



THE 49TH ANNUAL SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE

ON THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHURCHES

THE ACKERMAN CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Rev. Hubert G. Locke, the co-founder of the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, has died at the age of 84 in Seattle. Locke was a man of faith, compassion, and vision who put his beliefs into action. He was a civil rights activist and champion for justice who was committed to serving his community.

In 1970, he and Dr. Franklin Littell co-founded the Annual Scholars' Conference because, in his own words, "If there is any hope for the world, it lies in recognizing and acknowledging our capacity as human creatures to wreak havoc and destruction on one another."

Dr. Michael Berenbaum, the director of Sigi Ziering Institute Professor of Jewish Studies at the American Jewish University, noted, "His work on Christian-Jewish relations and of the German Church Struggle and the Holocaust was not only pioneering but inspiring."

Dr. Marcia Littell, Franklin Littell's widow and immediate past president of the conference, said Locke had been a steady presence in the preparation and planning for the conference.

"For the past forty-eight years, Hubert Locke has been our point on the compass," she said.

Dr. Hank Knight, director of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College and long-time friend of Locke, admired how Locke embodied integrity, grace, and wisdom.

"The Annual Scholars' Conference was blessed by his vision and the depth of his humanity," he said.

Dr. David Patterson, the Hillel A. Feinberg Chair in Holocaust Studies at UT Dallas, counts him amongst his teachers "whose courage and humility were exceeded only by his profound wisdom."

The Annual Scholars' Conference found a permanent home in 2018 at The University of Texas at Dallas. Locke said he was exceptionally pleased with the new venue. He particularly enjoyed the diversity of UT Dallas, as well as the conference attendees and presenters at the 48th Annual Conference in March 2018. He joked with Dr. Nils Roemer, the director of UT Dallas' Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, that Roemer should work on increasing diversity after a presentation from a small panel that had united Middle Eastern, Indian, and Latin American young scholars.

Locke had a remarkable academic career. In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in Latin and Greek from Wayne State University (1955), he earned a bachelor's degree in divinity from the University of Chicago (1959), and a master's degree in comparative literature from the University of Michigan (1961). At the University of Washington, Locke was a professor of public affairs and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He later was appointed vice provost for academic affairs and, subsequently, dean of the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

In recognition of his many accomplishments, Locke received honorary doctoral degrees from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, the University of Bridgeport, Richard Stockton College, Payne Theological Seminary of Wilberforce University, University of Akron, and the Chicago Theological Seminary.

His numerous publications on the Holocaust, the Civil Rights Movement, human rights, and other subjects clearly illustrate how, for him, the study of the Holocaust remained highly relevant to contemporary issues.

“It is against this constant lurch toward national hubris that the Holocaust stands as an eternal reminder of the enormous chasm that emerged in one Western society,” he said.

For Locke, Holocaust education is an exercise in moral education that concerns one of the greatest questions of the twenty-first century.

“Simply put, the question asks what the conditions or circumstances are under which human life is expendable,” he wrote.

[Gifts can be made in his memory to the Annual Scholars' Conference](#), which he held dear in his heart.

Ackerman
Center for Holocaust Studies


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