

In Memoriam: Jeanie and David Stanley

By Walter Fenton

This past month Jeanie and David Stanley, faithful United Methodists and longtime advocates for renewal and reform in the UM Church, passed away. Jeanie died on August 4, and David passed on August 26. Married for 67 years, the couple was inseparable in life, and so it surprised no one who knew them when they learned David died just weeks after his beloved Jeanie. Both were born in 1928, within five weeks of one another.



(L to R) the Rev. Keith Boyette, David and Jeanie Stanley, the Rev. Rob Renfroe, and the Rev. Tom Lambrecht

"David and Jeanie were just a well of energy, enthusiasm and good sense," said the Rev. Rob Renfroe, President of Good News. "Above all, they were joyfully obedient followers of Jesus Christ. They gave freely and generously of their time, talents, and resources for the sake of creating a healthy, vibrant and faithful UM Church. They worked for a church fully committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the last, the least and the lost."

All of the major renewal and reform movements in the UM Church benefited from the wisdom and staunch support of the Stanleys. David and Jeanie were long-time UMAction board members. David also served on The Confessing Movement's board, and both of them worked closely with Good News as it led the Renewal and Reform Coalition's efforts at numerous General Conferences. At its Spring 2013 President's Dinner the Good News Board of Directors presented the Stanleys with the Edmund W. Robb Jr. United Methodist Renewal Award.

Although they were involved with numerous organizations and philanthropic endeavors, David and Jeanie were particularly loyal to Wesley UM Church, their local congregation in Muscatine, Iowa. Whether serving on a committee, teaching a Sunday school class or helping to plant new churches and revitalize old ones, the Stanleys were fully engaged in the life of the local church and the Iowa Annual Conference. They supported and led United Marriage Encounter, a Christian ministry used by many local UM churches to strengthen and transform marriages.

"David and Jeanie represented the best of United Methodism in their commitment to Jesus Christ that overflowed into all of life," said the Rev. Tom Lambrecht, Vice President of Good News. "They were tenacious in contending for 'the faith once delivered to the saints.' Their impact cannot be overstated. We will miss their bright minds and sincere hearts as members of the renewal team."

A joint memorial service celebrating Jeanie and David's lives of witness and faith is scheduled for Saturday, September 26 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Muscatine, Iowa.

####