

Dr. John W. Dowdy, Jr. Memorial Library

Pastor, professor, and convention worker John W. Dowdy, Jr. left part of his enormous library as a legacy for the pastors and laypeople of Concord Baptist Association. Throughout his life, he shared his books with students, ministers, and laypeople.

After his death, his wife Joycelyn chose to continue John's legacy of sharing. John had already shared thousands of books when the couple downsized in 2014. He donated hundreds of books to the Missouri River Regional Library in Jefferson City, more than a thousand to Southwest Baptist University, and many to family and friends. Joycelyn gave to the association all the books John had kept after downsizing. Volunteers sorted, cataloged, and shelved them all. Joycelyn and daughter Barbara thank all who had a part in making this library legacy a reality.

Retired Director of Missions Paul Branstetter, pastors, and friends of Concord Baptist Association also have donated additional books to the library. Staff and donors invite you to use this excellent resource.

A life lived for Christ: John W. Dowdy, Jr. 1935-2015

The oldest son of John and Floy Dowdy, John followed in his father's footsteps. John Dowdy served as a pastor, a seminary professor, and as president of Southwest Baptist College. John and Joycelyn met at Southwest Baptist and married after graduation from Southwest Missouri State University in 1956. Both continued their education at the University of Missouri at Columbia. John in history and Joycelyn in education. She completed a master's degree. The couple has two daughters, Barbara Annette and Gina Marie.



Education

Licensed to the ministry at 16 years old, John was ordained at First Baptist Church in Cedar City in 1956. He served as pastor of First Baptist of Cedar City in 1956. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at Missouri Baptist Theological Seminary in 1962 and a Doctor of Ministry degree at MBTS in 1974.

Ministry

A pastor for 19 years, John served at First Baptist in Cedar City, First Baptist in Maysville, and Tabernacle Baptist in Kansas City, MO. For three years he developed community outreach and strategic planning for 120 Kansas City area churches. He was an adjunct professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he supervised doctoral candidates' fieldwork.

John served with the Missouri Baptist Convention for 23 years in a variety of capacities — as director of community missions, in chaplaincy and resort ministries, as missions department director, as missions/evangelism division director, and as the strategic implementation consultant to the MBC Executive Board and the MBC executive director.

For 40 years, he taught two levels of supervision in six states. He assisted individual congregations and groups of churches with strategic planning, receiving an award from the Southern Baptist Convention for his leadership.

The Dr. John W. Dowdy, Jr. Memorial Library is housed in the chapel of the Concord Baptist Association office building,
804 Fairmount Boulevard, Jefferson City, MO.

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.
Psalm 119:105**