

b) the assets from the sale of that real property be allocated for property or capital expenses for congregational development efforts or missional concerns in that urban region.

Wesleyan Heritage Reaffirmation

Be it resolved that the Detroit Annual Conference, a people of Jesus Christ called United Methodist, reaffirm and celebrate our Wesleyan heritage which states "that this faith (in Christ) is the term or condition of justification...that there is no justification without it. 'He that believeth not is condemned already'; and so long as he believeth not that condemnation cannot be removed. As there is no other name given under heaven than that of Jesus of Nazareth, no other merit whereby a condemned sinner can ever be saved from the guilt of sin; so there is no other way of obtaining a share in his merit than 'by faith in his name.'"

*John Wesley "Justification by Faith" IV. 4

World Aids Day

Be it resolved that the churches of the Detroit Annual Conference promote World AIDS Day (December 1, 1997) by including in their worship services, on a Sunday in November, an emphasis upon awareness, concern, sensitivity and involvement with the lives and situations of persons who are HIV positive.

Memoirs

Clergy



George E. Spencer

George Edwin Spencer was born May 16, 1934 in Flint, MI, to George Eugene and Stella (Leineke) Spencer. He discovered in his early teens, that he could play on the Lincoln Park Methodist Church softball team if he attended church three out of four Sundays each month. Thus, began his continuous association with the United Methodist Church.

On May 17, 1953, he married Sharon, a member of the Lincoln Park church, whom he'd dated since March 17, 1950, on an anniversary he always celebrated. He worked as a tool and die journeyman for A.C. Spark Plug. One night in July 1956, George suddenly sat up in bed, wakened Sharon, and said, "I know God wants me to become a minister. What shall we do?" A beautiful and difficult journey of faith began.

He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan; a master's degree in business administration from Northern Michigan University; and a Master of Divinity degree from Methodist Theological School in Ohio. In 1964, he was ordained an elder in the church and began his service in the conference to serve Elba, Bowerston (N. E. Ohio Conf.), Royal Oak: First, Marquette: Grace, Monroe: First, Grayling, Belleville: First, and Ferndale: First.

He served in the Naval Reserves, was past president of the Ferndale Rotary Club, and founded the Upper Peninsula Eye Bank in Marquette. He served on many conference agencies including the Adrian College Board of Trustees, Methodist Children's Home Society, the conference Committee on Nominations, and the last being the Board of Pensions and Health Insurance as chairperson of the Joint Disability Committee. A severe illness that started in 1979 ended with a kidney transplant from his brother, Jerry, in 1982. The experience renewed his faith and gave him new vigor. His curiosity for all of life was greater than ever.

George died of a heart attack at the age of 62 on February 21, 1997 at Mid-Michigan Regional Hospital, Midland. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; daughters Merrie (Dave) Rancourt, Brenda Spencer, and Martha (Ken) Trexler; son, George (Donna) Spencer; a brother; eight grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

A memorial service took place March 2, 1997, at Ferndale: First United Methodist Church with Bishop Donald A. Ott, District Superintendent Linda Lee, and the Rev. Dr. Robert P. Ward officiating.

David S. Stiles

David Sherman Stiles was born April 9, 1944 in Ann Arbor, MI to Sherman and Edna Stiles. He was a 1962 graduate of Milan High School, Milan, MI; graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a B.A. in art education; earned a M. Div. from Iliff School of Theology, and an M.A. in educational systems development from Michigan State University.

"All of us feel some kind of calling in life. He felt God was calling him to do this, to take this direction in life," his wife, the Rev. Susan Bennett Stiles said about his entering ordained ministry. "He really enjoyed being with people. He felt like he was able to make a difference in people's lives," she said. He served Ferndale: First (as associate pastor); North Lake; Gaines, Argentine; Henderson, Chapin; and Algonac. He took a disability leave in 1990.

In his spare time, David was an astronomy buff, science fiction fan, enjoyed camping, cross country skiing, and was an avid photographer who set up a darkroom at home. He received numerous trophies and ribbons for Arabian horses which he trained and showed. He served on the conference Committee on Communications as video coordinator, taping annual conferences and activities for members.

