



Reverend Dr. Vernon Hoecker

July 24, 1912 - October 30, 2009

97, of Indianapolis, passed into Eternal Life on October 30, 2009. Born in Cincinnati on July 24, 1912, he graduated from Bellevue (KY) High School, Elmhurst College (IL) and Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO. He did further studies at the University of Cincinnati. He was ordained to Christian ministry on June 12, 1939 at St. John Evangelical Church in Bellevue, KY. He served Columbia Evangelical and Reformed Church and Matthews E&R Church in Cincinnati, and Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ in Indianapolis. Upon retiring from Zion Church in 1980, he had a number of interim positions at St. Peter's UCC in Carmel, First UCC and Friedens UCC in Indianapolis, and St. John's UCC in Cumberland. At the time of retirement he was honored with a Doctor of Divinity degree from Eden, and was named a Sagamore of the Wabash by Indiana Governor Otis Bowen. On his last day of full work at Zion Church, he received a proclamation of Pastor Vernon Hoecker Day from Mayor William Hudnut. He had received the Legion of Honor from DeMolay International in 1977, and was a 50 year member of the Indianapolis Kiwanis Club. Rev. Hoecker married Ruth Schnake of Cincinnati on June 16, 1943. Ruth and his brother Paul preceded him in death. He is survived by his sons and spouses, David (Susan) of Canton, OH, and Mark (Marge) of Charlotte, NC; and by two grandchildren and spouses, Sarah Sands (Jeff) and Paul Hoecker (Denise). His earthly remains have been cremated and interred at Washington Park East Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ,

416 E. North Street, Indianapolis, on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The family will receive friends in the church parlor after the service. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Zion Evangelical UCC Endowment Fund, Indianapolis, IN, 46202, or to the Dr. Vernon Hoecker Endowment Fund at Eden Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63119. Arrangements are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel. Online condolences may be made at www.shirleybrothers.com.