



## T.W. Anderson Outstanding Layperson Award

### THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH GRANTS THE 2023 THEODORE W. ANDERSON AWARD TO JANET WOODS

In grateful recognition of her dedicated service to her local congregation and community and her deep commitment to Christ and Christ's church.

When Janet Woods moved to Rochester, Minnesota, with her husband, John, and their five children 63 years ago, she began playing the organ at the two-year-old Rochester Covenant Church. She went on to accompany the sanctuary choir and the junior choir, play for many vacation Bible schools and Sunday evening services, and accompany countless soloists. She played for funerals and weddings and continued taking organ lessons well into her adult years.



Her ministry expanded to leading weekly women's Bible studies, co-hosting small groups, serving dinner after church to visitors, taking meals to people in need, corresponding with missionaries—and more.

She led Bible Study Fellowship for years and helped start Community Bible Study, now attended by more than 200 people. She volunteered in the medical community and in the wider Rochester community, serving as president of the Methodist Hospital Auxiliary. She and John received the Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service to the City of Rochester.

Before moving to Rochester, she and John had served in a small town outside of Quito, Ecuador—he as a physician while she ran the hospital guest house for visitors. They later taught a class at Rochester

Covenant called “Do You Want to Be a Missionary?” More than half the class went on to serve in the mission field.

We honor her for her practice of radical hospitality, hosting visitors to Rochester who came seeking medical attention or with other needs, at one point welcoming a local teacher into their home with late-stage cancer in an era before hospice.

For sending innumerable birthday cards and notes of encouragement, demonstrating care and compassion for everyone she meets.

For a life deeply grounded in prayer and reflection on Scripture.

For prioritizing her children and family, even as she tirelessly served her church and community.

For serving as a matter of course, never seeking the spotlight, doing everything with humility and a servant’s heart.

For always seeking to bring glory to God and serve him in whatever way she can, for living a life that points to Jesus.

We celebrate Janet Woods, recipient of the 2023 TW Anderson Award, and give thanks to God for her faithful service. Presented at the 137th Annual Meeting, on the 30th day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-three.



Tammy Swanson-Draheim, President



Jacqueline Sugihara, Corporate Secretary