



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE
ON CHURCH MANAGEMENT

Economic Challenges Initiative

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(Washington, DC) The National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management (Leadership Roundtable) has received a grant of \$750,000 as part of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. The initiative supports a variety of religious organizations across the nation as they address the financial and economic struggles that can impair the ability of pastors to lead congregations effectively.

The Endowment is giving \$28 million in grants through this initiative. The grants are part of the Endowment's commitment to supporting the pastoral leadership development of clergy serving in congregations across the United States.

Inspired by Pope Francis who wants to make positive managerial reform a signature of his pontificate, the Leadership Roundtable will expand its capacity to support Catholic dioceses, seminaries, theologates and other formation institutions to provide financial literacy and management training to seminarians, priests, and diocesan and parish lay leaders and council members.

"Bishops and pastors have described the Leadership Roundtable as a practical, effective, ministry of hope," said Kerry Robinson, executive director of the Leadership Roundtable. "We are honored to partner with Lilly Endowment to expand our capabilities to assist Church leaders in addressing economic challenges facing the Church and become stronger pastoral leaders."

The Roundtable is one of 27 organizations taking part in the initiative, which represents a variety of Christian traditions. Each program is customized to the needs of pastoral leaders in each religious tradition.

"Pastors, especially those just beginning in ministry, accept low salaries as part of their commitment to God and to church," said Dr. Christopher L. Coble, vice president for religion at Lilly Endowment. "These organizations understand the importance of the financial wellbeing of pastors and the implications for the congregations they serve."

An additional grant to the Indianapolis Center for Congregations will establish a coordination program for the initiative that will help the Endowment track success. It will bring together

leaders of the diverse programs to foster mutual learning and support and help build a network of organizations committed to supporting the financial wellbeing of pastors and their congregations.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family - J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons J.K. Jr. and Eli - through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly & 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.

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