

Ronald Fassett

Nov 1st 2008

OBITUARY:

Ronald Merriam Fassett, 75, passed peacefully on Saturday, November 1, 2008 at Faith Hospice at Trillium Woods. He was preceded in death by his parents, Rev. Ray R. Fassett and Florence Merriam Fassett, his step-mother, Mary Koteskey Fassett and nephew, Paul Fassett. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary Lou; children, Karen Schuitema (Greg Bailer), Julie (Matt) Carlson, Mark (Pam) Fassett, Phil (Michelle) Fassett; and brothers, Rev. Leroy Fassett and Jerold (Carole) Fassett. His grandchildren include: Samantha, Shane, Sarah, Ailah, Skyler, Evan, Sienna; and great grand-children, Makayla and Addison. He will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Ron graduated from Taylor University in Upland, IN, and Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, where he was honored as a Distinguished Alumni in 1989. Rev. Fassett served United Methodist congregations at Home Park UMC in Marion, IN; Saugatuck UMC in Saugatuck, MI; Plainfield UMC in Grand Rapids, MI; Simpson UMC in Kalamazoo, MI; Central UMC in Muskegon, MI; and Burton Heights UMC in Grand Rapids, MI. In 1983, he became the Executive Director of Metropolitan Ministry of Greater Grand Rapids until his retirement in 1994. During Ron's time with Metro Ministry, he was instrumental in developing three new ethnic congregations - Hispanic, Vietnamese and Native American. In addition, he actively supported both SECOM, the South End Community Outreach Ministries and NECOM, the North End Community Outreach Ministries. Ron organized GRUMP, United Methodist softball teams, and also started GRASP (Grand Rapids Area Service Project). In Kalamazoo, Ron demonstrated his passion for peace and justice by participating in "night ministry" a service to share God's love and mercy to people of the street. He also participated in demonstrations and actions against racism and war efforts against foreign nations through his involvement in the Institute for Global Education, the Michigan Federation for Social Action, and the Grand Rapids Peace and Justice Community. This past June, he was honored as Peacemaker of the Year by the 2008 West Michigan United Methodist Annual Conference. Ron also served as Chairperson of the Archives and History Commission, President of the Michigan Area United Methodist Historical Society, Chair of the Board of Global Ministries and the Commission on Equitable Salary. During his retirement, Ron continued to be involved in ministries by volunteering at Clark Retirement Community, Oakdale United Methodist Church and many other local organizations. Ron enjoyed many hobbies including fishing, repairing and caning chairs, playing chess with his grandchildren, genealogy, researching history, and sharing his knowledge of nature and care of the environment with his family. He was especially fond of spending time at the cottage on Bass Lake in Pierson, MI. Cremation has taken place per Ron's wishes. Visitation will be Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 2 until 5 p.m. at Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Home. A celebration of Ron's life will take place on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 3 p.m. at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church located at 3334 Breton Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512. The Fassett family wishes to extend special appreciation to the staff at Clark on Keller Lake, Windsor Manor and Faith Hospice at Trillium Woods for their kindness and comfort given to Ron and his family while in their care. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Metropolitan Ministry, 227 E. Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI 49503; Grand Rapids Peace and Justice Community, 11 Fuller SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503; Clark Retirement Community Benevolent Care Fund, 1551 Franklin SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Service

Source: LifeStoryNet.com