Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.

The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist Witness* and other news publications. Other resources include books, historical journal articles and church histories that are cited as documentation for the biography.

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Summers, James R. (1941-2020) served as pastor of churches in Tennessee and Florida including Northwest Baptist Church in Miami, 1979-2013. He and his wife Sandra Easterly Summers had three children.





Northwest Baptist Church

Northwest 136th Street October 16, 1960 Homer G. Lindsay, Jr., Pastor

Northwest Baptist Church, Miami, Floridsa was founded as a mission chapel in 1950 by the Allapattah Baptist Church, calling Homer G. Lindsay, Jr. as its first pastor. Pastor Lindsay served the church for seventeen years, experiencing phenomenal growth. The church met in a Quonset for services and outside for Sunday school.

The church then called F. William Chapman as its pastor in 1969 and he served the church for nine years.

In 1972 the Northwest Christian Academy was established as a ministry of the church and maintains an Early Learning and Development Center (18 mos. - 3 years) and a K4-12 grade school.

For a brief period of time between 1978 and 1979, Dr. E. H. Richards was called to be pastor.

James R. Summers was called as pastor in September 1979 and served the church for the next 34 years. Though he would often grin and say he was "just an ole country boy from Tennessee," Pastor Summers was firmly committed to expositional preaching, and he was instrumental in leading the church through the vast social and cultural changes that north Miami would experience over the next three decades. Under his leadership, the church doors were open to all, and as a result, the church truly became reflective of the beautiful, multicultural community growing around it.

Another lasting legacy of Pastor Summers was his focus on the youth, as he was a firm believer that young people are capable of engaging in demanding and even challenging studies of theology, apologetics, worldview studies, and more. Many of the teenagers and college students who studied under his tutelage would continue on to be leaders in churches, schools, and within their communities.

In October 2013, Pastor Summers retired from ministry, and Pastor David L. Chase and Pastor Andrew P. Summers were called to the pulpit to lead the church over the next two years of transition. During this time, the Pastor Search Committee was formed and with much prayer and reverence for the task at hand, they began seeking the Lord's will for the direction of the church. In October of 2015, the committee unanimously nominated Pastor Andrew Summers as the next lead pastor, which was followed by a unanimous confirmation from the deacon board.

Then, in December of 2015 and with 94% of the vote, the congregation voted in resounding fashion to install Pastor Andrew as the next pastor of the Northwest Baptist Church.

MIAMI

Northwest Baptist Church honored ***James R. Summers*** Sept. 19 on his 25th anniversary as pastor. Northwest is a multi-cultural congregation, which represents more than 40 nations, and was founded by Homer G. Lindsay Jr. in 1952. Summers has served the church since 1979 and, according to a news release, led the church during the Mariel boatlift and McDuffie riots. He was feted in a banquet following the morning service.



SUMMERS

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James Ronald Summers

October 22, 1941 – August 31, 2020

Rev. Summers, who many called “Pastor Summers,” served the Lord through full-time ministry for more than 50-years, and he was known by his favorite phrase, “Are you livin’ right?”

His ministry began at the Park Avenue Baptist Church in 1961, after his graduation from Isaac Litton High School in East Nashville (1959). He served for many years as a Minister of Music, then moved on to Chattanooga where he served at the East Ridge Baptist Church. He returned to Park Avenue Baptist for 9 months, and then he felt God’s call to the Pastorate.

During his time as a pastor, he served in two churches – the Mount Prospect Bible Church in the Chicagoland area, and then the Northwest Baptist Church in Miami, Florida, where he served for 34 years.

Pastor Summers retired in 2013 and moved back to his beloved Nashville, TN, where he lived out his last days.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sandra Easterly Summers, and three children: Jamie Summers Salois (Albert Earnest Salois), David Nathan Summers (Lynne Marie Summers), and Andrew Phillip Summers (Stephanie Fox Summers). He was also “Papa” to ten grandchildren – Amy Lynne Summers, Emily Marie Summers, Eleina Lea Summers, Zoe Grace Padgett, Keira Noel Padgett, Sandra Anita Summers, James Perry Summers, Claire Victoria Summers, Kellen Drew Summers, and Juliette Belle Summers.

Reverend Summers impacted the lives of thousands, but the impact he had as a father and as “Papa” is, by far, the greatest legacy he left.
https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/nashville-tn/james-summers-9341555