

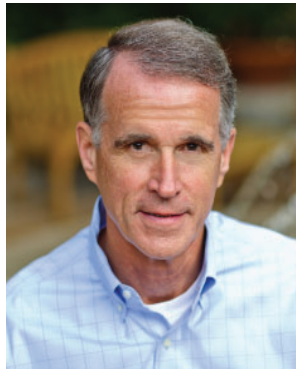
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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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The Reverend Dr. Lawrence W. Johnson Award  
CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR 2022

The Reverend David A. Peterson, MDiv, DMin, DHL



★ Dave Peterson is a second-generation pastor and the first generation to settle in Texas! He was born and raised in Oregon where his father served several congregations. He is a graduate of Lewis and Clark College, received his Master of Divinity at San Francisco Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry at Western Theological Seminary, along with post-graduate study at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Dave has served congregations in Washington State, Nevada and Michigan before accepting the call in 1995 to serve as Senior Pastor of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Houston, retiring in 2013. Within those years, Dave's shepherding of God's people most certainly included wearing the cloak of a Chaplain as he walked the hallways of the local hospitals to offer solace and prayer for the sick and suffering ones who needed to be reminded of God's loving care for them. During his tenure at Memorial Drive Presbyterian, he strongly supported the POP Training and Lay Ministry program taken on by the members of the Church, noting, "I found Reverend Lawrence Johnson's prayerful vision to be a key form of discipleship for those who sacrificed their time every week to visit the sick."

★ In each community Dave and Terri lived and raised their children, he served on many non-profit boards and most recently on the boards of The Souper Bowl of Caring and Loving Houston. Since "retirement" he serves as Director of Community Outreach Programs for The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation. In this capacity, he has continued to support the domestic and international growth of PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (POP). He meets annually with the Executive Director to hear the goals of POP and prays for God's sustaining presence for the sick and suffering through the POP Staff & Ministers.

★ Dave has written daily devotionals for the HEB Family Foundation and served as Interim Pastor at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. Dave frequently speaks at churches and conferences and has written, "Receiving and Giving: Unleashing the Bless Challenge in Your Life." Along with Sam Gainer he co-authored "The World Through Our Eyes," a book of photographs and reflections. Married to Terri since 1969, they have four married children and seven grandchildren. Aptly, one of Dave's reflections, "Using your Easter Words," resonates. Chaplains know the layers of grief that may overwhelm patients and Dave reminds us; we have an eternal hope to offer them...

"Grim statistics. Dark forecasts. Isolation. And these past 6 days of Holy Week have carried on the dark theme. Disappointment. Betrayal. Torture. Death. But wait, today is Easter!! It's time to go into your mental library, get down on your knees with a flashlight, and search out the bottom-shelf-Easter-words that suffer from so much neglect. Dust them off and declare them as life's greatest reality. Even sing them, at the very least in your imagination."

★ God's creation of Dave Peterson is a picture of the brilliance found in God's balance of loving justice and magnificent, gentle mercy! Our sincere congratulations on your Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination.

*"Well Done, good and faithful servant!"* (Matthew 25:23)