

# In Celebration!



## RUBEN ARMENDARIZ

PASTOR AND COLLEAGUE, FRIEND AND MENTOR

*Join us...* **IN THANKING RUBEN!** Reconnect with an old friend and colleague! Don't let miles or years keep you apart any longer! Email Ruben at: [armendarizr77@gmail.com](mailto:armendarizr77@gmail.com) and connect! Set up a follow-up (long!) phone conversation! Or snail mail him at: **233 Greenlawn Dr., San Antonio, TX 78201** — and swap photographs... oh, he doesn't look like that anymore either!

Ruben... a pastor's pastor with a pastor's passion, a heart for the city, a vision for the church, a love that welcomes all.

### Join us...

...in adding Ruben and his family to your Christmas card (family letter) mailing list ... in wishing him a "happy birthday!" Oops, we missed his 90<sup>th</sup>! We're early for his 91<sup>st</sup>! Pretend it's May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021... light lots of candles and sing! Share some of your grateful nostalgic stories about, and with, him... but be careful, he's writing a book... and now you might be in it!

Never met him? Are you curious? Meet him now, learn from him. It'll be a faithful adventure!

Ruben Armendariz is the son of a Mexican American Presbyterian role-model pastor. He was the recipient of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary's 2012 Distinguished Service Award. He is a gifted parish pastor. Among other congregational connections, he was organizing pastor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Dallas, and the priest-in-charge at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Corpus Christi. When he retired (the first time!), he was the pastor of Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church in San Antonio. He has an almost perfect attendance as a GA junkie! He served McCormick Seminary as professor of ministry, vice president for seminary operations and relations and director of their Hispanic Ministries Program.

Ruben was also on the staff of Presbytery del Salvador in Corpus Christi and was the executive director of Hispanic American Institute in Austin. Ruben was (and still is) Mission Presbytery's "Jack of all... callings!" He was a local church pastor. He served as the presbytery's Church Development Division's creative catalytic consultant and was interim presbytery head of staff.

### Years ago...

Ruben attended the Menaul School. He served in the U.S. Navy. He returned to Texas and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. A friend with better memory recalls that Ruben was the last candidate for the ministry under care of the Texas-Mexico Presbytery. If so, it is a fitting benediction to the presbytery's years of faithful leadership and service, and an appropriate launching pad for Ruben's ministry.

### And, today...

He is a proud dad and loving husband in San Antonio. He is active at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. He joins other retired pastors in a weekly gathering of the so-called "Liars' Club." Ruben's participation in a number of local justice networks is a precious gift. He knows everyone and forgets nothing! So, be careful what you say!

Rabbi Sam Stahl correctly asserts that "re tired" is linguistically correct: it means that you're "tired... again!" Ruben has every right – as a retired (again!) 90-year old! – to be tired, again. Instead, he's still very curious and deeply committed, he's active and engaged, he's still – again – causing "good trouble." Thank God!

We're all grateful that Ruben has been "an absolute failure at retirement!" Email him... chat with him! Say, "Thanks, Ruben!" Reconnect with him. Or, discover – for the first time – a mentor that will challenge and inspire you for years to come!



*Remembering, and connecting... gratefully!*

— Two San Antonio colleagues who've only known and loved him for... barely 29 years!

