

Appendix J

Presbytery of St. Augustine Retirement Resolution Conrad Sharps

On this 4th day of October, 2022, at its Fall Stated Meeting, the Presbytery of St. Augustine celebrates the honorable retirement of Conrad Sharps as of September 1, 2022. As Conrad wrote in his pastoral letter to Amelia Plantation Chapel concerning God's call to begin this new adventure, "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."

Conrad Sharps believes that participating in the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ has been a privilege to which he was humbly and persistently called. Six days following their marriage, Lauren Ford Sharps and Conrad walked a short block from the manse, to the Faison Presbyterian Church of Faison, North Carolina, where he preached his first sermon. In this small but loving and fellowship-driven rural church he believes he learned what it means to be a pastor.

Conrad served the First Presbyterian Church of Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island, Florida, for over 17 years beginning in 1988. During this time, the congregation grew significantly and became distinct in the community for its warmth, its hospitality, its mission and a true sense of the ever-present Spirit of God. Conrad served the Presbytery of St. Augustine in many capacities: leading workshops on stewardship, serving on the Committee on Ministry, the Executive Presbyter Search Committee, as Moderator, and as a commissioner to the General Assembly. In 2000 he was honored by the Academy of Parish Clergy as the Pastor of the Year.

In 2005 the Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama, called Conrad to be Senior Pastor. It is there that he became a loyal University of Alabama football fan! For ten years, he led the congregation through strategic planning and development. During this time the congregation grew in giving, attendance, and membership.

One area of great joy for Conrad during his tenure at IPC was the comprehensive review and missional renewal of their 85-year-running Children's Fresh Air Farm ministry, held at their campground property located on the outskirts of Birmingham. The mission of the the Children's Fresh Air Farm is "to promote hope and opportunity through partnerships with children, families, and the community by offering quality programming rooted in the love of Christ." In addition to Bible study and worship, the programming includes six weeks of reading, writing, and mathematics in the mornings, and art, music, drama,

science and swimming in the afternoons. This model program has since been an inspiration for other organizations and schools in Alabama.

In his next call, Conrad led the historic Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh through a comprehensive strategic prioritization process to expand their efforts of evangelism as a destination church. While serving in the Pittsburgh Presbytery, Conrad was a member of the Board of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, serving on the Ethics and Compliance Committee. In 2018 he received the Distinguished Alum Award from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky

Conrad returned to this area in 2018 as the Senior Pastor of the Plantation Chapel, an interdenominational community church, where he has enjoyed a return to a more pastoral role as head of staff.

In this new season of retirement, Conrad and Lauren look forward to a future of travel and family, as well as whatever opportunities arise to share the vision of God's Kingdom and the good news of the Christian Gospel.