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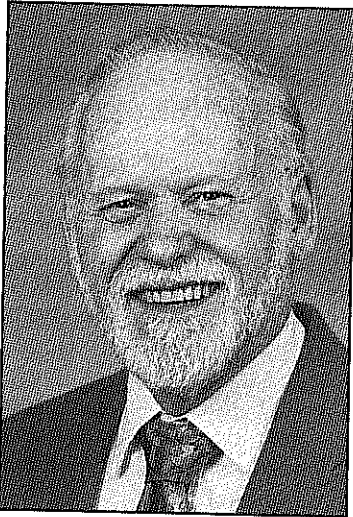
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LOWELL BÉRTHEN JOHNSON



Lowell Berthen Johnson combined the roles of pastor and prophet to a rare degree. Being a pastor was his first love, but he brought his Wesleyan passion for social justice into every aspect of his ministry.

Lowell was born December 12, 1928 in Foley, Minnesota to Oscar Johnson, a dairy farmer and Amanda Johnson, a teacher. He attended a one room school as a child and was raised in the Evangelical Covenant Church. He attended North Park Junior College in Chicago. These were momentous years, as he both met and fell in love with Janet Christianson of Haddam Neck, Connecticut, and received his call to ministry. Lowell went on to earn his BA from the University of Minnesota.

In 1953, Lowell began his first pastorate in the Evangelical Covenant Church in Bristol, Connecticut. One year later, on September 4, 1954, Lowell and Janet were married in Haddam Neck. They celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary a few months before his death. They had four children: Cynthia Johnson Wortham, MD; Randall Paul Johnson; Kent Lowell Johnson; and Lynn Carol Johnson. In their 46 years together, Lowell and Janet weathered the rebellious '60's, the women's rights movement and various revolutions. It was not an easy time for the survival of marriages, but they worked at it and over time, they became, in the words of their daughter Cynthia, "each other's one true thing."

While in Bristol, Lowell was ordained in Evangelical Covenant Church (1955) and received his BD from Hartford Seminary. In 1957 Lowell accepted an appointment to the Pleasant Valley, Connecticut Methodist Church. He was admitted on trial to the New York East Conference in 1958 and in full connection in 1959. He served churches in Seymour and Great Hill, Riverhead, Faith, Staten Island and Mt. Kisco. He went on disability in 1989 after a heart attack.

Lowell's ministry was always marked by a concern for those whom Jesus called "the least of these." While serving in Seymour, he was active in the movement to end the Vietnam War and was elected a McCarthy delegate to the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. Always active in civil rights, he took part in the 1963 March on Washington, went to Mississippi to support voter registration, and was a life member of the NAACP. Seymour was an all white community, and Lowell worked closely with the AME Zion minister in nearby Ansonia to build bridges of understanding and respect. In Riverhead, he helped establish the Center for the Blind and Sighted. On Staten Island, he was instrumental in the construction of an apartment complex for senior citizens. He was also a friend of the arts, providing space for a local theater group and serving as leader in many civic organizations. While at Faith Church, Lowell earned his D.Min. at Drew Theological Seminary. Janet made the Johnson parsonage a place of welcome where they cared for clients from Willowbrook Developmental Center and South Beach Psychiatric Center as members of the family. He also found time to write a history of Faith Church.

Despite his many community and world involvements, Lowell was a pastor's

pastor—a preacher whose sermons still sound fresh and relevant, a frequent visitor to hospitals and the homes of his parishioners, popular with the youth of his parish, and constant in prayer for his church and the wider world.

Upon retiring, the Johnsons moved to Tobyhanna, PA., where Lowell continued with frequent supply preaching, counseling at the Monroe County Correctional Facility, work with Habitat for Humanity and the Ecumenical Hunger Ministry. In between, he found time to use his carpenter's skills in improving their home and in traveling to Europe, Central America, Russia and Israel. However, his favorite activity was spending time with his six grandchildren.

Again in the words of his daughter Cindy. "Lowell was most of all a friend. He was available to family, personal friends, hundreds of parishioners, and even strangers." Those of us who knew him well are the better for knowing him.

This full and productive life ended on November 21, 1999. Memorial services were held in Haddam Neck by Rev. Bill Carroll, Mt. Pocono, PA. by Revs. John Chernock, Don Hamblin and E.T. Holland, and at Faith Church, Staten Island by Rev. John Collins.

John Collins.

DEAN MAURICE KELLEY



The Reverend Dean Maurice Kelley was born June 1, 1926 in Cheyenne, Wyoming to Mark M. Kelley and Irene Lancaster Kelley.

He graduated from Denver University (A.B. 1946) and the Iliff School of Theology (Master of Theology, 1949). He received the Elizabeth Iliff Warren Fellowship for graduate study in sociology at Columbia University.

Following ordination he served local churches in Oak Creek, Colorado; East Hampton, Westhampton; Queens; Richmond Hill; Bronx; Crawford Memorial for 13 years. While pastor of Church and State for our denomination which led to his joining the staff of the National Council of Churches in 1960.

Rev. Kelley and Maryon Hoyle were married June 8, 1946, in Denver, Colo. He is survived by his wife; their daughter Lenore Wadsworth and son-in-law Stephen of West Swanzey, N.H., and one grandchild, Mark Kelley Wadsworth.

From his position as Executive for Religious Liberty on the staff of the National Council of Churches (1960-1990), and thereafter, in semi-retirement, as NCCC Counselor on Religious Liberty until his death, Rev. Kelley defended the religious freedom of groups, no matter how mainline or controversial, and vehemently opposed "denprogramming."

He held the conviction that the threat to the religious freedom of anyone was a threat to all. A United Methodist minister clearly committed to his own Christian faith, he went to bat for the First Amendment rights of groups as diverse as the Unification Church, Taos Pueblo Indians, Church of Scientology, Old Order Amish, Christian Scientists, Roman Catholics, Jews, Muslims and mainline Protestants.

He wrote and filed scores of amicus curiae briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court and other courts, offered testimony to Congressional bodies, wrote dozens of articles and several books, gave hundreds of interviews and spoke widely on church-state issues across North America and Europe. He also wrote hymns and poetry.

Rev. Kelley also regularly convened religious liberty specialists "from left to right" at national conferences and in working committees, including the NCCC's Committee on Religious Liberty. Those assembled often held diametrically opposed positions on how best to assure religious liberty, Rev. Kelley kept them talking, sharing information and clarifying issues, commented Mitchell A. Tyner, Associate General Counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Silver Spring, MD.

Rev. Kelley's 1997 book, "Why Churches Should Not Pay Taxes," continues to serve as the "textbook" on that issue, said Rev. Oliver Thomas, Maryville, Tenn., now the NCCC's Counsel for Religious Liberty. "Dean, more than any one person in the United States, is responsible for religious organizations retaining their tax-exempt status," he said.

When he died, Rev. Kelley was nearing completion of the final edition of a five-volume treatise, "The Law of Church and State in America," forthcoming from Greenwood Press. Religious liberty colleagues have pledged to complete the work which Rev. Kelley began more than 20 years ago.

Recently, Rev. Kelley had been concerned about persecution of new religious movements, and had written two articles criticizing the U.S. government's role in the deaths of more than 90 members of an Adventist sect near Waco, Texas. He conducted face-to-face interviews with survivors of that assault.

"The only time I saw Dean cry was when he was reporting to us about those interviews," said the Rev. N.J.L'Heureux, Jr. Executive Director of the Queens N.Y. Federation of Churches and Vice Chairperson of the NCCC's Committee on Religious Liberty. "He concluded that a strong sense of faith bound those people together, and grieved the Federal government's cavalier, vicious treatments of them."

Rev. Kelley organized successful opposition to seven successive efforts to amend the First Amendment to permit praying in public schools and was a key force in the passage of the Equal Access Act, which protects the rights of students in public schools to form religious clubs.

He was instrumental in shaping church-state safeguards in the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965*. He was co-director, with Charles Whelan, S.J., of a three-year Project on Church, State and Taxation funded by the Lilly Endowment and edited the November 1979 issue of the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* on *The Uneasy Boundary: Church and State*.

The Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, NCCC General Secretary, paid tribute to Rev. Kelley's outstanding leadership in the area of church-state relations. His scholarship and diligence on behalf of the unique American treasure of free exercise of religion rendered a distinguished career in service to the church." She commented that Rev. Kelley's "love for the church" also "led him to ponder the loss of membership in mainline churches." His 1972 volume, "Why Conservative

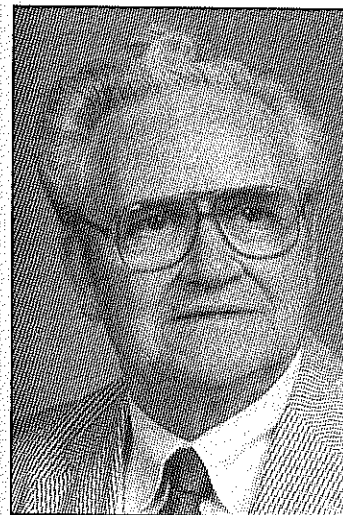
Churches Are Growing," remains a classic in the field.

At the Council, "Dr. Campbell said, "Dean was a dedicated ecumenist, a mentor to younger staff, and advisor to several general secretaries and a faithful proponent of the need and urgency of social justice within our land," including racial justice and justice for women. He will be deeply missed and mourned by so many within the NCCC and across the nation.

He organized a National Study Conference on Church and State for the NCCC in 1964, a consultation on Churches and Tax Law in 1975, and two conferences on Government Intervention in Religious Affairs in 1981 and 1984. In 1991 he organized a Bicentennial Conference on Religion Clauses at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He has been listed in *Who's Who in America* since 1968 (until he retired from full-time service in 1990).

Rev. Kelley served on local and national boards of the American Civil Liberties Union in the 1960's, and until the last week of his life was on the board of the American Conference on Religious Movements and International Academy for Freedom of Religion and Belief.

WILLIAM RAYMOND MOWAT



The Rev. William R. Mowat was born on January 21, 1922 in Highland Park (Dallas), Texas. He was the son of Oliver Cromwell Mowat who was born on May 15, 1882 in Ontario Canada Maud Isabelle Harvey Mowat who was born January 5, 1888 in Vernon, Texas.

As a child William attended Armstrong Grammar School for 1st and 2nd grade. The family then moved to DeSoto, Texas in 1930 where he finished his grammar school years and entered Lancaster High School until 1938. In 1939 the family moved back to the Dallas area and he finished high school at Woodrow Wilson in 1939.

After joining the Navy in 1940 he was stationed in Arlington, Texas. The navy enrolled him in the V-12 program at the University of Oklahoma and in 1945 he graduated as a Naval Ensign.

After his military service ended, he entered Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He attended classes in the day and worked for American Airlines at night. He graduated in 1948 and came east where he entered Union Theological Seminary. While he was enrolled there he received a Fulbright Scholarship and studied in England and France.

He was ordained an Elder in the New York East Conference in 1953 and thus began his ministerial assignments. They included churches in Lindenhurst; Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn; Greenwich, First; Bridgeport, Trinity; Hanson Place, Brooklyn; St. Paul's Astoria; Hollis; Christ, Staten Island. He was at one time on the staff of the