

Record of Service for George Martin

18/7/1931 – 16/1/2017

The Uniting Church Synod and Presbytery of South Australia grieves the loss of our brother-in-Christ and influential Christian leader, Rev George Stanley Martin.

Thirty years of George's ministry was spent as the Superintendent of Port Adelaide Central Mission, now Uniting Care Wesley Port Adelaide. During his leadership time, the Mission expanded to touch the lives of over 20,000 people each year – people of diverse language and cultural background, the aged, the unemployed, families, children, the disadvantaged, people suffering through mental health and related disorders, people living with disabilities, homeless people and First Peoples.

Following his formative years that nurtured a deep faith in God, and influenced by Reverends Erwin Vogt and Alan Walker, George entered Wesley College in 1952 to commence study at both the college and the University of Adelaide, as part of his formation to be a Minister of the Word. While at Wesley College, he helped raise funds for the dormitory block. During this time, he married Leonie, and she has been George's constant companion and help throughout his ministry. (Leonie said 'we were always a team' and I wish to acknowledge her ministry gifts today)

George was appointed as Organising Secretary in 1956 to the Methodist Young People's Department assisting Rev Cliff Symons to organise the second National Christian Youth Convention in 1957. (I have just returned from the most recent NCYC, Yurora 17: Uniting Cultures, in NSW)

He was ordained in 1958 at Kent Town Methodist Church after being appointed as the second minister to Kilburn/Blair Athol in the Prospect North Circuit.

In 1962, he moved to the Broken Hill City Mission, where he had responsibility for the Wesley and Thomas Street Churches. He continued at Broken Hill until 1965 and during this time, he co-founded and was the inaugural Director of the Broken Hill Life Line Counselling Service.

In 1966 George returned to South Australia to the Semaphore Circuit, with responsibility for Largs Bay, Taperoo and Birkenhead, before becoming Superintendent Minister of the Port Adelaide Central Mission Inc in 1967, where he served until his retirement in December 1996. His time as Superintendent of the Mission, meant he was Chairman of the Board as well.

George was made a Navy Chaplain in 1968, serving the Navy reserve for 14 years. He also served as a board member of Morialta Trust and for the Memorial Hospital in the days when the hospital was part of the Uniting Church.

As Superintendent of the Mission, he was responsible for the incorporation of Uniting Care Wesley Port Adelaide. This has enabled other Church welfare organisations to be able to manage their own life, while at the same time being closely allied with the ethos and values of the Uniting Church and remaining connected to the serving life of the Synod and its congregations.

The passion George held for social justice, has meant his ministry service embraced every aspect of social welfare and was centred on upholding the dignity of all people, believing they are made in the image of God, are deeply loved by God and redeemed to the full life that has been given through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“Well done, you good and faithful servant. “

Rev Sue Ellis

Moderator

17th January 2017