Irma Wyman led a notable life of leadership, service and impact. A computer pioneer, she graduated from the University of Michigan in 1949. In fact, she was one of only two women to graduate that year from the college of Engineering, having overcome discrimination from faculty and staff. Irma’s grades qualified her for Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, but it was not yet open to women. Irma’s work in the field of the early computer science eventually led to her position as the first female vice president of Honeywell in 1982.

After retiring in 1990, Irma launched a second career as an ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church, beginning her service at Gethsemane Church in Minneapolis. In 1998, Bishop Jelinek asked her to serve as the first Archdeacon for the diaconate in the history of the Diocese of Minnesota. Irma was a natural leader who demonstrated tenacity and resilience as a woman of her time. In her later years as a resident of Episcopal Homes, Irma organized numerous charitable activities, including collecting toys and books for children in need as well as food for the local food shelf. Her legacy of service continues through estate gifts that established the Wyman Therapy Pool at Episcopal Homes and the Irma M. Wyman Scholarship for women in engineering, computer science and related fields at the University of Michigan’s Center for the Education of Women.

CELEBRATING WOMEN’S HISTORY