



Marjorie Agnes Powles

1914-2016

Dr. Marjorie Agnes (Watson) Powles, of Vancouver, B.C., passed away on July 12, 2016 at Purdy Pavilion in Vancouver.

Born in Saskatoon, she lived a remarkable, cross-cultural life which stretched from Winnipeg, where she was raised with her sister Florence, to Montreal, Tokyo, Toronto and Vancouver.

Marjorie obtained her B.A. degree from the University of Manitoba in 1934. In 1942, she left her father's lumber business to study at the United Church Training College in Toronto. In 1943, Marjorie was appointed General Secretary to the Student Christian Movement (SCM) at McGill University in Montreal. Marjorie married Cyril Powles in 1946 and after Japanese language training at Harvard, left for Japan in 1949 until 1970 as a missionary wife. Her autobiography titled "To a Strange Land" reveals her passion for justice, her commitment to her community and her generous support to a great company of women.

In 1991, Marjorie was appointed Chair of the Bishop's Committee on the Sexual Harassment of Women Clergy in Toronto which brought forward the stories of women hurt in the church and collaborated to empower the leadership of women, including clergy.

In 1992, the University of Trinity College Toronto conferred on her the degree Doctor of Sacred Letters *honoris causa* for her lifelong ministry in support of women within the church and outside of it.

In 2001, a new award was established in recognition of her contribution to the lives and work of women active in the church, to be granted annually to a woman student who brings a feminist perspective to her study of theology. Marjorie leaves behind a lifetime of service as an activist to various committees and task forces of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC), the Centre for Christian Studies (CCS) and many more.

Marjorie is survived by her son Peter, daughter-in-law Michelle, as well as brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. There are also many nephews, nieces, grandchildren who experienced her generosity and wit. She was predeceased by her husband Cyril, her older son John, her sister Florence and daughter-in-law Momoko.

A special thank you to the staff at Purdy Pavilion for the excellent care they gave Marjorie, to staff and friends at Cavell Gardens, to her devoted caregivers and companions, and to loving family members and friends who came from everywhere to visit.

A celebration of Marjorie's life has been scheduled at St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church (St. George's), 2950 Laurel Street at West 14th Ave, Vancouver, for **September 1st, at 2.30 pm.**

The interment of her ashes will be at the St. Peter's Memorial Garden Columbarium following a memorial service at Holy Cross Japanese-Canadian Anglican Church, 4580 Walden Street, at 30th Ave, Vancouver, on **September 11, at 10.00 am.**

A memorial service to celebrate Marjorie's life and ministry will also be held at the Chapel of the Holy Apostles, Anglican Church of Canada National Office, 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, on **October 27, at 12:15 pm.**