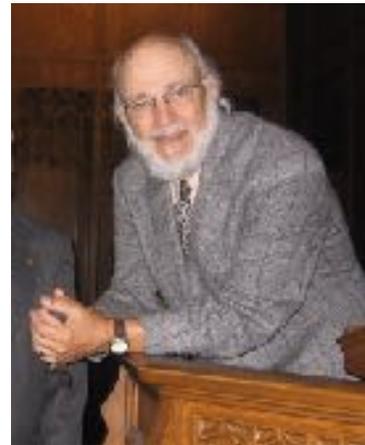


**The Daniel Sharp Award** is presented each year to a clergy person who is “an affectionate and honorable Christian in a worthy and faithful ministry”. These words were used to describe Daniel Sharp, who was the first President of the Conference of Baptist Ministers in Massachusetts. Past recipients were:

- **Joseph E. O’Donnell, Jr.**
- **Veronica “Ronny” Lanier**
- **John H. Minott**
- **Michael E. Haynes**
- **E. Gage Hotaling**
- **Mar Imsong**
- **E. Spencer Parsons**
- **Larry Edmunds**
- **George H. Sinclair, Jr.**
- **Eugene Langevin**
- **Hazel A. Roper**
- **Conley H. Hughes, Jr.**
- **Roscoe C. Robison**



This year the Daniel Sharp Award is given to **Milton P. Ryder**.

Milt has served as the Treasurer of the Conference since 1995. He makes the work a ministry, not only by doing well in the technical work, but also by his personal care for the grant recipients and the other members of the board of directors. He served as the Conference President from 1990-1995. He was the President of the national Ministers Council 1994-1997. I met Milt almost 15 years ago, when he was on the Search Committee that interviewed me for Executive Director of the Conference. I feel he became, not only a colleague, but also a friend.

I include a list of some of his theological education and ministry, emphasizing his ministry in Massachusetts, which is his home state.

- In 1959 he received an AB from Eastern Baptist College.
- In 1963 he received an BD from Andover-Newton Theological School.
- He was ordained by the Antrim Baptist Church in Antrim, New Hampshire in 1962. He was the pastor there from 1962 - 1966.

- He served as song leader (he is an accomplished musician), Dean of the Conference, Chaplain and other roles for over 40 years at the New England Baptist Youth Conference, now known as the Christian Youth Conference.
- He was a home missionary of ABC/USA from 1966-1982.
- He served in several leadership positions in ABC/USA, including ABEC, ABHMS, and Educational Ministries.
- He won a national award from the Associated Church Press for “The Best Article Series: Historic Baptist Personalities”.
- He was the coordinator of two “Best Periodical of the Year” national awards for *The American Baptist Magazine*, one by *The Evangelical Press Association* and the other by the *Associated Church Press*.
- He was the author of a children’s book, published by Judson Press, “*The Smallest Christmas Tree*”.
- He received two DMin degrees, one from Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and one from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.
- He was the pastor of First Baptist Church of Boston from 1982 - 2001, during which time they celebrated their 325th Anniversary.
- In 2001 he was named Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church of Boston.
- He now is a member of Williston-Immanuel United Church (ABC/USA and UCC) of Portland, Maine. He is the chair of the Religious and Cultural Committee, and a member of the Board of Directors.

I have only listed some of his achievements and ministry, but I would guess his greatest achievements are convincing Helen Jane Sames to marry him, and being the father of Jefferson and Tonda. Jefferson and his wife, Laura have blessed Milt with grandchildren, Acadia Joy and Nolan. Tonda has blessed Milt with grandchildren Tessa and Grace. Milt officiated at the weddings of his two children, and the dedications fo his four grandchildren.

I am honored to present this year’s Daniel Sharp Award to **Milton P. Ryder, “an affectionate and honorable Christian in a worthy and faithful ministry.”**