

Pastor Aj Mildenberg receives 50K Grant for 2020 Sabbatical



The 2019 Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations allows congregations to support their pastors with the gift of extended time away from ministerial duties and responsibilities for reflection and renewal. Pastors use the respite from congregational leadership to engage in renewal experiences that often include travel, scholarly research and immersive experiences with different cultures and traditions. The Rev. Dr. Robert Saler, director of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, noted that the Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations leverages the reciprocal dynamics of support, trust and encouragement reflective of 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 pastors’ health and energy for continued ministry,” Saler said.

Pastor Aj will be on sabbatical beginning in August 2020 and resume duties in late November. The grant will support the Church financially to hire some part time children’s ministers to help in her absence. Pastor Aj and her family will be traveling to Ireland, Scotland and Germany. She and her daughter, Molly finish the Sabbath time by walking the Camino De Santiago. More details will come at a later date. In the meantime, congratulate Pastor Aj!