



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE CASCADES
The Synod of the Pacific, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
The Rev. Catherine R. Quackenbush, Stated Clerk
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July 12, 2010

Below is the memorial letter written by Stated Clerk Emeritus, John Huenink, who kindly penned this tribute to Rev. Robert Gruwell during the stated clerk transition time at the first of July.

Dear Sisters and Brothers of The Presbytery of The Cascades,

It is my sad duty to report the news of the death of The Rev. Robert A. Gruwell (HR) who died at the age of 84 on July 4, in Portland, Oregon.

Robert ("Bob" to nearly everyone) was born in Pasadena, CA on June 7, 1926 and was raised in that area. He received an AA degree from Pasadena Junior College and a BA degree from Whittier College before receiving B.D. and M.Div. degrees from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was ordained as a Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament by The Presbytery of Los Angeles in May of 1953 and became a member of The Presbytery of the Cascades in June of 1966 by transfer from The Presbytery of Boise. He was granted the status of Honorably Retired by The Presbytery of the Cascades in June, 1991.

Bob provided pastoral service at Grayland Presbyterian Church in Westport, WA (4 years); Greenwood Presbyterian Church in Seattle, WA (2 years); First Presbyterian Church in Boise, ID (6 years); Hillsboro Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro, OR (5 years) and at Mt. Scott Park Presbyterian Church in Portland, OR (7 years). He served also in 5 interim pastorates in Presbyterian churches for a total of 5 years and in 5 one-year interim pastorates in the United Church of Christ and as the UCC's Planned Giving Director for 14 years. For 10 years he served in secular employment in the sale of securities and life insurance.

Bob was always an active presbyter. In Cascades, he served on the Ministerial Relations (now COM) and COM committees, the Christian Education Committee, the Presbytery Nominating Committee, and as Vice Moderator. He was the Senior High Leader at Synod School. He was a commissioner to the PCUSA General Assembly in 1959 and a commissioner to Synod in 1966. He served ecumenically as the President of the Ballard/Seattle Ministerial Association.

Bob's hobbies were photography and watercolor painting.

Bob is survived by his wife Carol, who he married in June of 2003, by daughters, Janet Morris and Mary Elizabeth Gruwell; a son, Philip Gruwell; stepdaughter Karlen Siebert; and stepson James Koenig.

A service celebrating Bob's long life and many ministries will be held at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1126 SW Park, Portland, Oregon, at 2:00 p.m. on July 31, 2010.

Let us mourn with all who mourn Bob's death and let us give thanks for his many ministries of love and care and faithful service to God in the name of Jesus, Our Christ.

John C. Huenink, Stated Clerk Emeritus
The Presbytery of the Cascades