



Charles Warren Ross

January 7, 1937 - June 7, 2024

CHARLES WARREN ROSS January 7, 1937 - June 7, 2024 Reverend Charles W. Ross, 87, died peacefully surrounded by family on June 7, 2024 in Camas, WA. Charles Ross was born into a family of strong Christian faith January 7, 1937, in St. Louis, MO to Charles Matthew & Juliet (Volkmar) Ross, and was later the stepson of Leslie Ficken. Always active in and excited by his church life, Charles knew he wanted to be a minister by the time he was nine years old, and he continued to preach until his final days. Charlie graduated Beaumont High School in 1954 and was active in Boy Scouts, choir, band, Glee Club, baseball, and basketball. After high school he became a member of DeMolay and Kiwanis, as well as many varied church groups. Charlie graduated from Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL (1958), followed by Eden Theological Seminary (1961). Charles was proud of his connection to the quintessential group, the "Triple E's" (Elmhurst, Eden & Eternity). While in college, Charlie met the love of his life on a blind date aboard the excursion steamboat, SS Admiral, on the Mississippi river. When asked how his date went after a night of dining and dancing, Charlie exclaimed, "I'm going to marry that girl!" and on August 9, 1958, Charlie and Gloria (Tennyson) Ross were wed. That remarkable and loving union lasted 57 years until the death of Gloria in 2015. Following seminary, Charlie accepted his first ministerial position as an assistant pastor at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Belleville, IL (1961-1963) followed by a pastorate at St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Morton Grove, IL (1963-1970). In 1966 & 1968, Charles and Gloria

added beloved daughters Tammy and Valerie to their family. In 1970, Charles accepted a position at Parkrose Community United Church of Christ in Portland, OR where he would serve as pastor and community leader for 29 years. Parkrose would become the place that both Charlie and Gloria believed they were meant to be, and those years were some of the happiest years of their lives. Charlie was the epitome of a Man of Service. Aside from his pastoral duties, he was instrumental in initiating, growing, and supporting several community endeavors. As a tireless volunteer and leader of many organizations, including SnowCap Community Charities, the Portland Children's Book Bank, Parkrose Little League, Daybreak Family Shelter/Human Solutions, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, Meals on Wheels, Kiwanis and Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp, the Parkrose School Board, the Central Pacific Conference of United Church of Christ, Camp Adams, Ecumenical Ministries, and the Multnomah County Elections Division to name a few, Charlie always felt that our duty as humans was to serve community and its members. As a recipient of many awards along his humanitarian endeavors, some exceptional moments for Charlie were when he was presented with the Reuben Huenemann award for Christian Leadership (2008), Kiwanis International Legion of Honor (2011), Kiwanis George Hixon Award (2002), SnowCap Emeritus Board Member (2011), SnowCap Longest Serving Volunteer (2016 & 2024), Parkrose UCC Pastor Emeritus, and having Ross Cabin co-dedicated in his honor at Camp Adams with longtime friend and fellow pastor, Gene Ross. Aside from his work with church and community, Charlie enjoyed being a father, grandfather, and great grandfather, often enlisting the help of those generations to learn to become "of service" too. As a leader in the Parkrose community, he also became a community father and grandfather to many of its youth. To know Charlie was to know he also had a ridiculous sense of humor and endless stories! One story he was particularly fond of was when he was an usher at Busch Stadium for the St. Louis Cardinals. More than once, Charlie had conversations with Stan Musial, and how humbled Charlie was that 'Stan the Man' would greet him

personally before the games. This began Charlie's lifelong dedication to the Redbirds and Charlie would often be seen sporting his cherished red Cardinal cap. Charlie was preceded in death by his dear wife, Gloria, and his brother Ken Ross. Survivors include his daughters Tammy Ruscigno (Steve), and Valerie Barnett, grandchildren Anthony, Tyler, Angus, Emerson, Jimmy and Jennifer, stepgrandchildren Kaylah and Jenna, and great granddaughter Emberlie, as well as beloved extended family members and many many friends. A Celebration of Life for Charlie will be held September 14, 2024 at 2pm at Vancouver United Church of Christ 1220 NE 68th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665. Please wear something red as a symbolic gesture of support commemorating the love Charlie had for his St. Louis Cardinals! Go Redbirds! In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his name to any of the community organizations previously mentioned.

Tribute Wall

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“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory*

A Memorial Tree was planted for Charles Warren Ross - June 17, 2024 at 12:00 AM