



Alfredo Castillo

Attended Second Union Church 1982-2007

Born and raised in Santo Domingo, The Dominican Republic, Alfredo Castillo, left the D.R. after completing high school. Due to the threat of political persecution and his outspoken stance on justice and freedom, in December of 1963, Alfredo landed in New York where he spent one year. Prior to his return to the Dominican, he met and fell in love with a 19 year old girl named Zunilda and they were married in 1967.

With a lot of help and support from Zunilda, Alfredo attended CCNY where he earned his undergraduate as well as a graduate degree in Engineering. They have three daughters and six grandchildren. Two are married and one divorced. They all have wonderful careers.

During Alfredo's professional life, he worked for several companies and held various positions of increasing responsibilities that demanded domestic as well as international travel. Just to enumerate: Clairol, a division of Bristol Myers: Manager of Manufacturing; Playtex International: Director of International Engineering and later Director of Operations for its Mexican Operations based in Mexico City. He moved the family to San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1982 to start a career with Sara Lee Intimates, a division of Corporation. His last positions with the company included Vice President of Operations for the Caribbean & Central America and President of Seamless Textiles, also a division of Sara Lee. He retired from Sara Lee and just before returning to the Continental USA, he took a consulting assignment with Propper International in Mayagüez, a large government contractor. He was offered and accepted the position of Chief Operating Officer. His range of responsibilities spanned over many areas: manufacturing, human resources, information systems, accounting, engineering, quality assurance, purchasing & warehousing, government contracts, public and government relations. The range of products handled at one time or another, in chronological order include: cosmetics and hair coloring, household products, ladies intimate apparel, knitted outer wear, military uniforms and battle gear for the Armed Forces including protective clothing, bullet proof vests, and strategic clothing for the Special Forces. Alfredo's professional career took him to many countries in Europe, Central America and the Caribbean.

Alfredo writes, "I could have never done any of this without the love and support of Zunilda. A wonderful wife, mother, homemaker and outstanding volunteer tirelessly working for Second Union Church in

Second Union Church Remembers . . .

many capacities, including Outreach Chair, Centro Medico as advocate for cancer patients, Escape (helping people on public assistance deal with day to day issues, family building tasks and managing family and personal crisis). Most importantly, Zunilda was always helping people in need on a one-on-one, close and personal basis: including, but not limited to, being a foster mom and putting people in need up in our house for as long as needed."

During his time in Puerto Rico, Alfredo was involved in the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association, the San Juan, Dorado and Mayaguez Rotary Clubs and most importantly, Second Union Church. He held many positions in the church council including: Forward Planning, Vice President and President. As Council President, he oversaw the decision-making process, fundraiser and design process for the current sanctuary. He notes, "I still have the original building contract signed by Tom Marvel and me.

(I will send to you for preservation as a Church historical document.)" Later, Alfredo presided over the Search Team that called Randy Johnson to be our pastor.



Alfredo writes, "We are immensely thankful for Second Union Church. Its congregation was our family in Puerto Rico and still is. The impact Second Union Church had on our daughters was decisive in their character formation and their decision to choose Christianity as their way of life. To this date, we cherish the moments when we saw our girls so involved in children's plays, as acolytes, preaching a sermon on Youth Sunday, going to a construction mission in the Dominican Republic, and having so much fun with the other youth of the church. "

After 26 years in PR, Alfredo and Zunilda moved to San Antonio in 2007 to be accessible to their children and grandchildren. Alfredo did consulting work for a group specializing in M&A and T/A. No longer working for money and fully retired but not out of work, he was the volunteer Project Manager to help build a new sanctuary for the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. He just completed his involvement in building a school on church property and cleaning up the final financial issues (both projects were completed with a cash surplus).

He is still a Rotarian, member of the San Antonio Rotary Club at the Dominion. He holds the position of Director for the New Generations Lane of Service dealing with youth clubs in local schools (elementary through college level).

Alfredo comments, "I continue my Christian Walk; I try to live with the Rotary Motto: 'Service Above Self' that is another way of saying, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." As we walk out of our homes every day, we find multiple opportunities to serve others and leave this planet a better place than how we found it. There are homeless people in need of shelter and food, sick people in need of physical and spiritual healing, people that have experienced the loss of a loved one, people who are going through a divorce, those who have lost a job or are unable of making ends meet and need a little help, etc. My church and Rotary affiliations provide for me with channels to help serve those needs in a programmatic and efficient way. This is more important to me than money, positions, and titles."