

## Calvin Mouser



Ordaining Presbytery: Cumberland

Ordination Date: May 6, 1953

Churches Served: Liberty CP Church (Murray KY), circa 1952-1953, Liberty CP Church (Campbellsville KY), 1953-1959; Madisonville (KY) 1st CP, 1959-circa 1963; Greensburg (KY) 1st CP, 1968-1978

Offices Held: Executive Secretary of Kentucky Synod, presbyterial and synodic moderator

Information provided by the donor: Calvin Mouser, born July 12, 1922, was from Hart County, KY. His father, Bert E. Mouser, was a renowned carpenter in the area and his mother, Ida Lee Mouser (née Myers) was a saintly homemaker. The young Calvin went to school at Center, KY, graduating from Center High School. He was a WWII veteran. After the war and following his return from the European Theatre of Operations, he became acquainted with Wynemia Bowles, who also graduated from Center H.S. a few years after Calvin did. They quickly became aware this was a lifetime loving relationship and married May 18, 1946. He attended agriculture school, and they purchased a farm. At that time he was not a professing Christian but soon thereafter he attended a revival and made a profession of faith. Very shortly afterward he was called into the ministry. He and Wynemia sold the farm and in September 1950, moved to McKenzie, TN, where they began their college careers at Bethel College (now University). They both graduated in May 1953. He was ordained May 6, 1953, by Cumberland Presbytery where he also began his first pastorate, which was Liberty CP Church outside Campbellsville, KY. After 6 years he was called to Madisonville (KY) 1st CP, Princeton Presbytery. After a successful pastorate there also, he became the Executive Secretary of Kentucky Synod and in 1967 was nominated to be the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination. While he enjoyed working with the the synod, presbyteries, churches, and individuals he encountered along the way, he was a church pastor at heart. He then accepted the call to Greensburg 1st CP Church, Cumberland Presbytery, where he remained until his death from Mycosis Fungoides (MF) July 15, 1978. He was recruited into every position. More than once he would say, "The Lord couldn't lead me there. He'd have to push me." When he said that, his family learned they might as well start packing because the Lord was already at work. All through those years and moves, Wynemia was by his side in ministry and involved in her

teaching profession. Her success as a teacher made it very easy to find positions wherever they went. Calvin was known as being witty, firm in his beliefs, loving his congregation, working with the young people as individuals to deepen their faith, and being a good pastor, husband, father (daughter, Nancy Mouser Mikel Bean), grandfather (grandson, Rev. Jason E Mikel) and friend. He was also a brave and thoughtful patient. As described in medical articles at the time, MF was a very rare "savage" cancer which manifested itself as eating the flesh down to the bone. Calvin suffered greatly with it but asked the doctors to use him as a specimen to add knowledge to the medical field regarding this disease, which had very little known about it at the time. He requested they do whatever tests or procedures they thought would help in that endeavor no matter how painful or draining those tests or procedures might be to him. His hope and prayer was that doctors could use him to teach the the medical profession how to help others who might suffer MF in the future. The doctors requested for him to have seminars for them and their colleagues to share with them how the disease affected him physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. They also wanted him to share with them how knowing he was facing death affected him in those same ways. He conducted those seminars with the doctors while he was a patient in the hospital. Calvin was respectful and caring of all types of people, as was shown at his death when the Governor of Kentucky sent flowers to his funeral and attendees at his funeral included his garbage man as well as his doctor from the University of Kentucky. If he could have been able to greet them, each of them would have received the same big smile and would have shared a laugh or two with him.