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## Alumnus of the Year Award

### *Harold Cunningham, '73*

Harold Cunningham grew up in Augusta, Georgia, and was able to attend GCA because of the generosity and sacrifice of local church members. After graduating from GCA, Harold attended Southern Missionary College, graduating in 1977 with a degree in theology. Following a year at the University of Tennessee studying psychology, Harold began his pastoral ministry in the Pennsylvania Conference. After a year there, his seminary training began at Andrews University. After graduating with his master of divinity, Harold was back in Pennsylvania for three more years as a pastor.



In 1985 the Georgia boy returned home to become the chaplain and Bible teacher at Atlanta Adventist Academy, a role he served in for fourteen years. His ministry in the classroom gained him the recognition of his peers and the admiration of his students. While at AAA Harold received the Zapparra Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Harold returned to pastoral ministry in 1999 when he was called to lead the Peachtree City Church. His leadership skills and well-honed abilities to work with people soon got Harold an offer to serve as the ministerial director for the southern region of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference (GCC). After five years in the southern region, Harold was asked to become vice president for pastoral ministries for the GCC.

Now retired, Harold is a community activist who serves in a variety of ways. Harold served on the Appalachian Regional Commission, a federal agency dedicated to the growth and development of small towns in the southernmost sector of Appalachia, and is currently vice president of a chapter responsible for developing projects and coordinating volunteers within Georgia state parks. Of all his educational accomplishments, Harold says he is most proud of his master gardener certification from the University of Georgia and graduating with a certification in agriculture and farming from Tennessee State University.

Harold has been married to Jeanie Newgard Cunningham, '73, for 47 years. Harold and Jeannie are the proud parents of two grown daughters, Stacey and Amy.