

Rev. Dr. Wayne Curtis Stumme

June 28, 1929 - May 24, 2023

Stumme, Rev. Dr. Wayne Curtis

Wayne Stumme died peacefully at home in the care of his family, on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, after a brief illness. Wayne was born June 28, 1929, in Northfield Minnesota, the first child of Rev. Lawrence and Esther (Englestad) Stumme. He married Carol Alden, September 19, 1953, sharing together in life and ministry until her death, July 10, 2020. During their nearly 67 years of marriage, they made their home together in Iowa, Corby, England, Ohio, and Minnesota. Together they formed a family through birth and adoption.

Wayne graduated from Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, in 1951 with a BA in history. He enlisted in the Army in July of that year, and served as an infantryman on the front lines in Korea. After marrying Carol, Wayne returned to school at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque Iowa, where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1958. He spent the next year at St. Andrew's University in Scotland, working on a PhD in New Testament.

Wayne's first pastoral ministry was in Corby, England, where he established and served a congregation of eighteen nationalities: refugees from Europe, immigrants from the Commonwealth, and people from every part of the United Kingdom. Common to all of them was their work in the steel mill and loyalty to

the Labor (Socialist) Party. Following his time in Corby, Wayne served congregations in Waverly and Waterloo, Iowa. Waterloo was a very racially divided city in the late 60s and Wayne joined local Black pastors and others in actively working for changes in the discriminatory attitudes and practices of the white majority.

Wayne's experiences among the various people he served, deeply informed and fed his lifelong passion for worker justice, racial equity, and care for the poor.

After his time in congregational ministry, Wayne served as founder and director of CHARIS, an ecumenical center for theological education based at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. In 1974 he became the assistant director of the Division of Theological Education of the American Lutheran Church. Working with other units of the national church, he helped to organize conferences dealing with Lutheran theology, the church's concern for the poor, and Christian-Marxist dialogue. In 1984, Wayne began a thirteen year term as the first director of the Institute for Mission in the USA, at Trinity Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and also served as associate professor of Theology and Mission. During his time in Columbus, Wayne continued to be actively engaged in the church's mission, particularly in areas of social justice, ecumenical theology, church and labor relations, social ethics, and the theology of Karl Barth.

Throughout his life, Wayne was a proud supporter of his wife Carol and her own call to ministry. He enthusiastically contributed to her work in congregations in Columbus, Ohio, and north Minneapolis. They truly were partners in life, love, and ministry.

In Wayne's own words: Carol and I have lived most of our life and ministry in close relationship with people who have lost homes, loved ones, property,

livelihood, or even country. Many of them were victims of historical forms of injustice, economic, and social deprivation, discrimination, and prejudice. Many of them were the poor whom Jesus loved and to whom he promised the Kingdom. As we were united with them in the community of Christ, we have come to know ourselves as upheld by the Gospel of all-inclusive and all-sufficient grace, and we give thanks to God for what life has brought us and made possible.

Wayne is survived by his children: Mary (John) Froiland, Ann (Ken) Ashton-Piper, John (Kyle Hanson) Stumme, Peter (Thalia Novak) Stumme, Sarah (Duane Carter) Stumme Carter. Grandchildren: Andrew Froiland, David Froiland, Amy (Carlos Parada) Froiland-Parada, Leuallem (Gyuri Papp) Solomon, Amani (Mara Stommes) Stumme-Berry, Jonathan Ashton-Piper, Nathanael Ashton-Piper, Eloise Ashton-Piper, Jacob (Kristen) Stumme, Peter Stumme, Gabriel Stumme, Jace Stumme-Hanson, Henry Stumme-Hanson, Michael Stumme, Pierce Novak, Austyn (Theresa Glasgow) Novak-Stumme, Duane (Mariah) Carter Jr., Donovan Carter. Great grandchildren: Sienna, Sydnie and Skylar Stumme; Isaac and Elsa Froiland-Parada; Duane III (Tre), Jovanni, Raylene, and Marliana Carter; Viola Beata Solomon-Papp. Brothers: Larry (Eleanor) Stumme, John (Sandra) Stumme, and sister Carolyn (Ken) Riswold. Many cousins, nieces and nephews, and friends.

He was predeceased by his parents, brother Luther Stumme, sisters Lois Woodhouse, Kathryn Tutton, Naomi Orsay, and infant son, Andrew Paul.

A memorial service will be held on June 9, at 11:00 am, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 2499 North Helen St. in North St. Paul, with a visitation 2 hours prior. This service will also honor Carol, since a public service was not possible at the time of her death due to pandemic restrictions.

Memorials may be directed to Lutheran World Relief (lwr.org).

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 9. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
2499 N. Helen Street
N. St. Paul, MN 55109

Memorial Service

JUN 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
2499 N. Helen Street
N. St. Paul, MN 55109

Tribute Wall

GH

“ I met Wayne in 1986 when I arrived at Trinity in Columbus for a masters. His younger brother John was my mentor in Argentina, so we instantly developed a deep connection. Wayne was a great influence in my theological and personal life. We shared a passion for theology, Marx and socialism, and he taught me to appreciate the social and poetic nuances of Barth's monumental Church Dogmatics (he never completely succeeded since I was already "deformed" by Juan Luis Segundo, Bultmann, and Tillich!). His theological and social passion were exemplary, and our talks in his office at TLS have been some of the most formative in my entire life. Compassionate, funny, cosmopolitan, cultured, committed, wise, that's the man I knew. Hasta la vista amigo, the richness of your legacy is a gift that will always stay with me. Guillermo (Willy) Hansen

Guillermo Hansen - June 09, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rev. Dr. Wayne Curtis Stumme.

June 08, 2023 at 10:56 AM

CH

“ Wayne was always warm and welcoming. A calming influence. Such a nice man. We will surely miss him at all the family gatherings.

Cecilia Howard - June 05, 2023 at 11:25 AM

DR

“ Wayne was one of the most influential persons in my life. We served together at St. Paul's Lutheran in Waverly for two years. Then when he and Carol moved to Waterloo we got together quite a few times. Carol, and my wife Cathy who died in January after three cancers, got together frequently and stitched while the children played together. Wayne was responsible for my going to St. Andrews, Scotland to get a PhD. He was responsible for my serving St. Paul Lutheran in Corby for a summer when they were without a pastor. He was responsible for lining me up to make presentations at Worship and Preaching Conferences in Michigan, Minnesota, and Iowa. At most of those conferences both he and I made presentations. Wayne and Carol were the godparents of our son, Kent. Wayne was the only person I knew who read his Greek New Testament daily. Dick Rehfeldt

Dick Rehfeldt - June 02, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rev. Dr. Wayne Curtis Stumme.

June 01, 2023 at 02:30 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. Wayne Curtis Stumme.



June 01, 2023 at 02:30 PM

AM

“ From: Amazing Grace/Luther Memorial planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Dr. Wayne Curtis Stumme.

Amazing Grace/Luther Memorial - May 31, 2023 at 10:33 PM

AM

“ Amazing Grace/Luther Memorial purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Rev. Dr. Wayne Curtis Stumme.



Amazing Grace/Luther Memorial - May 31, 2023 at 10:33 PM



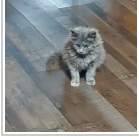
“ God puts some people in our lives to raise us. He puts some people in our lives to teach us and guide us. He puts some in our lives to love us and care for us. He puts pastor Wayne and Carol in my life to do all of these and much more for me. I am forever grateful for the love and grace these two extraordinary human beings had shown me. They were my pastors, my mentors, and my angels. I am who I am today was because of who they were to me. Their love had extended beyond me to all the Hmong families who knew them. We love you, pastor Wayne and pastor Carol.

Nhiabee Vang - May 31, 2023 at 08:49 PM

JS

Thank you Nhiabee.

john stumme - June 01, 2023 at 12:17 AM



“ *What a great person. I took 2 classes with-- including Barth. Loved to go to the basement at TLS to visit.*

Mike Ashman - May 31, 2023 at 05:24 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. Wayne Curtis Stumme.*



May 27, 2023 at 12:07 AM



“ *I took The Theology of Karl Barth from Wayne while at Trinity. Small group. Lots of opportunities to have deep conversations about faith and life. He was a soulful person. My heart goes out to you.*

Bishop Michael Rinehart - May 26, 2023 at 08:51 PM



“ *He has been a pioneer of forming multicultural congregations. Serving a congregation of many nationalities was not so common in his time. May his memory be an inspiration.*

Rev. Eardley Mendis - May 26, 2023 at 08:19 PM