



Maine Sea Coast Mission

Maine Sea Coast Mission Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Maine Sea Coast Mission's Rev. David Macy to participate in 2006 National Clergy Renewal Program

Maine Sea Coast Mission's North Haven Baptist Church has received a grant of \$37,861 to enable its minister, Rev. David Macy, to participate in the 2006 National Clergy Renewal Program funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. It is one of 123 congregations across the country that will support their ministers in the program, which allows pastors to step back from their busy lives and renew their spirits for the benefit of their ongoing ministries.

Now in its seventh year, the program invites congregations and ministers to consider and plan a period of "intentional reflection and renewal." It provides a time for ministers to take a break from their daily obligations and gain the fresh perspective and renewed energy that a carefully considered "Sabbath time" of travel, study, rest and prayer can provide.

Each congregation is eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$45,000. Up to \$15,000 of that amount can be used to fulfill pastoral duties during the minister's absence and for expenses related to the congregation's own renewal. The 123 grants this year total nearly \$5 million.

During Rev. Macy's sabbatical, when he is not traveling, he will spend time in a cabin by the water to allow himself to do nothing, to read, to tend to devotion and prayer, practice his trumpet, learn a piece of choral music, and to rest. His travels will take him to Israel for four weeks of renewal and pilgrimage at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem. He will also travel to Scotland to stay at the Abbey Centre of the Iona Community where Christians from all over the world will share meals, daily worship, and chores, and participate in discussions. Musically Rev. Macy will attend the Tri-tone Jazz Fantasy Camp and the Berkshire Choral Festival.

Throughout Rev. Macy's sabbatical which is themed "Gifts of Voices within Havens and Challenges" will rise and fall in many variations. Each place and activity will be a haven that will feed, nurture, renew and strengthen his heart, soul, and mind; each will broaden his perspective on the world and open his ears and heart to the voices of other communities. Periods of rest, study, reflection and conversation will give voice to prayer – spoken, unspoken, performed on his trumpet or sung. He will return to his life and work in the community of North Haven ready to more fully, deeply, and faithfully live out of and into the challenge of Jesus' summation of the commandment: "love the Lord your God with all you

heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).

This year’s congregations represent 19 denominations and 37 states plus the District of Columbia.

“We have heard wonderful stories from the pastors who already have experienced these sabbaticals,” said Craig Dykstra, Endowment senior vice president for religion. “Their time away has freed them up to pursue personal interests and needs in ways that have given them new energy for ministry-and their congregations have discovered that they didn’t fall apart without their minister around. Indeed, they too experienced refreshment and a new-found sense of their own strengths.”

The Endowment’s larger goal is to bolster the good work that America’s pastors and congregations accomplish day in and day out. “In our grant making, we hope to strengthen the efforts of today’s excellent pastors because it is no secret that pastors who have reconnected themselves to the passions that led them to the ministry to the first place are more likely to lead healthy and vibrant congregations,” Dykstra said.

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