

George Richert (1936-2016)



George Richert passed away on April 6, 2016, following a period of illness. George loved golfing, wore big shoes, freely shared his generous heart and hearty laugh – including in response to his own wry jokes and puns – and made significant contributions to Mennonite post-secondary education.

George was President of Menno Simons College, affiliated with the University of Winnipeg, from 1992-2001, leading the college during a decade of significant growth and directing it as it became a central part of the newly formed Canadian Mennonite University. During his tenure at the college, he also taught International Development Studies, was a friend and supporter of the Chair in Mennonite Studies, and served on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Mennonite Studies*. Royden Loewen, Chair in Mennonite Studies, recalls fondly how George lent his wisdom, support and good humour to these causes.

George held a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Alberta, and had a very significant career as an educator and educational administrator. His teaching began in a one-room rural school in Saskatchewan, and included servings as Professor and Dean at the University of Regina as well as several years in Nigeria.

With unwavering commitment to fostering peace and justice, George lived, worked, and provided consulting services in a variety of countries around the world, including several stints with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) after he retired from Menno Simons College.

George provided leadership to many educational councils throughout his career and retained connections across education organizations, Mennonite church bodies and agencies, government and other agencies. He held a special passion for church-related education, asserting on more than one occasion that church colleg-

es and universities are essential for the future of Mennonites in North America. Other involvements included acting as Special Advisor to the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on Self-Government of First Nations peoples, to serving as Vice-Chairperson of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada and Board Chair of MCC Canada.

A memorial service was held on April 30, 2016 at Zion Mennonite Church in Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

Compiled by Dean Peachey, University of Winnipeg