



## **Berkeley School of Theology Receives \$1.25 Million Grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. Thriving Congregations Initiative**

**BERKELEY, CA (November 30, 2023)** - Berkeley School of Theology has received a \$1,250,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help establish **From Hurt to Healing and Hope**, a Thriving Congregations program for Asian American Pacific Islander churches and leaders.

The project is being funded through Lilly Endowment's Thriving Congregations Initiative. The aim of the initiative 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.

**From Hurt to Healing and Hope** seeks to form thriving Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) churches by deepening relational connections, remembering shared histories, renewing spiritual journeys, engaging in mutual experiences, developing young AAPI leaders, considering AAPI justice matters, and shaping a hopeful future together with others. The program's activities will focus on the urgent needs of recognizing and addressing the consequences of racial biases and prejudices while promoting and pursuing healing and hope. To implement these programs, BST will work with our partners in the Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches.

"BST is delighted to partner with AAPI congregations and develop emerging AAPI ministers through this exciting initiative," said Angie Barker Jackson, BST's Vice President for Institutional Advancement. "**From Hurt to Healing and Hope** holds great potential for nurturing thriving churches, transforming communities, and equipping leaders. We are grateful to Lilly Endowment for this opportunity."

Berkeley School of Theology 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.

### **About Berkeley School of Theology (BST)**

BST is one of the most interculturally diverse seminaries in the country, creating leaders for communities of Christian faith, hope, and justice. The core values of soul freedom, service leadership, social justice, public witness, religious liberty, and the spoken and written word in Scripture and beyond have guided and sustained this seminary for over 150 years. For more information on all our programs, visit [bst.edu](http://bst.edu).

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