



Rest in Peace

**Ragnar Emilsen** was born in Porsgrunn in Norway. He traveled to Australia where he joined the Jesuits and aspired for priesthood but would soon start to question the Trinitarian theology he studied and shortly before his final ordination he left the Seminary and the Jesuit order. He would finally settle in Sweden and there be part of the The Free Church of Sweden in Malmö, which was founded in 1974 by members of The Religion

and Culture Society, as an outpost connected to the Danish Unitarians in Copenhagen, a so called "mission". In order to continue its heritage of the original Unitarianism in Transylvania the church in 1999 changed its name to The Unitarian Church in Sweden. As first time in Scandinavia, Ragnar was ordained according to the Transylvanian Unitarian tradition by Bishop Lajos Kovács from the Unitarian Church in Romania. This ordination took place in Copenhagen during the meeting of The International Association for Religious Freedom in 1987 – and Ragnar was appointed Unitarian pastor for Sweden and Finland, and later Unitarian bishop to Scandinavia. Today his church is active mostly in Sweden. Two ministers are involved in a mission among the Romany people in Slovakia. Bishop Ragnar died in Malmö February 5 2008.