Obituary

Gordon Lloyd Harper

October 2, 1936 - February 8, 2016

On Monday, February 8, 2016, **Gordon Lloyd Harper** completed his life at the age of 79. Gordon was born October 2, 1936 in Neenah, WI to parents J.Lloyd & Beth Harper.

Gordon was an activist for justice at a very early age, e.g. in High School he petitioned his neighbors on Woodenshoe Road to recall Sen. Joseph McCarthy. A 1954 graduate of Neenah High School, Gordon was offered a full scholarship to Yale, which he turned down in favor of Denison University in Ohio. He graduated in 1958 with a BA in English and went on to receive an MA in Religion & Art from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1959 and an MA in English from the University of Chicago in 1960. He accepted a position as Assistant Professor of English at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo and was there from 1966-71, at which time the family moved to Chicago to join the staff of the Ecumenical Institute full-time and, as he wrote, "to leave the academic world and change the world."

Over the next quarter century Gordon combined his passions for teaching, facilitating, and making a positive global change to go on assignments to assist local communities to develop their own plans for the future. Gordon and his family lived all over the Asian world - e.g., India, Singapore, Malaysia, and Taiwan. He described his time in India as "the most profoundly demanding, spiritually empowering, time in my life."

From 1994 to last week, Gordon lived and worked with the ICA/ ToP (Technology of Participation) as a trainer of trainers in facilitation skills and strategic planning methods. As a member of Seattle First Baptist Church, he was very active in the Adult Education and Stewardship Commissions and helped found the Partners in Peacemaking component of Social Justice Ministries. He also worked closely with the Occupy Seattle movement and the Church Council of Greater Seattle

Gordon thoroughly enjoyed exercising with the Group Health Cooperative Enhance Fitness Class and working with the GHC Senior Caucus group. He and Roxana eagerly looked forward to their annual pilgrimage to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland and volunteer ushering at Intiman, Seattle Shakespeare Company and the REP.

In addition to his younger siblings, Carol, Doug, and Jim; Gordon is survived by his wife of 56+ years, Roxana, and exceptional children Geoffrey (Kayla), Stuart (Cris) and Elena, as well as his eight fantastic grandchildren: Brittany, Reuben, Tania, Ben, Gabriel, Alex, Lily, and Simon.

We deeply appreciate all of your prayers and expressions of sympathy and gratitude. Your support is truly a blessing and, on behalf of our entire family, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Should you wish to make a donation in Gordon's memory, he requested donations be sent to either of the following organizations:

1) ICA Archives Project, 4750 N. Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL 60640

2) The Romney Fund, Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle, WA 98122



Celebrating the Completed Life of

Gordon Lloyd Harper



Wednesday, February 17, 2016 11:00 a.m.



October 2, 1936 - February 8, 2016

1111 Harvard Avenue Seattle, WA 98122 • 206.325.6051

Celebrating the Completed Life of Gordon Lloyd Harper

Order of Service

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Prelude Amazing Grace traditional, arr. George Shearing

Michelle Horsley, organ

Welcome & Prayer

David Kile

Musical Reflection It is Well with my Soul arr. by Sally Willard Rogers

Jim Segaar & Jim Ginn, duet Michelle Horsley, piano

Remembrances

Stu Harper Carol Pech

*Hymn

Bring Us Home

see insert

Communities of Care:

OE/ICA/ToP

Enhanced Fitness/GHC/Senior Caucus SFBC Social Justice Ministries

Molly Shaw Mike Warren Sandra Jones

Special Selection The Lord of the Dance-arr. J. Ferguson Memorial Choir Atit Marmer, speaker

Remembrances

Elena Harper Jim Harper *Hymn I Feel the Winds of God Today see insert

Remarks Tim Phillips

Remembrance Geoffrey Harper

*Hymn For All the Saints #299
verses 1-4

*Blessing Ned Allyn Parker

Postlude Trumpet Voluntary - Jeremiah Clarke Michelle Horsley

This was the recessional for Gordon and Roxana's wedding 56+ years ago.

"Life is short, and we have not too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. Be swift to love, and make haste to be kind."

- Marcus Borg

There will be an opportunity for sharing more stories of Gordon at lunch that immediately follows the service in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to the members of the Social Justice Ministries at Seattle First Baptist Church for serving as ushers at this service.

Reception in Fellowship Hall

You're invited to greet the family & enjoy lunch.

^{*}If it is comfortable for you, please stand where indicated.