



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
September 13, 2019

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Christian Theological Seminary Announces 150 Congregations Awarded Lilly Endowment 2019 National Clergy Renewal Program Grants

Christian Theological Seminary, in its role of administering the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program, has awarded grants to 150 congregations located in 39 states. 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 Christopher L. Coble, Lilly 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 2019 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 stay in the L’Arche communities of Belfast, Northern Ireland and Bethlehem, West Bank. Another pastor will undertake a four-month road trip around the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

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 leadership in social justice ministries, mentoring programs with underserved children and the spirituality of movement and dance.

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 reflected in 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 and invest in their health and energy for continued ministry,” Saler said.

Since Lilly Endowment introduced the National Clergy Renewal Program grants in 2000, more than 2,800 congregations across the nation have participated in the program. Congregations in the 2019 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:

Alabama

Birmingham, AL – Saint Junia United Methodist, the Rev. David Barnhart

Arkansas

Bentonville, AR – All Saints' Episcopal Church, the Rev. Guillermo Castillo

Arizona

Scottsdale, AZ – The Episcopal Parish of Saint Barnabas on the Desert, the Rev. Elizabeth Roles

Sun City, AZ – United Church of Sun City, AZ, the Rev. Brady Abel

Tucson, AZ – Shalom Mennonite Fellowship, the Rev. Kristina Schlabach

California

Alhambra, CA – Los Angeles Chinese Alliance Church, the Rev. Keone Wah Chan Pang

Escondido, CA – Orchard Community Church, the Rev. Assad Saif

Long Beach, CA – Grace First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Marion Park

Oakland, CA – Christ Church East Bay, the Revs. Patrick & Quinn Vaughn

Oakland, CA – Pistos Korean Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Daniel Cho

San Bernardino, CA – First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, the Rev. Sandy Tice

San Diego, CA – Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego, the Rev. Daniel D. Koeshall

Vallejo, CA – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Christy Newton

Colorado

Boulder, CO – First Presbyterian Church of Boulder, the Rev. Erik Hanson

Colorado Springs, CO – First Congregational UCC of Colorado Springs, the Rev. Jacque Franklin

Denver, CO – Sixth Avenue United Church, UCC, the Rev. Christopher Gilmore

Denver, CO – The Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Mary, the Rev. Rebecca J. Crummey

Durango, CO – First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Beau Smith

Golden, CO – Faith Lutheran Church, the Rev. Jane Jebsen

Lakewood, CO – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Allan Hunter Cole

Telluride, CO – Christ Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Patrick Bailey

Connecticut

Trumbull, CT – Trumbull Congregational Church, the Rev. Tim Hare

Florida

Bradenton, FL – Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Inc., the Rev. Victoria Hope Lee

Pinellas Park, FL – Good Samaritan Church Pinellas Park Florida Inc., the Rev. Jennifer Marie Daysa

Pinellas Park, FL – Korean Presbyterian Church of Pinellas County, the Rev. June Gyoung Kim

Georgia

Atlanta, GA – Northwest Presbyterian Church, Inc., the Rev. Timothy Boggess

Atlanta, GA – St. Anne's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Licia Affer

Decatur, GA – Resonate Atlanta Incorporated, the Rev. Christopher Case

Saint Simons Island, GA – The Episcopal Church of the town of Frederica, Called Christ Church, the Rev. Thomas C. Purdy

Illinois

Chicago, IL – University Christian Church, the Rev. Julian DeShazier

Des Plaines, IL – St. Stephen Protomartyr Catholic Church, the Rev. Manuel David Arcila

Evanston, IL – St. Andrew's Pentecost Episcopal Church, the Rev. Emeka Polycarp Nwachuku

Hinsdale, IL – Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Rev. Katie Hines-Shah

Mt. Prospect, IL – The Sammool United Methodist Church, the Rev. Misook Park

Oak Park, IL – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the Rev. Kathryn Nolte

Park Ridge, IL – South Park Church, the Rev. Eric Flood

Pleasant Plains, IL – Farmingdale Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Lonna Chang-Ren Lee

Prospect Heights, IL – Hebron Presbyterian Church, the Rev. John Kim

Western Springs, IL – First Congregational Church, the Rev. Katherine Pershey

Woodstock, IL – Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Amanda Bergstrom

Woodstock, IL – St. Mary's Church, the Rev. Burt Absalon

Iowa

Iowa City, IA – Christ the King Lutheran Church, the Rev. Connie Sue Spitzack

Muscatine, IA – First Presbyterian Church of Muscatine, the Rev. Pamela Saturnia

Kansas

Manhattan, KS – St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, the Rev. Patrick Funston

Kentucky

Covington, KY – Trinity Church, Inc., the Rev. Peter D'Angio

Georgetown, KY – Faith Baptist Church, the Rev. Amanda Springs Langlands

Louisiana

Baton Rouge, LA – St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Tommy Dillon

Maine

Brunswick, ME – St. Paul's Church, the Rev. Carolyn Eklund

Maryland

Baltimore, MD – Union Memorial United Methodist Church, the Rev. Jason Odell Jordan-Griffin

Columbia, MD – Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Scott Hoffman

Germantown, MD – Trinity United Methodist Church, the Rev. Bonnie Scott

Waldorf, MD – Vestry of Piney Parish, the Rev. Maria Kane

Massachusetts

Acton, MA – Highrock Covenant Church, Acton, MA, the Revs. Rebecca & William Barnett

Amesbury, MA – Main Street Congregational Church, the Rev. Joan MacPherson

Billerica, MA – First Congregational Church in Billerica, the Rev. Katherine Adams

Boston, MA – Church of the Cross, the Rev. Mark Booker

Boston, MA – First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, the Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird

Burlington, MA – United Church of Christ, Congregational, the Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

Haverhill, MA – First Baptist Church of Haverhill, Inc., the Rev. Richard Harrington

Wellesley, MA – First Congregational Church of Wellesley Hills, the Rev. Matthew Wooster

Michigan

Ada, MI – The Community, An RCA Ministry in Ada, the Revs. William and Mara Norden

Adrian, MI – St. John's Lutheran Church, the Rev. Joel Sarrault

Detroit, MI – Grace in Action Church, the Rev. John Cummings

Grand Haven, MI – Watermark Church, the Rev. Steven Deur

Grand Rapids, MI – Westminster Presbyterian Church and Society, the Rev. Jennifer Porter

Holland, MI – Zion Lutheran Church of Holland, the Rev. Ryan Andrew Winningham

Rockford, MI – Bostwick Lake Congregational United Church of Christ, the Rev. Thomas Lawton

Minnesota

Audubon, MN – Saint Peter's Lutheran Church, the Rev. Ruth Elizabeth Hetland

Bloomington, MN – Bloomington Covenant Church, the Rev. Timothy Burton Johnson

Dawson, MN – Grace Lutheran Church, the Rev. Kendall Stelter

Litchfield, MN – Zion Lutheran Church, the Rev. Troy Pflibsen

Minneapolis, MN – Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Brenda Froisland

Minneapolis, MN – Bethlehem Baptist Church, the Rev. Jason Meyer

Plymouth, MN – Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth, the Rev. Beth Horsch

Saint Paul, MN – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, the Rev. Bradley Schmeling

Saint Paul, MN – Macalester Plymouth United Church, the Rev. Adam Blons

White Bear Lake, MN – Parkview United Church of Christ, the Rev. Deborah Hasdorff

Wyoming, MN – First Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. Holly Catherine Williams Aastuen

Mississippi

Jackson, MS – St. Andrew's Cathedral, the Rev. Jennifer Melnyk Deaton

Missouri

Kansas City, MO – The Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Shanna Kaye Steitz

Montana

Bonner, MT – Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Bonner, the Rev. Eric Huseth

Nebraska

Kearney, NE – The Table Church, the Rev. Tyler Wilterding

Omaha, NE – First United Methodist Church, the Rev. Cynthia Lindenmeyer

New Hampshire

Salem, NH – Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church, the Rev. Scott Randal Howard

New Jersey

Ramsey, NJ – The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, the Rev. Michael Christian Linderman

New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM – City Presbyterian Church ABQ, the Rev. Justin Edgar

Albuquerque, NM – First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Matthew Ernest Miller

New York

Albany, NY – The First Presbyterian Church, the Revs. Glenn David and Miriam Lawrence Leupold

Rochester, NY – Community Christian Church, the Rev. Steven Price

North Carolina

Cary, NC – Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Frederick Thrower

Charlotte, NC – St. Martin's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Joshua Dan Bowron

Charlotte, NC – Warehouse 242: A Church for the Center City, the Rev. Wesley Vander Lugt

Greensboro, NC – Church of the Redeemer of Greensboro, NC, the Rev. Andrew (Drew) Douglass Hill

Hendersonville, NC – La Capilla de Santa Maria Episcopal, the Rev. Hilario Cisneros

Mount Airy, NC – Calvary Baptist Church of Mount Airy, North Carolina, the Rev. Alex Martin

Raleigh, NC – Raleigh Mennonite Church, the Rev. Melissa Florer-Bixler

Wilmington, NC – The Anchor United Methodist Church, the Rev. Philip Chryst

Wilson, NC – First Christian Church, the Rev. Gary Lane Walling

Ohio

Dayton, OH – First Baptist Church of Dayton, the Rev. Jason Alspaugh

Stow, OH – First Christian Church, the Rev. Jonathan Rumburg

Oklahoma

Tulsa, OK – Harvard Avenue Christian Church, the Rev. Kevin Howe

Oregon

Corvallis, OR – Christ Central Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Greg Joines

Hood River, OR – Riverside Community Church, the Rev. Vicky Stifter

Portland, OR – Oaks Parish, the Rev. Bryan Stephen Buck

Tualatin, OR – Tualatin Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Ken Evers-Hood

Pennsylvania

Camp Hill, PA – Christ United Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Ellen Crawford True

Devon, PA – St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Matthew Staniz

Ellwood City, PA – Wurtemberg Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Robert Guy

Greenville, PA – Hillside Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Sean Hall

Grove City, PA – Christ Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Matthew Harmon

Lancaster, PA – Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, the Rev. Russell Alan Rockwell

Lansdale, PA – Bridge Community Church, the Rev. Paul Kemper

Lititz, PA – Lititz Mennonite Church, the Rev. Rodney Martin

Mechanicsburg, PA – Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church, the Rev. Layne Alan Lebo

Newport, PA – Church of the Nativity and St. Stephen, the Rev. Rebecca Myers

Pittsburgh, PA – Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon, the Rev. Donna Giver-Johnston

Rebersburg, PA – Rebersburg Charge UCC, the Rev. Juliana L. Holm

South Carolina

Eastover, SC – Antioch African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Rev. Robert Timothy Benton

Tennessee

Brentwood, TN – East Brentwood Presbyterian Church, the Rev. John Hilley

Collierville, TN – St. Patrick Presbyterian Church, EPC – the Rev. James Holland

Kingsport, TN – St. Dominic Catholic Church, the Rev. Michael Emmet Cummins

Tullahoma, TN – First Presbyterian Church of Tullahoma, the Rev. Stephen Yates

Texas

Brenham, TX – Brenham Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Warren Brent Hampton

Kingwood, TX – Holy Comforter Lutheran Church, the Rev. Barbara Bartling

Port Aransas, TX – Trinity by the Sea Episcopal Church, the Rev. John Derkits

Richardson, TX – First Presbyterian Church of Richardson, the Rev. Marshall David Schaeffers

San Antonio, TX – Christ Episcopal Church, the Rev. Patrick Gahan

The Woodlands, TX – St. Isidore Episcopal Church, the Rev. Sean Steele

Virginia

Charlottesville, VA – McIlhany Parish, the Rev. Neal Halvorson-Taylor

Falls Church, VA – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the Rev. Michael Gutzler

Radford, VA – Unity Christian Church, the Rev. Wendy Wilson

Washington

East Wenatchee, WA – Celebration Lutheran Church of East Wenatchee, the Rev. David Haven

Hoquiam, WA – Saron Lutheran-1st Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Michelle de Beauchamp

Kirkland, WA – Inglewood Presbyterian Church, the Rev. James Allan Kumin

Mabton, WA – Mabton Grace Brethren Church, the Rev. Adam Copenhaver

Sammamish, WA – Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, the Rev. Charles Danzey

Seattle, WA – Trinity Church Seattle, the Rev. Luke Morton

Spokane Valley, WA – Opportunity Christian Fellowship, the Rev. Daniel Bonney

Tacoma, WA – Bethany Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Sarah Winsett Wiles

Tacoma, WA – Urban Grace Church, the Rev. Ben Robinson

Vancouver, WA – Cascades Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Joseph Montovino

Wenatchee, WA – St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Frances Rose Twigg

West Virginia

Bluefield, WV – Christ Episcopal Church, the Rev. Chadwick Michael Slater

Morgantown, WV – Avery United Methodist Church, the Rev. Jenny Williams

Wisconsin

Brookfield, WI – Brookfield Christian Reformed Church, the Rev. Peter Verhulst

Cameron, WI – Living Water Lutheran Church, the Rev. Ned Lenhart

Fontana, WI – Community Church of Fontana, United Church of Christ, the Rev. Ruth Costello

Milwaukee, WI – Evangelical Hephatha Lutheran Congregation, the Rev. Mary Martha Kannass

Shawano, WI – Hope Community Church, the Rev. John Anderson

Wyoming

Green River, WY – Union Congregational Church United Church of Christ, the Rev. Jenny Boteler

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.