

## DurhamCares to Launch the *Journey to Thriving* Program

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For Immediate Release:

DurhamCares has received a \$605,395 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help establish the Journey to Thriving program.

The project is being funded through Lilly Endowment's Thriving Congregations Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to encourage the flourishing of congregations by helping them deepen their relationships with God, enhance their connections with each other, and contribute to the vitality of their communities and the world.

*Journey to Thriving* is a program where congregations in Durham will learn about their community, reflect on their congregational identity, and adapt to our changing world.

"I'm thrilled to partner with Lilly Endowment Inc. to launch the *Journey to Thriving* Program. In our rapidly changing world, congregations need resources to help them thrive as they seek the thriving of their communities. *Journey to Thriving* is a program that provides these resources; through the practice of listening to their community - through learning about their context and their congregation's story - churches will come up with an adaptive plan to become healthy congregations and to faithfully love their neighbors."

DurhamCares is one of 105 organizations that has received grants through a competitive round of the Thriving Congregations Initiative. Reflecting a wide variety of Christian traditions, the organizations represent mainline Protestant, evangelical, Catholic, Orthodox, peace church and Pentecostal faith communities.

"Congregations play an essential role in deepening the faith of individuals and contributing to the vitality of communities," said Christopher L. Coble, Lilly Endowment's vice president for religion. "We hope that these programs will nurture the vibrancy and spark the creativity of congregations, helping them imagine new ways to share God's love in their communities and across the globe."

### **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 and maintains a special commitment to its

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.

To learn more about the *Journey to Thriving* program, and to apply to the first cohort, visit [www.durhamcares.org/journeytothriving](http://www.durhamcares.org/journeytothriving)