

APPENDIX K

Presbytery of St. Augustine Memorial Resolution The Rev. Benjamin Edger Blumel *1927 – 2019*

Whereas the Rev. Benjamin Edger Blumel was born on May 23, 1927, and completed his baptism in dying and rising with Christ on January 1, 2019; we the Presbytery of St. Augustine do resolve to give thanks to God for Ben's life and faith and witness to God's many blessings with the following memorial:

Ben was born on May 23, 1927, in Middletown New York, the son of Herman F. Blumel, Sr. and Cecilia Seyler-Blumel. Ben grew up in a Presbyterian home and at the age of thirteen became a member of the Scotchtown Presbyterian Church. He attended elementary school in Scotchtown, New York, and graduated from Middletown High School in 1944. Although not claiming any "unusual religious experience" Ben felt God's call on his life and prior to graduating from high school made the decision to become a minister. Ben described himself as, "basically a fundamentalist" who found his religious position challenged when he attended a Presbyterian College in Bloomfield, New Jersey. His religion professor, acting as both a teacher and friend, became one of the important influences on his life, and Ben graduated from Bloomfield College with a Bachelor of Art degree in 1951.

Growing up in the Northeast, Ben did not know many southerners until he moved to attend Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. There, through God's grace, Ben not only came to know many southerners, he even married one. On June 6, 1953, Ben began a life-long adventure of love with Nell Wright of Louisville, Kentucky. Pursuing their call to ministry, Ben continued his studies at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1954.

In 1954 Ben was ordained a Presbyterian minister in Monroe City, Indiana. In 1958 he was awarded the "Rural Pastor of Distinction" by the Presbyterian Church USA. In 1958 he and Nell and family moved to Old Washington, Ohio, and he served as pastor of the Old Washington and Antrim Presbyterian Churches. He represented the Muskingum Presbytery in a five county study sponsored by the Ohio Council of Churches and Ohio State University, which resulted in the foundation of the Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community. He was the Director of the Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community from 1966 to 1969.

As the Blumels put down roots in Ohio, their family grew with the additional blessings of three children, Elizabeth Blumel Hartz, David Blumel and John Blumel.

In 1970 Ben received a Master's Degree in Sociology from Ohio State University and later passed his oral examination for a PhD in Sociology there. One of Ben's personal insights was that he needed to grow in his spiritual life and in his intellectual life, or he would not have anything to offer to other people.

From 1969 to 1974 he was on the staff the Muskingum Presbytery in Ohio. He served in the research division of the Presbyterian Church Support Agency in New York City from 1974 to 1977.

Giving gratitude to God, Ben believed that his faith deepened and matured as he served as a pastor with people in a variety of ministries. In 1977 Ben and Nell moved back to Ohio where he served the Carrollton United Presbyterian and Scroggsfield Presbyterian churches for 15 years, until his retirement in 1992.

In 1992 Ben and Nell retired to Ocala, Florida, where they began attending and participating in the life of Fort King Presbyterian Church. Ben transferred his membership from the Presbytery of Muskingum Valley to the Presbytery of St. Augustine in 1994 and, among other service with this presbytery, Ben served as a stated supply pastor with the McIntosh Presbyterian Church.

In addition to their three surviving children, Ben and Nell have two grandchildren, Simon Hartz and Niels Blumel, residing in New York City.

Now be it resolved that the Presbytery of St. Augustine does remember in love our brother and colleague in ministry Benjamin Edger Blumel, we give thanks for his presence with us, and we praise God for his witness to Christ with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. We ask for blessings on his family, especially Nell Wright Blumel, his life-partner for 66 years, and on the continued impact of their ministry, dedication and witness to faith among all God's people.

To God be the glory on this 9th day of February, during the 2019 Winter Stated Presbytery meeting held at the Highlands United Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, Florida.