

Lawrence Wayne McMellen was born in Slater, MO to Oliver and Luella McMellen on November 14, 1933. He met his wife, Mildred, at Central Missouri State College and they were married on May 20th, 1953. Larry graduated from CMS and began teaching high school industrial arts in St. Joseph, MO. Answering the call of God on his life Larry and Mildred moved to Chicago, IL to attend McCormick Theological Seminary. Upon graduation Larry became the minister of Oronoco, MN First Presbyterian Church. From there became the minister of First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson, IA. Leaving the ministry for a time Larry received a master's degree in psychiatric social work from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. In 1983 Larry and Mildred returned to pastoral work at Eastside Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula, OH. Upon retirement Larry became an interim pastor for several churches in Illinois and Michigan. The last church Larry served with was Fenton First Presbyterian in Fenton, MI. Larry's wife Mildred passed away in December of 1917. At this time Larry sold their home in Fenton and moved to North Benton, Ohio to live with his daughter, Darla Renner. Larry had a difficult time dealing with the loss of his wife and was overjoyed to be reunited with her.

Larry is predeceased by his parents, Oliver and Luella McMellen, six siblings, his wife, Mildred Nadine McMellen, and his firstborn son, Lawrence Wayne McMellen Jr. Larry is survived by his children, Darla (Jim), Joydeen (Jerry), Jay (Barb), Gayetta, 11 grandchildren, and many great grandchildren.

Larry passed away peacefully at the age of 90 on January 28, 2024 in North Benton, Ohio surrounded by his family. We are forever grateful for parents that raised us in the faith and lived a life of service to our Lord.