



SUNNYVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AWARDED GRANT THROUGH LILLY ENDOWMENT'S 2023 NATIONAL CLERGY RENEWAL PROGRAM

Rev. Hardy H. Kim will travel to South Korea, Scotland and Northern Ireland to learn how communities engage in peace-making, and share those ideas with the Sunnyvale community.

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Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church has received a grant of **\$46,700** to enable its minister, Rev. Hardy H. Kim, to participate in the 2023 National Clergy Renewal Program. Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church is one of 177 congregations across the United States selected to participate in this competitive grant program, which is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Established by the Endowment in 2000, the program's grants allow Christian congregations to support their pastors with the gift of extended time away from their ministerial duties and responsibilities.

Ministers whose congregations are awarded the grants use their time away from the demands of daily ministry to engage in reflection and renewal. The approach respects the "Sabbath time" concept, offering ministers a carefully considered respite that may include travel, study, rest, prayer and immersive arts and cultural experiences.

Through the National Clergy Renewal Program, congregations apply for grants of up to \$60,000 to support renewal programs for their pastors. Collaborative in nature and implementation, the program allows congregations to partner with their ministers in developing experiences that address their unique renewal needs and aspirations. Recognizing that ministers' families are subject to the stress and demands placed on pastoral leaders, the program encourages pastors to involve their families in renewal

activities. Congregational needs during the minister's renewal experience also are considered. Up to \$25,000 of the grant may be used to support interim pastoral leadership during the pastor's retreat, as well as renewal activities within the congregation. Since the National Clergy Renewal Program's inception, more than 3,527 congregations have participated in the program, including the 177 congregations receiving grants in 2023.

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church and Rev. Hardy Kim will use the grant to help Rev. Kim to travel back to places that have shaped his spiritual identity: South Korea, Scotland, and Ireland. In these places Rev. Kim will participate in spiritual and communal events to learn from family and local communities about the ways that native spiritualities shape their Christian faith, and how that faith can help combat militarism and imperial oppression. Along the way, Rev. Kim will work with partners to shape his experiences into stories that he can share with the Sunnyvale Presbyterian community. By supporting the renewal and cultivation of Rev. Kim's spiritual roots, and in receiving those stories, the wider Sunnyvale Presbyterian community will build a stronger relationship with their pastor. The greater hope is that this exploration and sharing will reveal ways for members of the community to dig into their own stories, uncovering new spiritual resources for working toward peace and justice in the world.

"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, 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."

Dr. Robert Saler, director of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs, noted that the National Clergy Renewal Program integrates key attributes of healthy congregations, including a mutual respect for the renewal needs of both ministers and the congregations they serve. "The program provides an opportunity for congregations to express appreciation for their ministers' service and leadership," Saler said. "At a time when leaders are often praised for their pace of innovation and productivity, the National Clergy Renewal Program pays homage to the timeless wisdom embedded in the practice of reflection and renewal."

About Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church of Sunnyvale was founded in 1956 at 728 W. Fremont Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Sunnyvale Presbyterian is a congregation of about 600 members and is a member church in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) denomination. Additional information about Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church is available at <https://sunnyvalepres.com/>

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. Although the Endowment funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion, it maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana. A principal aim of the Endowment's religion grantmaking is to deepen and enrich the lives of Christians in the United States, primarily by seeking out and supporting efforts that enhance the vitality of congregations and strengthen the pastoral and lay leadership of Christian communities. The Endowment also seeks to improve public understanding of diverse religious traditions by supporting fair and accurate portrayals of the role religion plays in the United States and across the globe. Additional information about Lilly Endowment is available at <https://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 <https://www.cts.edu/>