



Rev. James E. Waisanen was born at the home of Edwin and Lucille Waisanen on January 15, 1951. He grew up on a dairy farm near Kettle River, MN. He graduated from Moose Lake High School in Moose Lake, Minnesota in 1969. Jim married Cori McMillin on September 15, 1979. He adopted Cori's two year old son Seth and started their family near Kettle River, MN. Their daughter Alisha arrived in 1980. Jim provided for his family by working as a mechanic at Ford Motor Company in Moose Lake. In 1985 Jim and Cori moved to Ellendale, ND to begin their theological education at Trinity Bible College.

The couple graduated with their BA degrees in Biblical Studies and Missions in 1989. They moved to Wilmore, KY that same year to begin their graduate level education at Asbury Theological Seminary. They graduated in 1992 with their Master of Divinity degrees and moved back to the Dakotas to serve in the United Methodist Conference as ordained elders. Jim's first appointment to pastoral ministry was at First United Methodist Church in Pierre as an associate minister. His wife Cori served as pastor of Southeast Pierre and Blunt UMC. The couple served the community of Pierre, Blunt, and Hayes from 1992-1998. Jim moved to Tulare, SD the summer of 1998 to begin serving a three church parish. He helped merge three congregations into one church parish called the Tulare United Church. Together, with his parishioners, they built a new church and parsonage. Jim became disabled in 2007 due to several back surgeries. He had to leave parish ministry and was placed on medical leave. Throughout his lifetime, Jim enjoyed playing team sports like softball and bowling. He loved golfing and walleye fishing with friends and family. Jim loved watching the MN Vikings and MN Twins, his two favorite sports teams. Family vacations were spent at amusement parks, miniature golfing and fishing. He loved

spending time with his two grandchildren Kobe and Tessa – they enjoyed walking the dog, reading, playing miniature golf, bowling and board games together. Every year the family had a tradition of watching The Great Outdoors and Chevy Chase's Christmas Vacation. His infectious laughter will be missed this Christmas season. Jim died of a stroke on November 4, 2018 at Sanford Hospital in Bismarck, ND. Jim is survived by his wife Rev. Dr. Cori Waisanen of Selby, SD. His son Seth Waisanen of Selby, SD. Daughter Alisha Marx, son-in-law Jamie Marx and granddaughter Tessa of Glencoe, MN. Grandson Kobe Waisanen of Selby, SD. Brothers Kenny, Johnny, Dick and Norman Hill and their families all of Minnesota. Sister Wendy Reed and her family of Minnesota. A memorial service will be held for Rev. Waisanen at the Family Worship Center in Mobridge, SD on November 15th at 11:00 am. Rev. Barry Woods officiating. To all who loved Jim, remember that this is only a temporary separation. Those of us who love Jesus will be together again in Heaven.