

MEADVILLE LOMBARD

theological school

NEWS

Contact:

Tina Porter

tporter@meadville.edu

(773) 256-3000 ext. 236

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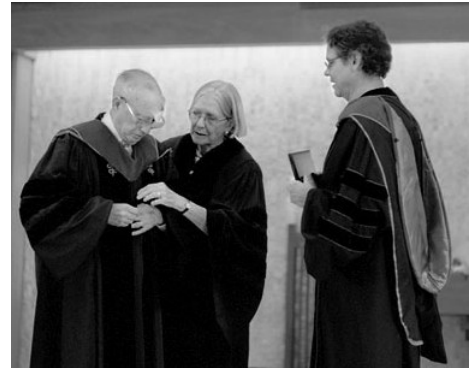
The Rev. Dr. J. Frank Schulman Awarded Degree

In a ceremony held at Emerson Unitarian Church in Houston, Texas on December 4, 2005, The Rev. Dr. Jacob Frank Schulman was awarded a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School.

The Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President of Meadville Lombard, presented the award, noting Rev. Schulman's lifelong devotion to Unitarian Universalism and his life's work as a minister and a scholar. Schulman began as a minister in 1954 and served four congregations, notably serving the Emerson Unitarian Church for 25 years.

But, as Rev. Barker acknowledged in his remarks, Rev. Schulman was not just a minister, but an embodiment of the minister/scholar. "You **are** a scholar and, as such, you have never been content to simply read to your own end or at your own pace," said Barker as he conferred the degree upon Rev. Schulman. "You have sought the confirmation of earned academic degrees. This is because you understand fully the need for academics to have recognized standards. It is the acceptance of those standards that stretch the scholar beyond individual whim and fancy. With seven such degrees from some of the most exacting institutions in the world, you have been well stretched. You met standards. Indeed, you exceeded them."

"Neither have you been content to keep your research to yourself," Barker continued. "A true scholar understands that the solutions to problems that he or she works on are only as effective as they add to the common store of knowledge. This you have done through writing and publishing. You have written five books which have opened up the lives and thinking of theological giants such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and James Martineau. To this day you hold the position of permanent president of the Martineau Society. And you have a sixth book, a much needed worship manual, which is soon to go to the printer. Genuine scholarship is not a retreat from the world, it is something that adds to the world." (For the full text of the citation, please click [here](#) and for more about Rev. Schulman click [here](#) or [here](#).)



The Rev. Dr. Frank Schulman (left) receives an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School. Presenting the degree were Carol Groppe, Meadville Lombard Board of Trustees Member, and Lee Barker, the school's president. (photo courtesy of Don Eddy)
