



## Churches of my membership, beginning with the current and going to the past:

First, let me say that our experience has been that our family has been called to specific churches in the areas where we resided. Our understanding has been that a Body of Christ is intended to be a place where our Christian faith is lived out in one place, as we see illustrated in Biblical descriptions of how God's people always gathered in a central place.

Our church memberships have always been in one church in a locality, and the changing of church memberships have been only when the family moved from city to city. Therefore, we have not experienced sensing that God called us out of one local church to another, then possibly to another. It is not to say that Christians who feel they are moved around to different churches are wrong. It just has not been our experience, and we have felt confidence in what we've had.



[Eagle Mountain International Church](#) Fort Worth, TX 2005 to present

This is the home church to which we felt called to become members, following the conclusion of my professional work in Dallas. Our Senior Pastors are George & Terri Pearsons. Some other dozen Associate Pastors serve on our staff. Both my wife, Suzanne, and I have served several years in the Prayer Leaders group, under Ms. Iva Bennett, the Director of Prayer Ministry. We participate regularly in many activities and volunteer opportunities. This church challenges itself saying it is the Revival Capital of

the World! It's a church of an estimated 2,000 members, with about 1,200 in worship each week. It is the "Mother Church" of the Kenneth Copeland Ministries, a world-wide ministry of great influence for the Kingdom of God. [Here is a roster](#) of it's more than four dozen staff members.



[Highland Park Presbyterian Church,](#)  
[Dallas,](#) TX 1982 - 2005

This is where I was on the church's administrative staff for 22 years. It has been the largest membership church in its Presbyterian denomination at one time, being about 7,200. It's pastor for most of my years there was the Rev. Dr. B. Clayton Bell, who was a brother-in-law of evangelist Billy Graham. When I retired, my work was serving the Rev. Dr. Ronald Scates. This church was in the center of the cultural and prosperous section of Dallas. The 1983 Forbes Magazine published an article about the church and our pastor with it's annual listing of the estimated 400 wealthiest individuals in the United States. It's connection to our church was, at that time, six on the top 14 on its list that year were members of our church.



[Central Presbyterian Church,](#)  
Clayton, Saint Louis County, MO 1972-1982.

We joined this church when we moved to St. Louis to the staff of Covenant Fellow of Presbyterians, which offices lodged in that church facility. My brother-in-law was its Senior Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Andrew A. Jumper. The church membership was about 2,000. During our membership there, I was elected a Deacon and an Elder and was elected to serve as the Clerk of Session for the Elders. [Only three of the current three dozen staff members](#) were there when we moved away in 1982.



**\*Canal Street Presbyterian Church, PCUS, New Orleans, LA 1962-1972**

This church is dear to the hearts of Suzanne and myself, as it is the church of our marriage ceremony, as well as the first church in which we became active, participating and supportive members. The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Robert A. Pitman and my father, the Rev. Mr. Dwight A. Sharpe, conducted our wedding ceremony on September 30, 1962. That church experience covered a whole decade of our lives, and it is where we were members when our three children were born. They all were baptized there by my father, the Rev. Dwight A. Sharpe, also a Presbyterian Pastor. It's the church where I first was elected to leadership in a local church. My election as a Deacon was in October 1962, followed by being elected as an Elder in 1963. While an Elder, I was elected to serve as Clerk of Session. That's a volunteer administrative role wherein you take and certify the minutes of all the meetings of the Board of Elders (called the Session), as well as coordinate the communications and other administrative needs of the Session. It was there that our Associate Pastor's vision to begin a ministry in the inner city of New Orleans that we became involved as volunteers, and subsequently came onto the staff of that newly formed ministry outreach of our church (1970-1972). The other Senior Pastors while we were there are Dr. Matthew McGowan and The Rev. Robert T. Henderson. [Here is a staff roster](#) of the couple of dozen serving currently, none of which were there when we moved away in 1972.

\*Highland Park Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, TX 1959-1962

This was the church to which my father was called when I was in college. They went from Dallas in 1958, and I joined the church for the summer months that I lived there in 1959. Though not present, my church membership remained there till it was transferred to Canal Street Presbyterian Church in 1962.



\*John Knox Presbyterian Church,  
Dallas, TX 1954-1959

This was where my father was Pastor during my teenage years, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade through high school graduation in 1957. My membership remained there while I was in college, till it was transferred in 1959 to the San Antonio church.



First Presbyterian Church,  
Sweetwater, TX 1951-1954

My father was called to this church out in west Texas in the spring of 1951 when I was 12 years old and in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. [Here are the half dozen staff members](#) now serving there now.





\*Trinity Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX  
1951 (there 1949-51)

This is the church where my father was Pastor when I made a commitment for the first time to affirm that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, sent to earth to live for us and died on the cross that we might be saved to everlasting life with God and in Heaven. That was on Sunday, March 18, 1951, which was Palm Sunday, a week prior to Easter celebrations. This church is the same congregation as the Central Park Church below. It's just that the church moved to a larger location and erected a new building.

\*Central Park Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX (there 1941-1949)



This is where my father was Pastor in the east end of Houston, near the ship channel. It is where both of my sisters' weddings were conducted by my father, the Rev. Mr. Dwight A. Sharpe.



[First Presbyterian Church, Ballinger, Runnels County, TX](#) (there 1939-1941)

This is the church where my father was Pastor when I was born June 24, 1939. It is where one of his Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary professors baptized me, Dr. Samuel Joeckel.

#### FOOTNOTES:

*\*No longer exist as such, discontinued or merged*

One thing that can be said about faithfulness to one's local church. To move around from church to church for whatever reason is not what seems what God's Providence would be for most of us. It has been our benefit never to have changed church memberships, except when we moved from one geographical location to another. We have not been eccleasical butterflies!

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