

1978

The Grinnell Herald-Register, Th

Newell Davis dies in Omaha



Newell E. Davis

The Rev. Newell E. Davis, 52, former pastor of the Grinnell United Church of Christ—Congregational, died Sunday evening at his home in Omaha, Neb. **Oct. 22**

A memorial service was conducted at First-Central Congregational United Church of Christ in Omaha at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Memorials in the Rev. Mr. Davis's name may be sent to the First-Central Church in Omaha or to the United Church of Christ—Congregational, Grinnell.

A native of Vandalia, Ill., he was born July 7, 1926. He was a graduate of the University of Illinois and received his divinity degree from Vanderbilt University Divinity School in 1952. He did further study at the University of Chicago Divinity School and at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Ordained by the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church in 1952, the Rev. Mr. Davis served a pastorate in Williamstown, Mass., and served as director of the Wesley Foundation at Urbana, Ill., before transferring to the United Church of Christ in 1963.

He was minister of education in the Congregational Church at Winnetka, Ill., from 1963 to 1965. In September 1965, he became pastor of the Grinnell church, serving here until January 1974 when he moved to a pastorate in Longmont, Colo.

The Rev. Mr. Davis was called to the pastorate of the First-Central Congregational Church of Omaha in the summer of 1976. Ill health forced his resignation in July of this year.

He is survived by his wife, Miriam; their daughter, Mirelle, a student at Grinnell College; his mother; a sister; and two brothers.

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service held

A "Service of Celebration for the Life and Spirit of Newell E. Davis," former pastor of the Grinnell United Church of Christ—Congregational, who died Oct. 22, in Omaha, Neb., was held Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the First-Central Congregational United Church of Christ in Omaha. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. David Ruhe, associate minister, a former Grinnell College student.

Several Grinnellians were included in the service. Russelle Jones Leggett of Bettendorf, formerly of Grinnell, sang "Thanks Be to Thee" by Handel. Among the tributes were ones by Roger and Mary Jane Zimmerman who represented the laity in Mr. Davis' ministry. The benediction was by Dennis Haas, chaplain at Grinnell College.

Mr. Davis is survived by his wife, Miriam; their daughter Mirelle, a student at Grinnell College; his mother; a sister and two brothers.

Memorials in Mr. Davis'

name have been established at First-Central Church in Omaha and at the United Church of Christ—Congregational in Grinnell.

Grinnellians and former Grinnellians who attended the service included Mr. and Mrs. William Oelke, Mrs. Lucille Carmen, Mrs. Pearl Fellows, Brian Jones, Melanne Mueller, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Loudon, Mrs. Gordon Loudon, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bethel, Mrs. Roy Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Rodgers Gurira, Dick Poynter, Chris Nielsen, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Denny, Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman, Mrs. Leggett, Mr. Haas and Robert Sheeder of Des Moines.