



## Dr. Bernard Irvin Minnis, Sr. Ed.D.

September 25, 1941 - November 13, 2020

### Background:

Dr. Bernard Irvin Minnis, Sr. Ed.D. was born in Louisville, KY September 25, 1941 to Albert L. Minnis, II and Ruby Handy Minnis. He spent his formative years on the campus of Lincoln Institute, where his father was a teacher. Dr. Minnis received his B.S. degree from Kentucky State University, his M.A. degree from Western Kentucky University and his doctorate from the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Bernard I. Minnis passed away Friday, November 13, 2020 at his home peacefully with his family present. Dr. Minnis lived his life as a beloved husband, father, grandfather, education professional and artist. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ethel Eaves Minnis and brother, Albert L. Minnis, III. He is survived by wife, Woody Jayne and children Danielle Minnis White (Christopher), Bernard I. Minnis, Jr. (Sarah) and Bryant A. Minnis, grandchildren Bernard I. Minnis, III; Micah Christopher, Adeleigh Elizabeth, Cohen Daniel; stepchildren, Dawn Johnson, (Bryan King, Luke Johnson and Del Johnson); Elson (Joshua, Aaron); David Benedict (Sonja and son Degen) and many nieces and nephews.

### Professional Life:

Dr. Minnis had more than forty years of experience in the field of education, including experiences in teaching, he taught in the Louisville school system.

Dr. Minnis started out in Paducah and came back to Louisville and taught in the Louisville district. He became a co-op coordinator for programs for disadvantaged youth and that program -- the people in Frankfort asked him to come to Frankfort, to be the director of the program. Dr. Minnis became the division director of vocational education. It was in vocational education department in the state Department of Education. Dr. Minnis came back to Louisville for a fellowship program that was going to give him a doctorate and met the superintendent of Jefferson County. Jefferson County and Louisville were separate districts at that time. Dr. Minnis was asked to be the assistant superintendent or associate superintendent for Human and Community Relations and the districts were merged and desegregated. After retiring from JCPS, Dr. Minnis was an assistant professor from the Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education, Bellarmine University. He taught Ph.D. courses in Learning, Poverty and Social Justice Program and the Principal Preparation/Leadership Programs.

#### Organizations/Charity Work:

Dr. Minnis was a member of several professional organizations and sat on numerous boards, including being a member of Sigma Pi Phi Psi Boule Fraternity. He is a member of Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors (Lincoln Heritage Council); Louisville Urban League Campaign for African American Achievement Steering Committee; African-American Heritage Council Advising Committee; Louisville Branch of NAACP; Lincoln Foundation Board of Directors; Coalition for the Homeless Board of Directors; National Alliance of Black School Educators.

#### Awards/Honors:

Leadership Louisville (second class); Leadership South Carolina; Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America; Louisville Metro's 2009 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Award by Mayor Abramson; Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression's Certificate of

Recognition.

Acknowledgements:

The Minnis family expresses their deepest gratitude, acknowledges all expressions of sympathy and acts of kindness extended to them during this time of bereavement.

Special thank you to:

David and Tiffany and Mary Sue and Tommy Armour

Dr. George E. Thornton, Sr.

A.D. Porters and Sons Funeral Home

Magazine Street Seventh Day Adventist Church

In lieu of flowers and to honor Dr. Bernard I. Minnis, Sr. donations to the "Cecil Ray Scholarship Fund" E.L. Minnis Junior Academy of SDA. c/o Dr. George E. Thornton, Sr.

Memorial Visitation: 10am-12pm Friday, November 20, 2020 at A.D. Porter & Sons Southeast, 4501 Bardstown Rd., with a private service for the family to follow at 12 noon.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all services at our facility are limited to 50 people.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **20**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

A. D. Porter and Sons Funeral Home - Southeast

4501 Bardstown Road

Louisville, KY 40218

(502) 491-7885

[a.d.portersoutheast@gmail.com](mailto:a.d.portersoutheast@gmail.com)

<https://adporters.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ A D Porter & Sons Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Bernard Irvin Minnis, Sr. Ed.D.



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**A.D. Porter & Sons Funeral Home** - November 19, 2020 at 08:49 AM

LW

“ *Dr. Minnis.... one in a million.*

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**Linda Wilhelms** - November 25, 2020 at 07:10 PM

JD

“ *Woody Jane, Danielle, Bernard, and Montez, you have empathy and sympathy in losing your loved one, Bernard— a husband, father and grandfather.*

*Bernard and I were friends. He sang at my husbands's home-going celebration in 2008. I have 2 paintings that he drew for me for my birthday years ago. Also we worked on projects at JCPS and we both retired from the system.*

*I, as everyone who knew him, Will miss his presence here on earth*

*Sincerely, Jessie Daniels*

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**jJessie Daniels** - November 25, 2020 at 04:54 PM

RL

*What a shock it was to just find out Dr. Minnis had passed. My condolences to Sister Woody Minnis and the entire Minnis family. What a wonderful and kind man he was. I had the pleasure of knowing Bernard and Ethel before retiring from JCPS back in 2008. You never forget the good people that had helped you succeed. God has called another extraordinary "Angel" home, Rest In Peace "Doc",*

*God Bless, Robin Lovett*

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**Robin Lovett** - December 05, 2020 at 02:41 PM

WF

“ *My friend you will be surely missed by me but not forgotten. We played ball together, laugh, and just enjoyed each other company when we had the chance to meet. My prayers and blessings go out to family and friends. Rest in peace my brother you are in a better place now, God's hand.*



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**Will Foree** - November 22, 2020 at 05:39 AM

DO

“ *Dr. Minnis provided me with guidance and support through my growth in educational leadership. He started as my professor but he ended up being a my mentor; a mentorship that went well beyond my graduation. I would lean on him for advice and he would provide that validation that I needed as a young principal and school leader.*

*Thank you Dr. Minnis. Your work is done here. Rest in power.*

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**Dylan Owens** - November 21, 2020 at 06:10 PM

BJ

“ 1 file added to the album *Family Video Tribute*



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**Bernard Minnis Jr.** - November 20, 2020 at 04:31 PM

WF

*Rest in peace*

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**Will Foree** - November 22, 2020 at 05:40 AM

FM

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Bernard Minnis. I enjoyed working with him. He was so competent and always professional! He will be sorely missed in Louisville.*  
*Dr. Freda Merriweather*

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**freda merriweather** - November 20, 2020 at 01:49 PM

MS

“ *Dr. Minnis a kind, loving and giving man. Thank you for all you gave to others and the community. Mostly, for Danny. RIP. Sending condolences and love to the family. Merrylyn Moran Smith*

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**Merrylyn Moran Smith** - November 20, 2020 at 12:16 PM

KB

“ Bernard was a wonderful man, great educator and talented artist.

*His kind demeanor and comforting words were appreciated by everyone he met. He always knew what to say, how to say it effectively and when to make the most crucial point. All of these qualities made him stand out as a person who lived his faith everyday and treated others as he wanted to be treated.*

*The dedication he had to the provision of quality education for all will be treasured by everyone in this community who knew him and he will be held up as a model for others to emulate.*

*Artistically, Bernard had a special talent and a willingness to share his creativity with others. He will truly be missed!*

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**Kim Burse** - November 20, 2020 at 11:31 AM

LP

“ A kind, intelligent family man has left us to go home. His gentle manner will be missed by all who were privileged to know him. Our prayers are with his family. Special hugs to Danielle.

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**LARRY A PROFANCIK** - November 20, 2020 at 10:31 AM

DH

“ Thank you for all of those one-on-one sessions we would have with you handing down advice and how to make it through

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**Derrick Houston** - November 20, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ Another one of the good guys takes his leave. Another one of those people who I can’t remember when I didn’t know Bernie and his family. He was always welcoming and approachable. I remember vividly the one time we didn’t agree and I was hot about it. I was on a roll down the hall to his office to ready to give home an earful and just as I was about to make the turn into his office, George Unseld picked me up, legs still walking, put me on an elevator and took me to lunch where we laughed about my stupidity. The next morning, I got off the elevator and there was Bernie, just as welcoming as ever. I will miss those welcoming greetings. All jobs completed and well done. See you on the other side some day.

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**Reginald Glass** - November 19, 2020 at 11:17 PM

TD

“ Thomas and Monica Dickenson purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Dr. Bernard Irvin Minnis, Sr. Ed.D..



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**Thomas and Monica Dickenson** - November 19, 2020 at 09:01 PM

LL

“ Dr. Minnis was a hero to me. Such a kind, thoughtful, generous person with a heart bigger than possible! Ever the teacher, I learned so much working with him and will forever reference him and his wisdoms. I feel so honored to have had the opportunity to cross paths with him and am able to say what a wonderful person and friend he was. His ever important family was foremost in his heart and soul, present and past. Bernard was an extremely proud and gracious man. Peace be with you Bernard. Lynn Lewis

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**lynn lewis** - November 19, 2020 at 11:34 AM

GG

“ *To: Dr. Minnis and Family  
Sending my highest level of condolences. I  
have fond memories of time spend at  
Kentucky State University. Thank you for all  
Dr. Minnis did for the education of our youth  
and the educational system itself, thank you. Best wishes to the  
Minnis Family.*

*Sincerely,  
(Ms.) Gerry Gordon-Brown*



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**Gerry Gordon-Brown** - November 18, 2020 at 07:48 PM