JOHN W. KUYKENDALL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE  
Honoring  
Charles J. Freeland III. ’62  
June 9, 2017

In 1958, Charles J. Freeland III entered Davidson and immediately launched into service: working with the YMCA, leading the college’s semi-annual blood drive, assisting a local teen canteen and teaching with the Huntersville Presbyterian Church PIONEER group. On his 25th Reunion survey, Charlie listed Dr. Abernathy’s philosophy class as his most persistent memory of Davidson. By his 50th Reunion, when asked to describe his Davidson experience, he wrote, “high quality, detailed instruction… thought provoking… multidiscipline,” and, in all caps, “NO WOMEN.”

After Davidson, Charlie earned both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He was installed as pastor for three churches over 23 years, then served eight congregations and parishes through pastoral transition as an interim ministry specialist. His work was memorable. Following his 2005 retirement, a church where he had been installed as pastor 22 years earlier named him Pastor Emeritus.

For Charlie, ministry extends beyond the congregation to the broader community and the world. In his first two pastorates in New Orleans and Hot Springs, Arkansas, he served as board president of local War on Poverty community action organizations. He was particularly committed to his work with the Church World Service (CWS), which works to “eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world.” Charlie has served on the CWS Resources Development Committee and Board of Directors, and recalls with satisfaction collaborating with classmate Paul Leonard ’62, then the chair of Habitat International.

Charlie and Sandy have called Owasso, Oklahoma, their home since moving there in 1981, when Charlie became organizing pastor of a new church. Charlie has belonged to the Owasso Chamber of Commerce since 1981, serving on its Board of Directors. In 2008, the Chamber of Commerce named Charlie and Sandy “Mr. and Mrs. Trail Days,” an honor bestowed upon couples who have lived in Owasso for at least 25 years and have contributed significantly to the growth and development of the city. Charlie has also been an active member in the Sertoma Club, past president of the Lions Club, past president of the Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow. He is the current president of the Owasso Rotary Club.

Charlie is committed to higher education, sitting on the Boards of Trustees for Lyon College in Arkansas and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas and on the Board of Visitors at Davidson. He and Sandy have been active in providing intercultural experiences for students, hosting Rotary and AFS International foreign exchange students and recruiting host parents.

Charles J. Freeland, for leading through servanthood in the various communities you have served, the Davidson College Alumni Association is pleased to present you the John W. Kuykendall Award for Community Service on the occasion of your 55th Reunion, June 9, 2017.