

Deceased Clergy

Rev. Dr. Rex Bevins, 90; retired Great Plains Conference pastor and former executive director of ministries for Nebraska Conference. Born May 5, 1932; died April 7, 2023. He married Ardis Dappen on June 21, 1953. She preceded him in death on October 30, 2012. While attending Nebraska Wesleyan, Bevins served as a student pastor at Otoe St. Paul United Methodist Church. Following his graduation from Pacific School of Religion in 1959, he served San Francisco Hamilton Methodist Church, then San Carlos Carlmont UMC. The family moved back in Lincoln in 1969, where Bevins served as Lincoln Warren UMC. From 1974-1980, he was executive director for ministries for the then-Nebraska Conference, and returned to preaching at Lincoln Saint Paul UMC, where he served from 1980 until his retirement in 2002. Bevins was very involved in the national and international church, serving on the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Discipleship, the World Methodist Council, Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Judicial Council of the UMC. He is survived by his children, Michael (Sherry) Bevins, Mark Bevins (Anita Calvert) and daughter Deborah (Tom) Ehlers; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

James Bush, 81; retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born January 10, 1942; died December 8, 2023. After graduating from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Bush served several churches in the former Kansas West Conference: Colby-Selden, Arnold-Utica, Lenora, Arlington-Abbyville, Republic-Webber, Grainfield, LaCrosse, Syracuse, Mead, Eureka, Halstead and Burns from 1967 until his retirement in 2013. Survivors include his children, James "Anthony" Bush (Rosetta), and Mary Boardman; four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Victor Calcote, 82, retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born July 12, 1941; died November 8, 2023. Calcote served

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former Kansas West Conference churches in Moundridge, Oakley, Ellis and Wichita Epworth before his retirement in 2000. He married Eileen Stevenson on June 1, 1963. She survives him, as do daughters Teri Jo Schultz and Tracy Jeanne Eicher; seven grandchildren, one great-grandson, a brother and two sisters.

Judith Castor, 78, retired deacon in the Great Plains Conference. Born March 15, 1945; died May 18, 2023. She was ordained as a diaconal minister in the Kansas West Conference in 1978, serving in Christian education positions in Valley Center and Wichita Woodland UMCs before joining Wichita West Heights, where she served from 1997 until taking leave in 2004 and retirement in 2010. She is survived by her daughter, Joey (Anthony) Bamberger; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren

Rev. Harold Cooper, 88; retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born July 21, 1935; died January 24, 2024. After graduating from Kansas Wesleyan University and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, he served the Methodist Star Parish (Spivey, Zenda, Murdock, Cleveland), helped establish Great Bend Trinity; and was pastor in Wichita Pleasant Valley, Pratt First and Dodge City First from 1963 until his retirement in 1997. Cooper is survived by his children, Carolyn (Steve) Trinkle, David (Joy) Cooper and Mary (Michael) Yu; and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jane Cooper.

Marvis Doering, 83; Hutchinson District shepherdess. Born November 7, 1940; died January 16, 2024. She married Ferdinand Doering on April 16, 1976. He preceded her in death in March 1996. She was an active member of Moundridge United Methodist Church, and was treasurer for the United Methodist Women. She was a Hutchinson District shepherdess for the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church. Survivors include her stepchildren, Michael (Mary) Doering and Marion (James) Craig; two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

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Laurence Falk, 92; former Great Plains clergy. Born May 11, 1930; died April 27, 2023. Falk served as a pastor and camp director for the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Milford, Nebraska, in 1958-59 before accepting a position with Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. He married Carol Thompson on June 9, 1951. She preceded him in death. Survivors include nieces and nephews. A graveside service was conducted on May 13.

William Claude Fillingim, 85; retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born December 25, 1937; died August 19, 2023. After graduating from Asbury College, he began his first appointment in Bloom, Kansas. Following his master's degree in theology from Boston University, he served churches in Bucklin-Ford and Kingman until his retirement in 1983. He married Anita Esplund on August 3, 1963; she died in 2015. He married Pat Sayles in 2017. Survivors include his wife; children, Tanya and David Hein, Debra and Darin Raffety, and David and Erica Fillingim; two grandchildren, and four siblings.

Rev. Phyllis Garrett, 97; retired elder. Born August 18, 1926; died February 10, 2024. A former music teacher and hospital chaplain, Garrett received her Master of Divinity degree from Saint Paul School of Theology. She served in former Kansas East Conference churches in Powhattan-Everest and Eureka and was Parsons District superintendent from 1987 until her retirement in 1993.

Jean Marie Grabher, 88; retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born November 3, 1934; died May 15, 2023. After earning her Master of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology in 1964, she served as a pastor at Baguio City church in the Philippines. In 1975, she began serving churches in the former Kansas East Conference, including Topeka Lowman, St. Mary's-Emmett, Roeland Park, Parsons Wesley and Hiawatha First before her retirement in 2001. She was also Topeka District superintendent from 1980-1986.

Charles Grant, 75; retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born October 16, 1947; died October 9, 2023. He met his

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wife, Judy, while at Saint Paul School of Theology. They were married in August 1971. Grant was a student pastor and served Westphalia and Cherry Mound, Kansas, and Center-view and Houts Chapel, Missouri. After graduation from Saint Paul in 1973, he served in Alton, Hanover-Barnes, Washington-Greenleaf, Kinsley, Bucklin-Ford, Larned, Arkansas City and Hillsboro before his retirement in 2011. He was serving as pastor of congregational care at Bonner Springs United Methodist Church from 2012 until the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Judy; children Jeremy Grant (Lauren), Eric Grant, Jungsu Eun and Shirley Leftwich; two grandsons; and two sisters.

Earl J. Haggard, 69; Great Plains Conference pastor. Born February 9, 1954; died April 13, 2023. He married Paula Miles on December 16, 1977. Haggard received a bachelor's degree in ministry from Central Christian College and a Master's of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary. He was the pastor of churches in Colby, Abilene, Gypsum, Kipp, Russell Otterbein, Bunker Hill, Independence and, at the time of his death, Cawker City and Glen Elder. He is survived by his wife, Paula, and daughter, Hannah.

Kenneth Hathaway, 77, retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born August 23, 1945; died April 27, 2023. He married Janet "Jan" Heersche on June 11, 1967. Hathaway graduated from Saint Paul School of Theology with a Master of Divinity in 1971. He served churches in both former Kansas conferences, including Linwood, Edgerton, Wellington, Herrington, Burdick, Great Bend, Johnson City, Wichita, and Liberal. He retired in 2008. He and Jan also spent three years as missionaries at McCurdy School in Espanola, New Mexico. Survivors include his wife, Jan Hathaway; daughters, Joy Lenz (Steve) and Robin Sommer (Brandon); and five grandchildren.

Leon H. Hayen, 95; retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born July 6, 1927; died May 9, 2023. He married Catherine Thomas on August 17, 1948. She preceded him in death on January 12, 2021. Hayen graduated from Westmar College in

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Le Mars, Iowa, and from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Illinois. After serving churches in Illinois and Oklahoma, he came to Kansas, as pastor of El Dorado-Butler Zion in the former Kansas West Conference and Pittsburg-College Heights, Hiawatha Trinity-Reserve, Topeka First, and Topeka Susanna Wesley, as well as being the Ottawa District superintendent, from 1960 until his retirement in 1993. He is survived by his children, Robert Hayen (Shelia), Marlene O'Neal (Dave), Scott Hayen (Kelley) and Janet Diemer; 10 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; a brother and two sisters.

Glenn Hubbard, 83, retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born May 1, 1940; died December 2, 2023. Hubbard served as a fulltime local pastor at Palmer and Shelby UMCs in the former Nebraska Conference from 2005 until his retirement in 2012. He married Rev. Fay Hubbard on Oct. 21, 2005. She was pastor of Ellis, Schuyler Christ, Neligh, Fairbury, Hemingford, Atwood and Bushnell Calvary from 2006 until her retirement in 2018.

Rev. Teresa "Tess" Hufford, 72; retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born October 15, 1951; died January 29, 2024. She became an elder in full connection in 2004, serving Douglas-Burr, Beatrice Centenary, Friend-Dorchester, Eustis-Farnam, Lexington and Central City until her retirement in 2017. She married Rev. Michael Flury, who served Wilber-Pickrell-Clatonia, Arapahoe-Beaver City and Shelby-Osceola. He survives, as well as a son, Nick Lovett; two grandchildren and three sisters.

Rick Jones, 60. He married Jeanna Sondgrass on October 10, 1985. She survives. A licensed local pastor, Jones served churches in Grainfield-Gove and Bucklin, Kansas; and Chester-Hebron, Nebraska.

Rev. Dr. Jack Kersenbrock, 88; retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born February 25, 1936; died March 18, 2024. He received a master's degree from Kansas Wesleyan, Master of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology and a Doctor of Theology from Phillips University. Kersenbrock was a student pastor serving Manchester-Mayfield in the former Kansas

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West Conference, and after appointments in the New England Conference, returned to the state to pastor Arnold-Utica, Hardtner-Hazelton, Jennings-Dresden, Concordia Trinity-Huscher, Ness City, Clearwater and Norton before his retirement in 1998. He married Jane Swayer on June 17, 1956. She preceded him in death in June 2014. Survivors include his children, Dwayne (Renaë), Luann Horchem (Gary) and Kris Schulte (Mark); 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Roger Kronholm, 82; former Great Plains Conference pastor. Born February 20, 1941; died December 17, 2023. He served as pastor at Archer-Marquette and Omaha Grace UMC from 1966 to 1975, then was director of Equilibria, a methadone clinic for heroin addicts. Kronholm married Kay Krebs on April 5, 1963. She survives, as well as daughters Shelly (Dean) Nobsch and Julie (Jim) Sutfin; and five grandchildren.

Chris Lehew, 44, local licensed pastor who recently was recommended to the Board of Ordained Ministry as a provisional elder in the Great Plains Conference, died Dec. 8, 2023. Lehew was born Jan. 24, 1979, in Chickasha, Oklahoma. He graduated from Chickasha High School in 1997 and earned a bachelor's of science degree from Mid-America Christian University in Oklahoma City. He earned a master's of divinity degree from Saint Paul School of Theology in Leawood, Kansas. Lehew served as youth pastor at Shawnee United Methodist Church before serving as pastor of Great Bend Trinity and Hoisington UMCs. He was serving First UMC and Ebenezer UMC, both in Lyons, Kansas, at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Rebecca, and three daughters, Annie, Leah and Emmy

Harry Floyd Liggett, 97; former Great Plains Conference pastor. Born November 18, 1925; died April 27, 2023. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Liggett worked as a math and industrial arts teacher, at his father-in-law's funeral home and for 25 years as a doctor of optometry before entering the ministry. He was a fulltime local pastor serving Newton East Side UMC from 1988 until his retirement in 1993. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Carolyn Miller and

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husband Robert and Don Liggett and his wife Jane ; three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Rev. Loren E. Marler, 89, retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born July 19, 1933; died June 10, 2023. Marler received his Master of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology. He served former Kansas West Conference churches in Lyona, Hope-Lincolnville-Lost Springs, Tri-County, Kensington United, Ellinwood-Mount Pleasant, Sharon Springs-Weskan, Colby, Wichita University, Wichita Dawson and Quinter-Grinnell before his retirement in 1998. He married Donna Mae Weak on May 31, 1955. She survives, as well as his children, Rev. Melanie Leigh Adams and Bradley Eugene Marler (Mona); a brother and sister; four grandchildren; one step-grandchild, three great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

Rev. David C. Masten, 61; former Great Plains Conference clergy. Born August 4, 1961; died April 1, 2023. He married Julie Mumford on July 14, 1984. He was called to the ministry in 1990 and earned his Master's in Divinity from Central Baptist Theological Seminary. He served churches in Cairo and Utica in the former Nebraska Conference. Survivors include his wife, Julie; and his son, Jared Masten.

Bob McNabb, 90; retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born December 9, 1933; died January 18, 2024. A former engineer with IBM, McNabb became a part-time local pastor, serving Waverly UMC in the former Kansas East Conference from 1991 to 1993, as well as a church in the former Arkansas North Conference. He retired in 1999. He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy.

Rev. Larry Moffet, 71, retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born May 29, 1951; died April 26, 2023. Moffet served churches including Omaha FaithWestwood, Hanscom Park, Lefler and, most recently, First United Methodist Church in Lincoln from 2006 until his retirement in 2019. He also served from 1991 to 1994 as executive director of United Methodist Ministries in Omaha.

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Hughes Bentley Morris Jr., 91; retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born November 8, 1931; died August 20, 2023. He married Janet Gill on September 7, 1952; she died in May 2003. He married Margaret Elley on June 17, 2006. A fourth-generation minister, he served churches in Iowa and Illinois before moving to Nebraska in 1964. He was the pastor at Nebraska Conference churches Palisade-Trenton, Shelton, Gering First, Beatrice Centenary and Aurora before his retirement in 1994. He was also the East District superintendent from 1976 to 1981. Survivors include his wife, Margaret Elley; children, Stephen (TJ) Morris, John (Cheryl) Morris and Susan (Daniel) Matuella; step-children, Pam (Lonnie) Goodrich, Terri Deems, Cindy Molina and Cathy Goldman; 23 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and a brother. Services will be at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, September 30, at Elkhorn Hills United Methodist Church. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. Memorials may be given to Elkhorn Hills UMC or the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation.

Rev. Don Noble, 73; retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born March 27, 1950; died January 29, 2024. He served former Kansas West Conference churches in Burchfiel-Bluff City, Scandia-Norway, Cunningham-Preston, Hutchinson Mitchell Chapel, Wichita St. Luke's and Wichita Dawson from 1980 until 2001, and later served churches in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference until his retirement in 2012. He married Rev. Kathy Noble in 1989. She survives, as well as a daughter, Keely (Marion) Barnes, two grandchildren; a sister and a brother.

Barbara Sue Davis Patterson, 85, retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born August 14, 1938; died October 21, 2023. In 1993, she took lay speaking classes and started her ministry as a lay speaker in United Methodist Church, preaching every month until she accepted God's calling and started her education to become a pastor. In 2000, she became a licensed United Methodist clergy from St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri. The following year she became an ordained associate member of Kansas West Conference of United Methodist Church. She served former Kansas West churches in Bazine, Oakley and Plainville from 1996 until her

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retirement in 2008. She married Robert Glenn Patterson on January 28, 1984. He was an associate member serving churches in Oakley-Winona, Palco-Ellis, Hoxie-McGraw-Selden and Glen Elder-Cawker City before his retirement in 2015. She is survived by her husband; children, Julie Yvonne Arnold, Kara Lynn Painter and James Daniel Patterson; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Rev. Paul Allen Quackenbush, 96; retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born November 1, 1926; died August 1, 2023. A dairy farmer, Quackenbush took religious classes by mail and later graduated from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He served former Nebraska Conference churches in Helvey, Swanton, Cortland-Hallam and Clatonia-Swanson before his retirement in 1991. Quackenbush married Betty Simpkins in June 1947; she preceded him in death. He also was preceded in death by two sons. Survivors include children, Larry Quackenbush, Mary Quackenbush, Kerry and husband Terry Meyer, and Sherry Quackenbush; 10 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

William Robert “Robin” Reeves Jr., 86; retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born July 11, 1937; died September 14, 2023. Reeves served as a part-time and full-time local pastor in the former Kansas East Conference in Fulton, Hiattville and Fort Scott St. John’s UMCs from 2000 until his retirement in 2006. Survivors include his wife, C. Delight Reeves; his daughters and their spouses Amy and Dan Kelly, Rachel and Chris Pruitt, and Carrie and Whitney Archer; and nine grandchildren.

Geraldine “Gerry” ReQua, 94; retired deacon and diaconal minister. Born May 27, 1929; died March 5, 2024. She married John ReQua on June 30, 1946. They lived at Camp Lakeside in Scott County, where he was manager, from 1964-1977. She was the Director of Education at various churches including East Heights, Woodlawn, and College Hill United Methodist Churches in Wichita, Scott City United Methodist Church, and Ark City United Methodist Church. After her retirement in 1999, she was associate pastor at Wichita

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College Hill UMC until 2005. Survivors include her daughters, Kathleen (Frank) Brazle, Jessie (Jim) Bradley and Renee (Scott) Smith; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Rev. Katherine “Kathy” Rice, 76; retired elder. Born March 10, 1947; died February 12, 2024. After work as an educator, she became a United Methodist pastor, graduating from St. Paul School of Theology. She served former Nebraska Conference churches in Wilber, Big Springs, Tilden Faith and Albion. She retired in 2012. Survivors include a sister and two brothers.

Rev. Dr. Randall R. Sailors, 75; retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born June 3, 1948; died August 10, 2023. He graduated from Morningside College in Sioux City Iowa, received his Master of Divinity from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Illinois, and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Garrett- Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. Sailors served former Nebraska Conference churches in the Custer Parish (internship in Ansley/Westerville and five years in Merna-Anselmo), Waverly, Aurora, Omaha FaithWestwood and Lincoln St. Mark’s. He then served as Southwest District superintendent for three years and the Omaha/Missouri River District superintendent for five years before retiring in 2010, for a total of 40 years in ministry. He served on various committees and commissions for the Nebraska Conference and for 15 years, served on the Board of Trustees at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Sailors married Ronnette on August 8, 1971. Survivors include his wife; children Aaron Sailors (Cheri) and Sherrine Sailors (Lee Bokma); three granddaughters; and two brothers.

Leslie “Gordon” Smith, 84; retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born April 9, 1939; died February 19, 2024. He graduated from Saint Paul School of Theology in 1987, and served former Kansas West Conference churches in Tisdale, Southeast Wichita, Wichita Christ Community and Horton in Kansas West before his retirement in 2002, as well as churches in the Missouri West and former Little Rock conferences. Survivors include Ruth Ann, his wife of 50 years; children Tamara (Rick)

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Sevart, Gregory (Michelle) Asher and Linda (Terry) Cox; 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Larry St. John, 72; former Great Plains Conference pastor. Born August 2, 1951; died March 12, 2024. St. John was a pastor at Bertrand and Cairo in the former Nebraska Conference, and Axtell in the former Kansas East Conference. Survivors include his sons, Jesse, Jacob and Wesley.

Rev. John Denniston Stoneking, 81; Great Plains Conference pastor. Born October 5, 1941; died July 12, 2023. Stoneking received a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree from Perkins School of Theology. He was ordained a deacon in the Oklahoma Annual Conference in 1965 and an elder in the Kansas East Conference in 1968. He served Kansas East churches in Manhattan First, Horton, Kansas City Rosedale, Lenexa and Topeka Highland Park -- as well as Topeka District Superintendent from 1992-1997 -- before his retirement in 2007. Stoneking is survived by his wife, Jeri; daughters, Anne Holmes, Kristin Stoneking and Nicole Stoneking; four grandchildren and a sister.

Rev. Dr. Warren Charles Swartz, 93; retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born July 2, 1929; died May 18, 2023. He married Zelda "Tag" Price on March 3, 1949. She preceded him in death in 2020. Swartz received a Master of Theology degree from Iliff School of Theology in 1957 and his Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1982. He served in the Rocky Mountain Conference from 1955-1957 and transferred into the former Nebraska Conference and was ordained an elder in 1957. He served as an associate pastor of Beatrice Centenary UMC and senior pastor of Lincoln St. Mark's UMC and Kearney First UMC. He was Lincoln District superintendent from 1987 until his retirement in 1993. In retirement, Swartz worked part-time as pastor of visitation at Topeka Susanna Wesley UMC.

Norma Thompson, 81; retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born June 12, 1942; died March 2, 2024. She served

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as a part-time local pastor in Cummings-Nortonville-Valley Falls-Coal Creek, Agenda and Jamestown from 2004 until her retirement in 2012. Survivors include her husband, Leonard; and daughters Tara Jensen and Jane Ballenger.

Rev. Dr. Jerold “Jerry” Wesley Vogt, 84; retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born December 12, 1938; died May 19, 2023. A graduate of Friends University, Candler School of Theology at Emory, and Phillips University, he was ordained as a deacon in 1961 and as an elder in 1964. He served the former Kansas West Conference as a pastor at churches in Furley, Lindsborg-Bridgeport, Garden City, Herington-Burdick, Wichita First, Wichita Asbury and back to Garden City before becoming Wichita District superintendent from 1992-1996. Following his time as a DS, he served as pastor in the former Kansas East Conference church at Leawood UMC. Following his retirement in 2005, he served as pastor of Wichita Christ Community UMC, and from 2005-2013 as pastor emeritus of Wichita Chapel Hill UMC. He married Christine Willis. She preceded him in death on December 8, 2020. Vogt is survived by his children, Sheldon Vogt (Paula), Clifton Vogt (Brianna) and Sharla K.P. Vogt; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Timothy Young, 56; former licensed local pastor. Born February 26, 1968; died March 25, 2024. Young served as a licensed local pastor at Walton and Buhler UMCs in the former Kansas West Conference from 2005-2008, and later worked at EmberHope in Newton as its human resources manager. Survivors include his wife, Danielle; children, Landon Young and Shelbie (Patrick) White; two grandchildren, his mother and a brother. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, April 15, at Newton First UMC, with graveside services at Restlawn Gardens of Memory. Memorials may be made to the Newton American Legion or Newton First UMC.

Donald Zook, 93; retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born November 20, 1929; died September 30, 2023. He received his Masters of Divinity from Southern Methodist University

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and served former Kansas West Conference churches in Palco, Lindsborg-Bridgeport, Belle Plaine, Bird City-Lawn Ridge, Wichita Grace, Hoisington, Leoti-Pleasant Valley, Great Bend First and Macksville until his retirement in 1993. He married Natalie Zink in 1954. She preceded him in death. Survivors include his children, Tamara Zook and Bob Zook; Two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Celebration of life services were Oct. 6, 2023, at Larksfield Place Auditorium, Wichita, with graveside services at Pleasant Valley Township Cemetery, Pawnee County, Kansas.

Deceased Spouses

Gudrun Adell, 93; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Died November 16, 2023. Her husband, Rev. Morland Adell, served as pastor in former Nebraska Conference churches in Olive Crest, Grand Island Trinity and as administrator of the Crowell Memorial Home from 1982 until his retirement in 1989. He died June 28, 2012.

Ann Appleton, 86, widow of a Great Plains Conference clergy, died Dec. 5, 2023, in Clay Center. She was born April 2, 1937, in Kansas City, Missouri. She married Gary Appleton on July 29, 1955. He served churches in Blairsville, Medford and Cleveland in Missouri, and Mankato, Hugoton, Lyons, and Miltonvale in Kansas until he retired in 2008. He died April 11, 2009. She is survived by her sons Steve (Roberta Ann) and Andrew, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Michael Aspegren, 75; spouse of retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born February 7, 1948; died May 11, 2023. He married Dorothy Creason on October 27, 1966. Dorothy Aspegren served as a fulltime local pastor at Shickley UMC from 2005 until her retirement in 2013. Besides his wife, survivors include children Jon (Merritt) Aspegren, Steve (Kristin) Aspegren, Vicki (Clark) Washburn, Karen (Zeb) Simones and Katie (Chris) Fishler; 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren with the ninth due in July; two brothers and a sister.

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Mary Ann Bede, 89; spouse of a retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born June 15, 1934; died March 31, 2024. She married Rev. Phillip Bede on August 20, 1955. He served as pastor in former Nebraska Conference churches in Bertrand-Loomis, Alma, Woodruff, Schuyler-Rogers, Shelby, Lincoln Christ, Greenwood, and DeWitt until his retirement in 1995. Survivors include her husband; two children, Randy Bede, and Sandi (Rod) Carstensen; three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Doris “Diane” Cruitt, 78; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born November 2, 1944; died July 11, 2023. She was married to Rev. Mehl Cruitt. He served former Kansas West Conference churches in Great Bend King Memorial, Albert, Pawnee, Goodland, Moundridge, Geneseo, Hill City, Clearwater, Wichita West Heights and Wichita St. Paul’s UMCs. He died February 7, 2011. Survivors include daughters, Megan Zapata (Joaquin) and Emily Dalke (Dustin); four grandchildren; a brother and a sister. Graveside services were July 14 at Greenwood Cemetery, Wichita.

LaNelle Davis, 99; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born November 6, 1924; died November 24, 2023. Her husband, Jack Davis, served Omaha St. Paul UMC from 1960-64 and was a counselor at the Aita Clinic in Omaha until 1982. He died December 3, 2012. She is survived by children, Kenneth (Delores) Davis, Jack (Marie) Davis, Hugh Davis, and Nancy (Bill) Boyle; 13 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren.

Ruth Dickinson, 94, widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born February 9, 1929; died May 10, 2023. She married Rev. Calvin Hendrix Dickinson on June 2, 1950. He served churches in the former Kansas East and Kansas West conferences including Silvia-Huntsville, Hutchinson Trinity, Kinsley, Fort Scott First, Junction City First, Sabetha and Neodesha before his retirement in 1991. He died July 29, 2007. She is survived by her son, David Dickinson and spouse Sahja Cove; and two grandchildren.

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Joy Findley, 85; widow of a Great Plains Conference clergy. Born December 16, 1938; died February 26, 2024. She married Wayne Findley in May 1961. He served former Kansas West Conference churches in Douglass, Johnson, Wichita University and Hutchinson First until his retirement in 1991. He died February 18, 1998. She is survived by her children W. Douglas Findley (Mary), Stephen Findley (Pascale Perraudin), Kevin Findley (Lisa), and Stacy Findley; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Jacquelyn "Toni" Gabel, 90; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born February 16, 1933; died July 28, 2023. She was married to Rev. Harvey Gabel, who served at former Nebraska Conference churches in Beatrice Centenary, Gordon, Millard and Omaha FaithWestwood before his death on May 11, 1986.

Paula Haggard, 68; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born December 18, 1955; died March 6, 2024. She married Earl Haggard on December 16, 1977. He was the pastor of churches in Colby, Abilene, Gypsum, Kipp, Russell Otterbein, Bunker Hill, Independence and, at the time of his death on April 13, 2023, Cawker City and Glen Elder. Survivors include her daughter, Hannah Haggard, lay pastor of Bunker Hill UMC; two brothers and a sister.

Marlene Harris, 80; spouse of a retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born May 29, 1943; died February 25, 2024. She was married for 40 years to Rev. Jack Harris, who served churches in Peck, Goddard, Newton East Side, Hill City, St. Francis and 10 years at Wichita East Heights; as well as six years as Winfield District superintendent and nine years as director of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, from 1990 until his retirement in 1999. Survivors include her husband; children, Brad Blake, Whitney (Angela) Blake; stepchildren Stephanie (Sam) Lovelette and Scott Harris; 14 grandchildren and several great grand-children.

Aleta Hastings, 87; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born May 19, 1936; died June 8, 2023. She married Lauerence Hastings on July 10, 1953. He served former Kansas West

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Conference churches in Mentor, Friendship-Copeland and Belle Plaine before his retirement in 1997. He died June 26, 2020. She is survived by her children, Susan Hastings, Sonia Schmidt, Michael (Pauline) Hastings and Cindy Morales; 13 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, a brother and sister.

Lola Hunter, 87; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born November 8, 1936; died November 13, 2023. She married Elton Hunter on July 24, 1955. He served former Kansas West Conference churches in Thornburg, Republic, Attica and Protection until his retirement in 1999. He died May 21, 2016. Survivors include children Diane Hiebert (Dallas), Vicki Strausberg and Dwight Hunter (Gina); four grandchildren; a sister and brother.

Doris Hurtig, 95; widow of a Great Plains Conference clergy. Born November 5, 1928; died March 23, 2024. She married William "Bill" Hurtig in 1951. He was pastor of churches in Havensville, Lyndon, Williamsburg-Harris, Valley Falls-Coal Creek, Silver Lake-Rossville, Silver Lake, Erie Federated and Fort Scott before his retirement in 1993. He died October 10, 2004. Survivors include her children, Frank Hurtig (Joann Weseloh-Hurtig), Janet Rinehart and James Hurtig (Katherine); 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

John David Judd Sr., 74, spouse of Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference pastor. Born July 7, 1949; died September 14, 2023. Survivors include his wife, Rev. Julienne Judd, an elder in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference from 1997 to 2016, including Wichita Indian UMC, Lawrence Sullivan Chapel UMC and Lawrence Indian UMC in Kansas. Other survivors include his children, Caroline Elaine Patterson, Michael Montie Judd (Diane) and Steven Paul Judd; and eight grandchildren.

Ione Jean Marshall, 100; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Vernon Flood and Rev. Walter Marshall. Rev. Marshall served former Nebraska Conference churches in Western-Swanton, Grand Island West Lawn, Central City Fairview, Central City, Chappell,

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McCook, Springfield-Gretna, Valley-Elk City, Valley United Faith Community, Greenwood and Weeping Water. He retired in 1989 and died September 18, 2004. Survivors include a son, Jerry Flood (Jackie); daughter-in-law, Lanette Flood; a grandson and three great-grandsons.

Reubelou Caldwell Gear Meyrick, 95; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born December 3, 1927; died April 20, 2023. She was married for 45 years to the Rev. Gerald Gear, who served churches in the North Texas, Oregon-Idaho and Central Texas conferences, as well as former Nebraska Conference churches in Dakota City-Homer and Crawford-Whitney. He died May 20, 1996. She is survived by her three children, Elizabeth Gear, Charles Steven Gear and Patricia Gear.

Venus Miguel, 85; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born January 17, 1938; died September 13, 2023. She was married to Julian Miguel, who served former Nebraska Conference churches in Arnold, South Omaha, Omaha Grace, Milford, Stanton, Columbus First, Sidney First, Grant and Lincoln Warren before his retirement in 2002. He died October 21, 2016. Survivors include a daughter, Nympha Venus T. Miguel; a daughter-in-law and three sisters.

Doris Jean Miller, 96; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born November 26, 1926; died June 7, 2023. She married Rev. Lyle Miller on June 11, 1950. He served in former Kansas West Conference churches in Pleasant View, Scandia-Courtland, Scandia-Norway, Tisdale-Burton, Stockton and Rose Valley before his retirement in 1993. He died December 22, 2020. Survivors include children, David (Crystal) Miller, Beth (Duncan) and Alton Hazen, Kathy (Elam Miller) Burns and James (Melanie) Miller; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Jane Mitchell, 89; widow of a Great Plains Conference clergy. Born January 9, 1934; died September 5, 2023. She married Rev. Charles Mitchell on May 27, 1954. They served former Nebraska Conference churches in Maywood-Wellfleet, Guide Rock-Bostick, Overton, Hopewell-Crab Orchard, North Bend-

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Morse Bluff, Weeping Water-Nehawka, Anselmo-Merna, Fairview (Central City) Archer Zion, Elmwood, Chester-Hubbell, Exeter-Milligan, Kennesaw-Holstein, Big Springs, Arnold, and Greeley-Ericson-Bartlett before his retirement in 1996. He died December 12, 2011. She is survived by her children, Kenneth (Tammi) Mitchell and Susan (Steve) Sponberg; five children and five great-grandchildren.

Dorothy “Pat” Moores, 91, widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born December 7, 1931; died November 1, 2023. She married Rev. James “Jim” Moores on September 1, 1951. He served churches in the Baltimore-Washington Conference and former West Michigan Conference, as well as former Nebraska Conference churches in Alliance-Lakeside, Elwood-Orafino, Dakota City-Homer and Ponca from 1972 until his retirement in 1993. He died May 23, 2014. Survivors include her children, Deborah (James) Bohaboj, Cheryl Little, Betty (Terry) Taylor, Amie Moores and Richard (Amy) Moores; 13 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

Etta Mae Mutti, 84, wife of Bishop Albert Frederick “Fritz” Mutti. Born July 16, 1938; died June 7, 2023. She married Mutti in 1959. Bishop Mutti was elected to the episcopacy in 1992, and served the Kansas area until his retirement in 2004. Her many church and community causes included being co-chair of the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund. Survivors include her husband and a granddaughter. The Muttis had three sons, all of whom are deceased.

Marlys Richardson, 87; widow of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born June 28, 1936; died December 31, 2023. She married Rev. Ivan Richardson on Dec. 4, 1953. He was pastor at churches in Montana, California and Minnesota before moving to Nebraska in 1960, serving at Douglas-Burr, Omaha Rockbrook, Hay Springs, Wahoo, Omaha Cooperative Ministry, Kearney Faith Parish, Lincoln Havelock, South Sioux City, St. Paul and Murdock-Eagle before his retirement in 1997. He died on Sept. 6, 2020. Survivors include her four children, Steve (Lisa) Richardson, Deb (Erv) Havranek, Mike Richardson (Brian

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Landerman), and Tim (Mary) Richardson; 12 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

Rose Simmons, 88; spouse of a retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born February 28, 1935; died September 28, 2023. She married Norman Simmons on June 23, 1957. He served as a student pastor at Gueda Springs, and as director of the Wesley Foundation at Fort Hays State Teachers College from 1959-1965. He later served former Kansas East Conference churches in Scranton-Auburn, Manhattan Blue Valley Memorial, Independence First, Kansas City Trinity and Emporia First and at Walton and Sublette in the former Kansas West Conference until his retirement in 1998. After his retirement, he served White City from 1998 to 2016. Survivors include her husband Norm, children Christopher Simmons (Robyn Speidel), Jennifer Wheelock (A. Tobey) and Susan Byrne (Timothy), six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Nedra Starkey, 96; widow of Great Plains Conference pastor. Born November 23, 1926; died July 29, 2023. She married Rev. James Starkey, who served former Kansas West Conference churches in Alden, Burrton and Coats-Lake City, and former Kansas West churches in St. Marys-Emmett, Desoto-Bethel, Edwardsville-Sunflower, Linwood, Quenemo-Michigan Valley and Leavenworth Trinity, as well as at the Leavenworth VA Hospital before his retirement in 1987. He died October 6, 2005.

Sharon Thompson, 86; spouse of retired Great Plains Conference clergy. Born October 8, 1937; died February 10, 2024. Her husband, Edward Thompson, served former Kansas West Conference churches at Hunter Grace Chapel and Herington before his retirement in 2004.

Mary Anne Trickle, 82; spouse of retired Great Plains Conference pastor. Born May 24, 1941; died September 2, 2023. She married Kenneth Trickle Jr. on July 30, 1966. He served as pastor at Chapman United Methodist Church from 1996 to 2017. before and after his 2008 retirement. Survivors include her husband, a sister and two sisters-in-law.

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Deceased Children

Arielle Janae Kingwood, 34; daughter of Great Plains Conference clergy. Born July 1, 1989; died January 3, 2024. Survivors include her mother, Ronda Kingwood, pastor of Wichita Heart of Christ UMC, and three children.

Deceased Conference Staff

Robin Kilgore, 60, former Nebraska Conference treasurer and director of administrative services. Born December 19, 1963; died January 27, 2024. Kilgore served as the treasurer and director of administrative services for the former Nebraska Conference from 2006 to 2013. For a year prior, she was conference comptroller. She went on to work for the State of Nebraska budget division and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, where she worked until her death. She is survived by her husband, David, sons Austin and Aaron and daughter-in-law Brittany, and her parents Ronald and Shirley Swanson.

Deceased Conference Lay Leader

Lavina Schwaninger, 91; former lay leader and associate lay leader of Nebraska Conference. Born 1931; died May 10, 2023. She was associate lay leader and lay leader for the Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church for 16 years and was very active in United Methodist Women. Survivors include her children, Deb (Rodney) Topp, Greg (Cindy) Schwaninger, Kim (Bruce) Topp, Patti (Bob) Jones and David Schwaninger; nine grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.