



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](http://www.lillyendowment.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Christian Theological Seminary Announces 190 Congregations Awarded  
Lilly Endowment 2021 Clergy Renewal Program Grants**

Christian Theological Seminary, an ecumenical seminary based in Indianapolis, today announces 190 U.S. congregations have been selected to receive grants through the Lilly Endowment 2021 National Clergy Renewal Program and the Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations. The grants help congregations honor and support their pastors by funding a respite from persistent ministerial duties and enabling pastors to engage in a period of extended reflection and renewal. Recipients may use the respite for activities that allow them to reflect and renew while engaging in activities such as travel, scholarly research or immersive experiences with different cultures and traditions.

“Pastors play a critical role in nurturing and guiding their congregations’ work in the Christian tradition, while tending to the soul and psyche of individual members within the congregation,” says Christopher L. Coble, the Endowment’s vice president for religion. “These grants facilitate an opportunity to celebrate pastors for their extraordinary service while making it possible for these men and women to step away from congregational demands and invest in rest and renewal. For more than two decades, these grants have shown that such respites support the vitality of pastors and reinvigorate their congregations as well.”

Congregations in the 2021 programs represent diverse Christian traditions, including Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox parishes and congregations from more than 24 Protestant denominations. Bringing a collaborative element to the grant program, congregations and their pastors worked together to determine how the pastors will use the grants to replenish, restore and renew their ministries.

Pastors may also use time away from their congregations to explore new spiritual disciplines, invest in focused time with loved ones and engage in immersive experiences that enhance their enthusiasm for preaching, ministry and leadership.

Popular activities selected by previous grant recipients include domestic and international travel and encounters with nature. Activities have facilitated enhanced cultural understanding, exploration of church heritage and other activities that aim to enrich pastors and their congregations.

Pastors also plan to use the awards to fund domestic and international travel. For example, one pastor will travel with family to visit his home country of South Korea - where he will continue his

study of martial arts - as well as Israel, Asia Minor, and other biblical destinations. Another pastor will travel to Scotland to explore the historic scriptoriums on the islands of Iona and Lindisfarne and then prepare her own manuscript of the Sermon on the Mount incorporating her explorations of biblical text, Celtic lands, and personal history.

In addition to travel as a form of renewal, some pastors will use 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 congregational life. Activities for congregations include exploring their own spiritual stories, sharing meals together, focusing on intergenerational relationships, and engaging their local communities through service. Dr. Robert Saler, director of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, noted that the grant programs integrate elements of support, trust and encouragement which are all indicators of healthy congregations. “The programs are engineered to honor an innate human need to balance active service to others with periods of reflection and renewal. Animated by a spirit of gratitude and generosity, this program provides a means for congregations to show appreciation for their leaders and actively invest in their pastors’ health and energy for continued ministry,” Saler says.

Since Lilly Endowment introduced the Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations and National Clergy Renewal Program grants in 1999 and 2000 respectively, more than 3,200 congregations across the nation have participated in the programs. Congregations in the 2021 national program received grants totaling almost \$9 million. The grants honor the immense amount of energy, time and leadership that pastors invest in their congregations.

Congregations were invited to apply for program grants of up to \$50,000. The application process allows congregations to be actively engaged in designing and developing their pastors’ renewal experiences. An inspiring element of the program is the ability for congregations to allocate up to \$15,000 of the grant to fund interim pastoral leadership, as well as renewal activities within the congregation. Pastors’ families can also participate in the renewal activities.

Christian Theological Seminary has administered the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs since 2012. “As our nation and our world navigate complex health, environmental and geopolitical threats, these grants enable pastors and their congregations to actively partake in the gifts of retreat and renewal that are so needed today,” Saler says.

### **Award Recipients in the National Clergy Renewal Program:**

#### **Alabama**

Huntsville, AL – Southwood Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Will Spink

#### **Arizona**

Tucson, AZ – St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Bart Smith

## **California**

Brentwood, CA – Brentwood Community United Methodist Church, the Rev. Hyesung Lee

Concord, CA – The Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Jeremy Serrano

Downey, CA – El Encino Covenant Church, the Rev. Carlos V. Ortiz Aranda

Fullerton, CA – Casa de Oracion de Fullerton, the Rev. Rogelio Martinez

Healdsburg, CA – First Presbyterian Church Healdsburg, the Revs. Dean and Andrea Kladder

Irvine, CA – New Life Mission Church of Irvine, the Rev. Jeff Suhr

Morgan Hill, CA – Advent Lutheran Church, the Rev. Anita Warner

Redding, CA – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Janet Chapman

Saint Helena, CA – Grace Episcopal Church, the Rev. Amy Denney Zuniga

San Carlos, CA – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the Rev. Joshua Serrano

San Diego, CA – Hope Presbyterian Church of San Diego, the Rev. Joseph Myung

San Diego, CA – St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Laurel Mathewson

Temple City, CA – Mideast Evangelical Church, the Rev. Maher Makar

Yorba Linda, CA – Messiah Lutheran Church, the Rev. Robert Mooney

## **Colorado**

Aurora, CO – Mountain View United Church, the Rev. Tracy Laraine Hughes

Colorado Springs, CO – Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, the Rev. Alycia Erickson

Colorado Springs, CO – First Baptist Church, the Rev. Roy Daniel Schumacher

Denver, CO – Denver Community Church, the Rev. Michael Hidalgo

Steamboat Springs, CO – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Catie Greene

## **Connecticut**

Hamden, CT – Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church, the Rev. Keith A. King

Milford, CT – The First United Church of Christ, Congregational, the Revs. Adam Eckhart and Ashley Grant

Milford, CT – Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Christopher Files

New Haven, CT – The Connecticut Korean Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Ik Tae Kim

Old Lyme, CT – The First Congregational Church, the Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

Southport, CT – Trinity Episcopal Church, the Rev. Margaret (Peggy) Rice Hodgkins

Westport, CT – Saugatuck Congregational Church, the Rev. Alison Patton

### **District of Columbia**

Washington, DC – The National Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Donna Marsh

Washington, DC – Redemption Hill Church, the Rev. William Riedel

### **Florida**

Gainesville, FL – Ignite Life Center, the Rev. Mark Vega

Jacksonville, FL – Christ Presbyterian Church in America, the Rev. Chuck Colson

Maitland, FL – Orangewood Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Joseph Creech

Medley, FL – Ministerio Vida Nueva, the Rev. Orlando M. Canales

Miami, FL – Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, the Rev. Theodis Johnson

New Port Richey, FL – Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, the Rev. Victoria Snow

Sebastian, FL – First Presbyterian Church of Sebastian, the Rev. Jeffrey Scott Wood

Switzerland, FL – Geneva Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Joseph Albright

### **Georgia**

Alpharetta, GA – Open Door Community Church, the Rev. Joshua Cho

Atlanta, GA – Kirkwood United Church of Christ, the Rev. Susannah Davis

Perry, GA – Sojourn Church Ministries, the Rev. Jason Berl

Smyrna, GA – Smyrna 2 Foursquare Church, the Rev. Phillip Manginelli

Stonecrest, GA – First African Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Mark A. Lomax

Suwanee, GA – Atlanta Promise Church, the Rev. Bryan Choe

### **Illinois**

Alton, IL – Alton Mission Free Methodist Church, the Rev. Peter Hough

Arthur, IL – Arthur Mennonite Church, the Rev. Glen Rhodes

Bolingbrook, IL – Friendship United Methodist Church, the Rev. KyungHae Anna Shin

Chicago, IL – Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, the Rev. Shannon Kershner

Chicago, IL – Pilgrim Lutheran Church English Synod, the Rev. Kristian Johnson

Chicago, IL – St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Lawrence James Clark

La Grange, IL – First Congregational Church of La Grange, the Rev. Carla (Carly) Stucklen Sather

University Park, IL – Faith Movers Church, the Rev. Moses Herring

Wheeling, IL – First Korean United Methodist Church, the Rev. Kwangtae Kim

## **Iowa**

Marion, IA – Cornerstone Church, the Rev. Matthew Proctor

Mount Pleasant, IA – First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Trey Hegar

Johnston, IA – Meredith Drive Reformed Church, the Rev. Suzanne Vogel

## **Kentucky**

Lexington, KY – South Elkhorn Christian Church, the Rev. Michael Swartzentruber

Louisville, KY – Sojourn Community Church, the Rev. Jamaal Williams

## **Louisiana**

New Orleans, LA – St. Charles Ave. Baptist Church, the Rev. Elizabeth Lott

Shreveport, LA – Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, the Rev. Theron Jackson

## **Maine**

Holden, ME – Holden Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, the Rev. Linette Carol George

## **Maryland**

Annapolis, MD – Broadneck Baptist Church, the Rev. Abby Thornton Hailey

Baltimore, MD – Memorial Episcopal Church, the Rev. Grey Maggiano

Clarksville, MD – Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church, the Rev. Gayle Annis-Forder

Crownsville, MD – St. Stephen's-Severn Parish, the Rev. Victor Hailey

Glenwood, MD – St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Glenwood, the Rev. Dina van Klaveren

Olney, MD – St. John's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Henry McQueen

Solomons, MD – Solomons United Methodist Church, the Rev. Dottie Yunger

## **Massachusetts**

Andover, MA – South Church in Andover, the Rev. Dana Allen Walsh

Concord, MA – Trinity Church, the Rev. Nancy Jane Hagner

Lowell, MA – Eliot Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Heather Prince Doss

Newton, MA – Newton Covenant Church, the Rev. Garrett Smith

Sheffield, MA – Christ Trinity Church, the Rev. Erik Karas

Walpole, MA – United Church in Walpole, the Rev. Anna Flowers

### **Michigan**

Kalamazoo, MI – Westwood Christian Reformed Church, the Rev. Michael Koetje

Royal Oak, MI - St. John's Episcopal Church, Royal Oak, the Rev. Beth Taylor

### **Minnesota**

Afton, MN – Memorial Lutheran Church of Afton, the Rev. Elizabeth Damico-Carper

Minneapolis, MN – Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, the Rev. Judy Zabel

Minneapolis, MN – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the Rev. Ingrid Rasmussen

Robbinsdale, MN – Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ, the Rev. Kathleen Brigid Itzin

St. Paul, MN – Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, the Rev. Joy McDonald Coltvet

St. Paul, MN – Saint Anthony Park Lutheran Church, the Rev. Jill Rode

Stillwater, MN – Trinity Lutheran Church, the Rev. Christine Bellefeuille

### **Mississippi**

Columbia, MS – New Life Fellowship Full Gospel Church, the Rev. Terry L. Weems

### **Montana**

Great Falls, MT – First Congregational United Church of Christ, the Lynne Spencer-Smith

### **Nebraska**

Omaha, NE – First Covenant Church, the Rev. Greg Applequist

### **New Hampshire**

Bedford, NH – Bedford Presbyterian Church, the Rev. John Sawyer

Peterborough, NH – Union Congregational Church of Peterborough, the Rev. Robert Marrone

Wolfeboro, NH – All Saints' Episcopal Church, the Rev. William R. Petersen

## **New Jersey**

Montclair, NJ – Redeemer Church of Montclair, the Rev. Daniel B. Ying

Paterson, NJ – Riverside Reformed Church, the Rev. Jonatan Basora

Trenton, NJ – Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granzen

## **New Mexico**

Albuquerque, NM – Albuquerque Mennonite Church, the Rev. Erica Lea-Simka

Albuquerque, NM – Rio Grade Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Linda Roberts-Baca

Las Vegas, NM – First United Presbyterian Church, NM, the Rev. Kathryn Palmer

## **New York**

Amityville, NY – Christian Life Center Church, the Rev. Terrance Daye

Bronx, NY – Missionary Church of Christ, the Rev. Hector L Bonano

Brooklyn, NY – True Holy Church of God in Christ Jesus, the Rev. Vivian Grubb

Dunkirk, NY – Iglesia Getsemani, the Rev. Carlos Llera

Milbrook, NY – Grace Episcopal Church, the Rev. Matthew Calkins

## **North Carolina**

Asheville, NC – Land of the Sky United Methodist Church, the Rev. Sara Wilcox

Cary, NC – Christ the King Lutheran Church, the Rev. Daniel Pugh

Cary, NC – Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, the Rev. Carla Gregg-Kearns

Durham, NC – RTP Global Mission Church, the Rev. Caden Lee

Pittsboro, NC – Iglesia Bautista Misionera Roca Fuerte, the Rev. Javier Benitez Marcos

Raleigh, NC – West Raleigh Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Katherine Rick-Miller

Wilmington, NC – First Baptist Church, the Rev. Jayne Davis

Winston-Salem, NC – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Dixon Kinser

## **North Dakota**

Minot, ND – Christ Lutheran Church, the Rev. Desirée Uhrich

## **Ohio**

Akron, OH – New Hope Baptist Church, the Rev. David Nelson

Columbus, OH – New Faith Baptist Church of Christ, the Rev. David Nelson

Columbus, OH – The Church on Como, the Rev. Timothy Tabor

Euclid, OH – East Shore United Methodist Church, the Rev. Armando C. Arrellano

Greenville, OH – Greenville Evangelical United Methodist Church, the Rev. Jeff Harper

## **Oregon**

Albany, OR – Albany Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Brandon Douglas Lewis

Beavercreek, OR – Beavercreek United Church of Christ, the Rev. Jennifer Seaich

Lincoln City, OR – Congregational Church of Lincoln City, United Church of Christ, the Rev. Michael Ray Grogan

McMinnville, OR – First United Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Matthew Johnson

Milwaukie, OR – Hawthorne Foursquare Church, the Rev. Cameron Marvin

Milwaukie, OR – Oak Hills Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Jeremy Sanderson

Portland, OR – West Hills Covenant Church, the Revs. Stephanie and Mark Mathis

Yachats, OR – Yachats Community Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Robert Barrett

## **Pennsylvania**

Lancaster, PA – Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster, the Rev. Susan Gascho-Cooke

Pittsburgh, PA – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Noah Evans

Telford, PA – Franconia Mennonite Church, the Rev. Josh Meyer

Wayne, PA – The Church of the Savior, the Rev. Kevin Flannery

## **South Carolina**

Greenville, SC – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Johnna Camp

## **South Dakota**

Aberdeen, SD – Our Savior Lutheran Church, the Rev. Jordon Andreasen

Platte, SD – Platte Christian Reformed Church, the Rev. Drew Hoekema

## **Tennessee**

Bristol, TN – Tri-City Korean Presbyterian Church, the Rev. SeongCheol Im

Memphis, TN – Abyssinian Missionary Baptist Church, the Rev. Earle Fisher



Oakland, TN – Oakland Presbyterian Church PC(USA) – the Rev. Stephanie Bussey-Spencer Patton

## **Texas**

Arlington, TX – The Welcome Table Christian Church, the Rev. Jeremy Skaggs

Dallas, TX – The Church of the Transfiguration (Episcopal), Inc., the Rev. Robert Casey Shobe

Elgin, TX – First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Amy Lynn Meyer

Houston, TX – Clear Lake Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Rachel Young

Kingwood, TX – Kingwood Christian Church, the Rev. Chad Mattingly

San Antonio, TX – St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Elizabeth Clemmer Knowlton

Waxahachie, TX – Ferris Avenue Baptist Church, the Rev. David Allen Brown

## **Vermont**

White River Junction, VT – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Scott Neal

## **Virginia**

Alexandria, VA – Church of Saint Clement Episcopal, the Rev. Robin Razzino

Keswick, VA – Grace Episcopal Church, the Rev. Gary Miles Smith

King George, VA – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Owens, the Rev. Leonard (Lee) Farirayi Gandiya

Mechanicsville, VA – Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, the Rev. Marlene Fuller

Newport News, VA – First Baptist Church, the Rev. Juan L. Garcia

Portsmouth, VA – Grove Baptist Church, the Rev. Melvin Marriner

Richmond, VA – Grace Baptist Church, the Rev. Suzanne Vinson

## **Washington**

Belfair, WA – Belfair Community Baptist Church, the Rev. Jamie McCallum

Bellingham, WA – First Congregational Church, the Rev. Sharon Benton

Pullman, WA – St. James Episcopal Church, the Rev. Linda M. Young

Richland, WA – All Saints' Episcopal Church, the Rev. Jane Schmoetzer

Seattle, WA – Sanctuary Christian Reformed Church, the Rev. Mark Alan Mohrlang

Spokane Valley, WA – Veradale United Church of Christ, the Rev. Genavieve May Heywood

## **Wisconsin**

Eau Claire, WI – The First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Kathryn Reid Walker

Mukwonago, WI – First Congregational Church, the Rev. Kevin M. Clark

Onalaska, WI – First Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Jason Stanton

**Award Recipients in the Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations:**

Anderson – St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, the Rev. Matt Manning

Bloomington – Redeemer Community Church of Bloomington, the Rev. Chris Jones

Bloomington – St. Paul United Methodist Church, the Rev. David Mullens

Columbus – Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, the Rev. Nicolas Cable

Donaldson – Evangelical Covenant Church, the Rev. Mark Harder

Elkhart – Creekside Church of the Brethren, the Rev. Rosanna McFadden

Elkhart – Michiana Korean Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Daniel Kang

Evansville – First Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Rev. Veltri Taylor

Evansville – Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin, the Rev. Bernard Etienne

Fort Wayne – Heartland Church of Fort Wayne, the Rev. Dave Frincke

Fort Wayne – Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Rev. David Petersen

Fort Wayne – St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. Paul Andrew Offhaus

Goshen – Assembly Mennonite Church, the Rev. Lora Nafziger

Goshen – College Mennonite Church, the Revs. Talashia Keim and Daniel Yoder

Greencastle – Greencastle Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Wesley Kendall

Indianapolis – Common Ground Christian Church, the Rev. Jeff Alan Reichenadter

Indianapolis – Fairview Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Shawn Coons

Indianapolis – Heather Hills Baptist Church, the Rev. Trey Oetjen

Indianapolis – Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo), the Rev. Berenice Gil Soto

Indianapolis – Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, the Rev. Kevin Long

Indianapolis – New Beginnings Fellowship Church, the Rev. James Jackson

Indianapolis – New Revelation Christian Church, the Rev. Richard Reynolds

Indianapolis – Woodruff Place Baptist Church, Indianapolis, the Rev. Ronald Nunez

Martinsville – Martinsville First Church of the Nazarene, the Rev. Jeff Floyd

Muncie – First Presbyterian Church of Muncie, the Rev. Myungku Lee

New Castle – New Covenant Worship Center, the Rev. Tom Preble

Noblesville – Living Branch Church PCA, the Rev. Keith Doane

Saint John – Suncrest Christian Church, the Rev. Daniel J. Donaldson

Seymour – Bethel Community Church, the Rev. Sondra Gentry

South Bend – Clay United Methodist Church, the Rev. Brian Durand

South Bend – South Bend City Church, the Rev. Jason Miller

Tell City – Tell City 1st Baptist Church, the Rev. Daniel Hopkins

Valparaiso – Valparaiso First United Methodist, the Rev. Kevin Miller

Zionsville – Zionsville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Tyler Andrew Thompson

#### **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 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](http://www.cts.edu).