

Appendix K-2  
**Presbytery of St. Augustine Memorial Resolution**  
**The Rev. Bert Charles Swearingen**  
**1936-2020**

*Whereas* the Rev. Bert Charles Swearingen, born on June 13, 1936 entered the church triumphant on February 23, 2020, we the Presbytery of St. Augustine resolve to give thanks to God Almighty for Bert's life and faithful service and honor Bert with the following memorial:

Bert was raised in Jacksonville, Florida, worked as a journeyman electrician with the Florida East Coast Railway for five years, attaining a BA at Jacksonville University. In 1962, Bert felt a call to ministry and went on to serve God and the church as a pastor for 65 years.

In December of 1962, Rev. Swearingen married Barbara Swearingen. They moved to Decatur Georgia where Bert graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary with a BD degree in 1965. During the summers of 1963 and 1964, Rev. Swearingen served as a student minister at the Archer Presbyterian Church in Archer, Florida near Gainesville.

Bert served churches in Leakesville Mississippi; Chipley, Florida; was organizing pastor for Sunny Hills Florida Community Church; then served congregations in Vidalia, Georgia; Hernando Mississippi, and Tarpon Springs, Florida.

Rev. Swearingen also served as camp manager at several Presbytery Church camps: Dogwood Acres in the Florida Presbytery and the Montgomery Conference Center in Starke.

Upon his honorable retirement in December of 1998, Bert and Barbara moved from Tarpon Springs, Florida to Fernandina Beach. In 1999, after being retired for only six months, the Presbytery of St Augustine asked that Rev. Swearingen enter a six-month interim assignment at the Northside Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville. The six-month interim evolved into a thirteen-year pastorate as Northside's stated supply.

Joel Pace, member and music director for Northside recalls that Bert was very outspoken and even though the two of them often disagreed, "we always 'met in the middle' and laughed about it later! He was always prepared and treated every service the same, no matter if we had 150 people or 15! He taught me a lot about leadership!"

Bert and Barbara worshiped at First Presbyterian Church in Fernandina Beach in their retirement, where he graciously led worship during special Advent or Lenten worship services. Barbara sang in the chancel choir and is still a faithful member of the Friday Friends Breast Cancer Survivors group.

Bert was member of the Academy of Parish Clergy for more than 30 years, a volunteer AARP Driving Instructor for 17 years, a reader of historical literature and fiction, and he enjoyed carpentry and woodworking.

*Wherefore*, the Presbytery of St. Augustine does adopt this memorial resolution, giving thanks for the life and ministry of Bert Swearingen, and it resolves that this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the 2020 Fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine.