

Appendix A-2

Memorial Resolution Presbytery of St. Augustine Dalton Robert Burch, Jr. (October 5, 1931 to June 21, 1922)

Rev. Dalton Robert Burch Jr. was born on October 5, 1931 in Bogalusa, LA. His parents were Dalton and Viola Burch, he brother was Meredith, and his sister was Constance. On September 15, 1953, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, he was married to Ann Gay Estes. The best thing that ever happened to him was when she agreed to marry him! On October 12, 2003, Dalton and Ann Gay celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gainesville. They were married for 69 years.

Dalton Burch received a BA and MA from the University of Southern Mississippi and was the recipient of a Rotary International Scholarship that enabled him and Ann Gay to spend a year at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. While there, they traveled widely on the Continent, and he must have spent a lot of time in French vineyards.

When Dalton graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1957, the couple returned to New Orleans. He was ordained by the First Baptist Church of McComb, Mississippi, and would go on to serve churches in Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida. During that time, Dalton served as President of the New Orleans Federation of Churches and as President of the Gainesville Ministerial Association. He served on many committees of our presbytery and as pastor of our First Alachua and First Williston churches. He transferred his membership from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 1990.

While he served churches, sermon preparation was a priority for Dalton. He would normally prepare sermons a year in advance! He was an excellent preacher and pastor and built up and strengthened the churches he served through his “second retirement” in 2017. He was known for his vibrant and strong faith in Christ.

Dalton he was a lifelong member of Rotary and was honored by the Rotary Club of Gainesville with the Paul Harris Award for his work with Rotary International Students who were studying at the University of Florida. For years he served on the board of the Disciples-Presbyterian Student Center and was responsible for encouraging and working

with a number of students who would later become pastors. He also served for years on the University of Florida Animal Care and Use Committee, a committee that oversees the use of animals in research. That service involved reading research protocols that might be 30 pages of more and attending lengthy meetings twice a month.

Dalton had a number of hobbies that included hunting in Texas and enjoying excellent wines. He knew more about wine than any ordinary mortal can hope to know. He had a fantastic wine cellar and could easily have been a successful wine taster. He and Ann Gay belonged to a gourmet group that enjoyed fine food and excellent wines. When he retired for the first time, a group of colleagues presented him with a bottle of cheap wine that cost \$2.89, informing him that that was all they could afford. (What he did with it was never known.) His colleagues also gave him a dollar's worth of dimes and told him that they knew he had the ability to draw a pistol and shut a dime that had been flipped up into the air. He had a keen wit and was always ready with a clever comeback!

Dalton Burch believed what Paul had written in Romans 8: "For I am certain that nothing can separate us from God's love, neither death nor life... There is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus Our Lord."

He cherished what Paul had written in Philippians 1: "I want very much to leave this life and be with Christ but for your sake it is much more important that I remain alive." And he was very familiar with 1 Corinthians 15, where Paul talks at length about the resurrection. He was a firm believer in the resurrection and in the love and forgiveness of God that issues in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. At the age of 90, Dalton entered his new life in the full presence of his Lord on June 21, 2022.

Rev. Dr. Glenn Dickson, who graciously provided most of the wording for this resolution, shares, "I am very grateful for his friendship over the past 50 years and sorely miss him."

The Presbytery of St. Augustine thanks Almighty God for the life of Dalton Burch, his love and friendship, and the ministry that he did in the name of Christ Jesus. This resolution is presented on October 4, 2022 at the the Fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine and will be recorded in our minutes.