

OBITUARIES

The Reverend Kenneth Bagnell (September 9, 1934 – February 15, 2022)

Ken Bagnell was ordained in 1958 and was settled at a five-point pastoral charge in New Brunswick, and moved to Toronto in the sixties. He was a journalist, author, broadcaster and announcer, and a former Managing Editor of The United Church Observer, for which he wrote columns and essays on the sociology of religion and its role in our changing culture.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons Paul (Diana Cafazzo), David (Carolyn Swift); and daughter Andrea Crawford (Philip), and three grandchildren.

The Reverend Jack Carbert (May 6, 1933 – December 9, 2021)

Jack Carbert had a brief teaching career before completing his Arts and Divinity degrees and being ordained in 1961. He served in many pastoral charges in Ontario and as an interim minister in Whitehorse and Yellowknife. His interests were varied in a long and enjoyable retirement that started in 1997.

He is survived by his wife, Deanna; sons, Paul (Mary) and Michael (Emalinda Tolentino) and daughter Anne Carbert (Don Washburn), and two grandchildren.

The Reverend Allen Hallett (January 14, 1936 – February 3, 2022)

Allen Hallett was ordained in 1969 and served pastoral charges in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, in the former York Presbytery. He retired in 2000.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; daughter Jane (Rick Beers); son Jonathan (Diana); and three grandchildren.

The Reverend John Houston (October 19, 1931 - April 6, 2022)

John Houston was ordained in 1958. He served Aurora United Church from 1977 until his retirement in 1996. He also served as President of the former Toronto Conference.

He is predeceased by his wife Barbara, and survived by his children, Wendy (Rudy), John (Nancy), Beth (Yola), Mark, Ted (Jojo), Jill, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Dr. Donald Laing (June 23, 1933 – March 29, 2022)

Don Laing was ordained in 1958 and served in pastoral charges in Saskatchewan and Alberta. He held many church positions before and after his retirement in 1996.

He is survived by his second wife, Judith Jones; nine children; eighteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren in the blended family.

The Reverend Paul Morris (December 2, 1923 – January 27, 2022)

Paul Morris was ordained in 1954 and served many congregations, including North Runnymede and Humbervale in Toronto. He retired in 1987. He was also Chair of the former Toronto West Presbytery, and Executive Secretary of the former Toronto Conference.

Paul was predeceased by his wife Mary, son Robert and daughter Elizabeth. He is survived by his children Stephen, Anna, and Margaret; seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Phyllis Spencer (August 19, 1935 – December 24, 2021)

Phyllis Spencer was commissioned in 1986 and served at St. Andrew's Markham and Pickering Village-Audley pastoral charges. She retired in 2000.

She was predeceased by her husband, Gerald, and is survived by her children, Allen (Karen), Craig (June), Ann (John) and Ross (Mary), seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

The Reverend K. John Symons (August 22, 1926 – January 25, 2022)

John Symons was ordained in 1969 and retired in 1976.

The Reverend Huibertus J. (Bart) van Nie (October 6, 1922 – November 14, 2021)

Bart van Nie was ordained in the Netherlands in 1948 and admitted to The United Church of Canada in 1965. He served several Reformed Church congregations and spent the last 23 years of his ministry serving United Church pastoral charges in Romney, Windsor, Case-Mount Hope and Lively. He retired in 1987 and continued his ministry as a Voluntary Associate Minister at St. Luke's United Church in Cambridge and St. Andrew's in Toronto.

He was predeceased by his wife Ina, and is survived by sons Hans, Gerry, Rob, Frank and daughter Ellie; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

