



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 and www.lillyendowment.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Christian Theological Seminary Announces 148 Congregations Awarded Lilly Endowment 2018 National Clergy Renewal Program Grants

Christian Theological Seminary, in its role of administering the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program, has awarded grants to 148 congregations located in 33 states and the District of Columbia. The grants provide congregations support to enable their pastors to take time away from ministerial responsibilities for reflection and renewal. Pastors use the respite to engage in renewal experiences that often include travel, scholarly research and immersive experiences with different cultures and traditions.

“Pastors play an important role in nourishing the spiritual lives of individuals and in guiding the work of the Christian congregations they serve,” said Dr. Christopher L. Coble, the Endowment’s vice president for religion. “Through these grants we seek to honor pastors for their extraordinary service and enable them to engage in a brief period of rest and renewal. We have learned that such experiences invigorate the leadership of pastors and bring new vitality to their congregations as well.”

Congregations in the 2018 program represent diverse Christian traditions. The congregations and their pastors worked together to determine how the pastors will use the grants to replenish, restore and renew their ministries. Travel to domestic and international destinations and journeys into nature are popular activities for grant recipients. One pastor will travel with family to Rome and Florence to explore iconography and the ways that art can inspire understandings of God. Another pastor will journey to different parts of the United States experiencing sacred stories, family stories, and the stories that connect her with others as she encounters storytellers from many settings.

In addition to travel as a form of renewal, some pastors will use their time away from their congregations to engage in new spiritual disciplines, focus on time with loved ones and study topics that renew their excitement for preaching and leadership. Study topics include the integration of immigrants into new communities and research about countries and regions that inspired Romantic poetry.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Saler, 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 leaders’ service and respect for his or her health and energy for continued ministry,” Saler said.

Since Lilly Endowment introduced the National Clergy Renewal Program grants in 2000, more than 2,600 congregations across the nation have participated in the program. Congregations in the 2018 program received grants totaling more than \$6.5 million. The grants recognize the tremendous amount of energy, time and leadership that pastors invest in their congregations.

Christian congregations were invited to apply for 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.

Christian Theological Seminary’s Center for Pastoral Excellence has administered the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs since 2012. “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.

Award Recipients:

Arizona

Tucson, AZ – Northminster Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Peter Seiferth

California

Alta Loma, CA – Community Baptist Church of Alta Loma, CA, the Rev. Robert Van Acker

Anaheim, CA – Anaheim Christian Reformed Church, the Rev. Joel Dean Van Soelen

Encinitas, CA – Episcopal Church of Saint Andrew the Apostle, the Rev. Brenda Sol

Fremont, CA – South Bay Community Church, the Rev. Bryan K. Murphy

Menlo Park, CA – St. Bede's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin

Mission Viejo, CA – Presbyterian Church of the Master, the Rev. Jackson Clelland

Newbury Park, CA – First Christian Church of Newbury Park, the Rev. Ken LaMont

Oakland, CA – Oakland City Church, a Congregation of the Reformed Church of America, the Rev.

Joshua McPaul

Orange, CA – First Christian Church of Orange of Los Angeles County, the Rev. Dayna Lynne Kinkade

Orangevale, CA – Christ the King Lutheran Church (ELCA), the Rev. Scott Michael Guemmer

Poway, CA – St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Mark C. McKone-Sweet

Sacramento, CA – Faith Presbyterian Church of Sacramento, the Rev. Jeffrey Kent Chapman

Sacramento, CA – The Table at Central United Methodist Church, the Rev. Linda Susan Dew-Hiersoux

San Francisco, CA – St. Gregory Nyssen Episcopal Church, the Rev. Paul Fromberg

San Pedro, CA – St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Jeanette Repp
Santa Cruz, CA – St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, the Rev. James Paul Lapp

Colorado

Boulder, CO – Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Mary Kate Rejouis
Buena Vista, CO – Congregational United Church of Christ of Buena Vista, the Rev. Rebecca Sue Kemper Poos
Denver, CO – Christ Episcopal Church, the Rev. Terry McGugan
Denver, CO – New Beginnings Worshipping Community, the Rev. Theresa Annette Schjang
Littleton, CO – Littleton United Methodist Church, the Rev. Trudy Denise Robinson
Strasburg, CO – Saron Lutheran Church Julie Brooks

Connecticut

Farmington, CT – St. James Parish, the Rev. George Roberts

District of Columbia

Washington, DC – St. Alban's Episcopal Church, the Rev. James E Quigley

Florida

Fernandina Beach, FL – First Presbyterian Church Fernandina Church Beach, the Rev. William Wain Wesberry
Naples, FL – Covenant Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Trent Casto
Atlanta, GA – Pilgrims Community Church, the Rev. Japhat Ndemera
Atlanta, GA – St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Patricia Templeton
Decatur, GA – Peace Baptist Church, the Rev. Tyrone E. Barnette

Iowa

Ankeny, IA – Ankeny United Church of Christ, the Rev. Nathan Willard

Idaho

Nampa, ID – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nampa, the Rev. Meggan Hannah Manlove
Twin Falls, ID – First Presbyterian Church of Twin Falls, the Rev. Philip Price

Illinois

Bartlett, IL – Immanuel United Church of Christ, the Rev. Susan Tyrrel
Bensenville, IL – Faith Community United Church of Christ of Bensenville, the Rev. Catherine Batten Balk
Loves Park, IL – Grace Lutheran Church, the Rev. Brent Dahlseng
Macomb, IL – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Macomb, the Rev. Kelly Ingersoll
Washington, IL – Grace Bible Church of Washington, the Rev. Adam Kipp
Western Springs, IL – St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Erin Clausen

Kansas

Shawnee, KS – Shawnee Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Johnny Lewis
Wichita, KS – North Heights Christian Church, the Rev. Titus James

Louisiana

Shreveport, LA – Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, the Rev. Daniel Bethancourt

Massachusetts

Brookline, MA – All Saints Parish, the Rev. Richard Burden

Danvers, MA – Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, the Rev. Timothy Clayton
Framingham, MA – The Plymouth Church in Framingham, the Rev. Gregory R. Morisse
Gloucester, MA – Community Church of East Gloucester, the Rev. Timothy Bushfield
Gloucester, MA – Orthodox Congregational Church of Lanesville, the Rev. Peter Aberle
Marblehead, MA – St. Michael's Church, the Rev. Andrew James Stoessel
Newton, MA – Worship Frontier Covenant Church, the Rev. Dave Lee

Maryland

Annapolis, MD – St. Philip's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Randy Kyle Callender
Baltimore, MD – Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Andrew Foster Connors
Baltimore, MD – Church of the Messiah, the Rev. Timothy Grayson
Cockeysville, MD – Ashland Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Shannon Meacham
Damascus, MD – Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Rev. John Brohmal
Edgewater, MD – Joy Reigns Lutheran Church, the Rev. Sara Yotter
Rockville, MD – Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Victorius Hamel
Rockville, MD – Rockville United Church, the Rev. Eric Winnette

Michigan

Bloomfield Hills, MI – Congregational Church of Birmingham, United Church of Christ, the Rev. Louise Ott
Coopersville, MI – Church of the Saviour, RCA, the Rev. David Kingma
Marshall, MI – Trinity Episcopal Church, the Rev. Anne Schnaare
Mt. Pleasant, MI – Immanuel Lutheran Church, the Rev. Dana Hendershot
Scottville, MI – Mason County Reformed Church, the Rev. Todd Bush
Troy, MI – Central Woodward Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Robert D. Cornwall

Minnesota

Alexandria, MN – First Lutheran Church, the Rev. Kari Casper van Wakeren
Burnsville, MN – Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, the Rev. Paul Gauche
Le Sueur, MN – First Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Carl Bruihler
Minneapolis, MN – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Laurie Feille
Minneapolis, MN – University Lutheran Chapel, the Rev. David A. Kind
Newport, MN – Newport Lutheran Church, the Rev. Susan Pauline Gravelle
Rochester, MN – Christ United Methodist Church, the Rev. Elizabeth Jean Macaulay
Rochester, MN – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, the Rev. Dave Berg
Stillwater, MN – First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater, the Rev. Cader Howard

Missouri

Kansas City, MO – Country Club Congregational UCC, the Rev. Chase Peeples
Kansas City, MO – Covenant Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Kirk Perucca
Smithville, MO – The First Christian Church of Smithville, the Rev. Lara Blackwood Pickrel
St Louis, MO – St. Johns Evangelical United Church of Christ, the Rev. Steve Westbrook

Montana

Missoula, MT – St. Paul Lutheran Church of Missoula, the Rev. Christian P. Flohr

North Carolina

Cary, NC – Trinity Park Church, the Rev. Adam Corey Jackson
Clemmons, NC – St. Clement of Alexandria Episcopal Church, the Rev. Jamie L'Enfant Edwards
Durham, NC – First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Mindy Douglas
Durham, NC – St Philip's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Sally French

Elon, NC – Fairview United Methodist Church, the Rev. Stanley Mark Clark
Matthews, NC – Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, the Rev. Jennifer M. Ginn
Mooresville, NC – St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church, the Rev. Robert Lawrence

North Dakota

Fargo, ND – First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Mary Jo Elizabeth Holtey

New Jersey

Clinton, NJ – Clinton Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Tracey Cowan Henry

New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM – St. Timothy's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Rachael Powell

New York

Bronx, NY – The Haitian Congregation of the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, the Rev. Sam Louis Owen

Buffalo, NY – Westminster Presbyterian Society of Buffalo, the Rev. Thomas H. Yorty

Chappaqua, NY – First Congregational Church of Chappaqua, the Rev. Martha R. Jacobs

Mount Kisco, NY – Presbyterian Society of Mount Kisco, the Rev. Dale Edward Southorn

New York, NY – Rejoice Ministries ~The Church of Healing, the Rev. Patricia Reeberg

Pittsford, NY – First Presbyterian Society of Pittsford, the Rev. Carrie Mitchell

Rochester, NY – Artisan Church: an Evangelical Covenant Church, the Rev. Scott Austin

Schenectady, NY – Emmanuel Baptist Church & Society of the City of Schenectady, the Rev. Peter J.B. Carman

Skaneateles, NY – St. James' Episcopal Church, the Rev. Becky Coerper

Warwick, NY – Warwick United Methodist Church, the Rev. Jennifer Morrow

Woodstock, NY – Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Sonja Marie Tillberg Maclary

Ohio

Cincinnati, OH – Carthage Christian Church, the Rev. Alan Dicken

Cincinnati, OH – Friendship United Methodist Church, the Rev. Meshach Kanyion

Cincinnati, OH – New City Presbyterian Church, the Rev. W. Brian Ferry

Lewis Center, OH – Alum Creek Church of Christ, the Rev. Adam Metz

New Albany, OH – New Albany Presbyterian Church, the Rev. David Milroy

Rocky River, OH – Rocky River Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Jon Fancher

Wapakoneta, OH – St. Paul United Church of Christ, the Rev. Rebecca Sunday

Oregon

Beaverton, OR – Bethel Congregational UCC, the Rev. David Randall-Bodman

Hillsboro, OR – First United Methodist Church of Hillsboro, the Rev. Clay Wesley Andrew

Portland, OR – Bridgeport United Church of Christ, the Rev. Tara L. Wilkins

Pennsylvania

Ambler, PA – Upper Dublin Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Keith Anderson

Baden, PA – Christ - Our Savior's Lutheran Parish, the Rev. Jill McGregor

Bryn Mawr, PA – Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Agnes W. Norfleet

Lancaster, PA – Highland Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), the Rev. Roger Rabey

Mars, PA – Old Union Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Peter de Vries

Venetia, PA – St. David's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Kristian Opat

West Chester, PA – St. Paul's Baptist Church, the Rev. Wayne E. Croft, Sr.

South Carolina

Pawleys Island, SC – Pawleys Island Community Church, the Rev. Donald Williams

South Dakota

Rapid City, SD – Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Robert Jacobs

Tennessee

Chattanooga, TN – First Baptist Church East 8th Street, the Rev. William Terry Ladd, III

Chattanooga, TN – Lookout Valley Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Grady Davidson

Clarksville, TN – Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Christian Church, the Rev. Benjamin I. Langdon

Texas

Austin, TX – The Metropolitan Community Church of Austin, the Rev. Karen Thompson

Corpus Christi, TX – St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the Rev. John Hardie

Fort Worth, TX – University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Houston, TX – St. Philip Presbyterian Church of Houston, the Rev. John Wurster

Marble Falls, TX – First Baptist Church Marble Falls, the Rev. Carl "Ross" Chandler

Spring, TX – Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, the Rev. James Abbott

Virginia

Alexandria, VA – Peace Lutheran Church, the Rev. Sarah Scherschligt

Fredericksburg, VA – St. George's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Joseph Hensley

Mathews, VA – Kingston Episcopal Parish, the Rev. Gary Joseph Barker

Midlothian, VA – Spring Run Presbyterian Church of Chesterfield County Brian Fletcher

Onancock, VA – Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Monica Gould

Springfield, VA – Immanuel Bible Church, the Rev. Michael Connor

Washington

Battle Ground, WA – Cherry Grove Friends Church, the Rev. Arden Kinser

Ferndale, WA – United Church of Ferndale, the Rev. Bobbi Jean Virta

Kirkland, WA – Lake Washington Christian Church, the Rev. Kara Markell

Lakebay, WA – Lakebay Community Church, the Rev. Dan Whitmarsh

Port Townsend, WA – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Dianne Andrews

Seattle, WA – Columbia City Church of Hope, the Rev. Darla DeFrance

Shoreline, WA – Richmond Beach Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, the Rev. Paul Mason Ashby

Sumner, WA – Faith Covenant Church, the Rev. Kurt Notehelfer

Tacoma, WA – Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tacoma, the Rev. John Thomas Stroeh

Wisconsin

Clear Lake, WI – Reeve Evangelical Free Church, the Rev. Todd Groat

Green Bay, WI – Ascension Lutheran Church, the Rev. Luther Swenson

Menomonie, WI – Our Savior's Lutheran Church, the Rev. Heather Wigdahl

Milwaukee, WI – Lake Park Lutheran Church, the Rev. David Bradley Dragseth

Stoughton, WI – Ezra Church Company, the Rev. Jeff Lovell

Waupun, WI – Edgewood Community Church, the Rev. Jamie Thompson

Wyoming

Jackson, WY – The Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole, the Rev. Benjamin Robert Pascal

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.

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 nine graduate-level degree programs, each rooted in a rich history of biblical scholarship, theological openness, and spiritual discernment. More than 30 denominations are represented among CTS faculty and students. Additional information about CTS is available at www.cts.edu.