

## CLERGY

### REV. DR. JOANNE R. BARTELT

Rev. Dr. Joanne Ruth Bartelt started her journey in minister as the youth leader at Detroit: Metropolitan. This is where she also meets the love of her life, Glenn Bartelt. Rev. Bartelt, with the encouragement and support of her husband, pursued her calling. She was ordained a Deacon and graduated from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio with a Master of Divinity in 1997. In 1999, Rev. Bartelt was ordained an Elder. She received her Doctorate Ministry in 2012. One of the missions Rev. Bartelt has started in the Blue Water District is the free stores. She believes in living out Matthew 25. She is compelled to do for the least and is passionate about helping those in need. She has served the United Methodist Church at Rochester: St. Paul's as the associate pastor, pastor of Gladstone: Memorial and at Ann Arbor: First as the senior associate pastor before serving as the Superintendent of the Blue Water District. When not joyfully and devotedly serving the Blue Water District, with Micah, the "real DS" and her ever faithful doggy sidekick, you could find Rev. Bartelt giving her time to family and friends. Loving wife of the late Glenn Bartelt. Beloved daughter of Robert and the late Janelle Couch. Dear sister of Keith (Libby) Couch. Joanne will always be remembered for her sense of humor. She was very out-going and loved to travel. Joanne passed away April 13, 2016, in Port Huron Michigan. She was 64.



### REV. HARRISON M. BRAKEMAN

Harry was born March 21, 1922 in Port Huron to the late Harrison and Myrtle Brakeman. He married Ella Ryder on August 20, 1948 in Fargo, Michigan. She died May 31, 2013. Rev. Brakeman graduated from Port Huron High School. He served in the U.S. Army as a glider pilot and medic in a MASH unit during World War II and earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was a graduate of Garrett Theological Seminary and served as a minister in the United Methodist Church for a number of congregations, including Mills Memorial, Jeddo, Zion, Buel, Ogden, Deckerville, Washington, Davis, West Berlin, Leonard and Brent Creek. Since 1976, he and Ella traveled extensively to Haiti helping to establish 18 schools and churches as well as Brakeman College. He was active in Boy Scouts and served as chaplain at Silver Trails Scout Camp. He is survived by three children, Gilbert (Donna) Brakeman, Vonda LeSauvage and Nadine (Ron) Porter; four grandchildren, Bethany (Mike) Walters, Carla (Len) Dyke, Shawna (Chris) Hurst and Will (Lovina) Gayowski; seven great grandchildren, Zoe, Austin, Morgan, Brooklyn, Rhonin, Mason and Aliyah; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Marion Esau. Harry died Thursday August 6, 2016 in Clyde Township. He was 93 years old.



### **REV. RONALD K. CORL**

Born February 17, 1934, in Monroe, Michigan, he was the son of Kinsey and Ruth (Plath) Corl. Ron was a 1952 graduate of Ida High School. Following graduation, he was drafted into the army. On August 7, 1954, he married Sharon Lynn Poe. After Ron was discharged from the army, he worked for Chevrolet in Toledo, Ohio. During the time of a layoff, he felt the call to be a minister. Ron attended Adrian College, graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science Degree, graduated from Methodist Theological School of Ohio in 1968 with a Master of Divinity Degree, and became an elder in the DAC. During Ron's 41 years of ministry, he also served as pastor at churches in Macon, Plymouth, Samaria Grace, Clinton, Madison Heights and Harper Woods, Michigan. Ron is survived by his wife Sharon of 61 years, children Victoria children Victoria Gurnack of Chicago, IL, Richard (Sandra) Corl of Spring, TX, Bethany Thomas of Conroe, TX and Randall (Theresa) Corl of Spring, TX, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Ron is also survived by five sisters, and many nieces and nephews. Ron was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Richard, and three brother-in laws, Ron, age 81, passed away on Sunday, August 16, 2015, at a hospital in Spring, Texas.

### **BISHOP JESSE R. DEWITT**

Bishop DeWitt, died in his home surrounded by family on November 26, just nine days short of his 97th birthday. He was preceded in death five years ago by his wife of 69 years, Annamary Horner DeWitt. He is survived by his daughters, Donna Wegryn and Darla Inman (William); grandchildren Edward Wegryn (Helena), David Wegryn (Cindy), Nancy Ketola (Rob), Deana Anderson (Dan), Debbie Staup (Aaron); great grandchildren Nate, Noah, Ben & Jason Wegryn; Casey, Kai & Gabrielle Ketola; Danae & Drew Anderson; Addison and Aidan Staup. Jesse was born in Detroit, Michigan to Bessie Gertrude and Jesse Arthur DeWitt. He graduated from Northwestern High School in Detroit, Wayne State University and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1948 with a Master of Divinity degree. Over the years, he also received three Honorary Doctorate degrees. Jesse began his ministry in the Methodist Church in 1944, serving two parishes in Illinois while in seminary. From 1946 to 1950 he was pastor of the Aldersgate Methodist Church in Redford Township, and from 1950 1958 he was the pastor of the Faith Methodist Church in Oak Park. During the years from 1958 to 1972, he served in three administrative positions within the denomination, and in 1972 he was elected to the Episcopacy. There he served as Bishop of the Wisconsin Area for eight years before being appointed to the Northern Illinois Conference to serve there for another eight years. He retired in 1988 and continued to be active with the many social justice groups and concerns which had been central to him throughout his career.



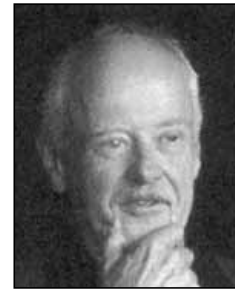
### **REV. ROBERT P. GARRETT**

Robert was born Nov. 25, 1929, in Saginaw, to the late Russell and Verla (Lindstrom) Garrett. Robert grew up in Saginaw, graduating from Arthur Hill High School in 1947. He then attended Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky earning a bachelor's degree in religious studies in 1951. Robert later attended Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan and was ordained as a minister in 1959. On June 9, 1951, Robert was united in marriage to Charlene Paige at the Ames Methodist Church in Saginaw. Robert served at the Methodist

Church in Mortonsville, and served the following churches in Michigan, Hillman, Saugatuck, Saginaw, Dixboro, Port Austin, Grindstone City, Port Hope, Pinnebog, Blissfield, Cass City and in Elkton as a visitation pastor. During his 20 year service in Port Austin, Robert served as Air Force Chaplain of the 754th Squadron, Chaplain for the Port Austin Fire Dept. and president of the Port Austin Library and Port Austin PTA. He was one of the co-founders of Top of the Thumb Leisure Ministries and was an active member of the Port Austin Community Players. Surviving are his wife of 64 years, Charlene; children, Robert Jr.(Paula) Garrett of Caro, Sue (David) Johnston of Horntown, Virginia, Connie (Rev. Ken) Smeader of Kalamazoo and Laura (Dennis) Hill of Cass City; 12 grandchildren, Kelli (James) Bratton, Mallory Garrett, Allison (Andrew) Carson, Adam (fiancée, Ashley Condryn) Garrett, Megan (James) Clause, Alycia Johnston, Joshua (Jessica) Smeader, Shannon (Jermaine) Morris, Ryan (Bethany) Smeader, Jason (Alexandra) Hill, Bryan (Melissa) Hill and Robyn (Eddie) Williams and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother, Charles Garrett. Robert died Wednesday, March 23, at his home in Cass City. He was 86 years old.

#### **REV. DR. STEVEN A. GJERSTAD**

Steven was born in Eagle Bend, Minnesota on April 7, 1947, the son of the late Elmer and Esther Gjerstad and was a resident of the Flint area for the past 20 years. He served various United Methodist Churches in Michigan. Steven was a substitute teacher for Carman Ainsworth High School. He was also involved with the Flint Community Players and the New Century Chorale. Surviving are 2 sons, Lowell and Lance (Barbara); 2 grandchildren, Adrian and Annalise; mother of his children, Flo; brother, Larry (Margaret) and sister, Nancy Lauer. He was preceded in death by his daughter Liesel, grandson, Ian, and sister, Sharon Johnson. Steven died Saturday, March 19, 2016 in Pittsburgh, as result of an automobile accident. He lived in Grand Blanc and was 68 years old.



#### **REV. KING W. HANNA**

King was born October 6, 1939 in Detroit, the son of John G. & Dorothea May (Flood) Hanna. King graduated from Chelsea High School in 1957, and Eastern Michigan University in 1966. He graduated from Methodist Theological School in Ohio in 1970, and was ordained a United Methodist minister. King served as pastor at many churches, starting as a student pastor at Wellsville UMC, then as an ordained pastor at Westside UMC in Ann Arbor, Grace and Skandia UMC in Marquette, Mitchell UMC in Negaumee, and Marble Memorial UMC in Milan. He retired in 2003, and served as interim pastor at several churches. King served on the Institutional Review Board for Marquette General Hospital and Trinity Health System. King was a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary for over 40 years. He spent his life helping people and could talk to anyone. On June 7, 1963, he married Anne Marie Buss in Manchester, and she survives. Also surviving is his sister-in-law, Janice Steinhauer; brother-in-law, Paul Buss; niece, Michelle (Patrick) Cameron; nephew, Matthew (Kellie) Buss. He was preceded in death by his parents, his step-mother, Josephine (Fisk) Hanna, and his sister-in-law, Lucille Buss. Kings passion as a pastor was to help **all** become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ; family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, and everyone he could talk to. King died Saturday, January 16, 2016 at the University of Michigan Hospital. He was 76.



### **REV. MARGERY H. HOST**

Margery was born January 27, 1943 in Hamilton, daughter of the late Arnold and Catherine (Dykens) Datema, Margery was a 1961 graduate of Holland High School. She served as a Pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church in Iron River, Springville United Methodist Church in Onsted and Escanaba First United Methodist Church in Escanaba. While in Escanaba, Margery also served as a hospice chaplain at St. Francis Hospital. She enjoyed bird watching, camping and traveling. One accomplishment she was proud of was receiving her pilot's license soloing a single engine Cessna 150. Margery truly loved life, her family and serving others. In addition to her parents, she

is preceded in death by her first husband Jerry Lee Coffman Sr., siblings Arnold and Carol Datema, Robert Datema and brother-in-law Doug McClurken. Survivors include her loving husband, Kenneth of McMillan, whom she married May 5, 1967 at the First United Methodist Church in Holland; children Kentrina (Phil) Arnold of Augusta, GA, Marsha Gibson of Avery, GA, Catherine (Todd) Telgenhof of West Olive, Jerry L. Coffman Jr. of Lyons and Clint (Becky) Coffman of Hudsonville; grandchildren Liz (Artie), Jay (Ashley), Kaitlyn (Travis), Kyle, Josh, Ericka, Jerry Lee (Dawn), Andrew, Amber, Laura (Matthew), and Nicholas; several great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; sister Kathy McClurken of Sand Lake, and sister-in-law, Audrey Datema of Bremerton, WA. Margery Hope Host, 73, of McMillan, died suddenly Tuesday March 22, 2016.

### **REV. GARY R. IMMS**

In his time of service as a United Methodist Pastor in the Detroit Annual Conference Gary served at the following churches. Detroit Asbury, Azalia, London, Commerce, Flint Bristol, Diamond, St. Clair Shores, Good Shepherd, Flat Rock And Ortonville. He served the DAC from 1963-2001 when upon retirement him and his wife Judy moved to Fruitland, Florida. Gary died on October 5, 2015. May God bless all who knew and loved him in his life and ministry.



### **REV. DR. DENNIS N. PAULSON**

Dennis was born to Norman and T. Elizabeth (Vuolle) Paulson in Detroit, MI on February 19, 1950. He began serving in the ministry in 1970 and has been a pastor at many congregations throughout Michigan for the past 45 years. He was a member with the Masons and Shriners and taught at SVSU and Wayne State as an Adjunct Professor. Throughout the years, Dennis served as a Chaplin for many police and fire agencies. He also enjoyed boating, fishing, hunting, and Community Theater. Dennis is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Gerrie Paulson of

Alger; children, Rachel (Adam Garagiola) Paulson of St. Clair Shores, MI, Andrea (Josh) Hoffman of Riverdale, MI, and Sarah Paulson of Cleveland, OH; grandchildren, Dee, David, Lyle, Jonathan, Rebekah, Myah, Matthew, Benjamin, Isaac, and Seth; siblings, Michael (Cathy) Paulson, Norma (Charles) Bawtinheimer, and Charles (Vicki) Paulson; and many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents and granddaughter, Grace. Dennis passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, July 19, 2015 in Alger. He was 65 years old.

**REV. DR. RICHARD J. WOOD**

Richard was born in 1937, to Gerald and Jimmie Wood, the first of three sons, in Marlette, Michigan. He graduated high school from Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. After completing his undergraduate work at Duke University, he earned a M.Div. at Union Theological Seminary in New York and became an ordained United Methodist minister. He received his Ph.D. from Yale University in Greek philosophy. In addition to a long and full professional life, Richard was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather. He was a great friend and mentor to many through the years. His passions included music, especially opera, great conversation, fine food, and new ideas. Richard is survived by his wife of 54 years, Judith Wood, their children, Michael Wood (Betsy) and Kara Wood Harlan (Brent), grandchildren Sarah and Emily Wood, Joseph and Jayne Harlan, and brother, Keith Wood (Nancy). Richard J. Wood passed away on August 1, 2015 in Indianapolis with his wife and children by his side. He was an expert in Japanese philosophical thought, ethics, and aesthetics. In recognition of his life's work and service in these areas, the Government of Japan awarded him The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, the Japanese equivalent of a knighthood, in 2010.



## CLERGY SPOUSES



### MR. ROBERT BOHNSACK

Robert Henry Bohnsack was born October 1, 1943 in Detroit, Michigan to Robert and Irene (Spaczynski) Bohnsack. He grew up in the suburb of Dearborn, graduating from Dearborn High School in 1962. September 17, 1966, Bob was united in marriage to Christine Fryxell, known to many as Tina. Bob graduated from Michigan Tech in 1967, and they began their great adventure as Bob served nearly 9 years in the U. S. Air Force. In 1976, after leaving the Air Force Bob served at the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory and later Nicolet Instrument Corporation. In 1984 Bob became the Academic Advisor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Michigan Tech. By mid-2004, Tina and Bob had retired. Bob was a member of the L'Anse United Methodist Church and a six year veteran of Cardiac Rehabilitation at Portage Hospital. These two groups of people lifted him up since Tina's death in March 2015. Bob is survived by his children, Michael Bohnsack of Morrisville, North Carolina; Heather Miller (James) of Portage, Indiana; and Steven Bohnsack (Kerry) of Maple Grove, Minnesota. He was blessed to have five wonderful grandchildren; Mitchell Miller, Fletcher Miller, Paisley Miller, Mark Bohnsack, and Ryan Bohnsack. He is also survived by two much older sisters; Roberta Hudson (Daniel) of Waterford Township, Michigan and Elaine Rosati of Canton, Michigan. Bob died June 17, 2015 at Omega House Hospice in Houghton. He was preceded in death by his parents, beloved wife Tina, and a son Mark. He was 71 years old.



### MRS. LORETTA LUCILLE BLAKELY

Lucille was born on September 20, 1921, in Lake Odessa, Michigan, daughter of the late Phoebe and Leon Nicholson. Lucille married the late Rev. Harold Blakely on February 2, 1941, in Wauseon, Ohio. They met at church where Harold taught her Sunday school class. Lucille graduated from Woodland High School in 1940. She was truly a minister's wife and partner, working with her husband for over 40 years, serving parishes in Ogden Center, Brown City, Kilmanaug, and Hillman/Spratt. Lucille enjoyed preparing dishes for many church gatherings, family dinners, and Sunday school picnics. Lucille enjoyed singing, playing the piano, and the out of doors. She loved all animals, especially her beloved poodle, Trina. Lucille is survived by three daughters, Karen Blakely, Sebewaing; Nancy (Glen) Spencer, Marlette; Joan (Craig) Douglas, Carrollton; one son, Jerry (Penny) Blakely, Essexville; and a daughter deceased, Judy (Fritz) Faber, St. Charles. She is also survived by seven grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren. She is survived by two brothers, Leon Nicholson Jr., and Loren Nicholson. Lucille was preceded in death by three sisters and four brothers. Loretta passed away on December 16, 2015, at The Carriage House of Bay City. She was 94 years old.

### MRS. MAXINE CURTISS

Maxine was born January 29, 1926 in Flint, Michigan the daughter of the late Charles and Edith (Hall) Klinkman. She was a 1944 graduate of Flint Central High School. Max-

ine married Rev. Basel Curtiss on September 25, 1948 in Flint. She was a Telegrapher for Western Union during WW II. Maxine was a licensed and certified lay speaker for the United Methodist Church since 1979 and worked alongside her husband in his many ministries. She was active in many organizations including, Town & Country Committee for the Port Huron District of the United Methodist Church, Hospice Committee, Victims Advocate for Sanilac County and was President of the resident council at Sanilac County Medical Care Facility since 2008, and was a member of the Sandusky First United Methodist Church. Maxine was a lifelong Detroit Tiger Fan. She is survived by her daughters Christine & Randy Vinande of Port Huron, Corinne Gulash of Davison, Celeste & Dr. Timothy McNally of Davison, Dineke & Hub Akkermans (foster daughter) of The Netherlands, 9 grandchildren, 10 Great Grandchildren. She was preceded in death by, her husband, parents, her son Richard Curtiss and a brother, William Klinkman. Maxine was 90 years old and died Friday April 20, 2016 at McLaren Hospital in Port Huron.



**MRS. MARJORY FETT**

Mrs. Marjory A. Fett, of Grand Rapids and formerly of Cassopolis, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, Jan. 15, 2016. She passed away peacefully, with family by her side. Marjory was a retired schoolteacher who spent most of her 31-year career teaching in Saline, MI. She was married to the late Rev. Ira L. Fett, a United Methodist minister, for 58 years. He preceded her in death in 2010. Marjory is survived by five children Daniel Fett, Los Angeles, CA; Mary (John) Page, Grand Rapids, MI; Douglas Fett, Saline, MI; Martha (Jeff) Alexander, Grand Haven, MI; and Steven Fett, Saline, MI seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**MRS. FLORENCE HAMMAR**

Florence was born in Escanaba, Michigan on November 13, 1927 to Carl and Lillian (Gleisner) Anderson. Florence is preceded in death by her mother, father and two siblings, Edward and Gerald. ...Florence earned her Bachelor's degree in Music Education in 1949 from Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin. She went on to teach music at a public school in Ladue, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. Florence married the love of her life, Rev. Eric Hammar, on December 27, 1951. Florence finished the school year in St. Louis before moving back to the Upper Peninsula. She then taught school in Stephenson, Michigan, where Eric was a pastor at the Methodist church. She was the director of the choir and handbell ensemble at various churches where Rev. Eric was the minister. She welcomed many pets into their home throughout the years including dogs, cats, rabbits, pigeons, and snakes. Florence is survived by her husband, Rev. Eric Hammar, children Eric (Andrea), Steven (Sue), David (Laurie), and Judith (William) Sturm, nine grandchildren, Emily (Rob), Alayna (Yves), Matthew, Dagan, Sarah, Annalise, Alyssa, John, Eric and one great granddaughter, Gaia. Florence passed away on December 24, 2015 at 88 years old in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She passed in the presence of her family.





### **MRS. RUTH HOWELL**

Ruth was born Jan. 15, 1926 to Hardy Sr. and Della Mae Creel in Irvington, Alabama the fifth of nine children. Ruth graduated from Mobile County High School in 1944. In November 1946 she married John Northway Howell Sr. whom she had met while he was serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. They lived in both Indiana and Michigan where Ruth raised two sons and served with her husband, a Methodist Minister. Ruth was an avid gardener, loved to read and was a lifelong member of the Audubon Society. Ruth currently lived in Grand Bay, Alabama.

She was preceded in death by her husband John Howell Sr. Ruth leaves behind her son Stephen and wife Christine, son John Jr. and wife Suzanne; three grandchildren, Kristen, Andrew, and Kerry. There are five great grandchildren. Ruth passed away Thursday October 8, 2015. She was 89 years old.

### **MRS. HERTHA LAUPMANIS**

Hertha was born in Vienna, Austria in 1919. Her idyllic life was cruelly interrupted by the Nazi threat and Hertha was the first family member to flee Austria in 1938 with the responsibility of obtaining sponsors to rescue the remaining family. Arriving in England, she was ultimately successful in transporting her family to safe quarters in England and there met her future pastor husband, a fellow escapee (from Latvia), Janis Laupmanis, who had been appointed by the Methodist Church in the U.S. Following her heart and her future husband, she arrived in the United States in 1941. Hertha and Janis served the Methodist church as missionaries and then as appointees to many churches in the State of Michigan. They were also responsible for sponsoring passage for many displaced persons from Latvia to the U.S. Widowed at the age of 45, she managed to raise five children, taught Christian Education within the Methodist community, and managed a hotel in Grayling Michigan. Hertha is survived by her children, Claudia Laupmanis, Edwin (Barbara) Laupmanis, Sylvia (John) Laupmanis Friedl, Julia (Robert) Laupmanis Hooper, David (Cheryl) Laupmanis, her grandchildren, Trevor (Michele) Laupmanis, Lori Laupmanis, Justin (Samantha) Halloran, Matthew (Jean Pauline) Halloran, Patrick (Sally) Halloran, John Hooper, Katharine Hooper, her great-grandchildren, Joshua, Matthew, Felix, Delaney, Wylie, Dasher, Theo, Whitney, Morgaine, and her brother, Walter Fisher. Hertha passed away on Monday, March 7, 2016 at the Chelsea Retirement Community. Hertha was awarded the "2010 Priority Health Senior Impact Award" which recognizes volunteer efforts that go "above and beyond."



### **MRS. IDELLA JOAN MCENTARFER**

Idella Joan (Ross Godwin) McEntarfer was born September 11, 1928 in Minneapolis, MN, she left home to join her sister in San Francisco, CA prior to settling in Riverside marrying David W. Godwin in 1949. After raising her family, she quit work when she married Martin A. McEntarfer (Chaplain/Lt. Col, Air Force, Ret.) and they deployed (honey-mooned) to Crete, Greece. She thoroughly enjoyed traveling throughout Europe and particularly enjoyed visiting her mother and friends on Vancouver Island, BC Canada, and going to the South Island of New Zealand. She was

best known for her kindness, quiet strength, wonderful sense of humor, and she loved to laugh. Joan is survived by her husband Mac; son Vance Godwin and his daughters



and their children, and her daughter Sandra Godwin, and faithful dog Lucky. Joan died peacefully in her home September 22, 2015 at age 87. Joan was a long time resident of Riverside, CA.

### **MRS. JANET OTT**

Janet Edith Pass Ott was a 1942 New Years Day baby. She was born to immigrant parents Bernard of Germany and Edith Medenwald of Canada. She married Donald A. Ott in 1963. Service to others in need was an early and continuous expression of faith. Jan embraced Methodism during her education years at Wisconsin's Carroll College. Friends spoke of "her smile" "genuine care" "ease making friends" "love of all God's people." Jan was an engaged member of First UMC Royal Oak during her eight years with Don in the Episcopacy for the Michigan Area, Detroit and West Michigan Conferences. Jan found joy in reading both novels and new faith challenging and enriching books. She was always interested to meet and know new people. She enjoyed sharing written notes with a wide range of people from every ministry place she lived. She is survived by her husband Bishop Donald Ott, their two children, Denise Shircel (Thomas) of Kenosha WI, Duane (Megan) Ott of Oshkosh, WI.; seven grandchildren, one brother, a sister-in-law, many cousins, family and friends. Jan died June 2, 2015 the beloved spouse of Bishop Don Ott. Her smile and spirit live on in the hearts of all who knew her.



### **MRS. IRENE SIMPSON**

Irene was born in Vikarabad India on November 21, 1918, the third child and only daughter of medical missionaries, Dr. Hugh H. and Minnie V. (Logeman) Linn. She lived in India and attended Kodaikanal boarding school until age 16. After finishing high school, college and nurses' training in the US, she married Rev. John W. Simpson on January 3, 1944 joining his missionary work in Southwest China. The family returned to the US in late 1951, settling near Midland, Michigan. An avid reader, Irene also liked to write, and to win at all games. She knit, sewed, cooked, preserved, canned, and provided for her family and was tireless in her role as minister's wife. Irene is survived by her 99 year old brother, Dr. Kennie (Evangeline) Linn of Penney Farms, FL; four daughters, Linn Ann (Tony) Mocny of Saginaw, Jeanie Simpson of Mason, Marjorie (Ray) Krumm of Pelkie, and Janice (Bruce) Jeffries of Mason; grandchildren, Laura (Michael) Castillo, Suzanne (Travis) Erdmann, Bethany (Samuel) Nichols, and David (Erin) Jeffries; twelve great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson; nieces, nephews and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Dr. Herman Linn, her beloved husband Johnny, grandson Oren Krumm and great-grandson Isaac Nichols. On October 8, 2015 Irene Linn Simpson went to be with her Lord and Savior.

### **MRS. JOAN WARD**

Joan and her twin brother, Jim, were born in Detroit December 28, 1930. Their father, Dr. William Petersen, was a dentist with an office on Grand River Avenue and their mother was a nurse at Herman Keifer Hospital. They were members of the Westlawn Methodist Church when Bob Ward was appointed associate pastor in 1952. Two years later Joan and Bob were married and Bob was appointed to Troy where the membership grew from 167 to



351 in three years. The next three appointments were to the towns of Marquette, Ypsilanti and Adrian where Adrian College named the Admissions House in her honor. When the Wards served the historic Court Street Church in Flint they lived in the heart of downtown. Their girls attended inner city schools where they made lifelong friendships. Bob was the Ann Arbor District Superintendent from 1972 to 1978. As was her custom, Joan taught in the church school during their fifteen years in Grosse Pointe and Birmingham. Joan's chief pride and joy were Wendy, who opened acting studios in New York, Philadelphia, Australia and North Carolina, and Carolyn, a teacher of the year in the Ferndale Public School district. Joan died February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, and her ashes were inhumed in the memorial garden of the Grosse Pointe church.

### **MRS. MARGARET WORGESS**

Margaret was born on August 6, 1917 in Boston, MA the daughter of Alexander and Catherine (Lobban) Archer. On March 25, 1945 Margaret married Robert M. Worgess in Cambridge, MA. Robert was a pastor serving in the Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church. After retiring Margaret and Robert moved to Davison, MI and then to Galesburg, MI. Margaret was a member of the Galesburg United Methodist Church. Robert preceded Margaret in death on August 25, 2000. She was also preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Alice Nielson. Surviving are three daughters, Kathryn (Donald) Gatza of Bellingham, WA, Nancy (Lance) Wilson of Guntersville, AL and Donna (Greg) Kowalewski of Galesburg, MI; four grandchildren, Michael (Susanna) Gatza, Camille (Jon Wehrell) Gatza, Alec Kowalewski and Megan Kowalewski; and four great-grandchildren, Emily, Sarah and Carter Gatza and Addie Kowalewski. Margaret passed away Saturday morning, February 27, 2016 in Battle Creek, MI. She was 98 years old.

## LAITY

### **MRS. MARGARET (SHIRLEY) COOK**

Born Margaret Helen Cook on September 23, 1926, died on August 14, 2015. We knew her as "Shirley". She grew up in Howell, Michigan. While attending Howell high school she worked for the Livingston County Press newspaper. Shirley studied journalism at Michigan State University. After college she moved to Oxford where she was employed by the Romeo Observer Press. Eventually, she became the editor and general manager of the Rochester Clarion and stayed with the Clarion for 38 years. Shirley prided herself in her ability to do anything in the newspaper business including the skill to repair the printing presses. Shirley was a laywoman who served the church in a variety of capacities. She held leadership roles in the United Methodist Town and Rural Fellowship. She chaired the Board of Connectional Outreach for eight years and the Conference Nominating Committee for nine years. Shirley served as the Detroit Annual Conference Lay Leader for eight years and as a Delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences from 1980 to 2004. She served on the Jurisdictional Conference Committee on the Episcopacy from 1984 to 2000, chairing the committee from 1992-2000. Shirley Cook never forgot her beloved local church, Oxford UMC, where she provided leadership and helped guide pastors and laity alike. As a very discerning woman, she was able to recruit qualified volunteers to fill committee positions. She had a bounty of compassion and delighted in the accomplishments of others. She had a "soft spot" for the youth of the church and quietly encouraged them in their educational endeavors. The Detroit Annual Conference misses her gifts of leadership and enthusiasm for the work of the church.

### **MRS. MARY HICKS GOOD**

Mary was a former Detroit Conference Lay Delegate and long-time employee of the General Board of Global Ministries. Mary died Friday December 11, 2015. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

### **MR. CARL KINNEY**

Carl was born in Bellevue, Ohio on May 20, 1928. Will Carleton Kinney Jr. He grew up on the family dairy farm and graduated from Thompson Township High School in 1946 in a class of 10 students. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 1951 at Ohio State University with a major in agriculture. The following weekend he married Eleanore Stock in St. Louis, MO with her father officiating. Carl earned a Master's degree in Dairy Science from the University of Illinois in 1954. He worked on a bull farm, then returned to the family farm in 1956. In 1957, he got a job with IBM in Cleveland, OH. In 1963, he was transferred to the Flint, MI office and the family settled in Flushing. Carl's first Sunday at the church in Flushing he asked, "How can I help?" His joy was serving his church and community and included serving at Annual Conference for over 25 years as local and district delegate, head usher, and on the journal committee. He had a love of learning, always with a book or magazine to read, and of travel. Carl was delighted in his role of Granddad. Carl retired from IBM in 1987, then worked at Central Michigan University from 1990-1999. Carl is survived by his wife, Eleanore; brother, Roger (Joyce) of Bellevue, OH; sister, Esther Gertrude of



## Memoirs 2016

Belmont, NC; children, Thomas (Cynthia) of Wexford, PA, Timothy (Katherine) of Austin, TX, Daniel (Karen) of Penang, Malaysia, Paul of Westland, MI, Elaine (Sarah) of Saginaw, MI, Sharon of Flushing; 14 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by an older sister, Mary Elizabeth in 1937. Carl died on September 17, 2015. He was 87 years old.

**ROLL OF DECEASED CLERGY MEMBERS**

For Roll of Deceased prior to June 1968 see Conference Journal of 1968 page 212  
 from June 1968 through 1971 see Conference Journal of 1973 page 784  
 from 1972 through March 1976 see Conference Journal of 1976 page 378  
 from April 1976 through June 1989 see Conference Journal of 1989 page 1067  
 from June 1989 through March 1992 see Conference Journal of 1992 page 294  
 from June 1992 through December 1992 see Conference Journal of 1993 page 329  
 from January 1993 through December 1993 see Conference Journal of 1995 page 315  
 from January 1994 through December 1996 see Conference Journal of 1997 page 300  
 from January 1997 through December 1998 see Conference Journal of 1999 page 280  
 from January 1999 through December 2000 see Conference Journal of 2000 page 261  
 from January 2001 through December 2001 see Conference Journal of 2002 page 247  
 from January 2002 through December 2002 see Conference Journal of 2004 page 233  
 from January 2003 through December 2003 see Conference Journal of 2006 page 224  
 from January 2004 through December 2004 see Conference Journal of 2007 page 225  
 from January 2005 through December 2006 see Conference Journal of 2008 page 207  
 from January 2007 through December 2008 see Conference Journal of 2009 page 202  
 from January 2009 through March 2011 see Conference Journal of 2011 page 299  
 from June 2011 through May 3, 2012 see Conference Journal of 2012 page 297  
 from May 21, 2012 through March 2013 see Conference Journal of 2013 page 307  
 from March 2013 through April 2014 see Conference Journal of 2014 page 311  
 from June 6, 2014 through April 19, 2015 see Conference Journal of 2015 page 349

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Death</u></b>	<b><u>Place of Death</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>	<b><u>Conference &amp; Admission Date</u></b>
Dennis N. Paulson	July 19, 2015	Alger, MI	65	Detroit 1973
Richard J. Wood	August 1, 2015	Indianapolis	78	Detroit 1960
Harrison M. Brakeman	August 6, 2015	Clyde Twnp.	93	Detroit 1963
Ronald K. Corl	August 16, 2015	Spring, TX	81	Detroit 1964
Gary R. Imms	October 5, 2015	Florida		Detroit 1973
Jesse R. DeWitt	November 26, 2015	Dexter	96	
King W. Hanna	January 16, 2016	Ann Arbor	76	Detroit 1963
Steven A. Gjerstad	March 19, 2016	Pittsburgh, PA	68	Detroit 1981
Margery H. Host	March 22, 2016	McMillian	73	Detroit 2004
Robert P. Garrett	March 23, 2016	Cass City	86	Detroit 1957
Joanne R. Bartelt	April 13, 2016	Port Huron	64	Detroit 1996

## CONFERENCE CANE

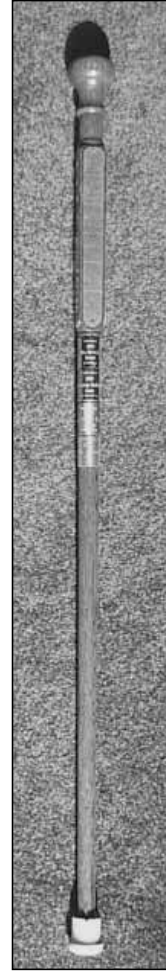
The Conference Cane was created and first presented in 1904. It is presented to the oldest ordained elder of the Detroit Conference who has served at least 35 active years in the conference and is currently residing within the bounds of the conference. The Commission on Archives and History sponsors the presentation.

The body of the cane is made of wood from the church in Adrian where the Detroit Conference was organized in 1856. There are inserts of wood representing different historical periods of the conference. These inserts include: wood from the first Methodist Episcopal Church erected in Michigan in 1818 at River Rouge; wood from the desk of Reverend Seth Reed, who was custodian of the cane and died at the age of 100; wood from the tree near the resting place of Barbara Heck, a pioneering Methodist woman in America; wood from the church where Judson Collins, our first missionary to China, was converted; and wood from the pulpit used by Robert Strawbridge, the pioneer of Methodism on the American continent.

**Current holder of the Conference Cane: Arthur L. Spafford**

**Previous Conference Cane holders and year presented:**

Francis Asbury Blades, 1904; Seth Reed, 1905; Phillip I. Wright, 1924; David Casler, 1928; David B. Millar, 1929; James E. Jacklin, 1941; Samuel Graves, 1944; George Tripp, 1948; Thomas Mott, 1950; Carl S. Riskey, 1951; David N. Earl, 1953; Edwin D. Dimond, 1954; James T.M. Stephens, 1959; H. Addis Leeson, 1960; Richard C.G. Williams, 1964; Charles Bragg, 1966; William A. Gregory, 1967; Frank Purdy, 1971; Henry I. Voelker, 1973; Russel D. Hopkins, 1975; Benjamin F. Holmes, 1984; Myron Robinson Everett, 1990; George MacDonald Jones, 1993; Walter C.B. Saxman, 1998; Ira Leslie Wood, 2002; Alvin Burton, 2003; Konstantin Wipp, 2005; William D. Rickard, 2013; Donald O. Crumm, 2014; Arthur L. Spafford, 2014



**HISTORICAL STATEMENT**Sessions of the Detroit Annual Conference  
of the United Methodist Church

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Bishop</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Clergy Members</b>	<b>Conf. Members</b>
1	June 09, 1969	Adrian	Dwight E. Loder	A. Gray	768	182,203
2	June 11, 1970	Adrian	Dwight E. Loder	A. Gray	700	186,581
3	June 08, 1971	Adrian	Dwight E. Loder	A. Gray	695	184,173
4	June 07, 1972	Adrian	Dwight E. Loder	J.W. Bray	795	176,374
5	June 06, 1973	Adrian	Dwight E. Loder	J.W. Bray	786	171,658
6	June 05, 1974	Adrian	Dwight E. Loder	J.W. Bray	700	166,384
7	June 04, 1975	Adrian	Dwight E. Loder	J.W. Bray	698	159,689
8	June 02, 1976	Adrian	Dwight E. Loder	J.W. Bray	691	155,450
9	June 08, 1977	Adrian	Edsel A. Ammons	J.W. Bray	663	151,823
10	June 07, 1978	Adrian	Edsel A. Ammons	J.W. Bray	664	149,570
11	June 06, 1979	Adrian	Edsel A. Ammons	J.W. Bray	650	146,514
12	June 03, 1980	Adrian	Edsel A. Ammons	J.H. Bunce	683	146,309
13	June 02, 1981	Adrian	Edsel A. Ammons	J.H. Bunce	678	143,632
14	June 01, 1982	Adrian	Edsel A. Ammons	J.H. Bunce	684	141,992
15	June 07, 1983	Adrian	Edsel A. Ammons	J.H. Bunce	685	137,589
16	June 12, 1984	Adrian	Edsel A. Ammons	J.H. Bunce	671	131,019
17	June 04, 1985	Adrian	Judith Craig	J.H. Bunce	666	128,540
18	June 03, 1986	Adrian	Judith Craig	J.H. Bunce	701	125,637
19	June 02, 1987	Adrian	Judith Craig	J.H. Bunce	695	123,157
20	June 07, 1988	Adrian	Judith Craig	J. Schairer	679	120,856
21	June 06, 1989	Adrian	Judith Craig	J. Schairer	687	118,081
22	June 05, 1990	Adrian	Judith Craig	J. Schairer	705	116,661
23	June 04, 1991	Adrian	Judith Craig	J. Schairer	708	115,355
24	June 02, 1992	Adrian	Judith Craig	J. Schairer	706	113,915
25	June 08, 1993	Adrian	Donald A. Ott	M.J.Jewell	707	113,066
26	June 07, 1994	Adrian	Donald A. Ott	M.J.Jewell	730	111,553
27	June 06, 1995	Adrian	Donald A. Ott	M.J.Jewell	754	110,385
28	June 04, 1996	Adrian	Donald A. Ott	M.J.Jewell	714	108,585
29	June 03, 1997	Adrian	Donald A. Ott	D.Hammond	759	107,520
30	June 02, 1998	Adrian	Donald A. Ott	D.Hammond	775	105,121
31	May 21, 1999	Adrian	Donald A. Ott	D. Hammond	768	104,813
32	May 19, 2000	Adrian	Donald A. Ott	D. Hammond	769	104,735
33	May 18, 2001	Adrian	Linda Lee	L. A. Schramm	778	104,364
34	May 17, 2002	Adrian	Linda Lee	L. A. Schramm	727	103,990
35	May 16, 2003	Adrian	Linda Lee	L. A. Schramm	772	105,351
36	May 21, 2004	Adrian	Linda Lee	L. A. Schramm	717	104,668
37	May 20, 2005	Adrian	Jonathan D. Keaton	L. A. Schramm	736	103,777
38	May 19, 2006	Adrian	Jonathan D. Keaton	L. A. Schramm	737	102,428
39	May 18, 2007	Adrian	Jonathan D. Keaton	L.A. Schramm	746	100,384
40	May 17, 2008	Adrian	Jonathan D. Keaton	L.A. Schramm	732	100,441
41	May 16, 2009	Adrian	Jonathan D. Keaton	Tracy N. Huffman	726	96,951
42	May 20, 2010	Adrian	Jonathan D. Keaton	Tracy N. Huffman	726	96,825
43	May 19, 2011	Adrian	Jonathan D. Keaton	Tracy N. Huffman	735	92,626
44	May 17, 2012	Adrian	Jonathan D. Keaton	Tracy N. Huffman	724	92,573
45	May 16, 2013	Adrian	Deborah L. Kiesey	Tracy N. Huffman	717	88,749
46	May 15, 2014	Adrian	Deborah L. Kiesey	Tracy N. Huffman	718	85,350
47	May 14, 2015	Adrian	Deborah L. Kiesey	Tracy N. Huffman	722	83,145
48	June 8, 2016	Adrian	Deborah L. Kiesey	Tracy N. Huffman	715	83,036

**COVENANT RELATIONSHIPS**  
**“Partnership in Mission”**

**LIBERIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH AND  
THE DETROIT ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Be it resolved that the Detroit Annual Conference approve the following Covenant of Partnership in Ministry and Working Understandings with the Liberia Annual Conference. The Covenant Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul... and with all your mind.” This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” (NRSV Mt. 22:37-39)

The Liberia Annual Conference and the Detroit Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church desire to seek God’s will together as we reach out to the world’s peoples in both our countries and conferences. Remembering Jesus’ words, we agree to establish a Partnership in Ministry between our two conferences, and do hereby covenant to:

1. Support each other by our prayers and gifts of mind, body and wealth.
2. Educate the laity and clergy of both conferences about the faith; ethnic groups, tribes and races; customs; social issues; geography; politics and other aspects of both countries. We shall seek, while learning from each other, to develop connections between individuals, families, communities, and congregations.
3. Seek opportunities for two-way visitations and Volunteers in Mission teams.
4. Find creative ways in which we can support each other through the established Channels of The United Methodist Church.
5. Evaluate our Partnership in Ministry relationship quadrennially.

**Working Understandings**

1. The Partnership in Ministry between the Liberia Annual Conference and the Detroit Annual Conference is a mutually agreed upon relationship. The boards and agencies of the two conferences will be involved in its implementation and evaluation. Any change in this covenant requires mutual agreement.
2. The conference Board of Global Ministries will represent the Detroit Annual Conference while the Liberia Annual Conference will be represented by its executive committee. Each entity shall designate the persons that will represent it in the administering and evaluation of this covenant.
3. Coordination of all partnership activities within a conference shall be the responsibility of the respective conference. The sister conference may appoint a representative to coordinate the work with those responsible within the conference.
4. Any request for funding shall be for projects that have been approved by the United Methodist Committee on Relief, as General Advance Specials by the 310 Covenant Relationships 2013 Advance Committee of the General Council on Ministries or by both the Liberia and Detroit Annual Conferences.
5. All projects shall be socially just and ecologically sustainable.
6. In regard to Volunteers in Mission teams and visitations, efforts shall be made to
  - a. Encourage our people to work side by side in both countries.
  - b. See that teams not displace indigenous labor.
  - c. Seek opportunities for visitations of persons from both conferences.



- d. Have any groups from either of the two conferences be inclusive as applicable with regard to race, tribe, age, sex, financial capability, clergy, laity and geographical areas.

Approved by the Liberia Annual Conference 1997. Signed for the Liberia Annual Conference, Arthur Flumo Kwlah, Bishop Approved by the Detroit Annual Conference 1997. Signed for the Detroit Annual Conference, Benjamin Bohnsack, Chair, Board of Ministries

**Excerpts From The January 5-15, 2012 Report Of The Superintendent, Kokoyah District Conference Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church**

The Kokoyah District is highly pleased to commend God first and the Rev. Dr. John G. Innis, Bishop of the Liberia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church for our appointment as the seventh District Superintendent for Kokoyah. Commendation also goes to the Detroit Annual Conference, USA and the Illinois Great River Conference for their humane and passionate partnership support to the Mission and Ministry of our District and Church. They are indeed true United Methodists with open hearts and minds....

We are thankful to God first and to the Detroit Annual Conference for granting to two of our female students four years scholarship in the field of nursing. The scholarship is called "Douglar Rench Memorial Scholarship." This scholarship was work out or put into place by Rev. Billie Rench of the Owosso UMC (sic.) of the Detroit Annual Conference.

May the Almighty God continue to bless the work of their hands. Also the Quest UMC, the Grace Urbana MC, the Tuscola UMC and other churches of the IGRC are also in constant support of our village scholarship and reconstruction programs, which we are very much grateful to God and to these partners for their love and support. Thanks to the Detroit Annual Conference who is also supporting our village scholarship program and our pastor salary support program. Not a pastor on our District would tell you that they have not benefitted from this program. God bless our partners....

Rev. Benedict Greene, Sr.

**COVENANT RENEWAL WITH  
EGLISE METHODISTE D'HAITI DISTRICT**

Motion: Be it resolved that the Detroit (West Michigan) Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church enter into a revised Covenant Relationship with the Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti District of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas as described in the following document; and

Be it further resolved that this Covenant Relationship be in cooperation with the West Michigan (Detroit) Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, thus re-authorizing the Michigan Area Covenant with the Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti District of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas.

In thankful recognition and faithful allegiance to the call of the Holy Spirit who equips and enables the church community to be in ministry and mission together, we join in partnership for the advancement of Christ, and we respond in faith and love reaching beyond our geographic boundaries in mutual servanthood. The Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti District of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas and the Michigan Area of the United Methodist Church join together our gifts and graces in shared vision of ministry. We will partner together for the advancement of Jesus Christ and jointly commit ourselves to:

1. Pray for each other on a regular and recurring basis;
2. Work together in a supporting and mutual relationship as the pastors, people, congregations, circuits, and districts;
3. Help the people in the District and the Conferences to learn about each other, including our history and cultures, our blessings and challenges, our faith and life;
4. Encourage church-to-church, and pastor to pastor relationships for mutual learning, support, and growth;
5. Exchange information and establish processes to evaluate the various projects and their socio- economic impact through joint partnership teams and establish a means for effective and regular communication among the leaders of both the District and the Conferences;
6. Develop procedures that will assist in timely, accountable, and transparent transfer of funds for us in implementing the projects and ministries made possible through this covenant;
7. Exchange leadership between the District and the Conferences to interpret the work and mission and to generate understanding and support.