

## ~ The Reverend Doctor Doak M Mansfield

I am a native of Fayetteville, TN. My heritage is English, Scot, Irish, Welsh, and a bit of Viking (Sweden-Denmark). I grew up in a rural area of south-central Tennessee along the Alabama Stateline. Daddy was a WWII veteran and share-crop farmer. Mother was a Manhattan Project (Oak Ridge, TN) employee, home maker, and factory seamstress. I have a younger sister, retired banker (Vice-President).

I attended the public schools in my home county and am a graduate of Martin College, Pulaski, TN (1968) and Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN (1970). My ministerial education is from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC and I earned my *Masters of Divinity* degree (1976) from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. I choose my birthday, November 28, for my ordination and was granted full Fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist Association, in 1980.

Devoted to the moral, ethical, mystical leadership of Jesus of Nazarene I strive to be radically tolerant. *For me hate is the only deviancy*. Still working on dealing with that without participating in it. I do not adhere to the creeds or recognize the religious/spiritual imperialism of Orthodox Christianity. My watchword is, "Behavior not Confessional". A bit pompous? I hope not. I seek clarity.

I resist condemning others' faith. I'm comfortable with reasoned dissent and peaceful resistance to evil. I find inspiration in the traditions of mystical Celtic Christianity. Mystical humanism suits me. My faithing sources are mongrel in nature.

I have an online *Facebook* ministry and becoming more proficient in digital technology. My "Writing-as-Ministry" effort is expanding and also my graphic art ministry. I've a forthcoming comic book, *Introducing Friar Tuck*, for 8–14-year-olds. A venerable US magazine, *The Universalist Herald* just invited me to be their cartoonist. My offering will be a serial, "*Sayings of Frair Doke, Order of Free Christians*".

I completed 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education and am a graduate of the US ARMY Chaplaincy School; my service was as a US Army Reserve Chaplain - Field Artillery BN and Field Hospital Unit for 8 years. I was a Hospital (Bethesda Cincinnati) Part-Time Staff Chaplain for 6 years and a Hospice Chaplain (Huntsville, AL) for 4 years.

I was blessed with a successful heart transplant June 21, 2010 at Ochsner Medical Center New Orleans, LA. Recovery was tricky but successful. I am vigilant about my health, all aspects.

I have been an unsuccessful public-school teacher (Franklin County, TN) and a successful college administrator (Director of Admissions & Housing at Martin College). My work with the public began when I was twelve years old.

My ministry includes two years as a student minister with the Sudley United Methodist Church near Manassas,

VA. Seminary studies changed me to a dissenter! As a spiritual seeker I was called to be a Unitarian Universalist in 1974. I have come to understand myself as an intrepid (caricaturized that by friend) spiritual Pilgrim. After my official withdrawal from the UMC I sought a pulpit and was called by the Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church in Cincinnati and served them for a nearly decade. I was honored to lay the cornerstone for their new facility in 1984. I am now Minister Emeritus there.

I was then selected by the UUA as Extension Minister to serve the Unitarian Universalist Church of Huntsville, AL, near my birthplace. After five years they called me full time and I served for another ten years. Heart issues were revealed in 1992 and after treatment and rehab I was pronounced recovered, I thought I had had a full recovery. I hadn't. I was then part-time with Our Home UU Church in Ellisville, MS (near Laurel) for six months.

A series of heart attacks after relocation to Laurel, MS resulted in the implant of a reliable pacemaker/defibrillator for nine years. A successful emergency heart transplant, June 23, 2010 was required. I was able to resume my work after 8 months and was called to Red Hill Universalist Church Clinton, NC, 20 months. Then I went to the UU Church of Tampa, FL for a two-year term as their interim minister. That successfully concluded, I was called and served three years with the Community UU Church of Pasco, WA which concluded in Summer of 2018. Peggy's health began significantly failing and we wanted to be closer to home in Laurel MS. Relocating across the country, I was called to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Valparaiso, FL, 2018-2020. My Pegs died while we were there. Broken and completely exhausted I retired, June 2020.

Through help, I was able to resume good health and return to my vocation. I “un-retired” and became half-time at The UU Fellowship of Sussex Co, Newton, NJ. March 1, 2023. I subsequently added a half-time commuter ministry (long weekends) with the Mattituck UU Society in Woodbury, CT (meeting in Southbury, CT) July 1, 2024. MUUS is two and a half hours away.

I’ve written of five books; two historical fictions; Mockingbird’s Ballad, Jones of Old Lincoln, and one non-fiction An Irreverent Guide to Spirituality. They are only available as used. Recent books; Kin-dom Spirituality and The Kin-dom Option, contains an autobiographical sketch and a concise introduction to an unorthodox theology. They are available online. The books have received gratifying reviews. Over my years I have had many articles, columns, and had events covered by the media. I am a portrait artist, caricaturist, old movie fan, and participate in fitness activities. I follow the Cincinnati Reds in baseball, the Cincinnati Bengals, The University of Alabama football, and the Mansfield Town FC Stags, of course! But in truth I prefer baseball.

My oldest son, Amos, is a proud graduate of University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. My Adam is deceased, January 29, 2024. I’m “Gran” to five grand-ones, all teen-agers - one girl & four boys). A widower, Pegs died, Feb 23, 2020.

I’m an active, as distance will allow, Associate Member of the General Assembly of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. I participated in the 2024 Annual Meeting and will in 2025.