

Appendix R-1

Presbytery of St. Augustine
Memorial Resolution
The Rev. Dr. David Thaddeus Lee
August 14, 1955 – January 22, 2021

Whereas the Rev. Dr. David Thaddeus Lee was born on August 14, 1955, and passed this life into eternal glory on January 22, 2021, the Presbytery of St. Augustine, Florida does resolve to give thanks to God for David's life and ministry with the following memorial:

David grew up in coastal North Carolina. Called by God to the ministry at age 15, he planned his education accordingly, receiving his bachelor degree from Atlantic Christian College, Wilson, NC. (now Barton College). He then received both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia.

Ordained as a teaching elder on August 27, 1981, David served as Pastor of two congregations in North Carolina - the Greenwood Presbyterian Church in Reidsville for several years followed by 10 years at the Concord Presbyterian Church in Statesville.

David was called to the Highlands United Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Florida in 1996. During his 24+ years as the Highlands pastor, Dr. Dave, as he was affectionately known, followed the command of God to "love your neighbor as yourself." Thus, throughout his ministry David was an advocate for social justice and equality with an emphasis on children, families, and missions both locally and internationally including Family Promise, Micah's Backpack, Arlington Community Services, and the Grace of Mercy orphanage in Haiti.

Blessed with a beautiful tenor voice, David sang in the choir, and he sometimes sang during his sermons. He took great joy in the sacrament of baptism – tenderly holding each child in his arms as he walked the church sanctuary introducing each child to the congregation. Dr. Dave also led the Highlands congregation through a "Restoration and Renewal" renovation of the church campus during the church's 50th anniversary.

Noted for fostering a beautiful, accepting, friendly, and warm loving atmosphere at Highlands, Dr. Dave is remembered for the fatherly endearing way he carried himself and the moving, uplifting, well-crafted, and personalized sermons he word-smithed and delivered with a special presence, blending softness and strength.

Dr. Dave was also a central figure in all aspects of congregational life at Highlands. He took great pride and care in teaching all age groups in his congregation, from leading Advent and Lenten adult Bible studies to sharing the children's moment each week on the stairs of the chancel. Dr. Dave loved participating in the fellowship of the church. He was a staple in the church kitchen each Wednesday leading the kitchen crew to feed children and youth at Logos. He was noted for his spaghetti suppers, cinnamon roll breakfasts on Christmas morning, and his Low Country Boil. Dave shared his affection for trivia often, creating trivia games and quizzes for themed fellowship dinners, and he wasn't afraid to wear a costume when necessary.

One of Dr. Dave's greatest joys was to advocate for and uplift the children and youth of the church. Early in his ministry at Highlands, he helped to begin "JOY Sundays" on the 2nd Sunday of each month when children and youth are key to celebrating worship with middle and high school youth leading the liturgy and choirs of all ages singing praise. Dr. Dave spent his summers helping with VBS – from teaching the Bible station to even being the puppeteer.

Summers were also spent in Montreat with the youth. For over two decades Dr. Dave drove the van up the mountain, took daily trips to the grocery store, cooked three meals a day, and led nightly devotions. If he wasn't in the kitchen, he could be found on the front porch quietly working, pausing to hear about the antics of teenagers and chat about their faith. At the end of each week at Montreat the youth and chaperones led worship to share their experience. During each of these sermons Dr. Dave would speak or sing words about each individual youth, taking note of their unique personalities and spiritual gifts.

There is no doubt about Dr. Dave's love for the children and youth of Highlands. Generations of children have been blessed by his gentle, uplifting presence and warm hugs. His smile and ability to make each person feel Christ's love will be

greatly missed, but his legacy of care and concern for others will continue in the ministry and mission of Highlands.

In 2016, the Academy of Parish Clergy honored him nationally as the “Parish Pastor of the Year.” And before Dr. Dave’s death, the Highlands Session named the church dining hall and education building after him.

David also made many significant contributions to the life and ministry of the Presbytery of St. Augustine. In the past few years he served as a member of the Coordinating Council and the Care and Reconciliation Team. In previous years he shared his many gifts for leadership as a part of other committees, commissions and teams, including the Committee on Ministry, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the Nominating Committee, and the Permanent Judicial Commission. In 2016, David greatly enjoyed serving as one of our teaching elder commissioners at the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held in St. Louis, Missouri.

David Lee’s love of God and others had a powerful and lasting impact, not only on his family, but also on the congregations and presbyteries he served throughout his ministry.

And so, now be it resolved that the Presbytery of St. Augustine does remember in love our brother and colleague in ministry David Thaddeus Lee. We give thanks to God for his life and particularly for his ministry and presence with us.

All praise and glory be to God on this 6th day of February 2021 during the Winter Stated Meeting.