

From the John Templeton Foundation

The Foundation is extremely saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Ian Graeme Barbour, physicist, theologian, the Winifred and Atherton Bean Professor Emeritus of Science, Technology and Society at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and the 1999 Templeton Prize Laureate. Dr. Barbour died on Tuesday, December 24 after suffering a stroke at his home in Northfield on December 20. He was 90 years old.

Ian Barbour is widely acknowledged as an unparalleled pioneer in science and religion. His 1966 *Issues in Science and Religion*, one of the first books to treat the fields as two disciplines that share a common ground rather than as two completely separate or conflicting spheres, is credited with launching the recent era of scholarly study in this interdisciplinary field.

His subsequent writings over more than four decades, including *Religion in an Age of Science* (1990) and *Ethics in an Age of Technology* (1993), both based on his 1989–90 Gifford Lectures, often deal with the ethical issues arising from technological applications of science as well as with science and religion, and have influenced generations of international, intercultural, and interreligious dialogue.

At the March 1999 news conference in New York when he was announced as winner of the Templeton Prize, Barbour said: “We hear of debates between scientists who defend a philosophy of materialism, and biblical literalists who defend what they call creation science. One group believes in evolution but not God, and the other believes in God but not evolution. But between these two extremes are many people who believe in both God and evolution, or see evolution as God’s way of creating. In reality there are diverse viewpoints among scientists, and diverse views within our religious traditions.”

In nominating Dr. Barbour for the Prize, John B. Cobb, Jr., then Emeritus Professor of the School of Theology at Claremont College in California and founder and co-director of the Center for Process Studies, wrote, “No contemporary has made a more original, deep and lasting contribution toward the needed integration of scientific and religious knowledge and values than Ian G. Barbour. With respect to the breadth of topics and fields brought into this integration, Barbour has no equal.”

We especially recall the public ceremony for the 1999 Prize which was held in Moscow at Krestovaya Hall in the Patriarchal Chambers of the Kremlin. Among those who gathered to honor Prof. Barbour in the historic 1653 building which was home of the Patriarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church until the revolution were representatives of the major religions of the world and the Russian Academy of Sciences, politicians, diplomats, and two prior Prize Laureates, Paul Davies (1995) and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1983).

Dr. Barbour earmarked \$1 million of the Templeton Prize award to help establish the Ian G. Barbour Chair in Theology and Science at the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, where he was a founding member of the Board of Directors.

Mary Ann Meyers, Ph.D., senior fellow at the Foundation, worked with Ian Barbour on numerous Humble Approach Initiative programs: “I first met Ian in 1998 in Cambridge after we’d both taken

the train from London's Kings Cross following overnight flights from the U.S. He was moving down the platform toward the taxi queue at a fast trot, and my impression was that he hardly slowed down for the next 15 years. I shall always think of him as a scholar who embodied the humble approach in his continuing openness to new ideas and eagerness to learn from others. It was a privilege to have known him – a person of faith who never ducked the thorny issues posed by either science or theology and never ceased to ponder the regular processes of the world and how God might act in them.”

Dr. Barbour was a member of the John Templeton Foundation since he was awarded the Prize in 1999, served several terms on the Board of Advisors, and was an integral participant in many Foundation conferences and symposia. We remember him with the deepest respect and admiration and we mourn the loss of one of the intellectual and spiritual giants of our time.

*A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 18th, 2014 at 3:00 PM at the Carleton Chapel with a reception following in Great Hall.*