



## Mr. James Clinton Suggs

November 1, 1932 - July 6, 2022

Mr. James C. Suggs, husband, father, grandfather, and church leader passed away on July 6, 2022. He was 89. Born on November 1, 1932, in Electra, Texas. Jim grew up in the East Texas oil fields near Henderson, Texas. He was a gifted student journalist who graduated from Gaston High School in 1950. As part of a family that was active in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Jim attended TCU, majoring in Religion and Journalism.

Jim earned a Bachelor of Divinity at Brite Divinity School in 1958 and embarked on a long and prestigious career serving the church and people that he loved. During his work life, Jim served as the Director of the Office of Communications for the CC(DOC) (1962-1968), Managing Editor of "The Christian" (1968-1969), Associate Regional Minister of the CC(DOC) in the Southwest (1969-1973), President of Christian Church Services of the CC(DOC) (1973-1978), Executive Director of the Texas Conference of Churches (1978-1982), Regional Minister of the CC(DOC) in the Southwest (1982-1989), and President of the Christian Board of Publication (1989-1997).

Jim met Mary Lynell Burgess in the third grade. They fell in love in high school and married after Lynell finished a degree at North Texas State University in 1953. Jim and Lynell had two children, Laura and James Dale. The family spent a part of their summers exploring historical and natural sites all over the United States. A favorite destination was Colorado. Lynell died suddenly in

1982.

While serving as the Director of the Texas Conference of Churches in Austin, Jim met the talented Gail Moore. Jim and Gail married in 1983 and enjoyed life's adventures for the next 39 years. Jim and Gail resided in Carlsbad, CA, Austin, TX and Lake City, CO during retirement. As Jim grew older, he adored hearing about the adventures of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Lottie Mae Suggs; and wife, Lynell Burgess Suggs.

He is survived by his wife, Gail Moore Suggs; daughter, Laura Keal (Brad); son, James Dale (Shelly); grandchildren, Amy, Julia, Molly, Grace and Jessica; great-grandchildren, Kaelynn, Ava, Marlee, Natalie, Eli and Amelia. He is survived by many loving members of Gail's family as well.

A brief Graveside Service will take place at Lakewood Memorial Park in Henderson, TX, on Tuesday, July 19, at 11:00 AM under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home of Henderson.

A "Celebration of Life" Memorial Service will take place at Shepherd Hills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Austin, TX, on Sunday, July 31 at 2:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, Jim's family suggests that if you wish to honor Jim's life with a gift or donation, it can be made to Texas Christian University, TCU. Advancement, Lynell Burgess Suggs Memorial Scholarship Fund, TCU Box 297044, Ft. Worth, TX 76129.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at [www.crawfordacrim.com](http://www.crawfordacrim.com).



# Previous Events

## Graveside

JUL 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

Lakewood Memorial Park  
Hwy 64 & 323  
Henderson, TX 75652

## Celebration of Life

JUL 31. 2:00 PM (CT)

Shepherd of the Hills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
6909 W Courtyard Drive  
Austin, TX 78730

# Tribute Wall



“ *The obituary that Chalice Press posted on-line was a touching tribute to Dr. James Suggs and his impact on the Disciples of Christ. But it omitted one crucial aspect of his service to the Church. At least it was personally crucial: he was Dean of Brite Divinity School while I was a seminarian there, in the 1970s. He and then-assistant dean Dr. D. Newell Williams, now President of Brite, served as good leaders of TCU's seminary and both had influence on my concept of and career in ministry. Rest in Peace, Dr. Suggs. .*

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**Glen Graham** - July 21, 2022 at 01:13 PM



Kenneth Kennon

“ *I have many great memories of Jim Suggs. What a guy! Full of integrity and faith. My favorite was when I as fasting on the TCU Chapel Steps asking TCU Board to disinvest in South Africa because of apartheid years ago. He was one of only a very few Disciple leaders to show up to spend time with me on those steps. A memorable friend. (And, now his son is pastor of First Christian Church in Granbury, TX., which I served as a student minister way back 1957-59 while at TCU.) Thanks. You will be long honored, Jim and much missed by all those lives you touched with good.*

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**Kenneth Kennon** - July 15, 2022 at 06:20 PM

MR

“ I met the entire Suggs family when Dale was Senior minister at Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla California. The devotion that the Suggs family had for each other and the church was undeniable. Yes, Dale, I am over 60 but the impact that you and your Dad had on me has transcended to my children and grandchildren.

As a life long Discipline of Christ and a graduate of TCU, the Suggs family is a part of my history.

Thank you for your devotion. May peace be with you.

Marion Ripley

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Marion Ripley - July 15, 2022 at 03:46 PM

RH

“ I join the many who are surrounding the Suggs family with care and prayer during this season of grief. I met Dr. Suggs when I first moved to Fort Worth in 1987 and was called to serve as the part-time Regional Youth Minister for CCSW and the part-time Trinity Brazos Area Youth Minister. The old office buildings in Lubbock made for creative office space and many memories with wonderful staff. I'm grateful I had the experience of my first years in ministry with Dr. Suggs. Those years were influential in my now serving the church as a Regional Minister. May God's spirit of comfort and peace be upon the Suggs family and may the memories bring much joy! Rev. Pamela Holt & Randy Holt

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Rev. Pamela G. Holt - July 15, 2022 at 07:26 AM

TL

*At one of the General Assemblies in the '90's. I was looking through the book tables when a kindly man wearing a Christian Board apron and nametag came by. Growing up a Disciple in Texas, I knew the name Suggs but wasn't sure if I was talking to the the seminary professor Suggs, or the Southwest Region Suggs. He smiled and said I was thinking of his brother Jack at Brite; he was Jim and had served the Region but now he was with Christian Board. I was awed that the president of the Christian Board was out on the floor mingling with the clergy. And then looking at my nametag with a wrinkled brow, he said something to me that awed me more. "Van Laningham. I know that name. I had a journalism class at TCU with a professor Van Laningham." Until that moment I had never met anyone who ever knew my dad professionally! He and my mother had met as journalism graduate students at the University of Missouri, married, and moved back to her home in Texas where I was born. For a brief time my dad taught journalism classes at TCU and Texas Wesleyan, but the marriage did not last, and he moved out of state never to teach again. Dr. Suggs was kind to remember him and share his recollections of my dad from the early 50's. I have always been grateful to Jim Suggs for that one-time encounter and the gift he gave me.*

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**Tom Van Laningham** - July 15, 2022 at 06:37 PM

TD

*I was acquainted with the Suggs name when I first came to Brite Divinity school in 1988. Mainly, my acquaintance was with M. Jack Suggs the Dean of the Divinity school. M. Jack was also a professor teaching the Nature of the Christian Church. He made us aware of his brother, James, especially as he took over leadership of the Christian Board of Publication. James along with Colby Cartwright kept us well appraised of the progress of the Chalice Hymnal and actually invited our input on its contents. The quality of the hymnal and the process used are both a tribute to his leadership. It is still in use some 30 years after publication ! I thank God for his leadership. -- Rev. Timothy Dice, West Point, Virginia*

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**Timothy Dice** - July 18, 2022 at 05:16 PM