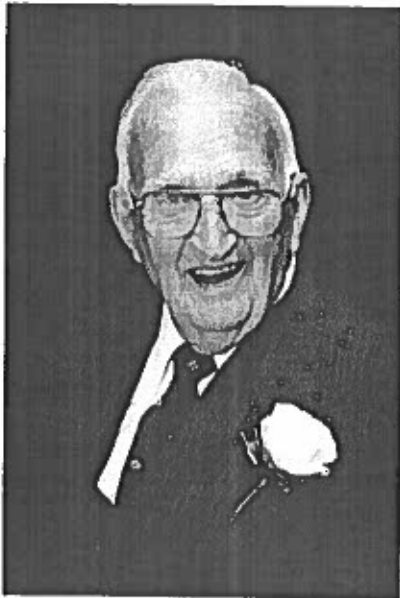


Rev. Dr. Gard Linwood Rowe
1922 ~ 2018



The Rev. Dr. Gard Linwood Rowe completed his earthly life on July 14, 2018, after 96 years of faithful service to God and to others near and far. Dr. Rowe was born in Mechanic Falls, Maine, and raised on the Advent Christian Campgrounds where his father was a preacher. He was an outstanding athlete in high school, but felt called to Christian ministry. He graduated from the New England School of Theology and Andover-Newton Theological School; later, he earned a doctorate at Drew

Divinity School.

During a pastoral career of almost seventy years, Dr. Rowe served churches in Whitman and Lynn, Massachusetts, and in Monson, Maine. Then followed pastorates at the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Richmond Hills, Queens, the Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church in Brooklyn, and the Point Lookout Community Church in Long Island. His final pastorate was at Oakwood Heights Congregational Church on Staten Island. Dr. Rowe was ordained by the Advent Christian denomination in 1945, but for most of his life served churches within the United Church of Christ and the National Association of Congregational Churches. Throughout his pastoral ministry Rowe maintained a strong commitment to social justice, especially in the areas of civil rights, peace, and the needs of the poor. He worked tirelessly in ecumenical and interfaith circles to build bridges with Catholics, Jews and Muslims. In 1965 he answered the call from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for clergy to join the Selma to Montgomery march. Rowe's life was lived with a full

Funeral

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 |
10:30 AM

First Church of West Bridgewater

Address & Directions

measure of God's love for all that God created. He was valued as an outstanding preacher, an inspiring teacher, a wise leader in the community, and a patient counselor to all who sought his advice. Dr. Rowe's ministry had no boundaries. He established the first Little League and Babe Ruth Leagues in his Queens community; he organized and coached countless youth baseball and basketball and softball teams for boys and girls. His generosity was legendary to family and strangers, and to church members in crisis. His zest for life, love of humanity, and faithfulness to God have left an outstanding legacy.

While a student pastor in Whitman, Mass., he met the love of his life, Astrid. They married in 1945 and served the Lord together until her death in 1987. They are now reunited by their undying love as true servants of the cross. Gard and Astrid were parents of David (Alida), Merris, Donna (David), and Virginia. They had six grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren (Cameron, Aaron, Rachel, Laura, Max, Amanda, Brigitta, Andres, Anusha, Aakash, Luke and Anna), and many nieces and nephews, all of whose lives bear their imprint in a thousand ways. Dr. Rowe is also survived by two sisters, Josephine and Madeline, and was predeceased by his brother Gerald.

Memorial gifts in Dr. Rowe's honor will be designated for Friends of Christ in India (1045 Old Academy Road, Fairfield CT 06824), Pilgrim Congregational Church (102-35 89 Avenue, Richmond Hill NY 11418), or the Norwegian Christian Home (1250 67th Street, Brooklyn NY 11219). The family is especially grateful to the Norwegian Home and to Ms. Kathryn Fazio for their gentle care of Dr. Rowe in his final year.

Dr. Rowe's life will be celebrated on August 15 at 10:30 am in the West Bridgewater Congregational Church 29 Howard Street West Bridgewater, MA 02379, with burial at Pine Hill Cemetery in West Bridgewater, next to his beloved wife Astrid.