

Rev. Dr. Donald R. Rasmussen



Born October 11, 1939 in New York City, Don then lived in upstate New York while in high school and college.

After seminary, his first ministry was at Jackson Street Baptist Church in Scranton PA where he was ordained and served for four years as Minister of Education. In 1968 he and his family moved to Rhode Island where he served as Assistant, then Associate, then Senior Pastor of Phillips Memorial Baptist Church. After 28 years there, on January 1, 1997 he began service as Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. He retired from that position on January 1, 2007. In retirement he works with Natural Church Development®, serves on several boards and committees, does supply preaching, tutors English as a second language, and enjoys RV travel. Don and Ginny have been married since 1961. They have two sons and five grandchildren all living in Rhode Island. In January 2009 he was called back into part time service as interim executive minister for the American Baptist Churches of New York State.

Both he and his wife have served on the General Board of the American Baptist Churches USA and have 14 years of combined experience as members of that board. Don served as chair of the Credentials and Caucus Committee and on the Board of National Ministries on the Finance Committee and on the Social and Ethical Responsibility in Investments Committee which he chaired. He also served three years on the denomination's pension board. As executive minister, Don served on the Regional Executive Ministers Council as secretary/treasurer and on the General Executive Council of the denomination.

During his time serving Rhode Island Baptists, Don instituted an Elder Care Ministry program with a full time director; moved the means of communication to electronic information, reorganized and merged the denomination and camp staffs; built a new office facility, developed an overnight retreat center for pastors; began a "missionary in residence" program and increased volunteer help seven fold. He believes that his greatest accomplishment in ministry is the eleven members of Phillips Memorial that entered professional ministry during his tenure as pastor.

Education:

- Bachelor of Arts from Houghton College (1961)
- Master of Divinity from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (1964)
- Master of Science in counselor education from University of Scranton (1967)
- Doctor of Ministry with honors from Andover Newton Theological School. (1974)

