



## **Memorial prepared by Rev. James Miller, HR**

January 2019

The Rev. Dr. Robert Clayton Lamar, honorably retired 60-year member of Albany Presbytery, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at St. Peter's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Albany, NY. He was 96 years old, and had lived a life of faith, gratitude, and grace.

Robert C. Lamar was born and raised in the Midwest, but came east to attend Yale College. He began his ministry in Milford, Connecticut while still a student at Yale Divinity School. After receiving his Bachelor of Divinity degree at Yale, he became the Associate Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Stamford, Connecticut. In 1958 he was called to be the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Albany, N.Y. where he served for 35 years until his retirement in 1992. During this span of ministry, he proved to be a very able mentor to half a dozen younger clergy who served with him. He provided strong leadership in Albany Presbytery as Moderator and in many other capacities including guiding the Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church for over thirty years.

During his years in Albany, Bob was a preeminent leader in both ecumenical and interfaith circles, and was instrumental in the formation of the [FOCUS Churches](#). During the turbulent 1960's he played a major role in spearheading church involvement in inner-city ministry including opening interracial dialogue with many of the African American pastors and congregations, as well as ecumenical dialogue with the Roman Catholic community.

Within our Presbyterian denomination Bob served with distinction as Co-Chair of the Committee on Presbyterian Reunion. Through his steady and patient leadership along with that of Randy Taylor of the P.C.U.S., reunion of the northern and southern branches of the Presbyterian Church was finally achieved in 1983. Prior to Reunion, in 1974 Bob was elected Moderator of the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Louisville, Kentucky. He also served as

our denomination's representative in a multi-year dialogue with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Following retirement Bob became the part-time Executive of the [Capital Area Council of Churches](#) and in that capacity continued to be a leading voice in all things ecumenical and interfaith. The many positions he held and recognitions he received are too numerous to mention. Bob was an excellent preacher and community activist, but always with a commitment to listen to other points of view and to build lasting relationships. His personal passion was golf at which he excelled winning the regional Ecumenical Open as well as numerous other contests.

Bob was married to Marion Tietz from 1986 until her death. He is survived by his sister, Patricia Geoffroy; his brother, Stan (Margot); and sister-in-law, Marnie, his four children, Paul (Mark Eamer), Margaret King (Steve), Mark (Michelle), and Jim (late Patty); his stepchildren, Laura Kemner (Ken) and Fred Tietz (Jennifer Hope); as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

**Calling hours:**

Thursday, January 24, 2019

4-7 p.m.

Tebbutt and Frederick Memorial Home  
633 Central Ave., Albany, NY

**Funeral:**

Friday, January 25, 2019

11 a.m.

[First Presbyterian Church of Albany](#)  
362 State St., Albany, NY

For more information [click here to read more about Rev. Dr. Robert C. Lamar](https://albanypresbytery.org/rev-robert-lamar)  
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