

Indiana Yearly Meeting
Ministerial Excellence Initiative
Released!

Have you ever wondered what impact your meeting could achieve if its full ministry potential were released? That is the question Indiana Yearly Meeting is urging its members to answer through the Ministerial Excellence Initiative's *Released!* campaign.

Why now?

Many of our meetings – perhaps your own – struggle with declining attendance and limited resources to adequately support pastors and maintain buildings and grow programs. This past year another meeting closed its doors, and others face hard choices ahead. We must be bold in our efforts to bring about renewal in our meetings now, before it is too late.

Why IYM and the Ministerial Excellence Initiative?

Since 1821, Indiana Yearly Meeting has worked to build strong, healthy local meetings and facilitate ministry at the local level. The Ministerial Excellence Initiative continues this tradition, and has already achieved significant impact - pastors relieved of financial burden, treasurers more confident in their practices, churches with renewed vision and clarity of purpose. No other effort of IYM so reaches to the core of our purpose than the Ministerial Excellence Initiative, and *Released!* is an outgrowth of this effort.

Why *Released!*

Friends have a tradition of releasing members into ministry, but we also know that all are truly called into ministry. That means that you, your monthly meeting, and the yearly meeting as a whole are called forth to ministry. Our goal, our hope, our future, is to find ways to work together to release our membership. To answer a call of God into ministry and to be supported in doing so - that is what it means to be released into ministry in the manner of Friends.

What can I do?

The goal of *Released!* is to help the Ministerial Excellence Initiative last long enough, reach out far enough, and support deeply enough the ministry in our meetings to bring about lasting renewal. The initial funding from Lilly Endowment provided seed money to create the MEI. Now it is up to us to continue our ongoing support for fresh life and ministry among our monthly meetings. In order to continue the MEI's support for pastors and provide staff resources to utilize the MEI as a vehicle for transformation and renewal within our monthly meetings, we hope to double the life of the MEI – an additional four years. To do this, we will need to raise \$400,000. Your involvement and contribution will make a lasting difference in the lives of our pastors and the health of our congregations.

Let's get *Released!*

Our meetings need us. Our meetings need you. Together we can support our pastors, strengthen our meetings and revitalize our community of faith. The full release into ministry of our meetings will begin with individuals like you. What is it in you that God is calling forth? How is God calling you to contribute?

Your contribution will help ensure that the Ministerial Excellence Initiative can continue to work toward releasing the full ministry potential of Indiana Yearly Meeting. One of our first grant recipients was Maple Run Friends. Their pastor, John Key, who benefited from the grant says, "I'm excited about what's going on here, and I just appreciate the opportunities these funds allow us. I hope they will continue for a long time."

He's not alone. So far we've approved dozens of grants, launched a host of new trainings and programs, and witnessed meetings working together and renewing their ministry in ways we could not have begun to imagine. *And we're just getting started!* As Tom Hamm of New Castle First Friends puts it, "This is as hopeful a sign as any I've heard of from the yearly meeting in recent years."

As you know, the Ministerial Excellence Initiative is an ongoing effort for those who share a vision for this exactly this kind of renewal in Indiana Yearly Meeting. Thank you for embracing this vision and joining with us by contributing generously toward its fulfillment!



My Commitment to the Ministerial Excellence Initiative

Name (s) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Monthly Meeting _____

Home ph. _____

Email _____

I/We wish to contribute:

A ___-year pledge of \$ ___/year, for a total of \$ _____

A one-time gift of \$ _____

**Please make checks out to Indiana Yearly Meeting, write "MEI" in the memo line, and mail to:
Indiana Yearly Meeting, 4715 North Wheeling Avenue, Muncie IN 47304**

Questions? Call 800-292-5238