



## Update: Remembering Ron Elly

### The Rev. Ronald D. Elly's Impact on LUM



This week Lafayette Urban Ministry has lost one of the founders of our ministry — **Ron Elly**. LUM is known in our community for many good things — but few realize it is largely due to the work of the **Reverend Ronald D. Elly**.

Ron was the energy, inspiration, faith, and vision of the formation of Lafayette Urban Ministry 50 years ago.

- Read Ron Elly's entire impact on LUM, [HERE](#).
- Ron Elly's Obituary, [HERE](#).

It all began in 1967 when Ron Elly was called to succeed Rev. Hanstra at Hope Chapel, Lafayette. Ron became the pastor as well as the new director of the **Neighborhood Development Project** — the organization that eventually became LUM. Newly married to Ellen Saint Elly (June 1966), Ron began his ministry in June 1967 with a commitment to blending the spiritual dimension of faith with the social dimensions. By September 1969 NDP included four church members — Hope Chapel, Covenant, Bethany and Faith Presbyterian churches.

In December 1971, the name of the Neighborhood Development Project was changed to Lafayette Urban Ministry and all the assets and liabilities were transferred. In 1972, the Rev. Ron Elly became the first pastor/director of Lafayette Urban Ministry and continued his work. Soon after LUM was officially incorporated as an Indiana Not-For-Profit Corporation on October 16, 1972.

By the time Rev. Ron Elly resigned as the LUM director in October 1977, the LUM Board of Directors had grown to 22 member churches and four paid staff members.

As you can see, the impact of Ron Elly on LUM from 1967 to 1977 cannot be understated. Ron Elly was a remarkable leader with a vision for serving local families in need and the persistence to form and incorporate Lafayette Urban Ministry — an urban ministry with the history, support and conviction to be a presence for many years to come. Read more [HERE](#).

### Elly's Celebration of Life

A celebration of life will be held for Ron Elly on **Friday at 11 a.m. at Bethany Presbyterian Church,**



3305 Longlois Drive, Lafayette, IN, with Revs. Kevin Bowers & Laura Penney Bade officiating.

The family invites guests to wear bright colors. A reception will be held afterward. The family requests memorials be made to the [Lafayette Urban Ministry](#), One Great Hour of Sharing-Presbyterian Church (USA), or to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

### Elly Remembered

**Joe Micon, LUM executive director.**

"LUM has been part of the fabric of our community for so long I think it is hard to conceive of a time that churches were not working so closely together. Ron was the visionary, the first, the one with the special gifts to pull people and churches together to form LUM. Everything that has followed is built upon the foundation that he laid in the 60's and 70's. It would be hard to imagine our community without the good work accomplished everyday by Lafayette Urban Ministry. Ron Elly has left us an incredible legacy."

**James Davidson, retired Purdue professor.**

"Ron Elly was a very righteous man, in the best sense of the word. He understood his faith in ways that called him to gather others around him to do big work that one person, one pastor, one congregation couldn't get done alone. Maybe better, he understood how to get people to go along, because he could convince them that they wanted to be involved, not because they had to. Not everyone knows Ron. But they know LUM, And if they know LUM, they hear the echoes of Ron Elly's name."

**Thomas Hull, former president of Lafayette Urban Ministry.**

"Ron and I go back a long way; to the days when he was the pastor at Hope Chapel. It was in this era that he became the founding director of Lafayette Urban Ministry. Early on, my wife Peggy was active with arts and crafts programs for local children. Over these many years Ron was a good and faithful friend. He officiated at my daughter's wedding; and recently Ron, Don Nead and Ann Pellegrino led my wife's memorial service."

**Read**

"Ron Elly was an ecumenical game changer" by Dave Bangert, Journal & Courier (June 29, 2016), click [HERE](#).

## Bread & Broth Café: Mission Dinner TONIGHT



TONIGHT — Federated Church invites you to attend the Bread & Broth Café - Mission Dinner TONIGHT (June 29) beginning at 6:00 p.m. for dinner & conversation followed by a special presentation by Pastor Camp (2400 Sycamore Lane, West Lafayette).

The Board of Missions at Federated Church is hosting a guest presentation headed up by Pastor Tom Camp from Harvest Chapel along with Stephanie Bauer from Sacred Grounds. They will describe their work in the neighborhood programs in Lafayette for inmates on the reintegration into the community. It is a wonderful example of reaching out to provide help with this often marginalized group in our local community.

All are welcome to attend. For more information call 765-463-5564.

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