

Presbytery of St. Augustine Memorial Resolution

The Rev. Dr. James Weller Tinsley

July 14, 1925 - April 4, 2020

Whereas the Rev. James Weller Tinsley was born on July 14, 1925, and completed his Baptism in dying and rising with Christ on April 4, 2020; we the Presbytery of St. Augustine, Florida do resolve to give thanks to God for Jim's life and faith and witness to God's many blessings with the following memorial:

We are reminded this day that James (Jim) W Tinsley joined the Church Triumphant on April 4, 2020. The son of Chester P Tinsley and Julia E Tinsley was born July 14, 1925 and raised in Huntington, WV. He was married to Martha Carolyn Tinsley on August 15, 1946. Jim joins Martha who died on Dec. 4, 2017. Jim attended Duke, Marshall, Davis and Elkins and received his Master and Doctor of Divinity degrees from Louisville Presbyterian Theological University. The Reverend James Weller Tinsley was ordained by the Presbytery of Cincinnati on June 3, 1951. Rev. Tinsley ministered to the Lord's people in Cincinnati, OH, Fort Thomas, KY, Jacksonville Beach, FL, and Palm Coast, FL. He also served in leadership roles in the Florida Synod and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He finished his ministry by serving as a Stewardship Counselor for the National Presbyterian Church (USA). Jim served in the US Navy in World War II. Jim and Martha spent 71 years together and they both enjoyed many years with friends in Florida and at their mountain home near Boone, NC. Upon Jim's death, a memorial scholarship in his memory was established at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary to be awarded to a graduating M.Div. student who demonstrates commitment and perseverance in preparation for pastoral ministry.

Tinsley was first called by this presbytery to establish a Presbyterian Church. That congregation would become Palms Presbyterian Church. Palms celebrated 60 years of faithful ministry in 2017. Rev. Tinsley would go on to serve at Palms until 1979. At a special meeting held on Sunday, June 10, 1990, that congregation voted unanimously to elect Jim as Pastor Emeritus.

Rev. Tinsley's ministry came to a close at Palms as a new congregation to the south was in the making. Trinity Presbyterian Church recently celebrated their 40 year anniversary in Palm Coast. It all began in 1979 when the Presbytery of Northeast Florida obtained land on the corner of Florida Park Drive and Palm Harbor Parkway.

That same year Rev. Dr. James W. Tinsley was once again called to found a new Presbyterian Church. He began with some old fashioned door knocking to drum up a congregation, presumably along the same lines as he had done previously when he was helping to organize what would become Palms Presbyterian. Trinity Palm Coast was officially chartered as Trinity Presbyterian Church on Palm Sunday, March 30, 1980. The Service of Installation for Dr. Tinsley as first officially called pastor of the congregation took place on November 9, 1980. Dr. Tinsley retired from active parish ministry in 1984. Tinsley was able to attend as well as participate at Trinity's 40th Anniversary services in November 2019.

Jim believed "that Jesus Christ calls each of us, and all of us together, to be His Body in mission and ministry. Rev. Tinsley felt that his ministry revealed the strong effects of this missionary and evangelistic concern. Theologically, Jim once wrote that he was a Presbyterian holding to the basic tenets of the Westminster Confession. That he believed in the Sovereignty of God, the Saviorhood of Jesus Christ, in Man under God in Christ, and he felt that Christ-changed men (and women) are called to meet and change the conditions of life which treat them and their brothers (and sisters) as less than whole, precious and dignified Children of God. One of Jim's personal insights was that the Proclamation of the Gospel and the urging to live the "Good News" life are reflected throughout the life of the church.

Now be it resolved that the Presbytery of St. Augustine does remember in love our brother and colleague in ministry James Weller Tinsley, we give thanks for his presence with us, and we praise God for his witness to Christ with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. We ask for blessings on his family, the congregations, presbyteries, synods, and the denomination he served. We, the Presbytery of St. Augustine are eternally grateful for his work in establishing the two congregations (Palms and Trinity) in this presbytery during his 25 years of what would be 69 years of faithful witness as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. Might his witness continue impact our dedication, our ministry, and our witness to faith among all God's people in northeast Florida and to the ends of the Earth.

And "His master said to him,

'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'"

Matthew 25:21 & 23

To God be the glory on this 6th day of October, during the 2020 Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting.