



## Rev. Dr. Edwin George Mulder

March 25, 1929 - May 1, 2018

The Rev. Dr. Edwin George Mulder was born in Raymond, Minnesota, on March 25, 1929. He was a history and philosophy major at Central College in Pella, Iowa, where he graduated in 1951 and was later awarded a Doctor of Divinity in 1979 and an Alumni Award in 2001 for his service to the Church and world. He graduated from Western Theological Seminary in 1954, and was awarded that institution's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003. The greatest love of his life was Luella Beth Rozeboom, whom he married in 1952 and with whom had four children: Timothy (Linda), Mary (James), Mark (Melissa) and Betsy (George). They have eight grandchildren: Thomas, Blakely, Isaac, Samuel, Hillary, Maggie, Matthew and Claire; and four step-grandchildren: Lindsay, Ryan, Kelly, and Tracy. Ed was an energetic, competitive and accomplished athlete who loved basketball, softball, pool, tennis, handball and golf. He had a decades-long cribbage competition with Betsy. Although he was honored and trusted as a major figure in global Protestantism in the 20th century, his foundational core was as a pastor. He served the English Neighborhood Reformed Church in Ridgefield NJ, founded the Christ Memorial Reformed Church in Holland MI, and served as pastor at the Marble Collegiate Church in New York and Second Reformed Church in Hackensack NJ. As both Minister of Evangelism and General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America, he energized his denomination by inviting them to tell their stories of faith, "A Story Telling People", and then, dreaming of local mission and outreach, to support "Putting People in Mission", which

raised millions of dollars to assist local congregations in reaching out into their neighborhoods to share God's love and care. Ed was a reluctant but committed and effective prophet. He was reluctant because he never sought conflict and was revered for looking at the situation through the other person's eyes. But when the matter called his heart and soul, he would hold nothing back to work for women's ordination in the RCA, a conclusion of apartheid in South Africa and the Reformed Church there, nuclear disarmament, and most recently inclusion and respect for LGBTQ community within the Church. He did all this work primarily through listening and building relationships. He served as President of the General Synod of RCA, President of the Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics, Chairman of Religion In American Life, and Chairman of U.S. Church Leaders, and on the executive committees of the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. He also served as Interim President of New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He may have retired from professional ministry, but never retired from serving his God and community all of his days. His favorite sermon, preached many times in many places, was about the New Testament character Barnabas, whose name means "the son of encouragement." Ed was the embodiment of affirmation, celebration and encouragement. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. A service to honor the faith and life of Edwin George Mulder will be held at 10:30 am, Saturday, May 12, 2018, in the Sanctuary of Christ Memorial Church, 595 Graafschap Rd., Holland MI 49423. (PLEASE USE ENTRANCE C). Interment will be in Marble Collegiate Church in New York City. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Western Theological Seminary, 101 E 13th St Holland, MI 49423, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, 35 Seminary Place, New Brunswick , NJ 08901, or Hospice of Holland, 270 Hoover Blvd Holland, MI 49423. The Mulder family is being served by the Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th Street, Holland MI 49423.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Dr. Edwin George Mulder*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Ed left an indelible mark on everybody who knew him. He was, without a doubt, the best boss I ever had. I was saddened to read of his passing, but at the same time rejoice for his life and witness to a world in need. Thank you Ed for the memories."*

**Andrew Lee** - June 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Dear Luella and family, My memories of Ed are too numerous to list here because Ed always made my day. I worked for Ed while he was General Secretary and then moved to Marble. I remember fondly when you and Ed visited me in SC when I retired here in 2013 which was so special. Ed always made me feel special and always had time to ask me how things were going in my local Queens church and even preached there on a special occasion. For all that Ed gave to us, I give thanks and appreciation. Mourn not too long that Ed is gone, but rejoice forever that he was."*

**Diane Bethmann** - May 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Dear Luella and your loving family: How fortunate that my membership at Marble Collegiate Church in New York City gave me the opportunity to know you and Ed. You both were a shining light of grace and wisdom through your many years as part of that church family. My sincerest sympathies are with all of you. Christy Brown"*

**Christy Brown** - May 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ *Rev. Dr. Edwin George Mulder*

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**Charlotte Geelhoed** - May 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *"Dear Luella, Tim, Mary, Mark, and Betsy, How lucky was I to have done field education with Ed at Second Reformed (Hackensack, N.J.) in 1976? How lucky was I to have heard great preaching each Sunday, enhanced by those piercing blue eyes connecting with the congregation? How lucky was I to linger around the dining room table on Maple Hill Drive (#356?) every Sunday, after church, to enjoy a sumptuous dinner (prepared by Lu early in the morning) and pick Ed's brain about all things church-related or not? How lucky was I to have had Tim's old bedroom in which to take a "power nap" every Sunday afternoon? How lucky was I to have had Ed's confidence and the freedom to lead Mark and Betsy's youth group with great support from those parents? And how lucky was I that each week ended with me and Ed meeting back at the house to watch that night's episode of Kojak ("Who loves you, Baby?")? I always took pride in saying that I worked with Ed Mulder. Never, ever, did I have to say anything uncomplimentary about him. To me, and to all of us, he really was a prince of the Church. Mary and I send our deepest condolences and prayers to all of you. Mark Convoy, Mary Marcus  
Glen Rock, N.J."*

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**Mark Convoy** - May 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DB

“Ed, you lived a great life here on Earth and are now in God's hands. You made a real difference in the lives of many, many people and you will be long remembered. You fought the good fight, you finished the race, you kept the faith. Thanks for letting your light shine! Blessings to the Mulder family - you should be very proud of Ed - he was what many of us aspire to be.”

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**Dirk Bloemendaal** - May 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CS

“Ed Mulder was the ultimate in serving God. He kept my life going in the right direction. I am so sorry about his passing but his teachings inspiration and understanding will always be in my heart. My love and condolences to the Mulder family.”

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**Carolyn Sielski** - May 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DD

“May the God, who Rev Mulder served, comfort your family at this time. Reverend Mulder has blessed us many Sundays with words from God.”

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**Don and Barb Dykema** - May 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MM

“Dear Mulder Family, I am so sorry to hear of Reverend Mulder's passing. He was a genuine kind man and wonderful listener. He was a great friend to the Hillebrands Family. We loved him. We wish you all peace in this sad time. He will be missed by many. Blessings Myra Hillebrands Muth I am thrilled I got to hug him at De Boers and tell him what impact he had on me and my family members.”

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**Myra Muth** - May 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

UC

“God bless the Mulder family. The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. (Helen Keller) Much love from Unni, May 4, 2018”

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**Unni Cooper** - May 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BO

“I am sorry for your loss God bless all.”

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**Bob** - May 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM