

Obituary For Richard Lee Fleming

Richard passed away peacefully at his home in Richardson, Texas on May 1, 2021 at the age of 87.

Born March 19, 1934 in Champaign, IL, Richard was raised by his loving parents David Ross Fleming and Eulalia Pearl Foulk Fleming. His father was an Ordained Methodist Minister who served several congregations in central Illinois. Richard graduated as co-valedictorian of the Bement High School Class of 1952. In addition to his academic pursuits, he played piano and French horn and practiced up to four hours a day. Richard attended Trinity College of Hartford, CT on a full scholarship and earned a BA in the Classics in 1956. He continued his education at Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL where he met and married his life partner Katherine Kay Peters Fleming to whom he was married in 1957 and for more than 63 years until his death. Richard earned Master of Theology degree from Garrett and was ordained an Elder in the Methodist Church in 1961. After serving pastoral appointments in Illinois, Richard decided to pursue his love of music as a career and moved his family to Texas, where he earned a Master of Sacred Music degree from SMU in 1970. He served as Minister of Music at Grace United Methodist Church in Des Moines, IA from 1968 to 1972 and then as Minister of Music and Worship at First UMC, Richardson, TX where he retired in 1999 after 28 years of service. Richard was an accomplished choral conductor and organist and was a member of the Choristers Guild and American Guild of Organists. His adult choirs performed many master works and toured Europe three times. He also directed the Chapel Singers Youth choir and inspired countless youth to pursue careers in music and ministry. While in service to First UMC, Richardson, Richard returned to SMU's Perkins School of Theology and earned a Doctor of Ministry degree 1979. He also served as director of the Turtle Creek Chorale from 1982 – 1984 and, in retirement, served several congregations as a substitute organist and choir director.

Richard and Kay were devoted parents to children David Mark Fleming (b. 1958) of Sandy, UT; Anne Elizabeth Fleming Parrett (b. 1961) of Jones, OK; and John Stephen Fleming (b. 1963) of Salem, OR; who are forever grateful for the love, guidance, and support of their parents. He was preceded in death by his Parents, Parents-in-law Charles and Emma Peters, brothers Carl and Jerry. He is survived by his wife Kay, his sister Lois Ann Comer, his children, daughter-in-law Amy, son-in-law Clifford, daughter-in-law Rona, grandchildren Thomas, Matthew, Peter, Victoria, and Emma and great-grandchildren Isabella and Violet. We love you and miss you Daddy-Rich!

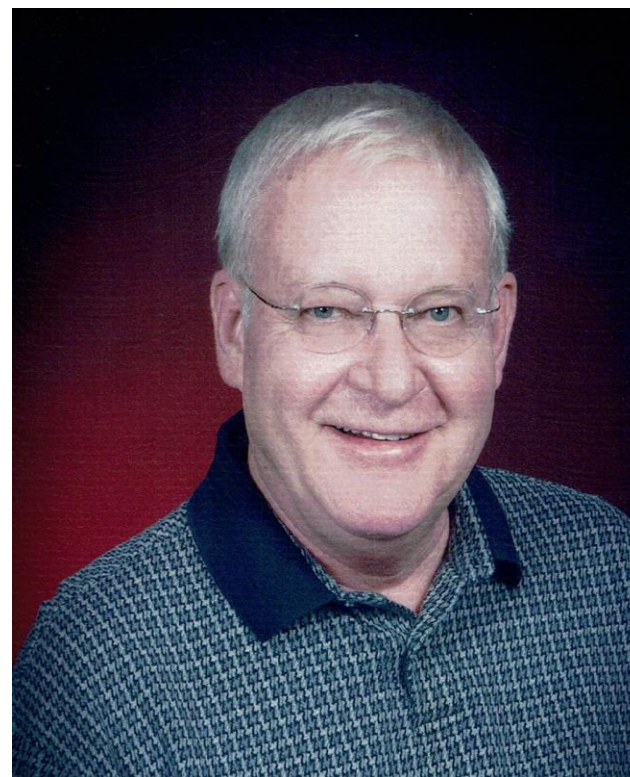
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Music Ministry of FUMCR in Richard's memory.

A Service of Celebration

for the life of

Richard Lee Fleming

March 19, 1934 – May 1, 2021



First United Methodist Church Richardson

Saturday, May 8, 2021

11:00 AM, Sanctuary

The Order of Worship

Prelude

Words of Grace

Dr. Clayton Oliphint

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I died, and behold I am alive forever more. Because I live, you shall live also.

Greeting

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of Richard Fleming. We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss. May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow, hope, and in death resurrection.

Hymn

Sing with All the Saints in Glory
FUMCR Ensemble

Words of Remembrance

David Fleming, Son

Hymn

How Can I Keep From Singing?
FUMCR Ensemble

Scripture Reading

Psalm 100
Romans 8:35, 37-39
Matthew 5:14-16
Dr. Oliphint

Words of Remembrance: A Requiem

John Fleming, Son

Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other
FUMCR Ensemble

Words of Faith

Dr. Oliphint

Pastoral Prayer

Dr. Oliphint

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Hymn of Promise
FUMCR Ensemble

Benediction

Dr. Oliphint

Postlude

*The family thanks you for joining them virtually today.
Your presence means a great deal to them and is a comfort.*

Leading in Worship:
Dr. Clayton Oliphint
Mary Lightfoot, organist

FUMCR Ensemble:
Bruce Boyle, Ian Gill, Diane Grandey, Rick Holt, Jenny Kelly,
Phil Longacre, Kim O'Neil, Jennifer Rawlinson