

THE VALERIA MCCULLOUGH MURPHEY AWARD

WILLIAM HERBERT HURDLE

1984-2015

- WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor William Herbert Hurdle began his formal association with Wesleyan College in 1984 when he became the Executive Director of the Georgia United Methodist Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry, thus bringing him in direct contact with the Wesleyan Community; and
- WHEREAS, He continued that association in many capacities for three decades, including as a Wesleyan College Trustee for more than 31 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has held many positions of responsibility in his association with the College; and
- WHEREAS, In 1998, having retired from active ministry in the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church, he accepted the call to become part-time campus Chaplain and thus began a career with positions and titles he never anticipated; and
- WHEREAS, He even served as Vice President for Student Affairs (formerly known as Dean of Women), one of those positions he never anticipated; and
- WHEREAS, He from the beginning assumed the role of teacher, advocate, counselor, and friend; and
- WHEREAS, He was the leader of spiritual life on campus, organizing Chapel services, the Baccalaureate Service, the Marker Ceremony, and other spiritual celebrations for all faiths; and
- WHEREAS, He established the Wesleyan Disciples program, an interdenominational, interracial, and international program for students committed to spiritual growth through Bible study and service to others; and
- WHEREAS, He had the love and respect of Wesleyan students, which resulted in naming him Staff Member of the Year, in dedicating STUNT to him, and in featuring him in the Men of Wesleyan calendars; and
- WHEREAS, He was especially honored when the students named The Hurdle Café in the remodeled Olive Swann Porter Building for him; and
- WHEREAS, He was further honored when more than 30 Wesleyannes chose him to perform their wedding ceremonies; and
- WHEREAS, He served all with friendly greetings, birthday cards, hugs, a listening ear, his presence at all student events, and always with wise advice to “Love for the Sheer Joy of Loving;” and
- WHEREAS, He planted and nurtured the seed to have a Chapel on campus where the Wesleyan Community could worship, which has blossomed into Pierce Chapel where his portrait now hangs; and
- WHEREAS, His presence on campus made Wesleyan a richer place; and
- BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Wesleyan College Alumnae Association meeting this Eighteenth Day of April, Two Thousand Fifteen, does hereby bestow upon William Herbert Hurdle the Valeria McCullough Murphey Award in recognition of his outstanding, enduring, and unstinting contributions to the alumnae of Wesleyan College.