



Note to media: Please check the list of recipients in the body of this release to see if a congregation(s) in your community is among award recipients. This release and a full list of recipients is available at [www.cpx.cts.edu/renewal](http://www.cpx.cts.edu/renewal) and [www.lillyendowment.org](http://www.lillyendowment.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Christian Theological Seminary Announces 144 Congregations Awarded Lilly Endowment 2015 National Clergy Renewal Program Grants**

Christian Theological Seminary, in its role of administering the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program, has awarded grants to 144 congregations located in 34 states. The 2015 program allows congregations to support their pastors with the gift of extended time away from ministerial duties and responsibilities. Pastors use the respite from congregational leadership for reflection and renewal, which often includes travel, scholarly research and immersive experiences with different cultures and traditions.

Congregations awarded the National Clergy Renewal Program grants nominated their pastors to receive this honor. Pastors in the 2015 program represent a diverse group that includes Protestant, Catholic and nondenominational congregations. In consultation with their congregations, the pastors determine how they will use the grants to replenish, restore and renew their ministries. Travel to varied destinations and journeys into nature are popular activities for grant recipients: one pastor will travel to Finland and North Dakota in order to explore the faith journeys of his Scandinavian ancestors. Another will travel with his family to Australia to spend time with congregations experiencing thriving music ministries.

In addition to travel as a form of renewal, some pastors will use their time away from congregational leadership to explore faith practices. One pastor will engage in sustained contemplative prayer in remote locales. Another pastor will engage his entire family in the practice of journaling to determine God's presence in everyday occurrences.

Since Lilly Endowment introduced the National Clergy Renewal Program grants in 2000, more than 2,000 congregations across the nation have participated in the program. Congregations in the 2015 program received grants totaling more than \$6 million. The grants recognize the tremendous amount of energy, time and leadership that pastors invest in their congregations.

“Lilly Endowment intends for this program to enable pastors to live for a while at a different pace and in a new environment, in Sabbath time and space,” said Dr. Christopher L. Coble, vice president for religion at the Endowment. “We can think of no better way to honor these hardworking, faithful men and women than to help them experience personal growth and spiritual renewal in ways that they themselves design and find meaningful. We regularly hear that these renewal experiences are transformative for pastors, their families and their congregations.”

Christian congregations were invited to apply for program grants of up to \$50,000. The application process was participatory in nature, involving congregations and their pastors in the design and development of the renewal experience. Up to \$15,000 of the grant could be allocated to fund interim pastoral leadership, as well as renewal activities within the congregation. Pastors were encouraged to include their families in the renewal activities.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Saler, research fellow and director of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, noted that the National Clergy Renewal Program leverages the reciprocal dynamics of support, trust and encouragement reflective of healthy congregations. “The program is designed to respect the innate human need for times of service and replenishment. It provides a means for congregations to express appreciation for their leader’s service and respect for his or her health and energy for continued ministry,” Saler said.

Christian Theological Seminary’s Center for Pastoral Excellence was selected in 2012 to administer the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs. “At a time when society is experiencing unprecedented levels of change at ever increasing speeds, it is rewarding to offer programs that recognize the value of retreat and renewal,” Saler said. “We are honored and privileged to work with Lilly Endowment in its support of congregational leaders.”

### **Award Recipients:**

#### ALASKA

Ketchikan, AK – First Lutheran Church, Rev. Keith Anderson

#### ALABAMA

Fairhope, AL – Trinity Presbyterian Church, Rev. Matthew McCollum  
Mobile, AL – Dauphin Way United Methodist Church, Dr. Jeff Wilson

#### ARIZONA

Tucson, AZ – St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Dr. James Toole

#### CALIFORNIA

Delhi, CA – King's Cross Ministries, Rev. Zeke Nelson  
Fontana, CA – Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrador, Pr. John Caicedo  
Glendale, CA – Salem Lutheran Church, Rev. Kurt Christenson  
Kensington, CA – Arlington Community Church United Church of Christ, Rev. Anthony Clark  
Los Angeles, CA – All Nations Church, Rev. Jin So Yoo  
Merced, CA – Gateway Community Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Aldon Schaap  
Pasadena, CA – Knox Presbyterian Church, Pr. Matthew Colwell  
San Rafael, CA – Christ Presbyterian Church in Terra Linda, Rev. Linda Lane-Bortell  
Santa Rosa, CA – Covenant Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jeffrey Johnson

## COLORADO

Aurora, CO – The Experience Ministries Inc., Pr. Michael Paulison  
Denver, CO – Denver Community Church, Pr. David Neuhausel  
Denver, CO – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Rev. Elizabeth Randall  
Frederick, CO – St. Brigit Episcopal Church, Pr. Felicia SmithGraybeal  
Parker, CO – Providence Presbyterian Church, Pr. David Van Deren

## CONNECTICUT

Darien, CT – Noroton Presbyterian Church, Pr. Brandi Dranke

## DELAWARE

Milford, DE – Milford Church of the Nazarene, Dr. Arthur Roxby

## FLORIDA

Boca Raton, FL – Saint Gregory's Episcopal Church, Pr. Andrew Sherman  
Davie, FL – Parkway Christian Church Inc., Dr. David Walton  
Delray Beach, FL – St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Delray Beach, Inc., Rev. Kathleen Gannon  
Venice, FL – Venice Presbyterian Church, Dr. Lyn Olson

## GEORGIA

Atlanta, GA – Rice Memorial Presbyterian Church, Dr. David Bowie  
Atlanta, GA – St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Rev. Ruth Pattison  
Atlanta, GA – The Church of the Common Ground, Rev. Mary Wetzel  
Suwanee, GA – Jusarang Presbyterian Church, Rev. Billy Go  
Toccoa, GA – St. Matthias' Episcopal Church, Rev. Mary Demmler

## ILLINOIS

Des Plaines, IL – St. Stephen Protomartyr Catholic Church, Rev. Noel Reyes  
Eureka, IL – Eureka Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Jennifer Churchman  
Glenview, IL – St. Catherine Laboure Parish, Rev. Paul Maina Waithaka  
Libertyville, IL – St. Lawrence Episcopal Church, Rev. Patricia Snickenberger  
Morris, IL – First Presbyterian Church of Morris, Dr. Roy Backus  
Mundelein, IL – Vision Church, United Methodist, Pr. William Jang  
Peoria, IL – Glen Oak Christian Church, Dr. Randy Williams

Urbana, IL – St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Rev. Robert Rasmus

## KANSAS

Overland Park, KS – Holy Trinity Orthodox Church of Overland Park, KS, Inc., Fr. Timothy Sawchak  
Salina, KS – Trinity United Methodist Church, Rev. Barry Dundas

## KENTUCKY

Lexington, KY – Crestwood Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Kory Wilcoxson

## MASSACHUSETTS

Boston, MA – Cathedral Church of St. Paul-MANNA, Pr. Cristina Rathbone  
Mattapoisett, MA – Mattapoisett Congregational Church, Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken  
Middleboro, MA – North Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Rev. Patricia Kogut  
Montague, MA – First Congregational Church of Montague, Trinitarian, Pr. Barbara Turner Delisle  
Newburyport, MA – Central Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), Pr. Christopher Ney  
Whitinsville, MA – Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church, Pr. Derek Zeyl

## MARYLAND

Baltimore, MD – Catonsville Presbyterian Church, Dr. Kenneth Kovacs  
Laurel, MD – St. Philip's Parish, Rev. Sheila McJilton  
Waldorf, MD – Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Rev. Laurie Gates-Ward

## MAINE

Belfast, ME – The First Church in Belfast, UCC, Prs. Kathleen Winters and Joel Krueger

## MICHIGAN

Battle Creek, MI – Saint Thomas Episcopal Church of Battle Creek, Rev. Brian Coleman  
Byron Center, MI – Heritage Christian Reformed Church, Pr. Robert Bolt  
Byron Center, MI – Friendship Christian Reformed Church, Rev. Timothy Kuperus  
Farmington Hills, MI – St. John American Lutheran Church, Pr. Lauren Kirsh-Carr  
Grand Rapids, MI – Westminster Presbyterian Church and Society, Pr. Chandler Stokes  
Lansing, MI – Lansing Central Free Methodist Church, Rev. Bruce Cromwell  
New Era, MI – New Era Reformed Church, Rev. Frederick Eschenburg  
Northville, MI – Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Dr. Scott McKee  
Petoskey, MI – Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Petoskey, Pr. Gregory Brown

## MINNESOTA

Excelsior, MN – Excelsior Covenant Church, Dr. Eric Sparrman  
Hawley, MN – Hawley Lutheran Church, Pr. Jeffrey Teeples  
Lindstrom, MN – Trinity English Lutheran Church, Rev. Lauren Wrightsman  
North St. Paul, MN – North Presbyterian Church, Pr. James York  
White Bear Lake, MN – Rev Christ the King Lutheran Church, Rev. Jennifer Hackbarth

## NORTH CAROLINA

Chapel Hill, NC – United Church of Chapel Hill, Pr. Susan Steinberg  
Charlotte, NC – Nativity of the Holy Theotokos Orthodox Church, Fr. William Mills  
Concord, NC – Crossroads United Methodist Church, Pr. Lowell McNaney  
Cornelius, NC – Community In Christ Lutheran Church, Rev. Travis Norton  
Denver, NC – Lake Norman Lutheran Church, Rev. Jeffrey Marquardt  
Harrisburg, NC – Venture Church of Harrisburg, Pr. David Henderson  
Hendersonville, NC – Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pr. Kenneth Langsdorf  
Morehead City, NC – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Rev. John Pollock

#### NEBRASKA

Omaha, NE – The Water's Edge United Methodist Church, Dr. Craig Finnstad  
Papillion, NE – St. Martha's Episcopal Church, Inc., Pr. Ernesto Medina

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Concord, NH – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rev. Kate Atkinson  
Deerfield, NH – Deerfield Community Church, UCC, Rev. Carol Meredith  
Nashua, NH – Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal of Nashua, Rev. Alanna Van Antwerpen

#### NEW JERSEY

Califon, NJ – Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, Rev. Chad Rodgers  
Keansburg, NJ – First Keansburg United Methodist Church, Rev. Sunghee Park  
Pennington, NJ – Pennington Presbyterian Church, Rev. Nancy Mikoski  
Zarephath, NJ – Zarephath Christian Church, Pr. Robert Cruver

#### NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque, NM – Hope-in-the-Desert Episcopal Church, Rev. Daniel Tuton  
Albuquerque, NM – Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Community, Fr. Robert Campbell

#### NEW YORK

Clarence, NY – First Presbyterian Church, Dr. Gregory Hall  
Hurley, NY – Hurley Reformed Church, Pr. Robert Gram  
Jamaica, NY – Amity Baptist Church, Inc., Rev. Jeffrey Thompson  
New York, NY – Christ & Saint Stephen's Church, Rev. Kathleen Liles  
Rochester, NY – Northridge Church, Rev. David Whiting  
Staten Island, NY – Olivet Presbyterian Church, Pr. Melodee Bottari

#### OHIO

Cincinnati, OH – Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Rev. Joshua Miller  
Columbus, OH – Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Rev. Ann Palmerton  
Columbus, OH – Grace of God Lutheran Church, Rev. Mark Diemer  
Elida, OH – Salem Mennonite Church, Pr. Paula Snyder Belousek  
Greenville, OH – First Presbyterian Church, Dr. John Person  
Kettering, OH – Church of the Cross United Methodist, Dr. John Whitaker  
Olmsted Falls, OH – The Olmsted Community Church, Rev. Ronald Dauphin

Perry, OH – Perry United Methodist Church, Rev. James Jensen

## OREGON

Beaverton, OR – St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Rev. Robyn Hartwig  
Beaverton, OR – Westside United Methodist Church, Rev. Brian Shimer  
Eugene, OR – Central Presbyterian Church, Pr. Lorne Bostwick  
Hood River, OR – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pr. Jeffrey Mueller  
Medford, OR – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. Lorraine Boehning  
Milwaukie, OR – Milwaukie Covenant Church, Pr. William Nylund  
Milwaukie, OR – Milwaukie Presbyterian Church, Rev. Katherine Pate  
Newberg, OR – Newberg Monthly Meeting, Pr. Stephen Fawver  
Oregon City, OR – Prince of Life Lutheran Church, Pr. John Reutter-Harrah  
Portland, OR – Lincoln Street United Methodist Church, Rev. Elizabeth Winslea  
Portland, OR – St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Rev. Christopher Craun  
Roseburg, OR – Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rev. Jane Baker  
Salem, OR – Trinity Covenant Church, Rev. Dawn Taloyo  
West Linn, OR – West Linn Lutheran Church, Revs. Donna and Tim Herzfeldt-Kamprath

## PENNSYLVANIA

Gibsonia, PA – Hampton United Presbyterian Church, Pr. Theodore Martin  
Johnstown, PA – First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Alice Tondora  
Lancaster, PA – Highland Presbyterian Church, Dr. Ann Osborne  
Lansdale, PA – Wentz's United Church of Christ, Rev. Antonio Villareal  
Philadelphia, PA – Saint Mark's Church, Rev. Sean Mullen  
Pittsburgh, PA – Open Door Presbyterian Church, Rev. Brandon (BJ) Woodworth

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Anderson, SC – Clemson Korean Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC), Pr. Jae Park  
Columbia, SC – Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Dr. Bradley Smith

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Sioux Falls, SD – Calvary Cathedral, Rev. Ward Simpson

## TENNESSEE

Memphis, TN – New Direction Christian Church, Dr. Stacy Spencer

## TEXAS

Corpus Christi, TX – The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd of Corpus Christi, Rev. Milton Black  
Katy, TX – Living Word Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rev. Emmanuel Jackson  
Richardson, TX – Dallas Chinese Bible Church, Pr. Dachih (David) Tang

## VIRGINIA

Charlottesville, VA – Church of Our Saviour Episcopal, Rev. David Stoddart  
Dunn Loring, VA – Vine United Methodist Church, Dr. David Schlechty

Fairfax, VA – Providence Presbyterian Church, Dr. Michael Burns  
Middleburg, VA – Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Rev. Charlotte Hallmark  
Midlothian, VA – Spring Run Presbyterian Church of Chesterfield County, Rev. James Conrad  
Roanoke, VA – Metropolitan Community Church of the Blue Ridge, Rev. Joseph Cobb  
Roanoke, VA – St. Philip Lutheran Church, Rev. David Derrick  
Vienna, VA – Vienna Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Rev. David Jordan-Haas

## VERMONT

Westminster West, VT – Congregational Church of Westminster West, Rev. Susan Webster-Toleno

## WASHINGTON

Bainbridge Island, WA – Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, Rev. Marta Eisenhauer  
Bothell, WA – Seattle Dream Church, Rev. Bomsu Kim  
Lake Forest Park, WA – Bothell United Methodist Church, Pr. Daniel (DJ) del Rosario  
Seattle, WA – Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Pr. Julie Hutson  
Silverdale, WA – Silverdale Lutheran Church, Rev. William Crabtree  
Snohomish, WA – First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish, Revs. Charles & Ann Lewis  
Spokane, WA – First Presbyterian Church, Rev. John Sowers  
Tacoma, WA – Manitou Park Presbyterian Church, Rev. Kenneth Sikes

## WISCONSIN

De Pere, WI – Saint Anne's Episcopal Church, Pr. Eric Mills  
McFarland, WI – McFarland United Church of Christ, Pr. Kerri Parker  
Wauwatosa, WI – St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rev. Christopher Manke

Indiana congregations apply for and are awarded grants through the Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations.

### **About Lilly Endowment Inc.**

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly and his two sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., with gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical company. The Endowment exists to support the causes of religion, education and community development. Lilly Endowment's religion grantmaking is designed to deepen and enrich the religious lives of American Christians. It does this largely through initiatives to enhance and sustain the quality of ministry in American congregations and parishes. More information can be found at [www.lillyendowment.org](http://www.lillyendowment.org).

### **About Christian Theological Seminary**

Located in Indianapolis, IN, Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) is a fully accredited ecumenical seminary, open to all, affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It offers eight graduate-level degree programs, including programs in theology, ministry, and counseling, with specializations in ministries that emphasize the arts and programs for lifelong learning. More than 30 denominations are represented among CTS faculty and students. Additional information about CTS is available at [www.cts.edu](http://www.cts.edu).





Program's inception, more than 2,000 congregations have participated in the program, including the 144 congregations receiving grants in 2015.

(Describe your congregation's and minister's plans and activities for the renewal period.)

"Lilly Endowment intends for this program to enable pastors to live for a while at a different pace and in a new environment, in Sabbath time and space," said Dr. Christopher L. Coble, vice president for religion at the Endowment. "We can think of no better way to honor these hardworking, faithful men and women than to help them experience personal growth and spiritual renewal in ways that they themselves design and find meaningful. We regularly hear that these renewal experiences are transformative for pastors, their families and their congregations."

The Rev. Rev. Robert Saler, research fellow and director of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs, noted that the National Clergy Renewal Program integrates key attributes of healthy congregations, including a mutual respect for the renewal needs of both ministers and the congregations they serve.

"The program provides an opportunity for congregations to express appreciation for their ministers' service and leadership," Saler said. "At a time when leaders are often praised for their pace of innovation and productivity, the National Clergy Renewal Program pays homage to the timeless wisdom embedded in the practice of reflection and renewal."

Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis directs the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations and a second program for congregations across the United States through its Center for Pastoral Excellence.

**Note to congregations:** Please remember, when you talk or write about this program, that the correct name for the funding organization is Lilly Endowment Inc. or, on second reference, the Endowment.