

March 13, 2024

Friends and members of the Presbytery of St. Augustine,

I am writing to invite you to participate in a mission project connected to our next presbytery meeting. Our next stated meeting is Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. (coffee, registration and fellowship at 8:30). The meeting is going to be hosted by Silver Springs Shores Presbyterian Church. As a connectional church, we serve alongside each other, we pray for one another and, when opportunity arises, we support each others' ministry.

I love the constitutional questions we are all asked prior to being ordained. I believe they frame a very positive and proactive approach to our calling. One of the questions is, "Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's word and Spirit?" It is a helpful and healthy reminder that we are in this together.

When we pool our gifts and resources, we can do far more together than we can on our own. One of the mission efforts of Silver Springs Shores Presbyterian Church is its food pantry. Through their pantry, they try to provide the basic three meals each day. So as part of our offering and a combined mission effort of the presbytery, we are going to help them stock their pantry. Here is a list of things they can use: Cereal, peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti sauce and pasta, macaroni and cheese, canned chicken or tuna, canned ravioli, canned vegetables, canned fruit and canned soup. I think it would be wonderful to see every person attending bring at least one item on the list.

We are a Matthew 25 presbytery. One of the foci of Matthew 25 is eradicating systemic poverty. Our mission project at Silver Springs Shores will help people who are struggling with food insecurity. I appreciate our varied mission efforts that are born out of our 53 churches, and I am excited to see the movement of God's Spirit as we work together to make this project a success and watch it become a springboard for future endeavors.

Peace,

David

Rev. Dr. David N. Rollins

Lead Presbyter Presbytery of St. Augustine