



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 <https://www.cts.edu/clergy-renewal/for-current-grantees/> and www.lillyendowment.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Robert Saler
317-931-2348 / rsaler@cts.edu

Christian Theological Seminary Announces 140 Congregations Awarded Lilly Endowment 2020 National Clergy Renewal Program Grants

Christian Theological Seminary, in its role of administering the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program, has awarded grants to 140 congregations located in 36 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 2020 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 Tanzania and Zanzibar for learning, cultural exchange, and volunteering at local schools. Another pastor will visit Chinese heritage churches in the UK and Canada.

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 multi-lingual/multi-cultural ministry, Eco-theology, and the intersections of race and sociology.

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 Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations and National Clergy Renewal Program grants in 1999 and 2000 respectively, more than 3,400 congregations across the nation have participated in the programs. Congregations in the 2020 program received grants totaling more than \$6.4 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

Auburn, AL – First Presbyterian Church, the Revs. Kathryn and Nicholas Reed

Arkansas

North Little Rock, AR – Argenta United Methodist Church, the Rev. Will Choate

Arizona

Glendale, AZ – Larkspur Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Job Cobos

Mesa, AZ – St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox, the Rev. James Coles

Tucson, AZ – Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church of Tucson, the Rev. David Lars Pavesic

California

La Verne, CA – Rock of the Foothills Lutheran Church, the Rev. Eric Strom

Lake Arrowhead, CA – Lake Arrowhead Community Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Bill Stanley

Pleasant Hill, CA – St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Rebekah Davis

Roseville, CA – Valley Springs Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Brad Anderson

San Jose, CA – Emmanuel Baptist Church, the Rev. Jason C. Reynolds

Colorado

Colorado Springs, CO – Vista Grande Community Church, United Church of Christ, the Rev. Clare Twomey

Denver, CO – United Church of Montbello, the Rev. James E. Foucher, Jr.

Lakewood, CO – Lakewood United Church of Christ, the Rev. Curtis Johns Preston

Connecticut

New Haven, CT – Springs of Life-Giving Water Church, the Rev. William Mathis

Newtown, CT – Newtown Congregational Church, UCC, the Rev. Kristen M. E. Provost Switzer

Woodstock, CT – East Woodstock Congregational Church, UCC, the Rev. Susan Foster

Florida

Orlando, FL – Salem Lutheran Church, the Rev. Derek Hoven

Georgia

Blairsville, GA – St. Clare Episcopal Church, the Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt

Sautee, GA – The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in White County, the Rev. Scott Kidd

Tucker, GA – St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on Lavista, the Rev. Camille Powell

Iowa

Des Moines, IA – Downtown Disciples, the Rev. Debra Griffin

Grimes, IA – St. Peter Lutheran Church, the Rev. Mark Schlenker

Ottumwa, IA – Davis Street Christian Church, the Rev. James H. Wakelin

Sioux City, IA – Riverside Lutheran Church, the Rev. Timothy James Squier

Idaho

Idaho Falls, IA – Trinity Methodist Church, the Rev. Ruth Marsh

Illinois

Belleville, IL – First United Presbyterian Church of Belleville, the Rev. Robert Dyer

Chicago, IL – Cornerstone Anglican Church, the Rev. Keith Hartsell

Clarendon Hills, IL – Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills, the Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

Elmhurst, IL – Bethel United Church of Christ, the Rev. Gretchen Sylvester

Lemont, IL – Christ Community Church, the Rev. Chad De Jager

Lincoln, IL – First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Adam Quine

Skokie, IL – Jesus Love Korean New Church United Methodist Church, the Rev. Sun Hyung Jo

Kansas

Overland Park, KS – Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Michael Peck

Bowling Green, KS – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Bowling Green, the Rev. Megan Huston

Florence, KY – Florence Christian Church, the Rev. Diana Hodges-Batzka

Fort Thomas, KY – Highland United Methodist Church, the Rev. John Wesley Bowling

Lexington, KY – Lexington Korean Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Hyeon Gu Lee

Louisville, KY – St. Andrew United Church of Christ, the Rev. Lori Miller-Price

Paris, KY – North Middletown Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Stephanie Moon

Massachusetts

Brookline, MA – United Parish in Brookline, the Rev. Kent French

Cambridge, MA – Old Cambridge Baptist Church, the Rev. Cody Sanders

Chelmsford, MA – Central Congregational Church of Chelmsford, UCC, the Rev. Richard Knight

Melrose, MA – Melrose Highlands Congregational Church, the Rev. Elizabeth F. (Beth) Horne

Topsfield, MA – The Congregational Church of Topsfield, the Rev. Marthinus Riekert

Maryland

Baltimore, MD – John Wesley United Methodist Church, the Rev. Joan Eileen Carter-Rimbach

Baltimore, MD – Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, the Rev. Heber M. Brown III

Crofton, MD – Prince of Peace United Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Elizabeth Dallas McLean

Jacksonville, MD – Chestnut Grove Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Andrew Gathman

Lexington Park, MD – Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Walt Nilsson

Mount Airy, MD – St. James' Church in Carroll County, the Rev. Kristin Krantz

Towson, MD – Towson Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Joel Strom

Maine

Fairfield, ME – Fairfield United Methodist Church, the Rev. Chong Choi

Kennebunk, ME – Holy Cross Lutheran Church, the Rev. Richard Horner

Michigan

Beulah, MI – St. Philip's Episcopal Church Endowment Trust, the Rev.. Christian and Jodi Baron

Grand Rapids, MI – Trinity Reformed Church, the Revs. Benjamin and Sarah Bruins

Kentwood, MI – Nepali Speaking Community Church, the Rev. Yakuv Gurung

Mt. Pleasant, MI – First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Andrew L Miller

Wayland, MI – Gun Lake Community Church, the Rev. Daniel James Beyer

Minnesota

Bemidji, MN – Calvary Lutheran Church, the Rev. Genelle Genkinger Netland

Minneapolis, MN – Lynnhurst Congregational United Church of Christ, the Rev. Cynthia Riggin

Minneapolis, MN – Saint Thomas of Minneapolis, the Rev. Michael Reding

St. Louis Park, MN – Union Congregational United Church of Christ, the Rev. Barbara Martin

St. Paul, MN – Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Karen Patricia Williams

Missouri

Lees Summit, MO – Lee's Summit Christian Church, the Rev. Matthew Silvers

Liberty, MO – The Second Baptist Church, the Rev. Jason Glen Edwards

Springfield, MO – St. John's Chapel United Church of Christ, the Rev. Sue Williams

Webster Groves, MO – Evangelical United Church of Christ, the Rev. Wendy Bruner

Mississippi

Greenville, MS – First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. William Sharman

Montana

Helena, MT – First Presbyterian Church of Helena, the Rev. Scott Wipperman

North Carolina

Asheville, NC – First Baptist Church of Asheville, the Rev. Austin Dennis

Clayton, NC – Wilson's Mills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Eleanor (Lea) Slaton

Durham, NC – Monument of Faith Church, the Rev. Clarence Laney, Jr.

Greensboro, NC – First Baptist Church, Greensboro, the Rev. Alan Proctor Sherouse

Greensboro, NC – Saint Francis Episcopal Church, the Rev. Milton Williams

Raleigh, NC – Forest Hills Baptist Church, the Rev. Paul Taulman

Waynesville, NC – First United Methodist Church – Waynesville, the Rev. Keith Turman

Winston-Salem, NC – First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, the Rev. Emily Hull McGee

North Dakota

Minot, ND – Zion Lutheran Church, the Rev. Natasha Woitzel-Kolles

New Jersey

Bogota, NJ – Bogart Memorial Reformed Church, the Revs. Shuo-Min (Imos) and Jodie Wu

New Brunswick, NJ – Christ Church, the Rev. Joanna Hollis

New York

Cheektowaga, NY – Maryvale Drive United Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Dorothy Pearman

Garden City, NY – Garden City Community Church, the Rev. Lynn Sullivan

New York, NY – Korean Methodist Church and Institute, the Rev. YongBo Lee

New York, NY – Park Avenue United Methodist Church, the Rev. Cathy Gilliard

New York, NY – St. Michael's Protestant Episcopal Church, the Rev. Katharine Flexer

Scotia, NY – Trinity Presbyterian Church, the Revs. Kathleen Gorman-Coombs and Timothy Coombs

Valley Stream, NY – Valley Stream Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Kymberley Clemons-Jones

Yorktown Heights, NY – First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Chip Low

Ohio

Bryan, OH – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Mary Beth Smith-Gunn

North Canton, OH – Community Christian Church, the Rev. Sarah Taylor Peck

North Olmsted, OH – John Knox Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Tom MacMillan

South Euclid, OH – South Euclid United Church of Christ, the Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

Tallmadge, OH – First Church of God, the Rev. Josh Deeter

Oregon

Portland, OR – Ainsworth United Church of Christ, the Rev. M. Lynne Smouse López

Portland, OR – Waverly Heights Congregational United Church of Christ, the Rev. Sara Rosenau

Pennsylvania

Blooming Glen, PA – Blooming Glen Mennonite Church, the Rev. Mike Ford

Exton, PA – Grace Covenant Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Timothy A. Brown

Leola, PA – Groffdale Mennonite Church, the Rev. Thomas Lee Eshleman

Philadelphia, PA – Seven Mile Road Church, the Rev. Ajay Thomas

Sewickley, PA – The Presbyterian Church, Sewickley, the Rev. Kevin Long

Steelton, PA – AME Church of Steelton, the Rev. Tabitha Patricia Ssonko

South Carolina

Clemson, SC – Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Mary Morrison

Columbia, SC – Shandon Presbyterian Church, the Rev. John Robert Cook

Tennessee

Nashville, TN – Hillwood Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Rev. Jule M. Nyhuis

Texas

Angleton, TX – Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, the Rev. Travis Smith

Arlington, TX – Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Emily (Kate) McGee

Canyon, TX – First United Methodist Church, the Rev. Rick Enns

Corpus Christi, TX – All Saints' Episcopal Church, the Rev. Jonathan William Wickham

Houston, TX – Houston Chinese Church, the Rev. Jason Tarn

Plano, TX – Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, the Rev. Leslie Stewart

Richardson, TX – Restoration Anglican Church, the Rev. Jed Roseberry

San Antonio, TX – Grace Episcopal Church, the Rev. Jacob Charles George

Waco, TX – St. Alban's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Aaron Zimmerman

Virginia

Alexandria, VA – Hope United Church of Christ, the Rev. Amber Neuroth

Alexandria, VA – Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Robert Melone

Brambleton, VA – Brambleton Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman

Centreville, VA – St. John's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Carol Jean Hancock

Norfolk, VA – Trinity Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Leland (Jack) Howell

Roanoke, VA – St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. James Lewin Armentrout

Sterling, VA – Riverside Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Edwin Andrade

Vienna, VA – Vienna Presbyterian Church PC(USA), the Rev. Glenda Simpkins Hoffman

Williamsburg, VA – Williamsburg Presbyterian Church PC(USA), the Rev. John Edward Morgan

Vermont

South Royalton, VT – The United Church of South Royalton, Federated, the Rev. Joshua A. Moore

Washington

Bellingham, WA – Cordata Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Gregory Ellis

Gig Harbor, WA – St. John's Parish, in Gig Harbor, Pierce County, the Rev. Eric Stelle

Kent, WA – St. Columba's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Alissabeth Newton

Kent, WA – St. James Episcopal Church, the Rev. Joyce Parry Moore

Kirkland, WA – Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, the Rev. Katy McCallum Sachse

Lynnwood, WA – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, the Rev. Gail Rautmann

Pullman, WA – The Presbyterian Church of Pullman, the Rev. Matthew McNelly

Seattle, WA – Church of the Apostles, the Rev. Ivar Hillesland

Seattle, WA – Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, the Rev. Bryon Hansen

Seattle, WA – University Congregational United Church of Christ, the Rev. Amy M. Roon

Spokane, WA – St. David's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Kimberly Meinecke

Spokane, WA – Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Daniel White

Spokane Valley, WA – Opportunity Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Kevin L. Lind

Westport, WA – Chaplains on the Harbor, the Rev. Sarah Monroe

Wisconsin

Tomah, WI – Peace Lutheran Church, the Rev. Dawn Lindberg

Waukesha, WI – First Congregational Church, the Rev. Brittany Barber

West Virginia

Parkersburg, WV – the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, the Rev. Marjorie Bevans

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.