



Rev. Ivan E. Yoder

Rev. Ivan E. Yoder, 79 of 30 Applehouse Road, Belleville, PA passed peacefully into the presence of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, August 03, 2008, at Valley View Haven. He was born on March 22, 1929 in Belleville, and was the son of the late Jonathan A. and Elsie (Kauffman) Yoder. He was married to Mary (Yoder) Yoder on October 21, 1950. Ivan was a 1947 graduate of Belleville High School and he attended Penn State University.

Rev. Yoder was ordained as Pastor of the former Woodland Mennonite Chapel (now Mountain View Mennonite Chapel) on April 14, 1957, where he served as Pastor until 1980. At that time, he was commissioned to serve the church at large in a full-time itinerant ministry of Bible teaching and evangelistic and revival preaching.

His itinerant ministry took him to twenty-four states in the continental U.S. He also served in short-term ministries in Canada, Haiti, India and Ecuador. He conducted over 370 series of meetings. His ministry included serving as interim or short-term assignments at nine congregations. He served as Overseer of a number of churches in the Conservative Mennonite Conference. From November 1992 until August 1998, he pastored the Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Belleville.

During his entire ministry, he retained pastoral credentials in the Conservative Mennonite Conference. He served in many committees and in a variety of capacities in the conference, including a term as Moderator and Secretary-Treasurer. He also served as representative of the conference on several Mennonite church agency boards. He chaired the committee that wrote the Conservative Mennonite Conference Statement of Theology. In addition to his pastoral ministry, Rev. Yoder served as Bible teacher and Counselor at Belleville Mennonite School for over 22 years, including one year as interim principal.

He taught at Rosedale Bible Institute for several terms and in the Kish Valley Winter Bible School for over 30 years. He participated in several local ministeriums and chaired several local and area-wide evangelistic crusades. He served on the board at Valley View Haven from 1993-2000.

For over 50 years, Rev. Yoder faithfully served the Lord in pastoral ministry. He will be remembered for his preaching, teaching, counseling, and mentoring ministry. He was a loving husband to his wife for over 57 years and a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He leaves a legacy of faithfulness to Jesus Christ, to his family and church.

Besides his wife, he is survived by one son and three daughters, Rev. Jonathan E. Yoder & wife Susan of Denver, PA; Sharon Kauffman & husband Merrill of Casper, Wyoming; Nancy Brunk & husband Rev. Bill Brunk of Coopersburg, PA; and Bette Keeny & husband Brian of Shillington, PA. Also surviving is a son-in-law, James Howerter of Orrville, OH; 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren; and a brother, James L. Yoder & wife Nancy of McVeytown, PA.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Darlis Howerter, two sisters, Enid Stroup and Grace Rager and two brothers, Merle Yoder and Arthur Yoder.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Thursday, August 7th at 3:00 p.m. at Locust Grove Mennonite Church, Belleville, PA, with Revs. Max Zook, Lester Diller, and Alvin Yoder officiating. The family will receive friends from 12:00 noon until the time of service, Thursday, at the church. Interment will follow at the Locust Grove Cemetery.

Should friends desire, memorials may be made to Mountain View Mennonite Chapel, P.O. Box 184, Reedsville, PA 17084 or to Belleville Mennonite School, 4105 Front Mountain Road, Belleville, PA 17004.

Arrangements are under the direction of Baggus Funeral Home, Belleville, PA.