

Rev. Louis Uhland Spellman

L. U. Spellman, known as “Lou”, was born to Earnest Spellman and his wife Caroline Glimp, March 2, 1889, in DeWitt County Texas, northwest of Yorktown. He was the sixth of eleven children. He was singled out early to be the family minister. He joined the Rocky Methodist Church in Gonzales County in July 1900. He attended Southwestern University, graduating with a BA degree in 1915, and he earned a BD degree in 1923 from Southern Methodist University. In 1937 he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity from McMurray College and in 1945, a Doctor of Laws from Southwestern University.

He married Laura Smith of Smiley in October 1915 and had two sons. He served churches in Provident City, Nursery, Yorktown, Mercedes-LaFeria, Midland, Robstown, South Bluff, Corpus Christy, San Angelo, University Church Austin, Seguin, and as Superintendent of five districts—Uvalde, Corpus Christi, San Angelo, San Antonio, and Kerrville.

He was a prominent leader in the Conference and was elected many times as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. He served on many important committees and Boards. He was on the Board of Trustees of Southwestern University. He was one of the original signers of the Texas Methodist Foundation in 1938.

He was one of the leaders instrumental in developing the Kerrville Methodist Encampment and served on the governing board for many years. His support and involvement were evidenced by his early purchase of a lot on Mount Wesley, next door to his long-time friend Rev. S. L. Batchelor. He built a house there (1304 Panorama Dr.) The original construction included a connecting walkway to Daddy Batch's house.

His younger son, Norman, participated in the summer camp programs at Mount Wesley, where he met his future wife, Betty Bain. He and his wife graduated from Southwestern University in 1949. They had four children. Norman went on to obtain a Masters of Divinity at SMU in 1952. He went on to study theology at Yale School of Divinity, obtaining a PhD in 1961. He taught for a couple of years at Perkins at SMU, before joining the faculty at Southwestern University where he served for 38 years before he retired in 1998. He continued to be active in the Georgetown Methodist Church until his death in 2011. He is buried with his wife and parents in the Spellman Cemetery in DeWitt County, Texas, along with scores of ancestors from his early German immigrant family.