

REV. JAMES WESTON ELVINS

9 August 1927 - 16 May 2016

Weston Elvins was born in Geelong on the 9th August 1927 to Dr Frances Henry Herbert Elvin and Ethel Maud Elvins. Weston was much loved younger brother to June and Pat. Weston attended Geelong College from kindergarten all the way through to matriculation.

Following school, Weston secured an apprenticeship as an accountant in a Geelong firm. He also enjoyed involvement with the PFA youth activities, cycling to Torquay, rabbit drives and building the church camp at Anglesea. Weston sensed a call to ministry at the age of 23. He lived and studied theology at Ormond College. During his studies Weston spent a year in placement at Stanley Presbyterian Church in Tasmania. He remained connected with the parish and attended their 100th year anniversary in 2006.

In 1956 Weston married Lorraine Patterson.

Weston graduated in 1958 and was ordained into the Myrtleford-Bright parish. He moved from there to Stawell and on to Koonung Heights where cooperation with the Methodist church was established before Church Union. During this time the family grew as Kate, Lise, Richard and Simon were born.

In the early 1970's, Weston took up a 'tent making' style ministry and was based at Wesley Central Mission where he engaged in many projects. The family moved to Nunawading and participated in the local Uniting church.

In 1982, Weston met Jo (nee Weetman) and they enjoyed more than thirty-three years of marriage. Weston became stepfather to Kathryn, James and Jane. After selling a beach house in Sorrento, fulfilling Weston's dream, they bought a house in Mont Albert Nth. with a tennis court. The court became a focus of friendly games and social interaction over many years even when Weston could no longer play.

In 1989 Weston moved to work for Equity Trustees and in 1998 - 2001 to International Social Services when he provided financial and accounting services on a full and later part time basis. Weston offered part time supply ministry in many congregations including Cranbourne, Dandenong North, St Columba's Balwyn, Tallangatta and the Grove in Box Hill. His pastoral work amongst the people was always valued and appreciated.

Weston was also involved in many community organisations: Lifeline National Treasurer and Counsellor, the founding treasurer of the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture - Foundation House, for 8 years, Religions for Peace Australia & Victoria Auditor and Assistant Treasurer, and Oxfam. To honour his community service, Weston was nominated by Mont Albert Probus to complete a leg in the Queen' Baton Relay in the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Weston loved all sports particularly tennis, football and the Geelong Club. He and Jo travelled widely both in Australia and overseas always keen to understand the people they met. He loved bush walking and family holidays. He was very hospitable enjoying getting groups of people together to listen to Jazz, to dance, to eat out and for weekends away at Weeloo/Willaring, the church house at Lorne. He adopted single people gathering them for social evenings. Above all, he was a good listener and

enjoyed being with others. Weston lived his faith and helped as he accompanied many people in their own faith journey.

In time, Weston became grandfather to Harley, Oberon, Hollie, Phoebe, Connor, Taiga, Callum, Fraser, Eirini and step-grandfather to Zadi, James, Sam, Archie and Eva. He enjoyed spending time with all of them and supporting their interests and talents.

Weston and Jo were members of the Augustine Uniting Church and contributed to the development of innovative worship and the Augustine program. As Augustine combined with the Canterbury and Kew churches they supported the development of the Habitat Uniting Church.

In his final two and half years, Weston was cared for at Baptcare Karana Community in Kew. He continued to contribute to community life as long as possible. After spending time with family members, on the 16th May 2016 Weston died peacefully.

We give thanks for the deep relationships Weston shared with family and friends; for his openness to new and innovative opportunities in Ministry and Mission.