



# Centerpiece

Fall 2004 Volume 4 Number 4

A Newsletter from the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, Inc.

## Resource Grants Help Local Congregations

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Noblesville. Little Blue River Baptist Church of Shelbyville. Speedway Christian Church. Westfield Friends Meeting. Northminster Presbyterian Church and Lockerbie Square United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. What do these congregations in different parts of the metro area and from different faith traditions have in common? They've each received one of the Indianapolis Center for Congregation's Resource Grants, that's what. And they aren't the only congregations that have benefited from this program. Since its inception, the Center's Resource Grants Program has awarded almost \$1 million (over \$400,000 in 2003 alone) to local congregations.

Maybe the Center's Resource Grants Program can help your congregation. The grants are offered to congregations located in Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, and Shelby counties that want to find and use the best resources available to address their practical challenges and opportunities.

Congregations who are working with the Center in finding resources or its consulting process are eligible to apply. The Center awards grants with the expectation that projects, resources and information about what a congregation learns through the project have the potential of helping other congregations facing similar challenges or opportunities. Made possible through the generous support of Lilly Endowment Inc., these matching grants of up to \$15,000 are intended to utilize not only needed resources but to help congregations put their plans to work. Resource Grants can be used for things such as printed and various media materials, computer software, consulting services, educational programs and workshops. They can't be used for computer hardware, office equipment, office supplies, salaries of paid staff, operating funds, and a few other things. Resource Grants are open only to congregations, not other religious organizations.

An Indianapolis Center for Congregations' Resource Grant doesn't pay for everything. Any congregation receiving a grant has to come up with half of the funds necessary. Still, for grants up to \$30,000, the Center may award half the needed funds – or up to \$15,000.

While the application process is simple, we ask that congregations contact the Indianapolis Center for Congregations to schedule a meeting to discuss your project. If, after you've talked with one of our staff members, it seems the project fits the grant guidelines, you'll be given an application packet. Be assured that a member of the Center's staff is available to help you fill out all grant materials and to answer questions you may have.

We are dedicated to helping your congregation find solutions to its most pressing practical problems and expand its ministry. Call the Indianapolis Center for Congregations to set an appointment with a staff member to explore if your congregation's project or idea might qualify for a Resource Grant.



### Congregations Receiving Resource Grants in 2003

Augusta Christian Church  
 Bethel AME Church (Noblesville)  
 Bethel Lutheran Church – Noblesville  
 Bridgeway Community Church  
 Broadway United Methodist Church  
 Brownsburg Christian Church  
 Carmel Friends Church  
 Carmel Lutheran Church  
 Carmel United Methodist Church  
 Castleton United Methodist Church  
 Community Church of Greenwood  
 Community Church of Mooresville  
 Congregation Beth-El Zedek  
 Congregation Shaarey Tefilla  
 Eastview Vineyard Fellowship  
 Edgewood United Methodist Church

First Baptist Church of Carmel  
 First Baptist Church of Greenwood  
 First Baptist Church of Indianapolis  
 First Baptist Church of North Indianapolis  
 Heartland Church  
 Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
 Hope Community Church (SBC)  
 Jones Tabernacle AME Zion Church  
 Messiah Lutheran Church of Eagle Creek  
 Mt. Auburn United Methodist Church  
 Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
 Neighborhood Fellowship  
 North United Methodist Church  
 Old Bethel United Methodist Church  
 Pavilion International Church  
 Puritan Missionary Baptist Church

Redeemer Presbyterian Church  
 Risen Lord Lutheran Church  
 Sanctuary Community Church  
 Second Baptist Church  
 Southport United Methodist Church  
 Speedway Baptist Church  
 St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
 St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
 St. Matthew Catholic Church  
 St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
 St. Thomas Catholic Church  
 The Promise United Methodist Church  
 Vineyard Community Church of Greenwood  
 Witherspoon Presbyterian Church  
 Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ

## Resources You Can Use

*Resources from the Congregational Resource Guide*

The mission of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations is to assist Greater Indianapolis Area congregations in finding and using the very best resources available to address the practical challenges they face. One of the ways we do that is through the Congregational Resource Guide (CRG). The CRG was created by the Indianapolis Center for Congregations and the Alban Institute to help congregational leaders connect with resources they need to gain insight into problems and to encourage transformation in their communities of faith. The following resources (and many more) are available on the CRG at [www.congregationalresources.org](http://www.congregationalresources.org).

**Vision and the Church** – Are you excited about the possibility of shaping a new vision for your congregation? Has your congregation ever found it difficult to discover or articulate your vision? Would you like to learn about other congregations that are discovering their visions? We invite you to explore our latest and most interactive resource, the Vision and the Church learning pathway.

**Resources for and from African American Congregations** – African American congregations and leaders are developing resources on a wide range of issues—including community ministry, health, and worship. Rowena Martineau describes these resources and provides links to publishers, foundations, and seminars. A paper version may be viewed and printed with the free download, Adobe Acrobat.

**The Whys and Hows of Money Leadership** – If you've felt frustrated by attempts to fund ministry, this seven-session online curriculum is for you. Mark Vincent invites you to examine your own beliefs about money, as well as congregational economics, money and leadership, and money and faith. Interactive assessment tools and links to resource providers are included.

**How to Turn ANY Disagreement into a Nasty Fight at Your Congregation** – Much has been written about how to resolve or manage conflict. Often this can be very difficult—especially once conflict has escalated to the point where people divide into separate groups or begin intentionally doing things to hurt each other. In contrast, it is very easy to escalate a conflict. These methods are sure-fire, especially when used in combination.

## ICC Calendar

### DECEMBER

- 4 “Authentic Worship in a Changing World” workshop with Robert Weber  
14 GoodWords Reading Club, 6:30 p.m.
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### JANUARY

- 11 GoodWords Reading Club, 6:30 p.m.  
18 Resource Grants Committee Meeting  
19 Servant Keepers Users Group  
26 “Practicing What We Preach” Learning Event  
28-29 “The Externally-Focused Congregation” with Eric Swanson
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### FEBRUARY

- 8 GoodWords Reading Club, 6:30 p.m.  
11 Youth Leader Gathering w/Tony Jones  
12 “Emerging Shifts in Youth Ministry” with Tony Jones  
15 Resource Grants Committee Meeting  
23 “Practicing What We Preach” Learning Event  
24 “Creating An Ambience of Welcome in Congregations” with Ron Wolfson
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### MARCH

- 8 GoodWords Reading Club, 6:30 p.m.  
11-12 “Finding Your Niche” with Robert Perry  
15 Resource Grants Committee Meeting  
16 “Practicing What We Preach” Learning Event  
24 “Creating An Ambience of Welcome in Congregations” with Ron Wolfson
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### APRIL

- 12 GoodWords Reading Club, 6:30 p.m.  
16 “Forty Days of Purpose Gathering”  
19 Resource Grants Committee Meeting  
27 “Practicing What We Preach” Learning Event  
30 “The Bi-vocational Pastor” with Dennis Bickers
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### MAY

- 10 GoodWords Reading Club, 6:30 p.m.  
14 “The Third Place” with Ed Bahler and Lakeview Temple/Greenwood Vineyard  
17 Resource Grants Committee Meeting  
25 “Practicing What We Preach” Learning Event

## Center Events Inform – and Inspire

2005's schedule of educational events shows the Indianapolis Center for Congregation's continued commitment to sharing excellent resources with area congregations. This year's events bring a wealth of opportunities for congregational learning and growth.



Eric Swanson kicks off the year's events on January 28-29 with his workshop on "The Externally Focused Church." This workshop will help church leaders understand how ministry and service to others relates to spiritual formation and growth and how to mobilize the people of your congregation. Swanson will share practical models of churches of different sizes that are blessing their communities through good deeds and good news. Pastors and laity will be empowered with a list of ideas to get started or to take their externally focused ministry to the next level.

Swanson works with Leadership Network as Leadership Community Director for Externally Focused Churches and serves as a consultant for CitiReach Int'l, where he works with pastors who are engaging their communities in cities around the world. He is co-author of *The Externally Focused Church* and numerous articles on churches that are transforming their communities.



The rules have changed. Everything you believe is suspect. The world is up for grabs. That's the world of the emerging postmodern culture. A "free zone" of rapid change that places high value on community, authenticity, and even God—but has little interest in modern, Western-tinted Christianity. Postmodern Youth Ministry addresses these enormous philosophical shifts and shows how they're affecting teenagers.

Tony Jones, former minister to youth and young adults at the Colonial Church of Edina in Minnesota for seven years and author of *Postmodern Youth Ministry*, *Soul Shaper*, *Read.Think.Pray.Live*, and *Pray*, will address "Emerging Shifts in Youth Ministry" on February 12 at Westlake Community Church of God.

Jones will open the door for teams of youth clergy, staff and lay leaders to contemplate the church today and how post-modernism is affecting their youth ministry.



Next up is Robert Perry, who'll present "Find a Niche and Scratch It: Marketing Your Congregation." On March 11-13, Perry will offer a detailed process for using sound marketing principles to identify a congregation's strengths and the needs of its community, and to develop strategies for effective ministry. Participants will come away with a deeper awareness of how marketing principles can inform and enrich church evangelism and community ministry and the competence to lead their own congregation in developing a niche-marketing plan.

Perry, an ordained Southern Baptist pastor and denominational leader, is author or co-author of five books. Some of his titles include *Values-based Tactical Planning for Religious Organizations*, *Pass the Power, Please!*, *Futuropting - Multiple Scenario Planning for Churches*, *Congregational Wellness: Help for Broken Churches*, and *Find a Niche and Scratch It*.



To register for any of these, or any other Center events, call at least two weeks prior to the event or register on-line at [www.centerforcongregations.org/Programs.asp](http://www.centerforcongregations.org/Programs.asp).



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## ***Our Mission***

*The mission of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations is to assist Greater Indianapolis area congregations in finding and using the very best resources to address the practical challenges they face. The Center also provides educational events and workshops, all focused on important practical issues confronting congregations.*

## ***Our Staff***

*Timothy Shapiro, President  
Brent Bill, Executive Vice President  
Nancy Armstrong, Finance Director & Resource Consultant  
Timothy Beuthin, Education Director  
Nancy DeMott, Resource Director  
Aaron Spiegel, Information Technology Director  
Susan Weber, Dir. of Evaluation & Congregational Learning  
Janice Phillips, Administrative Assistant  
Jerri Kinder, Administrative Assistant  
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## **Center Welcomes New Staff Person**

Every year the Center works with more and more metro area congregations in consulting, grants, and education events. Last year we interacted with more than 600 congregations. We're learning a lot about how congregations use resources and we're sharing what we're learning with congregations and groups nationwide. One way we've done that is exemplified by the publication of *40 Days and 40 Bytes: Making Computers Work for Your Congregation* which grew out of our innovative Computers and Ministry Grants Initiative and area congregations around technology issues. We want to learn and share more. That's why Susan Weber is joining the Center as its new Director of Evaluation and Congregational Learning.

Sue, the Center's Resource Consulting Director until early 2001 and, most recently, a contract evaluator for the Center, is rejoining the Center to help us coordinate our evaluation processes and develop ways for gathering, interpreting, and sharing what we're learning as we work with congregations. Sue has served as a strategic planning consultant and professional group facilitator for over 21 years for approximately 100 parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. In addition, she has worked in the same capacity in over 25 arch-dioceses and 20 religious communities nation-wide. Prior to her consulting work, Susan served the Archdiocese of Indianapolis as Coordinator of Boards of Education, Office of Catholic Education and was as an independent contractor with Catholic School Management, Inc. Sue has degrees from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and Indiana University, Bloomington and is professionally certificated as a group facilitator through Indiana University. Susan and her husband, Greg, are members of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

"I'm excited that Sue's joining us," said Tim Shapiro, president of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations. "Her knowledge, enthusiasm, and love of congregations will be a real asset to our valuable work."



*Susan Weber*

center n Center, middle, midst, core, hub, focus, nucleus, heart are comparable when meaning the point, spot, or portion of a thing which is comparable to a point around which a circle is described. Center approximates more or less closely its strict New Dictionary of Synonyms. Center n. [F. centre, fr. L. centrum, fr. ? to prick, goad.] 1. A point equally distant from the extremities of a line, figure, or body, or from all parts of the circumference of a circle; the middle point