

Allan Reitz Brockway

Allan Reitz Brockway was born Mar 22, 1932, in Lawrence, Kansas.

His parents were Horace Austin Brockway and Esther Jane Reitz Brockway.

His parents were very active in the Methodist church and were Lay Witnesses who spoke formally in churches around. They also taught a Sunday School Class of young adults and did what they could to be faithful Christians and generous and kind to others. In that atmosphere of a religious home and with regular church attendance, Allan became interested in pursuing a religious life and began to think of being a minister.

Allan received a Bachelor of Arts degree from College, Hendrix College, in Conway, Arkansas, in 1954.

He received his Bachelor of Divinity in 1957 from Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. On weekends, Allan served as a student pastor to a small beginning church in Bryan, Texas.

Moved to the Washington area in July 1963 for Allan's work at the Board of Christian Social Concerns of the Methodist Church.

At the board, Allan edited their magazine, '*engage/social action*', and he participated in a number of advocacy actions concerning social justice, particularly racial issues, such as traveling to Selma, Alabama. He attended the World Council of Churches conference in Nairobi. He explored his growing interest in alternative origin stories and growing secularization and published *The Secular Saint* in January 1968 and *Uncertain Men and Certain Change* in January 1970.

Allan moved alone to Dallas, Texas, in 1978 for a year working on the issue of Jewish-Christian relations with the Dallas office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

In August 1979, Allan moved to Geneva, Switzerland, to his with the World Council of Churches.

In the program on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies, he served in the position specializing on Jewish-Christian relations and edited the program's material in the WCC's newsletter *Current Dialogue*. He served as the liaison with the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. He organized conferences and consultations, traveling as need be, often to Germany for work with the Lutheran Federation and to Israel.

He continued writing and saw two books based on his work at the WCC published: *Learning Christology through Dialogue with Jews*, and *The Theology of the Churches and the Jewish People: Statement by the World Council of Churches and Its Member Churches*, both January 1988.

In the summer of 1989 he moved to Birmingham, UK, to teach and to complete his Doctor of Philosophy degree. He worked at the Centre for the Study of Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham, from 1989 to 1994. He lectured at the University of Birmingham (Department of Theology) in 1993 and 1994.

Allan died on June 15, 2024, at age of 92, in Dallas, Texas.