

Robert E. Wilson

Biographical Information



Vice Moderator Robert Wilson of Huntsville, Ala. Photo by Danny Bolin.

Vice Moderator of the 217th General Assembly (2006) The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Robert E. "Bob" Wilson was born January 23, 1939, in Gastonia, NC. He received his education at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School and Highland High School. In 1954 he earned the BSA Eagle Rank and in 1956 he was mayor of the student government. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical (A & T) State University, Greensboro, N.C., 1960. He continued his studies at the Florida Institute of Technology in Professional Management.

Among his former work assignments with the Department of Army: Project Engineer, Dover, N.J., 1961-1970; Munitions Engineer, Joliet, Ill., 1971-1973; Supervisory General Engineer, at Rock Island, Ill., 1974-1976; at Lexington, Ky., 1977-1991; and at Huntsville, Ala., 1992-1994. His management style caused him to receive numerous honorary and monetary awards. Believe it or not Bob became a movie star in a movie titled "Maintainability of Nuclear Warhead Sections" that won an award in an industrial competition in 1968. Bob retired in 1994.

Bob was raised a Christian at Pleasant Ridge AME Zion Church.

As a teenager Bob was appointed Assistant Superintendent, Sunday school and President, Men's Organization. He became a Presbyterian in 1963, ordained an elder in 1964 and ordained a deacon in 1985. Bob is an elder at Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Ala., where he chaired the Christian Education Committee; Past President of Presbyterian Men; serves on the staff of the Fellowship After School Study and Tutorial program and in 2000 he was a member of the Rev. John Herndon's Moderator Candidacy Team. He has been Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President and President, North Alabama Presbytery Men's Council who presented him with the Churchman of the Year Award. He was the Logistics Committee Chair for National Council of Presbyterian Men (NCPM) Assembly '91, Black Men Representative on the NCPM Executive Board and President, NCPM, 2001-2003.



The Rev. Joan S. Gray, newly-elected moderator of the 217th General Assembly, joins her nominee for vice moderator, Elder Robert Wilson. Photo by Danny Bolin.

Bob is active in the community with Boy Scouts of America, Assistant Secretary, Morning Star Lodge #50, the UAH Academy for Lifetime Learning Board of Directors; and AARP's 55 ALIVE Driver Safety Program. He was inducted into the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame as an Honorary Member in 2004.

Bob was confirmed as Vice Moderator, 217th General Assembly, PC(USA) in June 2006 and will serve for two years with the Rev. Joan Gray, Greater Atlanta Presbytery, as Moderator.

Bob is married to Dr. Patricia Isles Wilson, Retired Professor, Alabama A&M University. They have one son and four grandchildren. The Wilsons reside in Madison, Ala.

Service to the Church

Local Congregations

- Ironia Presbyterian Church, Ironia, New Jersey, Elder
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Joliet, Illinois, Deacon
- First Presbyterian Church, Davenport, Iowa, Elder
- First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Kentucky, Elder
- Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Alabama, Elder

Presbytery

Transylvania Presbytery

- Committee on Representation
- Representative to National Council of Presbyterian Men

North Alabama Presbytery

- Member of Executive Presbyter Search Committee
- Presbytery Nominating Committee
- President, Presbytery Presbyterian Men

Synod and General Assembly

- Commissioner to Synod from Transylvania Presbytery
- Synod representative, National Council of Presbyterian Men
- President, National Council of Presbyterian Men
- Attended 212th, 213th, 214th General Assemblies

Educational and professional

- BS in Mechanical Engineering, N.C. Agricultural and Technical University, 1956-1960
- Graduate study, Florida Institute of Technology
- Professional Management, 1974-1977
- Retired after 34 years as a Mechanical Engineer with the U.S. government in New Jersey, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Alabama

Community service

- Board of Directors, Academy for Lifelong Learning, University of Alabama, Huntsville
- Driver Safety Instructor/Assistant State Coordinator, AARP
- Tutor/Mentor, After School Tutoring Program

Recognitions

- Alabama Senior Citizen's Hall of Fame, Honorable Member, 2004
- Church Man of the Year, North Alabama Presbytery, 2001

Personal and family

- Born 1939 in Gastonia, North Carolina
- Married 1961 to Patricia I. Wilson, Ed.D., one child, four grandchildren