

**Award:** Lester T. Pritchard Citizen Leadership Award  
**Recipient:** Rev. James B. Holiman  
**Presenter:** Paulette Colemon

Good evening. I'm Paulette Colemon, and it is my great honor and pleasure to present the Lester T. Pritchard Citizen Leadership Award to our own friend and Board member, Rev. James B. Holiman.

This Award honors individual activists who use participatory democracy in the pursuit of justice. In 2010, we named this award, in memoriam, after Lester Pritchard, our beloved Board member and fellow activist and humanitarian. Lester's life exemplified a dedication to the pursuit of justice and civil rights and making concrete improvements in the lives of all people, but especially those with disabilities.

Before I tell you about Jim Holiman, I wanted to mention that Lester's widow, Barb Pritchard, who is also one of our Board members, could not be here this evening because she is in Galesburg, IL – Lester's hometown – for a premier of a film honoring Lester's life and work.

Now, let me tell you about Jim Holiman and why our Board and Staff have chosen to honor him with this award.

Some of you may recall that Jim Holiman was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999, when Jim retired after 36 years as the Executive Director and Campus Minister of the Illinois Disciples Foundation, a peace with justice campus ministry.

In his role at the IDF, Jim led the organization in:

- fighting for Civil Rights
- protesting the Vietnam War
- providing public sanctuary for refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala
- organizing against the first Gulf War
- and much more.

Not one to rest and take it easy in retirement, Jim's amazing work has continued over the past 14 years. Jim joined our Board of Directors and has provided great leadership to our organization. He has also been an active member of various task forces and campaigns over the years.

Jim's dedication to Health Care Consumers is only surpassed by his good will for all humanity.

Jim's love of people and commitment to justice extends to his work as an active participant with the C-U Immigration Forum, and his work as an Elder at University Place Christian Church.

Jim is a leader in the University Place Christian Church Open Door Program, which is working to help homeless individuals in our community.

Jim says that the focus of the Open Door Program is "the faithful care of human beings struggling against the hard realities of social violence: economic and political." He says, that "Of course, the devil is always in the details; but the devil always is confronted by people of faith responding to God's command to do justice, love thy neighbor, and move toward peace with justice, here and now."

And that is what Jim does every day – responds with love and compassion, and works to advance justice.

I know that Jim is always helping someone. He and his wife Deloris have taken care of many people in crisis, and many people in hospice. I think that Jim must also help some single moms, too.

Over the years, from time to time, I get a random call from Jim, where he asks me a question about being a single parent. I think that because of him, I am an expert on issues relating to being a single parent. This means the world to me for Jim to ask me to help him help someone else. It makes me feel proud of the job that I did raising my kids on my own, and glad that maybe I can help someone else.

Jim, thank you for all the good works you do in our community and with our families, and for Health Care Consumers. Tonight, we are proud to recognize you with the Lester T. Pritchard Citizen Leadership Award.

I do believe that Lester Pritchard would be proud and would tell you to keep on going!