Blessing Upon the Retirement of Don Pittman

Don,

For faithfully responding to your call, even though it meant turning down fame and fortune in the acting/music biz or the PGA.

For being a teacher who teaches by word and example, even though some of those words were corny jokes.

For leading the church in the ecumenical and global aspects of theological education, even before ATS made it a priority.

For consistently opening spaces for dialogue, among those of different opinions and of different faiths.

For providing a non-anxious presence in tense situations that had the potential to escalate beyond fruitful conversation.

For your quiet but effective work in creating a more just world, in Texas, Taiwan, Oklahoma, and wherever life takes you.

For treating each person you encounter with respect and compassion, even when you did not receive the same from them.

For all these ways you have touched our lives and the lives of so many others, we are forever grateful.

Don, because you have chosen to walk this part of your journey with us, we are not the same

Let us pray: Accept, O God, our thanksgiving for our teacher, mentor, colleague,

father, son, husband, and friend, Rev. Dr. Don A, Pittman.

Bless him as he has been and continues to be a blessing to us.

Continue in us the legacy of his teaching and leadership.