

Dr. Ronald P. Patterson
1967 Graduate of United Theological Seminary

While still a student at United Ron served as an editorial intern with the EUB Publishing House, Otterbein Press. He worked full time at the Press and attended seminary part-time, graduating in four years rather than the traditional three. In 1968 at the time of Union with The Methodist Church, Dr. Patterson had risen to the editorship of *Friends*, a publication for Junior Highs, *Youth Leader*, curriculum for youth, and *Power*, an ecumenical devotional magazine for young people.

In 1968 the Committee on the General Conference invited him to join the editorial staff of the "Daily Christian Advocate" the official record of the General Conference proceedings. He was on the platform watching the historical debate and vote to form The United Methodist Church.

After receiving his M.Div. from United Theological Seminary he attended Syracuse University and received his Master of Arts in Journalism with a concentration in religious journalism. Ron's first position with the newly formed denomination was with The Upper Room as associate book editor. While continuing to edit books, he was asked by the Board of Discipleship to develop a new publication for young adults. He worked for two years with his colleagues to develop the magazine called *Alive Now!* It is still a relevant publication today. The Upper Room honored Ron by giving him the title of "Founding Editor."

In 1974 Mr. Patterson left The Upper Room to learn for-profit publishing with Word Books in Waco Texas. While there he served as editor to many well-known authors at the time: William Stringfellow, Martin E. Marty, Robert Raines, and Keith Miller. He also served in an editorial capacity with many top athletes of the era: Roger Staubach, Nolan Ryan, Coach John Wooden. He and Kyle Rote, Jr. wrote a book entitled, *Beyond the Goal*.

At the age of 35 Ron was elected Editorial Director of Abingdon Press and Book Editor of The United Methodist Church. In 1977 he assumed the leadership of a 30-member staff and held the responsibility of publishing over 100 books a year in the fields of academic, professional(clergy), reference, children, and general books.

His very first publication was *The History of the Evangelical United Brethren Church*. A few of his noted publications during his 16 years with The United Methodist Publishing House are: *The Abingdon Dictionary of Bible and Religion*, *The Wesley Works*, *The Handbook of Christian Churches*, *Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, *Handbook of Christian Theology*, and the series, *United Methodism and American Culture*.

Mr. Patterson also had the privilege of working with notable authors such as: Jurgen Moltman, Schubert Ogden, Rosemary Reuther, James Cone, Albert Outler, Richard Heitzenrider, Robert Raines, John Killinger, Rosemary Keller, and James Moore, among others.

With this editorial assignment came the title of Book Editor for The United Methodist Church. With this portfolio, he was also responsible for official publications of the Church such as: *The Book of Discipline*, *The Book of Resolutions*, and the new *United Methodist Hymnal* (he was on the 24 member committee to form the new hymnal).

In 1984 the new Publisher, Robert K. Feaster, elevated him to the position of Vice President and General Manager of Abingdon Press with total responsibility for the editorial, marketing, and business operations of the Abingdon division.

In 1992 Mr. Patterson was elected Publisher and CEO of UMR Communications in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Patterson's first responsibility was to raise funds to build a new communication center for *The United Methodist Reporter*, the flagship publication of UMR. The consecration service for the new facility was held on November 16, 1995. At that time UMR had its own printing operation, publishing books, and newspapers for several denominations. Additionally, UMR owned Religious News Service in New York City. During his tenure there continued to be a growing need for electronic communication. Ron and Dr. Thomas Boomershine developed a new electronic imprint called "Lumicon" which denotes the light of Christ.

Dr. Patterson became very active in the Protestant Church-Owned Publishing Association, serving for several years as chair of the association's national meetings. He's also been active in the World Methodist Council where he served on the publishing committee. Ron was also a board member of Perkins School of Theology until his retirement from publishing in 2004.

Dr. Patterson received his D.D. degree from Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri. A long-time member of the West Ohio Conference he served as an Associate Pastor at McKendree UMC in Nashville, Tennessee, and as part-time associate at Crossville UMC until his full retirement in January 2014.