

Rev. Dr. James M. Searcy



Churches Served: Dyersburg Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Offices Held: Executive Director of the Commission on the Ministry for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Unfortunately, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church did not get the benefits of his ministry in that leadership role due to a debilitating stroke early in his tenure. He was only able to serve for two years. It was a great loss for the church, but his loving, supportive personality continues to shine for all ministers who know and love him and his wife, Geneva.

Information provided by the donor: During my early years as a pastor, the Reverend Jim Searcy was a friend and mentor to me. While I served the Dyersburg CPC as associate minister of Christian education, he was a senior pastor and taught me much about pastoral ministry through his friendship and mentorship. I learned how to conduct my first funeral, how to perform weddings, how to document an account for clergy taxes, and even how to navigate church conflict. He included me in every aspect of pastoral ministry, constantly reminding me that I was one of the pastors of the church – not an associate, not a second string, not anything less than he was in his role. Every new pastor should have a mentor like Jim Searcy. He was a skilled craftsman. He built beautiful bookcases for his office at the denominational center when it was located on Union Avenue in Memphis, Tennessee. When the center was relocated to its new campus, those bookcases were carefully relocated as well. I now sit in that office surrounded by his beautiful handiwork as a team leader for the Pastoral Development Ministry Team, the predecessor of the Commission on the Ministry. So, his influence continues in my life and ministry today.

Endowment provided by: Rev. Dr. Pam Phillips-Burk