

REV. PAUL E. SCHRADING



Age 91, of Pittsburgh, PA, died peacefully at his home on Sunday, December 31, 2023. Paul was born on August 23, 1932, to the late Alberta Irene Miser Schrading and John Peter Schrading. He is survived by his loving second wife, Carolynn Jean; his sons, Walter (Carole), Roger (Rebecca Baer), and Eric (Linda); his stepchildren, Jeannie (Eric) Schott, Marsha McGogney, and Tim McGogney; eight grandchildren,

Justin (Erica), Nicholas, Casey, Sarah, Cat, Lilah, Jessica, and Morganne; step-grandchildren, Kevin and Luke Schott, and Josephine Kimbombo; and one great-grandchild, Ayla Jean Schrading. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara Jean; and his brothers, Charles and John.

Paul grew up in Homestead and graduated salutatorian from Munhall High School in 1950 and worked summer jobs in the Homestead Steel Works. He studied at the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in speech and philosophy, and graduated with honors in 1954. His early career direction was formed by a 6-week YMCA/YWCA training where he went to Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He found his calling to the ministry and set his course toward seminary and ordination. He graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1958 and was ordained as an elder in The United Methodist Church.

Paul's first appointment was as chaplain among international students at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. In 1960, he returned to Pittsburgh where he was appointed director of the Wesley Foundation. In 1966, he returned to school at Princeton Theological Seminary and earned a master's degree in theology.

Paul's speaking abilities, organizing skills, and diplomatic engagement were crucial skills to his success in further appointments within the Western PA Conference of The United Methodist Church. Appointments included: leadership of the Church Union (1977-1982), Council Director (1982-1990), District Superintendent for the Pittsburgh District (1990-1996), and after official retirement, Assistant to Bishop George Bashore (1996-2000).

Throughout his life he loved to plan trips and travel. He has ventured to every continent except Antarctica, including Panama for an extended stay at a Christian Mission, India for various missions, and Africa for a World Conference of the United Methodist Church. He also loved to just tour and knew most corners of Western Europe. He returned many times to his beloved Scotland and visited friends he made from all over the world.

Visitation will be held at First United Methodist Church Pittsburgh, 5401 Centre Avenue, Shadyside, PA 15232, from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2024. A memorial service will be held at the same location on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers please consider donations in memoriam to: First United Methodist Church Pittsburgh <https://www.fumcpittsburgh.org/>, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>, or the Pittsburgh Symphony <https://pittsburghsymphony.org/>.

For a longer tribute to Paul, visit:

<https://www.georgeigreenfuneralhome.com/obituaries>

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