

DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARD

Illinois Great Rivers Conference

AWARD OVERVIEW

The Denman Evangelism Awards were begun in 1980 to honor a United Methodist lay and clergy person in each annual conference who exhibited unusual and outstanding efforts for work in Christian evangelism by faithfully carrying out the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ.”

The award is named for the late Dr. Harry Denman, distinguished lay evangelist, whom Dr. Billy Graham called “my mentor in evangelism.” The awards are made possible by *The Foundation for Evangelism*, which was founded in 1949 by Dr. Denman. Dr. Denman felt it was the business of every Christian to be an evangelist. It is most fitting that annual conferences today honor persons who carry out the spirit of Harry Denman.

Those eligible for these prestigious awards are persons who are effective in developing true disciples of Jesus Christ! This can involve personal witnessing, speaking and inspiring individual persons or the local church to be actively involved in effective evangelism and outreach.

Neither the size of the local church with which the person is affiliated, the age or gender of the person, nor the time length of their involvement are criteria for selection. One’s accomplishments in the area of evangelism and outreach are what really count, as they establish the person’s lifestyle, provide witness to that person’s ministry, and bring honor to Christ and the church.

Who should receive the Denman Evangelism Award? A pastor, lay person, youth or group that is effective in making true disciples of Jesus Christ. This can involve speaking, personal witnessing, inspiring the church to be involved in evangelism or creating programs and ministries that facilitate others in making disciples of Jesus Christ, etc. This person may or may not have the best statistical record and may be from a church of any size.

Honorees are expected to live lifestyles that bring honor to Christ and the Church. Keep in mind that the Denman Evangelism Award’s purpose is to recognize those who are active in the vital work of evangelism in keeping with the United Methodist history and traditions. The IGRC Committee on Evangelism grants two different awards at each annual conference session:

The Denman Evangelism Award for Laity:

The Denman Evangelism Award honors persons for their outstanding efforts in Christian evangelism and can recognize an individual or group of persons who have evidenced the gift of leading others to Jesus Christ.

The Denman Evangelism Award for Clergy:

The Denman Evangelism Award honors a clergy for their outstanding efforts in Christian evangelism and recognizes clergy who have evidenced the gift of leading others to Jesus Christ.