



Clyde James Steckel

March 11, 1928 - January 11, 2025

Rev. Dr. Clyde Steckel, born 3/11/1926, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on 1/11/2025. Preceded in death by the love of his life, Eleanor Louise (Todd) Steckel, his companion of 69 years, and his parents, Clyde Russell Steckel and Opal Elizabeth (Miller) Steckel, of Anderson, IN. Survived by sons James Steckel (Cynthia), David Steckel (Laura), and Mark Steckel, grandchildren Warren Steckel, Jessica Steckel Zorc, Dylan Steckel, Jamie Steckel, and Ashley Pick, and great grandchildren Nikolai and Mason.

After earning his BA at Butler University and BD at Chicago Theological University, Clyde moved his young family to Jacksonville IL, where he taught at Illinois College and began his career as an ordained minister. He returned to Chicago complete his PHD in Divinity at the University of Chicago School of Divinity, and from there moved to Minneapolis, where he served in campus ministry.

In 1970, he embarked on a long and illustrious career at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, MN. He served variously as a professor, dean, professor emeritus, and board member. And, as a mentor to countless students.

Although he retired in 1995, he never really retired, returning to UTS as an adjunct professor, contributing to various publications on a wide variety of subjects, authoring several books, including a work of fiction, and serving as a docent at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

But most important to him was the love of his life, Eleanor. Together they

raised three sons together, and his curiosity, love of music, art, camping, hiking, and fishing, were passed on to his children. Clyde and Eleanor had grandchildren in both MN. and AZ., and were able to travel back and forth quite a bit in retirement.

Clyde will be missed! By family, friends, colleagues, and students.

After private services on 1/18, a memorial service is planned for 2/15/25, at 1:00 PM at First Congregational Church, 500 SE 8th Ave., Mpls., MN. 55414

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery (Minneapolis)

2600 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Funeral Service

JAN 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Graveside Service

JAN 18. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Hillside Cemetery (Minneapolis)
2600 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Reception

JAN 18. 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (CT)

Washburn-McReavy Hillside Chapel Community Room
2600 19th Avenue Northeast
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall

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“ It was an honor to learn from Clyde at UTS. He asked me to be on the student panel for his latest book and it was an honor to do so. His approachable demeanor and invitational teaching style were so appreciated. I am inspired by his willingness to keep learning and keep connecting to the work of ministry in new ways. His impact is so wide. Peace to him and all his family.

Claire Klein - February 15, 2025 at 01:02 AM

MB

“ Clyde was a great inspiration to me. He was my campus minister at the U of Minn. from 1963 to 1965. He paved the way for me to spend a trial year at the seminary of my choice as a Rockefeller Theological Fellow back in the mid-1960s. Having known this wise and caring man has made a big difference in my life.

Michael L Burwell - January 19, 2025 at 04:56 PM