

Program

Welcome—The Rev. Steve Hickle, President,
NC Council of Churches Governing Board

Blessing of the Meal — Rabbi Lucy Dinner, Senior Rabbi,
Temple Beth Or

Lunch

**Celebrating George's Leadership with Remarks by
Representatives of:**

Elected Leaders—Jennifer Weiss, Former Representative,
NC General Assembly

Judicatory Leaders—Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, NC Conference,
United Methodist Church

Partner Organizations—Chris Fitzsimon, Director,
Policy Watch, NC Justice Center

Governing Board—The Rev. Joseph Brown,
Presiding Elder, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Faith Community—The Rev. Nancy Petty, Pastor,
Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

Staff—Aleta Payne, Deputy Executive Director,
NC Council of Churches

Friends — Steve Smith, Longtime Friend and
Sunday School Class Co-Leader

Family—Joe Reed, Son

Presentations—Steve Hickle

Words from George

Benediction Hymn – Led by the Rev. Charles Smith and
the Rev. Rose Gurkin

God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious
flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for Thy salvation, be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving Thee whom we adore,
Serving Thee whom we adore.

Excerpts from Book of Letters:

If I were to ask a cross-section of North Carolinians “What are the values of the North Carolina Council of Churches?”, many would be able to tell me. If I were to ask these same people “Who is the executive director of the Council of Churches?”, most would not be able to give a name. That is because your leadership has been one of vision and not one of ego.

You will probably flunk retirement, and that is a good thing for the Church. Your gifts are packaged with such grace and balance. Methinks the Lord is not through with you yet. -- **F. Belton Joyner, Jr.**

It was a hard job and you did it well. And that's that. -- **Jack McKinney**

I much appreciate the thoughtful, realistic, and positive approach you bring to organizing. Among many other fine qualities, you do the work with forthrightness and humor. – **Christina Cowger**

Excerpted from *Blessed Are You* by Sister Evelyn Mattern

If you hunger and thirst for justice,
your longing does not allow you
to settle for half a loaf.

You are satisfied
only as you bake the bread, eat God;
in the desert,
you distinguish the mirage,
keep walking toward real water, wine.

If you are merciful,
you live in the Body that we all are,
entangled with every creature
who shares its flesh and blood and spirit.

Since you know no "other,"
you judge not and claim no dominion,
but live in mercy,
unconstricted,
light in being.

You sing the song of community.



Our thanks to:

Highland United Methodist Church
The Irregardless Café
All of today's volunteers

Retirement Luncheon to Honor The Rev. J. George Reed



Highland United Methodist Church
1901 Ridge Road
Raleigh, North Carolina
June 2, 2015
Noon