

## N. MEMOIRS

In loving memory of all the clergy members of the Rocky Mountain Conference and their spouses who have died during this year, these memoirs are submitted. A sincere thanks to family members and others, including the liaison work of Nancy Cox and Jana Collins, who share the information on which these memoirs are based.

Richard A. Vickery, Memoirs Secretary

### CLERGY MEMBERS & SPOUSES

| <u>Name</u>                      | <u>Date of Birth &amp; Place</u> | <u>Date of Death &amp; Place</u> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Laura D. Brown                   | 09/30/1932 Rush Springs, OK      | 05/16/2014 Oklahoma City, OK     |
| Claude H. Sullivan, Jr.          | 02/17/1921 Perkins, GA           | 06/29/2014 Florence, CO          |
| William Cecil Hinsey             | 12/24/1929 Asheville, NC         | 08/06/2014 Mt. Angel, OR         |
| Pelaki Lokotui                   | 07/07/1963                       | 08/06/2014, Salt Lake City, UT   |
| James H. Sloan                   | 09/13/1918                       | 08/21/2014 Tooele, UT            |
| Walter "Bud" McMullen            | 11/05/1931 Lincoln, NE           | 09/05/2014 Longmont, CO          |
| Keith Allen Merriman             | 11/13/1932 Lamar, CO             | 09/28/2014 Greeley, CO           |
| Ralph R. Bullock                 | 11/24/1929 Bear Grass, NC        | 10/05/2014 Springfield, CO       |
| Harold John Sutton               | 04/04/1925 New Bedford, MA       | 10/14/2014 Englewood, CO         |
| Joyce Ellen Grauberger           | 09/01/1932 Marshall, MN          | 11/05/2014 Greeley, CO           |
| Wilburn James Cowell             | 01/11/1940 Memphis, TN           | 11/15/2014 Fort Collins, CO      |
| Marilyn Joyce Lesser             | 04/10/1938 Snyder, CO            | 11/18/2014 Westminster, CO       |
| Lowell Masato Uda                | 09/19/1938 Honolulu, HI          | 12/09/2014 St. Louis, MO         |
| Kenneth William Wright           | 05/22/1935                       | 12/20/2014 Del Norte, CO         |
| Patricia Sailors Kirton Westlake | 04/13/1942                       | 12/31/2014 Aurora, CO            |
| Robert H. Windsor                | 03/14/1931 Holden, MO            | 01/18/2015 Higginsville, MO      |
| Hartley E. "Bud" Owsley II       | 08/23/1936 Alamosa, CO           | 01/19/2015 Colorado Springs, CO  |
| Charles E. McPherson III         | 09/08/1936 Goodland, KS          | 02/22/2015 Rocky Ford, CO        |

### CONFERENCE STAFF

|                             |                       |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Zora Susanne "Susie" Aikman | 01/01/1945 Dayton, OH | 06/21/2014 Denver, CO |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|

### LAURA D. BROWN



Born on September 30, 1932, Laura was both the spouse of conference member Alton T. Brown and a Diaconal Minister in the Rocky Mountain Conference, retiring on July 1, 1998. By profession she was a clinical psychologist, sharing her training in each of Al's ministry settings, including Epworth, Denver; Breckenridge; Hope, Greenwood Village; and Evergreen.

Laura and Al were married on July 2, 1958 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and shared 52 years of marriage together at the time of Al's death in 2011. They had three daughters, Piper, Elizabeth and Melissa, and a son, Kevin, and 16 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Laura will be remembered as a member of the Conference Liturgical Dance Choir, Jubilate Dancers. She was an observant, articulate and gracious person.

Laura died on May 16, 2014 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at 81 years of age.

**CLAUDE H. SULLIVAN, JR.**

Claude H. Sullivan, Jr. (Sully) was born on February 17, 1921 in Perkins, Georgia, to rural mail carrier Claude H. Sullivan, Sr. and homemaker Fannie Laura Joyner Sullivan. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Georgia in 1948, and with a Master of Divinity from the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, in 1978.

Sully married Ernestine on April 10, 1948 in Thomsen, Georgia. Together they parented four daughters, Susan, Claudia, Laura and Deborah, and had nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Sully and Ernestine had shared 66 years of marriage at the time of his death.

Sully served for 28 years in the United States Air Force, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He was ordained a Deacon in 1976 and ordained an Elder and received into full membership in the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1977. He served as Interim Pastor at Calvary, Colorado Springs; Associate at Green Mountain, Lakewood; and had a 10-year pastorate in Florence. He retired in 1988.

Sully was a Certified Church Administrator through the National Association of Church Business Administration, president of the Lion's Club, and served on the boards of several community organizations. He was a contributor to the religious section of local newspapers. Sully enjoyed the Denver Broncos, classic films, the quiz show "Jeopardy", and telling stories and jokes. In retirement, Sully volunteered at the Colorado State Veterans Home, Loaves and Fishes, and served as a driver for elderly to appointments. He made everyone he met feel as though they were special whether they were old friends or strangers, two years of age or one hundred and two.

Sully died on June 29, 2014 in Florence, Colorado, at 93 years of age.



**WILLIAM CECIL HINSEY**



William Cecil Hinsey was born on December 24, 1929 in Asheville, North Carolina, to grocery store owners Ralph and Marguerite Hinsey, as one of three brothers. The family moved to Denver, Colorado, when Cecil was a child. He received degrees from the University of Denver in 1952 and the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, in 1954.

He was ordained an Elder and admitted into full membership in the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1955. Cecil served as student pastor at Emmanuel, Denver, and as a full member as an Associate at University Park in Denver. He took honorable location in 1977.

He met his wife, Ola Faye, while they were graduate students in Denver. They were married on February 12, 1954 in Denver, Colorado, and had shared 60 years of marriage at the time of Cecil's death. They had three daughters, Kathy, Carol and Peggy, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Together they moved west for Cecil to earn a degree in psychology from the University of Oregon. They settled on a farm. Cecil served as a psychologist with children and youth at the MacLaren School and the State of Oregon Children's Services Division.

Cecil lived close to the mountain where he and Ola Faye shared in hiking, birding, camping, and hitting the open road in their RV. Cecil also enjoyed tinkering with his Model A Pickup. He enjoyed the smiles and laughter (and groans) with his stories, jokes, and puns.

Cecil died on August 6, 2014 in Mt. Angel, Oregon, at 84 years of age.

**PELAKI LOKOTUI**

Pelaki Lokotui was born on July 7, 1963 in Tonga, to Reverend Manase Lokotui and homemaker 'Ilaisaane To'a Lokotui. He graduated from Tupou College, a Methodist secondary boarding school that trains students in Christian discipleship, located in Toloa on the island of Tongatapu, Tonga.

Pelaki married Taufa Liti Lokotui in Salt Lake City, Utah. Together they have a son, William Lokotui. They also raised their granddaughter Taufa Drizzel Leetham. Pelaki and Taufa also share four children from prior marriages: Kalolaine Lokotui, Manase Lokotui, Hal Leethem, and Neil Leethem. They have eight grandchildren. Pelaki and Taufa had been married for 26 years at the time of his death.

Pelaki first served Tonga Fellowship in Aurora, Colorado, as a Lay Supply Pastor and later became a part-time Local Pastor there. During his pastorate years, he was involved with youth ministry and was a dedicated choir member. He loved to share the Tonga Fellowship's choir with the Annual Conference and the annual Christmas concert in Aurora, Colorado. He was deeply respected by his Tongan congregation, as well as by all who knew him. His ministry with the Tonga Fellowship was bi-vocational; he worked as a building contractor in order to support his family, but his true calling was local church ministry. He loved serving as pastor, and felt it was what he was put on Earth to do.

Pelaki was known as a gentle-natured and highly committed pastor. He has been described as "clearly a man of God." When asked to pray in his native Tongan language during an English worship service, even non-Tongan speakers felt touched by God's spirit. Pelaki and his family moved to Utah to be closer to family during the end of his life. He spent his last days with his wife, mother, sons, grandchildren, extended family and friends.

Pelaki died on August 6, 2014 in Murray, Utah, at 51 years of age.



**JAMES H. SLOAN**



Having served since the 1940s in the Iowa and Nebraska Conferences, Jim was particularly active in the Rocky Mountain Conference during the 1960s when he served a circuit that stretched across the state of Utah.

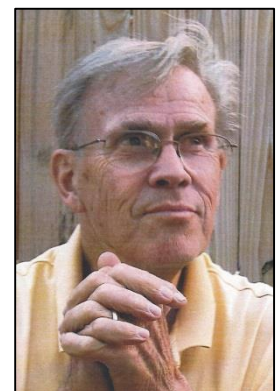
His congregations were in store fronts, mobile homes, residential houses, and wherever else the people called Methodist could gather. He put hundreds of thousands of miles on his cars, being a true Circuit Rider. His appointments included: Marysvale in 1961, Marysvale-Panguitch Charge in 1963; the Southern Utah Circuit from 1963 to 1968, Director of Cooperative Christian Ministry in Southern Utah from 1968 to 1974, and Eureka/Tooele, Utah, from 1974 to 1983 when Jim took the retired status.

Jim was a gentle soul with a radiant spirituality. He died in Tooele, Utah, on August 21, 2014.

**WALTER "BUD" MCMULLEN**

Walter "Bud" McMullen was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, on November 5, 1931, the second son of Walter Franklin McMullen and Mabel Sykes McMullen. He attended both Central Christian College in McPherson, Kansas and Kansas University. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Drew Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois.

Having been received into Florida Conference membership, Bud served churches in Clearwater, Florida; Oneco, Florida; and Clearwater Beach, Florida. He transferred to the United Church of Christ, serving congregations in Florida, Illinois, Michigan, and Colorado. Bud was ordained a Deacon in 1991 and an Elder and received into full Conference membership in 1994 in the Rocky Mountain Conference.



He served appointments as an Associate at First, Fort Collins, Colorado; Pastor at Trinity, Kearns, Utah; Washington Park, Denver, Colorado; and Julesburg/Ovid, Colorado. He received the retired status in 1997. He particularly enjoyed his work in children's ministry at First Church and the Boulder Society of Friends.

Bud was compassionate and creative. He loved music, the outdoors, and hiking in the mountains. Most of all, Bud loved his family and friends.

Bud died in Longmont, Colorado, on September 5, 2014 at 82 years of age.

#### KEITH ALLEN MERRIMAN



Keith Allen Merriman was born on November 13, 1932 near Lamar, Colorado, to carpenter Edward P. Merriman and homemaker Stella Moon Merriman. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Denver in 1954, and with a Master of Theology from the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, in 1957.

Keith married Mary Jeanne Bechtold on November 27, 1952 in Brighton, Colorado. To them were born Randy, Merrikay (deceased), Carole, Rebecca, Shelley, and Suzann. They had 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Keith and Jeanne had been married for 61 years at the time of his death.

Keith was ordained a Deacon in 1955 in the Colorado Conference and later an Elder, and received as a full member in the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1957. He served appointments at Swink; Wiley-McClave; Aspen-Basalt; Brighton; Emmanuel, Denver; Ft. Morgan; and Greeley. He took the retired status in 1997. During his 40 years of representative ministry, Keith estimated he performed 1,200 weddings, funerals, and baptisms.

During his pastorates, Keith coordinated with the Aspen Music Festival for a quartet of soloists, was named Brighton Citizen of the Year, help found the Platte Valley Volunteer Ambulance Service, mentored Iliff students, served on the School District Long Range Planning Committee, became Governor of Civitans, was a ministerial exchange pastor with a parish in Yorkshire Area, Great Britain, and was Chair of the Habitat for Humanity Board. In addition, he served for eight years as Registrar for the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

In retirement, Keith served as the Greeley Hospital Night Chaplain and member of the Weld County Food Bank.

Keith died on September 28, 2014, in Greeley, Colorado, at 81 years of age.

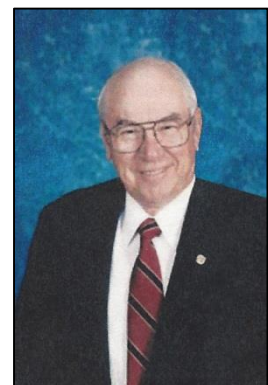
#### RALPH R. BULLOCK

Ralph R. Bullock was born on November 24, 1929 in Bear Grass, North Carolina, to Louis and Beulah (Cowan) Bullock, one of three brothers.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Joyce and second wife Marilyn. He had five children, 15 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Ralph was ordained a Deacon in 1974 and an Elder in 1977 when he was admitted into full connection in the Rocky Mountain Conference. He was considered the quintessential town and country pastor with a heart for rural ministry on the eastern high plains of Colorado. He received appointments at Springfield-Pritchett, Holyoke, Holly, La Junta, and in retirement at Kirk and Stratton. He took the retired status in 1992, having served for more than 24 years.

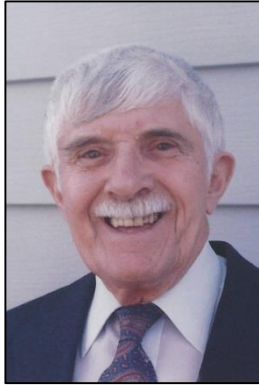
Ralph was considered a good preacher, but his real strength in ministry was in the relationships he formed. He is known for the ministry of presence in the communities in which he served. He was with his people in both good times and difficult periods. He took pride in serving families through weddings and funerals. He felt that all persons should have a personal relationship with God and sought to make the scriptures relevant for everyone.



To the end of his life, Ralph attended worship weekly. Being brought from the nursing home, he continued to connect with people, even though he could no longer speak and took communion by intinction even though he could not swallow because of Parkinson's.

Ralph died on October 5, 2014 in Springfield, Colorado, at 84 years of age.

### HAROLD JOHN SUTTON



Harold John Sutton was born on April 4, 1925 in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to glass factory employee Harold J. Sutton, Sr., and homemaker Helen Sutton. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and psychology from the University of Denver, and with a Master of Theology from the Iliff School of Theology, Denver.

He married Jani on January 8, 1988 in Pueblo, Colorado. They raised sons Steven and Peter and step-children Laura and Bryan, and had four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. They were married for 26 years at the time of Harold's death.

Harold was ordained a Deacon in 1962 and as an Elder and admitted into full membership in the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1966. He served the pastorates of Fleming-Newhaven, Adriance-Avondale for nine years, La Junta for a decade, and John Collins, prior to retiring in 1990.

He enjoyed gardening, graphoanalysis, and reading.

Harold died on October 14, 2014 in Englewood, Colorado, at 89 years of age.

### JOYCE ELLEN GRAUBERGER

Joyce Ellen Graubeger was born on September 1, 1932 in Marshall, Minnesota, to the farming family of Alfred and Emma Anderson. She graduated from Westmar College, Iowa, with a Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1955.

Joyce married Bruce Graubeger on June 1, 1955 in Marshall, Minnesota. To them were born three children: Eric, Marc, and Brian. They had five grandchildren.

With Bruce, she shared pastorates in the Evangelical United Brethren and United Methodist traditions, including a 25-year ministry at Good Shepherd, Security, Colorado; 11 years of service at Westminster, Colorado; and a six-year pastorate at First, Castle Rock. Bruce took the retired status in 1995.

In retirement, Joyce shared in the ministry of United Methodist Women, mentoring troubled women, and missionary tours to Haiti and Indonesia. Joyce had a faith in her Lord and a service to his people that never wavered.

Joyce died on November 5, 2014 in Greeley, Colorado, at 82 years of age.



### WILBURN JAMES COWELL

Wilburn James Cowell (Jim) was born on January 11, 1940 in Memphis, Tennessee, to a rural mail carrier Wilburn Jackson Cowell and his accountant wife, Hazel Babbs Cowell. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Emory University in 1962 and a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1965.

Jim married Norma on December 30, 1961 in Memphis, Tennessee, and they had three children, James Andrew, Lynn Cowell and Janet Raye; and three grandchildren.

Received on Probation in the Memphis Conference in 1963, Jim was ordained an Elder and admitted into full Conference membership in the Memphis Conference in 1965. He

went on to serve as an Associate at Madison Heights; Pastor at Trinity Church, Paris, Tennessee; Associate at Mullins, Memphis, Tennessee; Pastor at First Church, Clinton, Kentucky. Jim transferred to the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1975 to become the Minister of Evangelism at First, Colorado Springs. He became the founding pastor of Sunrise, Colorado Springs. He went on to be the Director of Congregational Development for the General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, Tennessee; and returned to the local church as Senior Pastor of Hilltop, Sandy, Utah and First, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Jim took the retired status in 2003. In retirement he served his Rotary Club, the Homeless Prevention Initiative and supported the starting of the Wellington Fellowship.

Among his civic involvements and honors, Jim received the 1963 Seminary Award, was a member of the Optimist and Rotary Clubs, author of articles in publications and two books, preached in missions to Seoul, Korea, and Havana, Cuba. He enjoyed photography, reading mysteries, and time with his three grandsons. Jim was a compassionate, kind and wise man whose devotion was to his family and the church of Christ whom he served.

Jim died on November 15, 2014 in Fort Collins, Colorado, at 74 years of age.

### MARILYN JOYCE FORREST LESSER

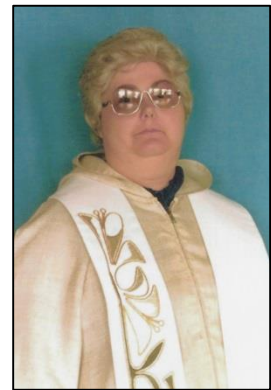
Marilyn Joyce Forrest Lesser was born on April 10, 1938 in Snyder, Colorado to H. E. (Snook) and Velma (Hutchison) Forrest. She graduated from Snyder High School as class valedictorian in 1956. She received a four-year scholarship to the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado, majoring in English and perpetually on the Dean's List. She received a Master of Arts from the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado.

Marilyn married G. Albert Lesser on September 14, 1958 in Snyder, Colorado. To them were born Cheryl Lynne (who is deceased), Nichole Jeanine (who died at birth) and Michael Eric; and one granddaughter. Marilyn and Al shared 56 years of marriage at the time of her death.

Marilyn was ordained a Deacon and admitted on trial to the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1975 and granted Elders Orders and full membership in 1977. She served under appointment as an Associate at First Church, Longmont; pastor at Keenesberg-Hudson; Burns, Aurora; Faith, Denver; Cedaredge; prior to taking incapacity leave and retirement in 2000.

A multi-talented person, Marilyn was Past President of the Aurora Ministerial Association; member of American University Women, founder and facilitator of the Denver Chapter of Sjogren's Syndrome Support Group. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, traveling, and education. In retirement she volunteered as Minister of Program at Hope, Greenwood Village, Colorado.

Marilyn died on November 18, 2014, in Westminster, Colorado, at 76 years of age.



### LOWELL MASATO UDA



Lowell Masato Uda was born on September 19, 1938 in Honolulu, Hawaii, to construction company owner Masato Uda and his wife Irene Ku'ualoha Uda. He graduated from the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor of Arts in 1961, the University of Iowa with a Master of Fine Arts in 1967, and Iliff School of Theology, Denver, in 1983 with a Master of Divinity degree.

Lowell married Joan on February 2, 1963 in Chicago, Illinois. They had five children: Cari, Michael, Elizabeth, Massman, Lowell Tukeo; and five grandchildren.

Having been ordained a Deacon and received on trial in 1993, Lowell was ordained an Elder and admitted into full connection in 1995 in the Rocky Mountain Conference. Initially serving Berkley, Denver, as a part-time local pastor, he went on to serve as pastor of Bethel, Boulder; Olathe; Faith, Denver; taking the retired status in 2003. In retirement, he served Clancy, Montana. He served as Rocky Mountain Conference Secretary and Journal

Editor for a quadrennium. Lowell enjoyed teaching and leading writers groups. He wrote fiction, poetry, sermons, and an autobiography.

Lowell died on December 9, 2014 of leukemia in St. Louis, Missouri, at 76 years of age.

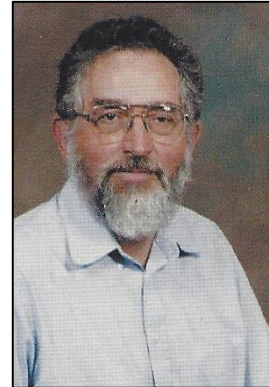
#### KENNETH WILLIAM WRIGHT

Kenneth William Wright has born on May 22, 1935. He was ordained a Deacon and admitted on trial in 1984, and ordained an Elder and received into full connection in 1987.

For 16 years, Kenneth served the town and country churches on Colorado's eastern plains and the San Luis Valley. He was appointed as pastor to Mead; Alger Memorial, Eaton; Center-Saguache; and Akron. He retired in 2000. Kenneth is survived by his son, James, and other family members.

Kenneth is remembered for his love of working on and riding motorcycles and formed bonds with others who enjoyed the open road.

Kenneth died on December 20, 2014 in Del Norte, Colorado, at 79 years of age.



#### PATRICIA SAILORS KIRTON WESTLAKE



Patricia Sailors Kirton Westlake was born on April 13, 1942. She earned a degree in religion and philosophy from the University of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Master of Religious Education and Master of Theology degrees from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

Pat was ordained a Deacon and admitted on trial in 1965 in the North Texas Conference. While in Texas she served on the staff of the Lovers Lane Church, Dallas. She was ordained an Elder and admitted into full connection in 1969 into the Rocky Mountain Conference, serving as Associate Minister at Park Hill and University Park, Denver; as pastor at Alameda Heights and Grant Avenue, Denver; St. Paul's Boulder; Fort Morgan; and Trinity, Colorado Springs, prior to taking the retired status in 2009.

Pat was among the first of six women pastors in the Rocky Mountain Conference and the first appointed to a full-time appointment as an Associate at the University Park, Denver.

She was a founding member of the Conference and Western Jurisdiction Commission on the Status and Role of Woman and a member of the Conference Council on Ministries.

Pat had two sons, John (Chris) and Scott; and two grandchildren. Pat will be remembered for her many gifts to the church, the world, her family and friends. She died on December 31, 2014 in Aurora, Colorado, at 72 years of age.

#### ROBERT H. WINDSOR

Robert H. Windsor was born on March 14, 1931 in Holden, Missouri, to R. Howard Windsor and Rhoda L. (Rapp) Windsor, a community bond buyer and teacher, respectively. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Central Missouri Valley College in 1952 and with a Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, in 1955. Robert married Lois on June 23, 1961 in Pueblo, Colorado, while serving as pastor of Wesley Church. They had one son, Robert L.

Ordained a Deacon and admitted on trial into the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1953, Robert transferred to the East Missouri Conference where he was ordained an Elder and received into full connection. His East Missouri pastorates included Wellsville-Middleton. Transferring to the Missouri West Conference in 1957, he served Randolph Memorial. He

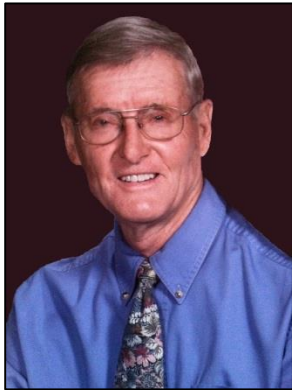


transferred to the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1958 and served Northern Avenue and Wesley, Pueblo. He transferred to the Louisiana Conference in 1965 and served Jefferson, Baton Rouge.

Robert transferred back to the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1968 and served Rye; Trinity, Colorado Springs; Lamar; Mountain View, Boulder; Westminster; and Rawlins, Wyoming; prior to retiring in 1991.

His great passion was serving as a police force chaplain in both Pueblo, Colorado, and Warrensburg, Missouri. He was known for being an avid reader. Robert died on January 18, 2015 in Higginsville, Missouri, at 83 years of age.

#### HARTLEY E. "BUD" OWSLEY II



Hartley E. "Bud" Owsley II was born on August 23, 1936 in Alamosa, Colorado, to Hartley and Luella Owsley. He graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor of Arts in 1959 and a Master of Arts in 1962. He enjoyed his profession of city and regional planning in both the Denver area and Colorado Springs, Colorado. He served as Planning Director for the City of Colorado Springs from 1978 until 1985, and then was asked to head the new Colorado Springs office of CH2MHill, an international environmental engineering firm.

Having married Judy Miller in 1960, they shared 44 years of marital life together at the time of his death. He is survived by son, Greg, daughter, Kristin, and three grandchildren.

He loved his family, hiking, keeping his yard in tip-top shape, fly fishing, trips, and spending relaxing days at the mountain cabin. He will be remembered for his great involvement and service to his family, friends, church family, and the community of Colorado Springs, as well as supporting Judy in her ministry as a Deacon. Even with a slow decline with Alzheimer's disease, he continued to live a sweet life filled with kindness and laughter.

Bud died on January 19, 2015 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 78 years of age.

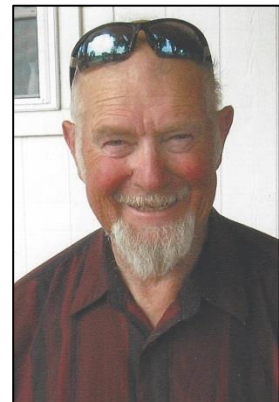
#### CHARLES E. MCPHERSON III

Charles E. McPherson III was born on September 8, 1936 in Goodland, Kansas, to the farming family of Charles E. McPherson, Jr. and Donna Moon McPherson. He graduated from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado, in 1963. He had a career as a high school math and science teacher, touching and inspiring countless lives.

He married the Rev. R. Jean McPherson on July 22, 1960 in Denver, Colorado. They had two children, Sharon Marie and Charles E. McPherson IV, and six grandchildren. Charles was extremely supportive in Jean's pastorates in Rocky Ford and Olney Springs. Together, they shared 54 years of marriage at the time of his death.

A professional magician, Charles designed performances as well as acts to sell to other professional magicians. He was a Lay Speaker for many years. Charles will be remembered as generous, an encourager, a deep thinker, confidante, accepting of all persons and a friend to all.

Charles died on February 22, 2015 in Rocky Ford, Colorado, at 78 years of age





**CONFERENCE STAFF MEMBER**

**ZORA SUSANNE "SUSIE" AIKMAN**



Zora Susanne "Susie" Aikman, Eastern Band Cherokee, was born on January 1, 1945 in Dayton, Ohio, to Herb and Zora Aikman. She attended Columbus College of Art and Design, The Ohio State University and Metropolitan State University, Denver.

An author of *A Primer: The Art of Native American Beadwork*, she was founder and host of *AlterNative Voices*, a Native American music and news radio show on Denver Station KUVU-FM for more than 20 years. It was through this broadcast that Native American music and performances were introduced to thousands around the world.

A lifelong United Methodist and a national Native American ministry leader in The United Methodist Church, Susie served on many denominational boards, including the Native American International Caucus and was consultant to the Rocky Mountain Conference Committee on Native American Ministries. She was most proud of her work over the last two decades with the descendants of the Sand Creek Massacre.

Susie was also an artist and floor director at Colorado Public Television for more than 20 years. She was a beloved friend who sought to bring communities together and help all understand that every person makes a difference.

Susie died after a long battle with cancer on June 21, 2014 in Denver, Colorado, at 69 years of age.

