

Recipient of the 2022 Robert V. Moss Award for Excellence in Specialized Ministry

The Rev. John F. Dieterly

John Franklin Dieterly, Jr., was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, graduated from Palisades High School in Kintnersville, PA, from Penn State University with a degree in Agricultural Engineering, and from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1969 with a master's degree in Theology.

Rev. Dieterly's first ministry was an appointment by Church World Service to Ghana, West Africa, where he served as the coordinator for the agricultural development programs being carried out by the churches in the northern part of the country. His second ministry was in Belize, Central America, where he was the Country Representative for Heifer International. On his return to the U.S., he continued working for Heifer Project International as the Regional Director in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast area. During that time, he was involved in several short-term training projects in China, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Appalachia and several other locations. He also represented Heifer Project International to AERDO (Association of Evangelical Relief and Development Organizations) and CoDel (Coordination in Development, Inc.), plus major involvement on the Board of Directors of ISA (International Service Agencies, an association of more than 50 International Non-Government Development Organizations) where he served on the membership committee and after several years served one term as board chair. During this time, he also became involved with the Lancaster Seminary Alumni Council, serving one term as chair of the council.

Rev. Dieterly then received a call to become pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Manheim, PA, where he enjoyed eight wonderful years that included significant church growth. During that time, he became involved with the Lancaster County Council of Churches and served a term as Vice President and a term as President of the Council. He also was elected to the Board of Directors of UCC Homes of Central Pennsylvania and served three years as Treasurer.

His last full-time ministry was as pastor of Peace United Church of Christ in Greensboro, NC. During his pastorate, Peace UCC became a major supporter of Heifer International. At the same time, he served on the steering committee of the Greensboro CROP Walk, one of the largest CROP Walks in the nation.

After retirement, Rev. Dieterly served one year as an interim pastor of Monticello UCC in Brown's Summit, NC. He finally had time to write a book about his overseas experiences, which he has self-published. And he was able to return to one of the passions of his youth, playing in a band, first with the Gate City New Horizons Band in Greensboro, NC, and then with the Hendersonville (NC) Community Band. After moving to Carolina Village, he became the part-time Chaplain there, and continues to serve in that capacity.