

Biographical Statement: The Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin, Jr.

I was born and raised in Fredericksburg, VA by loving parents who married later in life. My father was 62 and my mother 41 when I was born two years after their marriage. My father was an active member and elder in the Disciples of Christ Church and my mother was an active member and elder in The Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg. I grew up attending worship and other functions in both churches until I was 11 years old and went through Communicant's Class at The Presbyterian Church.

Sunday school and church were favorite activities for me. While still in high school, I was a youth member on the church's Christian Education committee and went on a presbytery youth mission trip to Mexico. The minister who led that trip apparently saw something in me which led him to recommend to the presbytery that I be a Youth Advisory Delegate to the PCUS General Assembly. That experience awakened in me a deep interest in how the Church did its work. The moderator of the Assembly asked me to serve as one of two youth members of an ad interim committee to study whether or not Synods were a needed part of our denominational structure. The adult members of that committee were a veritable who's who of Presbyterian leaders at both the presbytery and synod level, and what I learned from them about the functions of the various councils of the church was priceless.

Simultaneous with that work as well as beginning my college years, I served for four summers as a counselor at Camp Massanetta, part of Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, then a synod ministry in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

I went to college at The University of Mary Washington, graduating with a BA in Religion in 1979. While there, I continued to be active in my home church and was elected and ordained a Ruling Elder. I entered Union Presbyterian Seminary in 1979 and took the four-year Doctor of Ministry track. After starting seminary, I was invited to become the director of Camp Massanetta and served in that capacity for two years. I spent my third year as a student minister in Charlotte, NC at Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church. I graduated from Union in 1983.

My first call was to St. Mark's Church in Bayonet Point, FL where I served as associate pastor for four and a half years. In 1989, I accepted a call to serve as pastor of Lower Brandywine Church in Wilmington, DE and served there for 11 years. In 1999, I received a call to be the pastor of First Church in Lake City, FL and served there for 14 years. My ministry took an unexpected path when, in 2013, I was asked to serve as transitional presbyter for Shenandoah Presbytery, which I completed in October 2017.

During my 35 years in ministry, I have had the honor of serving the Church in a variety of ways: camp ministry, campus ministry, Synod commissioner, commissioner to two General Assemblies, chairing COM and CPM, serving on church-related agency boards, and a PJC. I am grateful for the variety of service I have been permitted to render over the years.

I am the father of two adult children, Caroline, who lives with her family in Lake City, and Sam, who lives in St. Augustine. I am also a grandfather to two young ladies, Rachel and Mary Elizabeth, both of whom will one day be in charge of all they survey. Just this past August, I was privileged to marry the Rev. Lisa Wilson, who serves as pastor of Woodstock Presbyterian Church in VA.

As I look back on my life, I can see clearly the hand of God guiding me. I am thankful to God for the many men and women in the Church who mentored me and modeled for me what it means to be a faithful Christian in service to Christ through the Church. Through family and Church, my life has been richly blessed.