

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Walter E. James

Class of 1931

Walter E. James has distinguished himself as a minister of the Presbyterian Church and as an inspiring leader of youth outreach programs. Dr. James has applied his BA from Ohio Wesleyan University Class of 1931 in English Bible and Physical Education into a life-long cause for youth. He has discovered the benefits of sports in helping troubled teens break out of difficult patterns and strengthen their faith through his influence.

After graduate work at Yale Divinity School, Walt attended and graduated from the United Theological seminary in 1936. Settling in Hollywood, California he worked for the YMCA taking on the toughest assignments for their youth program. His success brought him to the attention of the Presbyterian pastor who persuaded Walt to put the parishioners to work in the community through outreach programs. In 1946, Walt was installed as the Minister of Weekday Activities at the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood.

As Director of Social Work for the Presbytery of Los Angeles, he coordinated work of the church in the ghettos and barrios of Southern California. His strong interest in church, children and community led him to establish an interracial , interdenominational service group for low-income minorities in La Jolla while serving as Minister of Outreach at La Jolla Presbyterian Church.

Walt has lead efforts for community outreach nationally and internationally through the church and the YMCA.

Most notably, he established a student outreach ministry called World Deputation as well as a support group for Christians behind the Iron Curtain. The experiences in post World-War II Germany are documented in his book [Tumbling Walls](#). It describes the stirring story of a group of collegians whose mission was to bring reconstruction and reconciliation to the battered and broken survivors in war-torn Germany.

We are proud to honor Dr. Walter E. James with a Distinguished Achievement Citation for his far-reaching leadership and commitment to youth and his ministry.

May 18, 1996

