. and Leslie D. Venable

Durham - Newhope Church (Wesleyan), \$49,655
Benjamin W. Kelley

Franklin – St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, \$29,544
Dorothy L. Pratt

Greensboro – First Friends Meeting (Quaker), \$46,462
Deborah E. Suess

Huntersville – Lake Forest Church (Evangelical Presbyterian), \$42,082
Michael V. Moses

New Bern – West New Bern Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$50,000
Jeffrey A. Sockwell

Oak Ridge – Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$42,307
Carlton W. Utley

Ohio

Englewood – Concord United Methodist Church, \$50,000
Thomas A. and Elizabeth Rand

Hamilton – Cornerstone Church (UMC), \$48,897
Jeffrey A. Raker

Lebanon – Lebanon Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,757
Peter Larson

Oklahoma

Bixby – Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$35,284
Cathy A. Hamrick

Oklahoma City – First Baptist Church (CBF), \$49,070
Thomas C. Ogburn

Owasso – Freedom Church (SBC), \$47,370
R. Andrew Rankin

Oregon

Pendleton – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$48,929
Roger A. Harwerth

Pennsylvania

Elizabethtown – Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, \$47,561
Greg D. Laszakovits

Newton Square – St. Alban's Episcopal Church, \$50,000
Henry D. Elek

Phoenixville – St. Peter's Episcopal Church, \$44,832
Koshy Mathews

Pittsburgh – East Liberty Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$37,950
Randall K. Bush

Pittsburgh – Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$37,063
Robert L. Nichols Jr.

York – Christ Lutheran Church of Spry (ELCA), \$50,000
James D. Polanzke

South Carolina

Greenville – Downtown Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Church in America), \$39,806
Brian C. Habig

Greenville – John Knox Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$46,028
Joseph S. Gaston

Lexington – Willow Ridge Church (SBC), \$50,000
Bill H. Howard

Summerville – St. Luke's Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$39,283
Susan J. Briner

South Dakota

Custer – Custer Lutheran Fellowship (ELCA), \$36,233
Kent L. Narum

Rapid City – St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, \$45,647
Paul M. Sneve

Spearfish – St. Joseph Catholic Church, \$25,253
Timothy S. Hoag

Tennessee

Franklin – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$30,000
Christopher A. Joiner

Oak Ridge – Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,150
Steve G. Damos

Shelbyville – Mullin Chapel (African Methodist Episcopal Church), \$49,500
Yvette M. Tisdale

Texas

Fort Worth – All Saints' Episcopal Church, \$50,000
Christopher N. Jambor

Houston – Northwoods Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$32,500
Ann Marie Quigley-Swanson

Houston – Trinity Church (Episcopal), \$49,625
Hannah E. Atkins

Manchaca – St. Alban's Episcopal Church, \$42,934
Margaret Waters

San Antonio – Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$47,531
Robert W. Mueller

San Antonio – San Antonio Mennonite Church, \$47,980
Rachel Epp-Miller

Spring Branch – Riverside Community Church of Alamo Heights (UMC), \$49,837
Scott R. Heare

Sugar Land – Christ United Methodist Church, \$44,499
Linda S. Pierce

Trophy Club – Fellowship United Methodist Church, \$49,490
Daniel D. Humbert

Vermont

Berlin – First Congregational Church (UCC), \$44,832
Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy

South Burlington – Ascension Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$50,000
Nancy G. Wright

Virginia

Dunn Loring – Holy Cross Episcopal Church, \$49,414
Walter "Wes" Smedley IV

Fairfax – Providence Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,488
Mary E. Rodgers

Manassas – Trinity Church (Episcopal), \$17,555
Stuart E. Schadt

McLean – St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church, \$28,200
Stephen Shepherd

Midlothian – Woodlake United Methodist Church, \$43,256
Peter M. Moon

Powhatan – Powhatan Community Church (Virginia Baptist), \$50,000
Brian C. Hughes

Roanoke – Second Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$46,805
George C. Anderson

Washington

Bellingham – Alger Community Church (CRCNA), \$26,361
Richard J. DeRuiter

Edmonds – Edmonds United Methodist Church, \$40,120
Kathlyn R. James

Kent – Kent Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$39,395
Jane Prestbye

Mukilteo – Mukilteo Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$50,000
Mark S. Smith

Naches – Naches Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$30,633
Steve F. Trotter

Redmond – Redmond Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$41,795
Larry S. Grounds

Seattle – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, \$50,000
Peter M. Strimer

Seattle – Seattle Chinese Alliance Church (Christian and Missionary Alliance), \$28,860
Tung Do

Sumner – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$50,000
Rochelle R. Richards

Tacoma – St. Mark’s Lutheran Church by the Narrows (ELCA), \$49,710
Jan Ruud

West Virginia

Charleston – United Disciples of Christ Church, \$46,506
Steven A. Smith

Wisconsin

Appleton – First English Church (ELCA), \$38,700
Jeffrey A. Tengesdal

Black River Falls – Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,824
Eric E. Bakken

Brookfield – Cross of Life Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$48,156
John Horner-Ibler

Brookfield – St. John Vianney Catholic Church, \$32,601
Kenneth P. Knippel

Oconomowoc – Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$32,345
Karen R. Natterstad

Pewaukee – St. Anthony on the Lake (Catholic), \$33,041
Anthony J. Zimmer

Pigeon Falls – Pigeon Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$30,018
Dale E. Moe

Verona – St. James Church (ELCA), \$42,890
Peter W. Narum

Wausau – Highland Church (Evangelical Free Church of America), \$50,000
Jeffrey Hinds