

Rev. Dr. David N. Rollins

Lead Presbyter

Presbytery of St. Augustine

Report to Presbytery

As of this presbytery meeting, I have been blessed to labor alongside you for approximately eight months. As I have traveled throughout the presbytery visiting churches, meeting with pastors and elders, participating in committee meetings, and responding to a various needs and requests, I continue to be impressed by your God-given gifts and your commitment to serve Christ in a variety of ways. As my knowledge of the presbytery continues to grow, and I perceive opportunities for strengthening our witness, I will be working with the Coordinating Council and various committees to collectively discern the best ways to move forward.

Here is a snapshot of some of the places I have been engaged with in my ministry as the Lead Presbyter:

- Call Commission
- Trustees
- Coordinating Council
- Administration Committee
- Personnel Team
- Finance Team
- Working group on background check policy
- Task Force developing the policy on Antiracism

One of my goals is to get into as many churches as possible for worship and get to know the members of the presbytery. We have 53 churches in the Presbytery of St. Augustine, and I have worshiped in 35 of them. I continue to be in touch with Rebekah Rogers at Camp Montgomery on a regular basis, and recently have been participating in interviews for summer staff at the camp. The Presbytery staff and I gather almost every Monday morning to touch base, share how things are going in our lives and where we are currently sharing our time and energy for the presbytery.

I recently scheduled and participated in our spring cluster gatherings. Four gatherings were held around the presbytery. We gathered to break bread, enjoy fellowship, and offer mutual support. I am planning on hosting these about once a quarter. A few people have mentioned, “we did that before when Paul Hooker was here.” I am not sure when the gatherings stopped, but Paul left here for Austin Seminary over 12 years ago. I get the sense that the gatherings have been missed and are greatly appreciated. In fact, we had nearly 40 people participate in the recent effort. If you are a minister or a C.R.E., I hope you will be able to join us in the future. A save the dates communication recently went out from the presbytery and details will be arriving in your email soon.

In an effort to grow my God-given gifts and to offer my best I meet monthly with a coach, I also visit and reflect with my colleagues around the synod (via zoom), and I am part of Presbyterian Leader Formation (PLF). PLF is required for everyone who enters mid-council ministry. This process includes both required independent study and a week-long residency each year for the first three years. I consider myself a lifelong student and am happy to have the opportunity to gain experience alongside and from others engaged in this calling.

Personally, I am beyond grateful that Libby and I are back together again! She finished her interim role in Virginia Beach and made it to our home on April 15. Our house is slowly being transformed from a sea of moving boxes and chaos into a home. Yet, as Libby and I enjoy meals together, I am reminded of the words of Ellis Paul, “this house is just an address you’re my home.” Our son Mac who is finishing his sophomore year at Florida Gulf Coast University, will be with us this summer and we will be going on a cruise vacation together July 28th—August 4th. We are all looking forward to family time.

As your partner in ministry, I welcome your calls, visits, inquiries, and requests. It brings me great joy when the presbytery is able to offer good counsel, provide an answer, or point you in the direction of a valuable resource that might enhance your ministry. Of course, there is no way the presbytery office can answer every question or resolve every issue, but no matter what is unfolding I will do my best to make sure we are there to walk alongside you on

the mountain tops and in the valleys. The Presbytery of St. Augustine has been blessed with incredibly talented people doing their best to serve Christ in a variety of ways. The more I learn about our churches and our ministries I am convinced that our best days are in front of us. I give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve Christ in this place.