

He lifted everyone up, made everyone a star

Truly global in conscience, he reached out as an emissary to Russia and as a visionary link to our sister church in Cluj, Romania.

When the church burned in 1968, his vision inspired the congregation to raise from the ashes a new and revitalized church.

Dozens of Unitarian Universalist ministers began their life work as interns under his superb tutelage, discovering their new ideas, new perspectives, and new voices.

His resilient web of 'scattered accomplices' around Boston, America, and the world multiplied his patient, upbeat work for the greater good.

Triumphant living makes the most of what we are given

At a time when American city dwellers retreated to the suburbs, he re-dedicated the congregation to the rich complexities of downtown Boston life.

He helped people of all ages and conditions in life to be their best.

His eyes smiled - even on the telephone

# Rhys Williams

1929 — 2005

Beloved husband to Eleanor, and father to Rhys Hoyle Williams and Eleanor Williams Kelley.

He wove together community

A shining, steady light of ecumenicism in Boston, he mapped common ground with leaders of all religions.

LEADER · MENTOR · FRIEND  
Minister of First and Second Church in Boston, where for forty years he guided the congregation through misfortune to opportunity. He connected the church inward to each member and outward to the larger community, helping all to grow from the deep roots of the past to a larger, livelier future.  
HE PUT LOVE TO WORK FOR TRUTH

He lifted my spirits

Through his encouragement, new music groups and visual artists found their audience, growing to enrich Boston's cultural life.

In a changing world he was wise in his counsel

Generations of Boston toddlers, teenagers, and elderly still benefit from his support of John Winthrop Nursery School, Emerson College, Hale House, and some dozen other vital Boston institutions.

In his first pulpit at Charleston, South Carolina, 1953-1958, his conscience led him to take courageous stands on religious tolerance and racial equality.

Mine is one of many lives he touched