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BISHOP THEOPHILUS JOHN HERTER 1913 - 1987

Bishop Theophilus John Herter, Presiding Bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church for twelve years and long time Professor of New Testament at the Reformed Episcopal Seminary, died on the evening of June 2, 1987 of complications following heart bypass surgery. He was 73 years old.

Bishop Herter was the son of missionary parents, beginning his life in Turkey. Coming to this country, he earned both his B.A. and M.A. from Haverford College, and then his B.D. from the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Episcopal Church in 1943.

Herter was ordained Deacon in our church on February 16, 1943 and Presbyter, November 29, 1944. He served as Rector of St. Matthew's Reformed Episcopal Church in Havertown, PA and served there seventeen years. During that time he also taught at the Seminary, in a career that spanned 36 years. He served as Professor of New Testament for the last 21 years of his tenure.

During that time, he had conferred upon him the degree Doctor of Theology degree in New Testament studies from Westminster

Theological Seminary. His thesis was entitled **The Abrahamic Covenant in the Gospels**. It was for some time in print from the Mack Publishing Company.

On June 15, 1966 he was consecrated Bishop in our church, having been elected Assistant Bishop

Church elected him Presiding Bishop in May of 1975.

Bishop Herter retired from teaching in June, 1984 and was awarded the title Professor of New Testament, Emeritus. He continued to serve the Seminary after his retirement as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Bishop Herter had entered the hospital just prior to the beginning of the 45th General Council, and entered the Lord's presence on June 2nd after the surgery several days before.

At his funeral service, held on what would have been his 74th birthday in Christ Memorial Church, Philadelphia, Bishop Herter was remembered by two friends, the Rev'd. John Morton representing the clergy of the church, and the Rev'd. Dr. Milton C. Fisher, Professor of Old Testament at R.E. Seminary representing the faculty of the

Seminary. Dr. Fisher mentioned in his testimonial how they would often travel to Seminary together and then said, "I travel alone now." He also said that there was coming a day when they would be reunited in sweet fellowship, "without the strains of traffic."

Reading the Scriptures at the service were the Rev'd. Howard
cont. p. 2



*Bishop Theophilus John Herter
Presiding Bishop, 1975-1987*

of the New York and Philadelphia Synod. In 1972, he succeeded Bishop Howard David Higgins as Bishop of the New York and Philadelphia Synod. The General Council of the Reformed Episcopal

Editorial

Herter, from p. 1

J. Miekley, the Rev'd. Samuel M. Forster, and the Bishop's son Philip, and prayers were offered by Bishop Leonard W. Riches. Bishop Daniel Cox brought the meditation, a comforting address of assurance and joy directed to the family. Bishop Cox also exhorted those present not to forget the Herter family after the service, but to continue in prayer and ministry for them.

After the benediction was offered by Bishop William H.S. Jerdan, Presiding Bishop of the church, and to the strains of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", the casket was removed from Christ Memorial Church. Without printed instructions or signal, the congregation rose in silence as a sign of the respect and esteem so widely held for Bishop Herter.

The Herter family has asked that memorial gifts be sent to the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Episcopal Church, 4225 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.
