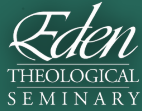


HERITAGE SOCIETY

JUNE 2022



Eden Theological Seminary

Cloud of Witnesses

A Preacher and a Teacher- Rev. Melvin F. Lichte & Alberta May (Grieshaber) Lichte

Rev. Melvin and Alberta May (Grieshaber) Lichte loved the church. Melvin served as pastor of churches in Kansas and in Missouri. Mel graduated from Eden in 1944 with a Bachelor of Divinity and in 1969 with a Master of Divinity in 1985. When concluding as pastor at St. Mark UCC in Arnold, MO, he shared with the Missouri UCC Conference newspaper that "the close contact with people" had been the most satisfying aspect of his pastoral career.

Alberta taught school in Kansas and Missouri for 33 years. She especially loved to teach history and geography. She nurtured generations of elementary children. Alberta loved the church, particularly the music and women's groups in local congregations. She played organ and piano. Alberta and Melvin traveled globally, visiting several countries.

When Melvin and Alberta were married in 1972, Alberta became loving stepmother to two (then) teenage children. Through the years, she also was very close to her grandchildren. Upon her death in August 2021, her family included great-grandchildren along with her grandchildren, stepchildren and in-laws, and her two brothers and sister-in-law.

Rev. Mel and Alberta's love of the church extended beyond the specific congregations they served. They saw the formation of leaders for other congregations and ministry settings as part of that church family and looked to their love of Eden Seminary to do that.



*Rev. Melvin F. Lichte &
Alberta May (Grieshaber) Lichte*

Through the years, Mel and Alberta found several ways to make a significant financial impact for the Seminary as they lived out what was important to them. It may have seemed ordinary for them at the time – as a preacher and a teacher – but it has left an extraordinary legacy that is only just beginning.

Eden was an integral part of their estate planning. Annual gifts toward the Evangelical Chair of Biblical Interpretation support faculty. An annuity that offered them monthly sustaining payments also benefited theological education and formation through Eden. Alberta also named Eden as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy. Mel and Alberta's gifts to the seminary will continue to multiply their impact on religious leaders for generations to come.

Eden is giving thanks to God for this preacher and teacher who made an impact in their lives and beyond.



2022 COMMENCEMENT

A global pandemic and significant changes in the Church and world . . .

Transitions to “blended” (in-person and online) teaching and learning with HyFlex participation . . .

All framed the academic experiences of Eden’s Class of 2022.

Congratulations on completing this milestone. Your Eden community celebrates you.



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LIFE INSURANCE AS A CHARITABLE GIFT?

Maybe you have a life insurance policy that is paid up or has been owned long enough to have accumulated considerable cash value. You no longer need that policy for family protection or liquidity for future expenses. A life insurance policy is a great way to leverage your charitable giving to donate a larger amount than you might otherwise have available. Check with your financial advisor for beneficial income tax and estate tax implications too.

It is pretty straight-forward, and very impactful.

Some options:

- For an existing policy, name the organization as your beneficiary or as one of your beneficiaries.
- OR Gift your dividends
- OR Transfer ownership of the policy to the organization
- OR Apply for a new policy with the organization as policy owner and beneficiary (a bit more complex process)

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advancement@eden.edu**