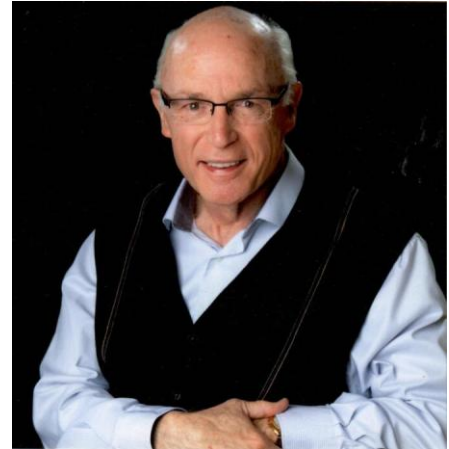


Rev. Mark Bolender

January 21, 1949 – May 19, 2023

Mark's parents, Gordon and Doris Bolender, were missionaries in Nigeria, where Mark was born on January 21, 1949, and spent the first ten years of his life.

Upon returning from Nigeria, the Bolender family settled in Kitchener, Ontario. As a young man, he began to sense the call of God on his life to become a pastor, and he attended Emmanuel Bible College in Kitchener Ontario, graduating in 1972.



Mark and Karen will always be grateful for the privilege of growing up in a loving church family at Bethany Evangelical Missionary Church in Kitchener, Ontario, and for the privilege of pastoring Lincoln Heights EMC with Dr. Thomas E. Dow in Waterloo Ontario, Banfield Memorial EMC with Dr. Alfred Reese in Willowdale, Ontario, Country Hills EMC in Kitchener, Ontario and the Hillcrest EMC in Medicine Hat, Alberta. The prayer support and the friendships from these congregations have lasted until today.

Mark served in various denominational roles and committees and was elected President of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada in 1997, and he served until 2002. His travels took him to visit churches in Mexico, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Quebec, Spain, Portugal and Nigeria. After 42 years, he retired from full-time ministry in 2014, and was honored to be named "Pastor Emeritus" of Hillcrest Church.

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