

THE REV. LINDA LOUISE WHITEHEAD
(B.A., M.Div.)

The Presbytery of Ottawa records sorrow upon learning of the death of Linda Whitehead, a retired minister residing within the bounds, on August 9, 2025, at the age of 83 years.

Linda was the daughter of Lorna Millicent and Lloyd Ingram Jones, born April 19, 1942. Her father died in World War II; she grew up in the Kew Beach area of Toronto, enjoying the local library and tennis club, and developing as an only child significant capacity for making friends.

She met her husband David Whitehead at the University of Toronto, surprised that a motorcycle-driving student was enrolled at Knox College, preparing for ministry in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Within a year they were married and were blessed with four children: Sarah, Jennifer, Joseph, and Christopher. David's ministry took the family to Thompson, Manitoba before returning to Ontario to serve various congregations in Ontario.

When her youngest child began nursery school, Linda enrolled in the University of Western Ontario where she completed a degree in history and in due course pursued further studies in theology, counselling and analysis.

Linda Louise Whitehead, B.A., graduated in 1985 from Knox College, Toronto with an M.Div. and the diploma of the college. She was ordained by the Presbytery of Niagara on June 23, 1985 and served an ordained missionary (O.M.) appointment as part of a team ministry with her husband David Whitehead at St. Andrew's Church, Thorold, Ontario.

Sometime after June 30, 1988, she officially concluded that appointment and her name was transferred to the appendix to the roll of the Presbytery of Niagara, where it remained until February 16, 1994 when her presbyterial certificate was transferred to the Presbytery of Barrie, upon whose appendix her name was placed on March 8, 1994, from which date her husband served the Penetanguishene pastoral charge.

Linda's nature as an extrovert led many friendships to grow into a variety of service to the wider community. In Thorold, she served as a volunteer on the board of the local library and was elected as a trustee for the Niagara South District School Board. During residency in Midland, Linda served as a member of the board for the local hospice.

A life-long love was to discover and explore the mysteries of creation. She and David were active together in Midland in the local field naturalists' association. Parts of almost 50 summers were spent in residence at the Presbyterian camp and retreat centre at Gracefield, Quebec.

Following retirement, David and Linda moved to Aylmer, Quebec and on September 15, 2015 her name was added to the appendix to the roll of the Presbytery of Ottawa.

On September 16, 2025, Linda's death was reported to the Presbytery of Ottawa. Her wishes were for a small private remembrance among family and close friends in the community where she resided, with limited mobility, during the final ten years of her life.

Linda was predeceased by her daughter Sarah in 2024; she is survived by her husband David, daughter Jennifer, and sons Joseph (Csilla) and Christopher (Martha), and five grandchildren.

Jesus said, "I have called you friends, for everything I have learned from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:15)

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:11)