Deceased Clergy

The Rev. Charles Bullock Bennett, 88, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born on Dec. 13, 1929, died Aug. 24, 2017. He served Grinter Chapel in Muncie, KS; Wyandotte; Wesley in Kansas City, Burlington, Coffeyville, Manhattan First and Old Mission in Fairway. He retired in 1995. In June 1997, he was reassigned to Wesley UMC, where he was pastor until his death. Survivors include a son, Rick Bennett (Tammy Carter); daughter Susan Bennett (Richard) Green and Julie Bennett (William) Hume. Service was held Aug. 27, 2017, at Wesley UMC in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Rev. Donna Carpenter, 78, a retired local pastor for the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born Mar. 7, 1939, died Dec. 5, 2017. She served Berwyn-Merna-Anselmo-Ansley-Westerville; Bristow-Lynch; retired in 2004; then served Chapman in Nebraska. Survivors include her husband, Clyde; children Marcia (David) Prahl, Dianna (Randy) Novotny, Dean Wichman, Steve (Donna) Wichman, Susan (Jerry) Paup, Brett Hedlund, Lance Hedlund, Carl (Kathy) Carpenter, Michele (Dennis) Spaulding, Scott (Sandra) Carpenter, Eric Carpenter, Janice (David) Weidner and Christy (Justin) Nichols. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Rev. Ron Hedlund, and her son, Michael Wichman. Service was held Dec. 16, 2017 in Central City, Nebraska.

The Rev. James F. Coder, 93, a retired deacon of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born July 19, 1924, died October 17, 2017. He served as associate pastor for Lowman UMC and Williamsburg UMC, retired in 1997. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; sons, Tim Coder (Marlene), Terry Coder, daughter, Tammy Coder Mikinski (Mike). Service was held Oct. 21, 2017 at Elmont United Methodist Church. Burial at Wamego Cemetery.

The Rev. John Franklin Dale, 85, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born July 26, 1932, died Mar. 6, 2018. He served Central Illinois: Chatsworth; Rocky Mtn.: Rifle, CO; Westminster; Lakewood; Fowler-Mananola; Nebraska: Wymore-Odell; Wymore-Blue Springs; Kearney Faith-Bethel-Haven’s Chapel; Southwest District Superintendent; Fairbury-Endico; Stromsburg-Polk; retired 1995. Survivors include his wife Jean Esther of Stromsburg; three daughters, Esther (Steve) Scarpello, Barbara (Jeff) Wild and Julia (Mike) Tye. He was preceded in death by his son, Arthur. Service was March 9, 2018 at Stromsburg UMC. Burial at the Kearney Cemetery.


The Rev. Edward Peter Des Plas, 81, a retired local pastor of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born Feb. 27, 1936, died Nov. 6, 2017. Ed served Wichita Mount Olivet, retired in 2006 and continued to serve Mount Olivet till 2013. Survivors include his wife, Rev. Sandy Des Plas; sons, Edward (Rosemary), Douglas (Melanie) and Walton (Juanita) Des Plas. Service was held Nov. 11, 2017 at West Side UMC in Wichita, Kansas.
The Rev. Robert “Bob” E. Eades, 88, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference born Sept. 4, 1929, died Dec. 4, 2017. He served 28 years as chaplain at Wesley Medical Center, where he retired as vice president for chaplaincy services in 1991. He spent 20 years as a Navy Reserve chaplain, 4 years as a parish pastor in Texas and Japan, and most recently, 8 years as chaplain at Larksfield Place retirement community. He retired in 2015. Bob is survived by his wife, Dee, daughters, Donna (Eric) and Carol. Service was Jan. 6, 2018 at College Hill UMC, in Wichita, Kansas.

The Rev. Adrian George Edgar, 86, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born Oct. 30, 1931, died Jan. 27, 2018. He served as Chaplain Bryan Memorial Hospital; Chaplain, State Hospital Lincoln; Dir. Community Development Program, Lincoln Regional Center.; Prog. Adm. Region V, Mental Health Program, Lincoln; Admin. Coord. Medical Services Division DPI, Lincoln; Facility Community Coord., NE Dept. of Pub. Inst.; Richard Young Family Life Center, North Platte; Emergency Program Coord. Region VI Mental Health, Omaha; Program Services Manager, Region VI Mental Health, Omaha; retired Dec. 31, 1996. George is survived by his wife, De; sons, JayDan (Grace Sankey-Berman), Marc (Lynn), son-in-law, David Giraud. He was preceded in death a daughter, Tara Edgar Giraud. Service was Jan. 31, 2018 at Christ UMC, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Rev. Ralph Erts, 91, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born Sept. 14, 1925, died May 30, 2017. He served Shelby and Loup City-Litchfield, retired in 1996. He is survived by his sons, Deane Erts and Martin Erts; daughters Ellen (Todd) Ring and Susan (Mike) Griffith. Service was held June 30, 2017, at Living Faith UMC in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Rev. Alfred Donahue Hager Jr., 93, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born Oct. 23, 1923, died August 25, 2017. He served Lyndon, Prairie Village Asbury, Kansas City District Superintendent and retired in 1987. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, sons Steve (Ginger) and Jim (Elaine). Service was held Sept. 9, 2017 at Asbury UMC in Prairie Village, Kansas.

The Rev. Paul Wesley Iwig, 85, a clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference born Sept. 28, 1932, passed away on Feb. 27, 2018. He served churches as an E.U.B. and later as a United Methodist Minister in Coal Creek-Rock Creek, Alida, Emporia Calvary-Ebenezer-Olpe, Madison, Big Springs-Stull, Madison-Olpe-Ebenezer and Lyndon retired in 1998 then served Cottonwood Falls-Bazaar. He is survived by his wife, the Rev. Joyce Jones Iwig; his four daughters, Becky (Jim) Galbraith, Deb (Gene) Koepke, Judy Iwig, and Angie (Mike) Peterson and his brother, Rev. Jim (Myrna) Iwig. Services were held March 3, 2018 at the Lyndon United Methodist Church. Burial in the Lyndon Cemetery.


The Rev. Mary Alice Knewtson, 79, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference born Apr. 18, 1938 died Aug. 15, 2017. She served Auburn, Angola-Valeda, Coffeyville First/St. James, Assoc., Coffeyville St. James, retired in 2003, continued to serve Chetopa St. Paul-Oswego Mason Chapel until 2010. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Dean Knewtson; sons; Michael (Silma Schaeffer-Marquis), Mark (Veronica) and Matt (Stephanie). Service was held Aug. 22, 2017, at Edna UMC, Edna, KS. Burial in the North Edna Cemetery.

The Rev. Lowen V. Kruse, 89, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born Feb. 25, 1929, died Nov. 24, 2017. He served Shelton, Custer County, and Omaha First; Northeast District Superintendent in Norfolk, and as Conference Director of Ministries in Lincoln, Omaha First, Omaha District Superintendent, retired in 1994 and then a Nebraska State Senator from 2000-2008. Survived by his wife, Ruth A. (Wallis) Kruse; son, Douglas L. Kruse (Lisa A. Schur), daughter, Jorika Stockwell (Barry Stockwell). Service was held Dec. 30, 2017 at First UMC in Omaha, NE.

The Rev. Lawrence Richard Kurth, 99, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born Nov. 25, 1918, died Dec. 4, 2017. He served Clair, Newton, Lawrence, Osage City, Parsons Faith-Dennis, Olathe associate, Lawrence Central, and retired in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Ethelda; children, Lee (Joanne) Kurth and Laurinda and husband Ken. Service was held Dec. 9, 2017 at Paola UMC, Paola, KS.


The Rev. Clarence McConkey, 92, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference born July 17, 1925, died Sept. 15, 2017. He served Wood River; Cedar
Hill-Memphis; Omaha Lefler Memorial; Bellevue; Omaha First; Omaha Ames Ave-Wesley Community; Balboa Union, Canal Zone, Rep of Panama; Lincoln Calvary; Ex. Dir. Assoc. Pastoral Counseling; Balboa Union Church, Rep of Panama; retired in 1988. He is survived by his children, Amy McConkey (Clay) Robbins, Celia McConkey and Joel McConkey. A private family memorial service took place.


**The Rev. Robert G. Miller, 84,** retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference born Mar. 2, 1934, died April 1, 2016. Robert served as Professor, Baker University, retired 2000. He is survived by his children, Melanie Van Gaasbeek McReynolds, Diane Van Gaasbeek (Jim) Lambie, Judy Miller (Chris) Best and Beth Miller Neuman. Service was held May 21, 2016 at Baldwin City First UMC.

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Ron Moore and Rev. William “Pat” Moore and wife Julie. Service was held Aug. 4, 2017, at the Peterson Mortuary in Nebraska City. Interment at the Nemaha Cemetery at Nemaha, Nebraska.


The Rev. Harold Lee Peck, 94, born Sept. 7, 1923, died April 12, 2018. He served Maple Grove-Lily, Columbus, Humboldt-Golden Valley, McCracken, Hutchinson, Fairview-Sylvia, Director Church World Service Topeka, Kechi-Park, Attica, Trinity-West Side, Attica, Plainville, Derby, Madison Avenue-Seltzer Springs, Udall-Peck and retired in 1988. Survivors include his wife, Olivia M. Peck; sons, Phil (Gayle) Peck, Bruce (Karen) Peck; daughters, Sandy Peck, Jackie (Sam) Strickland. Service was April 17, 2018, burial at Highland Cemetery, Iola, Kansas.

The Rev. Vernon Lloyd Phelps, 89, born Sept. 25, 1927, died April 26, 2017. He served as missionary teacher in Sierra Leone; Board of Missions; Prof. Barber Scotia; Prof. Windham Center, Nashville and retired in 1991. He is survived by his wife, Mary Woelfle Phelps; sons, Michael Phelps, Mark (Carol) Phelps and daughter, Linda Phelps Fish. He is preceded in death by his daughter Marsha Phelps. Service was held May 3, 2017 First Church of Christ, UCC in Mansfield, Connecticut.

The Rev. Dr. Dallas Allen Polen, Jr., 76, born June 22, 1941, died Monday, April 23, 2018. Allen served Topeka First, Assoc., K.C., Indian Heights, Ottawa First, Kansas City St. Mark’s, Baxter Springs, Ulysses, Hutchinson First, Winfield First and retired in 2004. Later became the chaplain at
Cumbernauld Village and a pastor of Prairie View United Methodist. Survivors include, his wife, Joyce, sons; Benjamin (Leann) Polen and Dallas (Amy) Polen III, daughters; Tammy (Darrel) Dees and Wendy (Tom) Martin. Service was held May 5, 2018 at Grace United Methodist Church, 320 College St., Winfield, Kansas.


The Rev. James D. Uhlig, 84, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference born March 15, 1934, died April 16, 2018. Jim served Lebo-Olivet, Assoc. Ex. Sec., Interboard Council, Kansas City Mason Memorial, Kansas City Leawood, Kansas City Central, Lansing/Fairmont, Chanute First and retired in 1997, also served Toronto, Iola Wesley-Neosho Falls after retirement until 2006. His service was held April 22, 2018, at Yates Center UMC.

The Rev. Dr. Ewart Goodell Watts, 102, a retired clergy member of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference; born May 2, 1915, died Nov. 3, 2017. He served several churches in Texas then Topeka First, Editor-in-chief of the Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, Tennessee. After retirement in 1982 he served as an associate pastor of West
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End United Methodist Church in Nashville from 1982-2008. He is survived by his three daughters, Joan (Tom) Mistler, Dee Dee (Drew) Vickers, and Janet (John) Bryant. Services were held Dec. 9, 2017, at West End UMC in Nashville, Tennessee.


**Spouses**


Lorene May Carper, 88, spouse of a clergy member, born Aug. 3, 1928, died July 17, 2017. Lorene was preceded in death by her husband the Rev. Donald E. Carper. She is survived by her two daughters Teresa Carper-Espino (Mario) and Cynthia (Jim) Maronick. The memorial service was held on July 29, 2017, at Oxford United Methodist Church, San Antonio, TX. Interment at Salina, Kansas at Roselawn Memorial Park Cemetery and Chapel.

Ronald E. Colglazier, 82, spouse of a retired clergy member, born March 14, 1935, died Feb. 28, 2018. He married Elin K. McCandless on May 11, 1960, in Oakley. He was an electrician and was the owner and operator of Colglazier Electric for more than 30 years. Survivors include his wife, the Rev. Elin K. Colglazier, sons, John (Anita) Colglazier and Rob Colglazier. Service was held Mar. 3, 2018, at St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church, Russell, Kansas.

Marilyn Crenshaw, spouse of a clergy member, born Nov. 20, 1925, died Aug. 16, 2017. She married Howard Crenshaw, July 3, 1969 at Kennedy UMC. She is survived by one son, Wesley, his wife Lucinda. Service was held Sept 16, 2017 at
Anthony United Methodist Church, Anthony Kansas.


**Rita Faye Geisler, 66**, spouse of a clergy member, born July 16, 1951, died Nov. 23, 2017. She was united in marriage with David Herman Geisler on June 29, 1984. She is survived by her husband Rev. David Geisler, three daughters, Tami Britton (Frank), Beverly Smythe, and Katie Schwyhart (Lee). Service was Dec. 1, 2017 at the Westmoreland United Methodist Church.

**Fern V. Heim, 102**, spouse of a clergy member, born Jan. 10, 1916, died Feb. 25, 2018 in Lincoln. Fern was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Richard A. Heim. She is survived by her stepson Rev. Robin A.(Priscilla) Heim of Centennial, Colorado. Service was Mar. 5, 2018 at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Edith DeMoss Heisz, 90**, spouse of a clergy member, born Oct. 23, 1927, died Jan. 30, 2018. Edith was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Leslie M. Heisz. She is survived by her sons, Kenneth (Leslie) Heisz and Keith Heisz. Service was held at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, Newton, Kansas, on June 9, 2018. Burial of Edith’s ashes will be at Mount Pleasant Cemetery near Courtland, Kansas.
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**Phillip Charles James, 83**, spouse of an associate clergy member, born Dec. 29, 1934, died Jan. 24, 2018. Phil and Carol (Tiedtke) James were married on April 29, 1960. Phil is survived by his wife, the Rev. Carol (Tiedtke) James, and his children: Penny James (Jim Kibler), Allen James (Eva), Pam (Erik) Christensen and Michael (Tracy Duany) James. Services held at Meyer Brothers Colonial Chapel, Sioux City, Iowa on Jan. 29, 2018.

**Betty Ann Kelly-Towner, 85**, spouse of a clergy member, born on Aug. 1, 1931, died June 1, 2017. Betty married Rev. Rex D. Kelly, on April 18, 1954 in Clovis, New Mexico. He preceded her in death on Oct. 4, 1984. She married John E. Towner on November 9, 1988. Survivors include her husband, John Towner; two sons, Michael D. Kelly and Randy (LeAnn) Towner; daughter, Tandy (Mike) Reichmeier. Service was held June 5 at First United Methodist Church, Lawrence, Kansas.

**Ora Mae Grandfield Kirkendall, 89**, spouse of a clergy member, born Sept. 10, 1928, died Sept. 30, 2017. She married Kenneth Eugene Kirkendall on June 17, 1951. Rev. Kirkendall passed away Feb. 28, 2013. She is survived by her children, Geoffrey and Brenda Kirkendall; Karen and Bob Parker; Kaleen and Max Knopp, and Kevin Kirkendall. Service was held Oct. 8th, at the First United Methodist Church, Manhattan, KS.

**Luella Lowe, 86**, spouse of a clergy member, born June 5, 1931, died Jan. 9, 2018. Survivors are her children, Lynda Lowe, Jim Lowe (Mary), Larry Lowe, Laura Lowe Danzeisen (William), Lana Lowe, Louis Lowe (Brenda), and Lyndon Lowe (Greg Snyder). She was preceded in death by her husband the Rev. Lloyd Lowe. Service was held Jan. 14, 2018 at Maggie Valley United Methodist Church, Maggie Valley, North Carolina.

**Lois Madondo, 61**, spouse of a clergy member, born Sept. 14, 1955, in Zimbabwe, died Aug. 6, 2017. She was united in marriage on July 12, 1976, in Zimbabwe, to Rev. Aaron S. Madondo. Lois is survived by her husband, Rev. Aaron Madondo; three children, Praise Madondo, Tapiwa Ferries (Fatima) Madondo, Pamela (Enock) Chipewo. Service was held Aug. 12, 2017, at First United Methodist Church in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Shirley Dahlene Van Gaasbeek Miller, 82, spouse of a clergy member, born Sept. 28, 1934, died June 9, 2017. Shirley is survived by children, Melanie Van Gaasbeek Mc Reynolds, Diane Van Gaasbeek (Jim) Lambie, Judy Miller (Chris) Best and Beth Miller Neuman. Shirley was preceded in death by her husbands, Arlen LaRue Van Gaasbeek and Rev. Dr. Robert G. Miller. Family had a small graveside service.

Helen L. Murray, 93, spouse of a clergy member, born June 2, 1923, died May 14, 2017. Survivors include her children Nancy (Murray) Mulholland and Harold (Nancy Cockrum) Murray. She was preceded in death by her husband the Rev. Henry Murray. Service was May 19, 2017, at Trinity Heights UMC, Newton, Kansas.

Virginia Lorene Near, 78, spouse of a clergy member, born June 10, 1938, died April 26, 2017. Survivors include her husband, the Rev. Richard D. Near, children, Ralph (Lori) Supernaw, Cheryl (Keith) Atkinson, Barry (Annie) Supernaw, Bradley Supernaw, David Near and Laurie Near-Shockley. As per her wishes, Virginia’s ashes will be returned to her childhood family farm in Ford County, Kansas.

John Jay ReQua, 91, the spouse of a retired deacon of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference born Sept. 2, 1926, died Sunday Feb. 4, 2018. John and Gerry Hartley married June 30, 1946. John is survived by his wife, Rev. Geraldine “Gerry” ReQua; his daughters, Kathy (Frank) Brazle, Jessie (Jim) Bradley and Renee (Scott) Smith. Funeral service was held Feb. 8, 2018 at Grace United Methodist Church in Winfield, Kansas Burial with military honors at Medicine Lodge Cemetery.

Gail A. Trenhaile, 75, spouse of a clergy member, born April 8, 1942, died July 30, 2017. Gail married the Rev. Curtis Trenhaile in 1965. Gail is survived by daughter, Rebecca Trenhaile-McAllister and son Michael (Ashley) Trenhaile. Service was held Aug. 4, 2017 at First United Methodist Church, Omaha.