



Sacred Time, Funded Well

Writing Your Lilly Renewal Proposal



Clergy Renewal Funding Sources

- Cal-Pac Orders: \$3,000
(<https://www.calpacumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-01-Renewal-Leave-Information.pdf>)
- Austin Seminary, Latine Church Leaders: \$3,500
- Lilly Endowment, \$60,000!



Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program

- A private philanthropic foundation founded in 1937 by J. K. Lilly Sr. and his sons, originally funded with stock in the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and Company.
- One of its core grant-making focus-areas is religion, especially strengthening Christian congregations, pastoral leadership, and congregational vitality.
- the Clergy Renewal Program is administered by Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) in Indianapolis, via its Center for Pastoral Excellence.



Timeline

This timeline provides an overview of the general timeline the Clergy Renewal Programs follow each year. Specific dates for each program year are noted in the Requests for Proposals. Please note, proposals are submitted the year prior to the planned renewal leave.

- 1 Early November
Program Year Opens
- 2 Mid-November
Information Webinar
- 3 Mid-March
Proposal deadline
- 4 Last Business Day in August
Notification of Proposal Decision
- 5 Mid-October
Funds Disbursed to Awardees

Eligibility

Christian congregations and clergy that meet the following criteria are eligible to submit proposals for a Clergy Renewal leave together:

- ✓ Christian congregations must be in one of the 50 US States, Washington, DC, or Puerto Rico.
- ✓ Clergy must be serving as pastoral leaders in congregational ministry, whether part-time, full-time, or bi-vocational.
- ✓ Clergy must hold ordination at the time the proposal is submitted and be a member in good standing with their denomination or, for those serving independent or non-denominational congregations, be serving their congregations in ways commensurate with their denominationally ordained peers.
- ✓ Clergy must hold Master of Divinity degrees or equivalents or, clergy without Master of Divinity degrees must be in good standing with their ordaining body and demonstrate a strong record of congregational service and commitment to ongoing education/professional development

What Will Make Your Heart Sing?

3 PURPOSE

7 WRITING

12 SUBMISSION

14 CHECKLIST

15 FORMS

Welcome to the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program! We are grateful for your interest in our program and encourage you to read carefully through this Request for Proposals as you discern whether your congregation will submit a proposal to support a renewal leave for your pastor.

"What will make your heart sing?" It is a simple question, but one that holds profound possibilities for renewing the ministries of pastors and congregations. Drawing on the wisdom of "sabbath" rest traditions within scripture and the life of the church, Clergy Renewal Programs seek to provide opportunities for pastors and congregations to explore this question together and design programs to help their pastors reconnect with their deep roots and sources of joy in ministry and in life. We believe that when pastors have the opportunity to step away from their congregations and engage in activities that make their hearts sing, the whole church benefits.



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Writing a Good Proposal

- A sense of purpose
- A sense of balance
- Evidence that the congregation understands and affirms the value of a renewal program for its leader
- Benefits both the pastor and the congregation

<https://www.cts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/high-quality-proposal-new-17.pdf>



Collaboration is Key

- Have lay leaders help with application!
- The grant is awarded to the congregation, not just the pastor.
- Renewal is most powerful when the pastor and congregation dream together.
- Builds shared ownership. The leave becomes a blessing for everyone, not an absence to endure.



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Do's and Don'ts

- Prepare well; don't rush!
- Involve the congregation (seriously!)
- Think about the amount of time for Sabbath
- Set a pace for renewal – before and during (AND after!)
- Create a realistic budget
- Plan ahead for re-entry
- Continuing renewal



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<https://www.cts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Grace-Notes-2021.pdf>

Enter amounts without commas or cents

Only enter amounts covered by CRP grant funds

Travel

Airfare	\$ 11168
Automobile expenses:	
Personal car mileage	
Car rental costs and gasoline	500
Other ground transportation	874
	21286

Meals and lodging

Tuition or fees

Books

Telephone

Postage

Equipment and supplies (max amt 10% of Pastor's budget)

Other (passports, inoculations, entrance fees, etc.)

Set-aside for post-leave activities (max amt \$2,500)

Estimated increase in tax liability as a result of receiving grant (optional; explain how this amt was calculated in the pastor's budget narrative*)

Total \$

46500

Maximum Congregational Budget: \$20,000

Enter amounts without commas or cents

Only enter amounts covered by CRP grant funds

Pulpit supply and / or interim staff

Honoraria	\$ 10500
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Travel and lodging	
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Benefits	
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Congregational events relating to pastor's leave-taking and return

Congregational renewal activities

Please explain fully in Proposal Narrative, Part A, and in budget narrative.

Other

Total \$

3000

13500

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Recent Cal-Pac Recipients

- 2025 – Julie Elkins (for 2026 renewal leave)
- 2024 – Cathie Capp (for 2025)
- 2024 – Brent Ross (for 2025)
- 2022 – Janet Gollery McKeithen (for 2023)
- 2022 – Angela Galanis Price (for 2023)



The Clergy Renewal Programs staff will host the annual Information Webinar on Monday, November 24 from 2 - 3:30 pm EDT. Register by clicking the QR code below



Download and read the Request for Proposal (RFP) which has actual submission forms:





Questions???

Rev. Cathie Capp – pastorcathie@uumcivine.org

Rev. Brent Ross – brent@nhunited.org

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