

GEORGE EDWIN DETTMAN



George Edwin Dettman was born May 8, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois, to Waldemar Dettman and Ingeborg Nirison Dettman.

He graduated from Amundsen High School in 1953 and attended Wright Junior College, where he was studying to become an accountant. During this time he received the call to ministry. He graduated from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, in 1958, with a B.A. degree in sociology. He then matriculated to seminary at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, graduating in 1961.

He married Bonnie Kate Sewell on March 30, 1963, in Leesburg, Florida. They had three children: Craig Dettman of Altamonte Springs, Sandra Dettman of Tampa, and Cynthia Diehl of Oviedo. He had four adoring grandchildren: Christopher and Megan Diehl and Dashiell and Aubrey Dettman.

He was admitted on trial and ordained deacon in the Rock River Conference in 1959. He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1961 and was ordained elder in 1963. His appointments included First, Dunedin, associate, 1961-62; Lady Lake-Mascotte, 1962-63; Holy Trinity, Homestead, 1963-64; Carrabelle, 1964-66; student, Candler, 1966-67; Trinity, Bradenton, associate 1967-68; Crystal River, 1968-69; Trinity, Winter Haven, 1969-72; St. Marks, Jacksonville, 1972-75; First, Inverness, 1975-81; Christ, Lehigh Acres, 1981-85; First, Boynton Beach, 1985-89; First, Lake City, 1989-92; and Cypress Lake, Fort Myers, 1992-2000.

Following his retirement in 2000, he served as interim pastor of University Carillon, Oviedo, for five months. Afterward, he continued to teach courses in both Oviedo churches – First and University Carillon – and to work on Emmaus teams.

He was active in church growth and spiritual renewal through Christian Ashrams under E. Stanley Jones early in his ministry and in the Walk to Emmaus experience during the last twenty-five years of his life.

He served on the International Steering Committee of Emmaus and helped found the Walk to Emmaus in Mexico, England, St. Vincent, and India, as well as throughout Florida.

He was active in community service. While serving First, Inverness, he received a community service award for his dedication to the Citrus United Basket program and to the Boy Scouts. He helped organize the CUB program to help needy members of the community who did not qualify for aid elsewhere.

He died August 6, 2003, of pancreatic and liver cancer. A service of celebration was held at First United Methodist Church, Oviedo, August 9, 2003, with the Reverend John Powers and Dr. Joe MacLaren – pastors of the Oviedo churches – officiating. Burial was at the Oviedo Cemetery.

Submitted by Bonnie Dettman