



## Rev. Michael DeVries

June 27, 1935 - May 27, 2017

Rev. Michael DeVries died on May 27, 2017 at the age of 81. He was welcomed into the gracious presence of God and is held secure in the palm of God's hands. He was born on June 27, 1935 to Gerrit and Dieuwke DeVries in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. The DeVries family immigrated to Alberta, Canada in May, 1950.

Michael completed high school in 1954 and enrolled at Calvin College. He prepared for ministry at Calvin Theological Seminary. He continued his studies at Westminster Theological Seminary for his Master's degree. He also did graduate work at the Free University of Amsterdam and received his "doctorandus" degree (Drs.). The pastoral ministry was the joy of his life. Starting in 1962, he served CRC churches in British Columbia, Ontario, California, and Michigan. In 2000 he became pastor emeritus of Pillar Church in Holland, MI. He continued to engage in pastoral work and preaching on a part-time basis in various nearby congregations. Michael was frequently sought after for his inspiring messages. He was passionate about proclaiming Jesus as the boundary-breaking, socially transforming Savior and Lord. Ecumenically minded, he was delighted when Pillar Church became a dual-affiliated congregation of the CRC and RCA. As early as 1973 he started promoting gender equality as well as full participation of women in all the church offices. "Christ is Lord of all," he frequently said. He participated in several CRC denominational committees and was chosen twice to be the president of Synod (1996 and 2000). He co-authored a book entitled Pillar

Church in the Van Raalte Era, second edition (2015). He is preceded in death by his twin sister Tena Bos; his wife Marianne H. Veenstra DeVries; and his brother John DeVries. He is survived by: His loving wife

Patricia Ann Klaasen DeVries, whom he married on September 8, 2007 Son

James (Loray) DeVries Daughters

Catherine (Mark) DeHaan

Jennifer (Mike) LeFebre He will also be dearly missed by Brothers

Joe

Richard (Tina)

Simon

Thomas Sister

Anne (Frank) Koopmans Sisters-in-Law

Ena Miller

Joan (Duane) Starckenburg

Lida Medendorp

Myra (Ray) Tiethof

Beverly Kemme Step-Children

Kerri (Al) Nykamp

Kathy (Steve) Dykstra

Konie (Keith) Walters

Kimberly Klaasen Grandchildren

Michael and Garrit DeVries

Lauren, Jonathan, and Benjamin DeHaan

Nathan and Nicole LeFebre Step-Grandchildren

Bethany (Josh) Franken

Erin (Brandon) Van Groningen

Troy Nykamp

Leah (Mike) Sudborough

Luke (Shannon) Dykstra

Anna (Nick) Rillema

Rachel (Randy) Palmboos

Julie Walters Great-Grandchildren

Drew, Rhys, and Lane Franken

Carter Van Groningen

Colton Rillema many nieces and nephews. Michael was a long-time member of Pillar Church, 57 E 10th St., Holland, where the funeral service will be held at 7:00pm Tuesday, May 30 with Pastor Jon Brown officiating. Burial will be in Pilgrim Home Cemetery. Visiting hours are 5:00-8:00pm Monday, May 29 at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E 16th St., Holland. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michael DeVries Scholarship Fund at Calvin Theological Seminary.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Michael DeVries*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Carrole and I give our sympathy to the whole Devries family for the loss of Michael Devries. We knew him as a Friend and Neighbor, and he was the very best at both. We Celebrate that we can know that he is in Heaven with Jesus Christ and no longer suffering on this Earth. When some people pass away we pray that they have gone to Heaven, with Michael it's a sure thing. He knew it and we knew it. Thank God for his Testimony."*

**Gene** - May 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"To the family and especially my friend Jennifer. You have my deepest sympathy. Your obituary was quite a tribute to a special man who accomplished much ! You were fortunate to have him for many years. I'm sure he will be deeply missed. A friend, Shirley DeBois"*

**Shirley DeBois** - May 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"I am so sorry for the loss of your father. I will be praying for your family during this time."*

**Kristi Takens** - May 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JM

“Remembering a friendly, joyful and wise man. We'll miss him. Our heartfelt condolences. We wish his family and loved ones strength, our prayers are with you.”

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**JC Mikkers** - May 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. Our lives were enriched by knowing Michael as part of our extended family. We have many fond memories of time spent together.”

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**Mary and Dave Staley** - May 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

PO

“We at Eastern Ave. CRC in Grand Rapids were so blessed Sunday after Sunday with his inspiring, practical, soul-filling sermons. His zest in delivery, without any apparent notes, will long be remembered. We truly loved him, and was sad when it was time for him to leave. And so, now it was his time to leave this earth, but he left it so much better. Our deepest sympathy in your great loss and missing of this dear man. Dick and Pat Oostenink, Grand Rapids”

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**Pat Oostenink** - May 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

YZ

“We have great memories of Rev. DeVries from when he was pastor of the Arcadia CRC. He was a kind pastor whose love for the Lord and others was always evident. He was the pastor who married us, almost 40 years ago. May the knowledge that he is with the Lord comfort all who loved him.”

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**Yvonne and Bruce Zegers** - May 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

EV

“I am sorry for your loss, but we know it is Michaels gain. I was the Organist at Harderwyk 8 years, and remember well working with Michael so the Sermon and music " fit together ". Blessings to you, Pat, and to his children and their families. Edna Venlet"

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**Edna Venlet** - May 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RA

“We only knew Michael tangentially as the pastor our parents had for a time. We found his sermons to always be thoughtful and thought provoking. He cared for everyone and was always friendly and welcoming whenever and wherever we would encounter him. We loved his optimism! Our sympathies to family and friends. Please know we appreciated him."

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**Roger and Anne Assink** - May 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BR

“My deepest sympathies to you, Pat. I loved seeing you and Michael as a couple. You brought such joy and love to each other's lives. Not only was Michael a blessing to you, but to all the people he knew, and who knew him. He made a difference for good with his life. Grieving with you, Barb Reilly"

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**Barb Reilly** - May 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BR

“We are so sorry for your loss, but have some peace knowing he is in Heaven with his Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with you."

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**Bryan** - May 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KK

“*Alida and I send our support and sympathies to Pat and the family. Michael meant much to each of us during his time at Pillar. His positive spirit and balanced outlook in life was a true gift to all who knew him. I had the privilege of serving in the council with him for six of the seven years he was our pastor. He was indeed a rare and special gift to the church that he loved and to the world which he worked to transform. Ken and Alida Kuipers*”

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**Ken and Alida Kuipers** - May 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM