

# Baptist Herald

## Congratulations to Our New Officers!

### Convention Officers

President—Rev. Dr. James E. Victor, Jr.  
(Northern VA)

1st Vice President—Rev. Milton P. Bunting  
(Eastern Shore)

2nd Vice President—Rev. Dr. James E.  
Coleman, Jr. (Western VA)

3rd Vice President—Rev. Dr. Griselda A.  
Bayton (Central VA)

Secretary—Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Porter, Sr.  
(Eastern VA)

Assistant Secretary—Rev. Dr. William J. Reid  
(Western VA)

### Women's Ministry Officers

President—Mrs. Polly Jones Mason (Central  
VA)

Vice President—Rev. Dr. Margaret Delk  
Edney (Eastern VA)

Secretary—Mrs. Teresa Bunting (Eastern  
Shore)

Assistant Secretary—Mrs. Barbara Coleman  
-Brown (Western VA)

### Men's Ministry Officers

President—Mr. Reginald S. Davis (Western  
VA)

Vice President—Mr. Larry Pinchback  
(Western VA)

Secretary—Mr. Charles Reese (Central  
VA)

Assistant Secretary—Mr. Coolidge Hamlett,  
Jr. (Northern VA)

### Clergy Ministry Officers

President—Rev. Dr. Gregory L. Beechaum, Sr.  
(Central VA)

Vice President—Rev. Gloria Newsome  
Brickhouse (Eastern VA)

Secretary—Rev. Michael E. Shannon (Central  
VA)

Assistant Secretary—Rev. Dr. Tracey D.  
Holley (Northern VA)

## In This Issue

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Clergy Care & Leadership Support—P.12

This Herald highlights the organizational structure, the presidential and thematic focus, as well as upcoming events. Please take your time to read and ponder this Herald and share with us your ideas for making our beloved BGCVA the best it can be. Also, send the Herald to your membership as well as other Christians and churches.



Rev. Dr. James E. Victor, Jr.



Rev. Milton P. Bunting



Rev. Dr. James E. Coleman, Jr.



Rev. Dr. Griselda A. Bayton



Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Porter, Sr.



Rev. Dr. William J. Reid



Mrs. Polly Jones Mason



Mr. Reginald S. Davis



Rev. Dr. Gregory L.  
Beechaum, Sr.

## Baptist Herald

Executive Editor:

The Reverend Dr. Leo Whitaker

Editor:

Mrs. Sheryl Blowe-McDowney

## State Officers

The Reverend Dr. James E. Victor, Jr.  
President

The Reverend Milton P. Bunting  
1st Vice-President

The Reverend Dr. James E. Coleman, Jr.  
2nd Vice President

The Reverend Dr. Griselda A. Bayton  
3rd Vice President

The Reverend Dr. Glenn E. Porter, Sr.  
Secretary

The Reverend Dr. William J. Reid  
Assistant Secretary

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The Reverend Dr. Raymond L. Palmer  
Legal Advisor

The Reverend Dr. Robert L. Pettis, Sr.  
Parliamentarian

The Reverend Dr. Robert G. Murray  
Chairperson, BGC Foundation

## Ministry Presidents

The Reverend Dr. Gregory L. Beechaum, Sr.  
Clergy Ministry

Mr. Reginald S. Davis  
Men's Ministry

Mrs. Polly Jones Mason  
Women's Ministry

## Administration

The Reverend Dr. Leo Whitaker  
Executive Minister

The Reverend Janet L. Wynn  
Accountant

The Reverend Dr. William H. Whitaker, II  
Ministry Assistant to the Executive Minister

Ms. Aria Kirkland Harris  
Ministry Assistant to the Executive Minister

## Program Ministries

The Reverend Dr. J. Elisha Burke  
Director of Health, Men, Social Justice

Mrs. Sheryl B. McDowney  
Director of Faith Formation

Mrs. Keshia H. Butler  
Program Secretary

Mr. Bruce J. Martin  
Maintenance Technician

## **Congratulations New Ministry Officers, General Board Members and Children's Home of the VA Baptists, Inc. Trustees!**



Mrs. Teresa Bunting

### Women's Ministry

Rev. Dr. Margaret D. Edney



Mrs. Barbara Coleman-Brown



### Men's Ministry

Mr. Larry Pinchback



Mr. Charles Reese



Mr. Coolidge Hamlett, Jr.



### Clergy Ministry

Rev. Gloria N. Brickhouse



Rev. Michael E. Shannon



Rev. Dr. Tracey D. Holley



### General Board Members

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green (Central VA)

Rev. James C. Banks (Eastern VA)

Rev. Tanya Boucicaut (Eastern VA)

Rev. Michael Ferrell (Western VA)

Rev. Rosalind M. Harrison (Eastern VA)

Rev. Dr. Vernon Walton (Northern VA)

### Trustees for the Children's Home of the Virginia Baptists, Inc.

Rev. Doris Morrison (Western VA)

Mrs. Bettie Jordan Backus (Central VA)

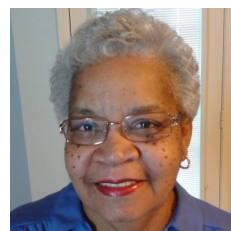
Mr. Ernest H. Green (Central VA)



## **Retirement Celebration— The Reverend Janet L. Wynn**

We praise God for Rev. Janet Wynn's marvelous Christian faith, her hard work and her commitment during her vocation at BGCVA for 2013–2020.

She will continue to help BGCVA on a volunteer basis.

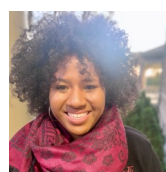


A resolution honoring her retirement is available to read at the BGCVA office and on our website.



## **Congratulations to New BGCVA Staff**

BGCVA Ministry Assistants to the Executive Minister—



Ms. Aria Kirkland-Harris

And

The Reverend  
Dr. William H.  
Whitaker, II





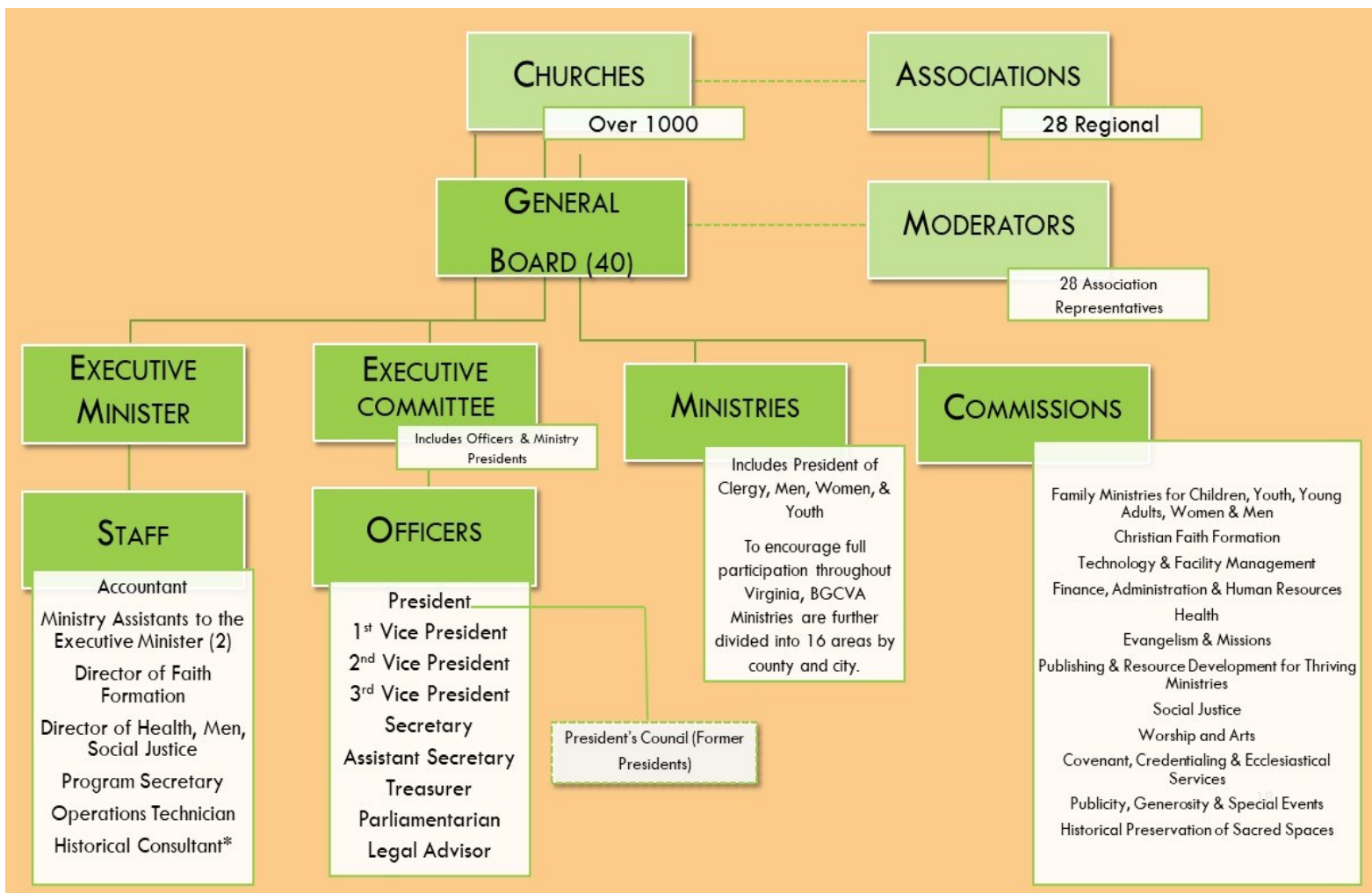
## President Victor's Focus for 2020-2022

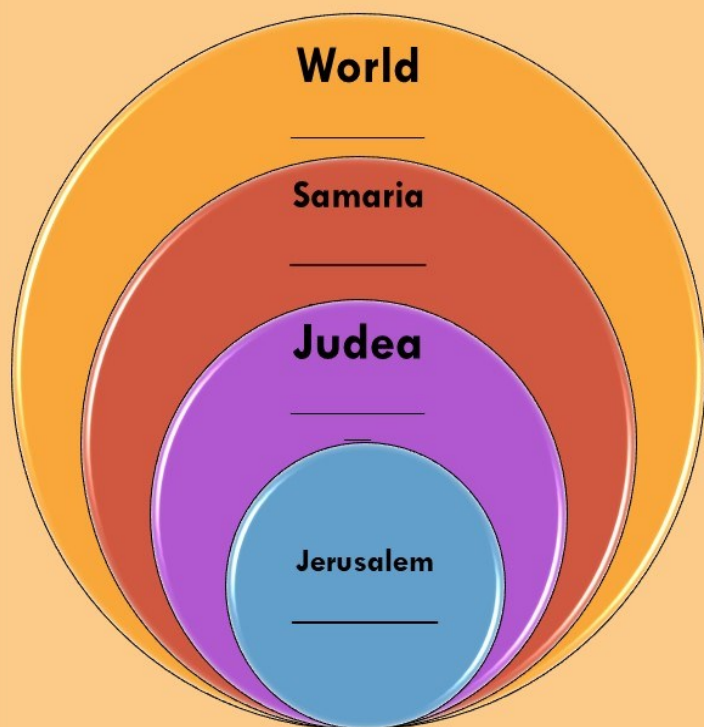
The following is a statement of objectives which I feel we need to prioritize going forward considering the current social, political, and spiritual climate. They are merely listed but not in any ascending or descending order of importance. I imagine that some of these ideas are already in the works or are long-standing ministry efforts of the Convention; however, the contemporary contexts mandates emphasis.

- ♦ A voting education, registration, and GOTV campaign emphasizing early voting which begins in the Commonwealth on September 17th.
- ♦ As the Census concludes at the end of September, we need to have a push for BGC churches to emphasize participation and registration.
- ♦ Mental Health Wellness Webinars
- ♦ History/Oral History Project to update the convention's illustrious history
- ♦ Committee on Inclusion to ensure and augment both gender and age inclusion
- ♦ On-line Tutoring developed across the state for students who must now learn in virtual classrooms
- ♦ Seminars/Webinars for developing an On-line presence for churches, especially in rural precincts
- ♦ Round-Table talks or even TED style talks from subject matter experts from the School of Theology and other places about what Church will look like in the future after the seismic shifts brought on by the pandemic
- ♦ Some effort to address food insecurity by pairing Black farmers with Black Churches to develop a distribution network
- ♦ Have discussion about developing a long-range strategic plan that is not personality/presidentially driven to ensure the future direction of the Convention. With the tenure of the president being reduced to a two-year term, coupled with the quick shifts in context in the Commonwealth, we need direction for the Convention that outlast the presidency of any elected leader in order to maintain the Convention's relevance.

The Reverend Dr. James E. Victor, Jr.  
President

## BGCVA Organizational Structure





**Acts 1:8 NRSV** <sup>8</sup>“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**Matthew 9:35-38 NRSV** The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

**Mark 10:13-16 NRSV**

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

## We Are BGC...

**B**ringing People Together, **G**rowing Churches, and **C**hanging Communities!

### BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER,

“Let us make humankind in our image,” (Gen 1:26, NRSV) is both an initiative of the HOLY and an invitation for humanity to become Holy. The SPIRIT of the TRINITY requires believers to come together for the cause of CHRIST so the KINGDOM of GOD can be united. The CHURCH is not only the visible presence of GOD’S KINGDOM, it is also the living holy organism called the BODY of CHRIST. Acts 1:8 records the SAVIOUR’S Commission that we be witnesses in all the earth. Therefore, we should use every human effort to BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER into the Body of Christ. Bringing People Together is the mission of the church.

### GROWING CHURCHES, and

Prayer to GOD, faith in JESUS, and the aid of the HOLY SPIRIT is how we GROW. Children need our nurturing care to guide them in life and to GROW in FAITH as reflected in Mark 10:13-16. Children and Youth are wrestling with issues and challenges that the church can creatively address without judgment or critique. The church is absent in many of the developmental years of young adults. Adults seek spiritual guidance in life but often as a last resort. Middle adults and seniors are the majority members of our churches, associations, and convention. However, the membership of each will continue to decrease if we are not engaged in Bringing People Together and GROWING CHURCHES.

### CHANGING COMMUNITIES!

Whenever the church works in UNITY and SERVICE, communities are impacted. The CHANGE of the community is directly linked to the changes that are overdue and necessary in the church. In the ministry of JESUS, the marginalized are included in the faith and the religious are instructed to serve all in Spirit and in Truth. In Matthew 9:35-38, JESUS goes to the needy and ministers. We can be the CHANGE that we seek in our neighborhoods, communities, counties, cities, states, nations, and world. Our commission is world-wide, and we must see ourselves in changing the world.



## We Are BGC...

**B**ringing People Together, **G**rowing Churches, and **C**hanging Communities!

How are we  
"Bringing People  
Together"?

- Who is involved in the ministry?
- Who is missing that we should reach out to?

How are we  
"Growing  
Churches"?

- What are the different ways we can think about spiritual growth?

How are we  
"Changing  
Communities"?

- What change do we hope to see in the world?
- How will people's lives be changed?

Please take the time and give us your ideas, suggestions and events that we can employ for our Thematic Focus.

Use the following link to share: <https://forms.gle/vUZPjYnz35rAoFwz6>

**Thank You Our Partners for their sponsorship of the Virtual 121st Annual Session**



Former President, The Reverend Dr. Gregory M. Howard on President's Night, June 30th, 2020.

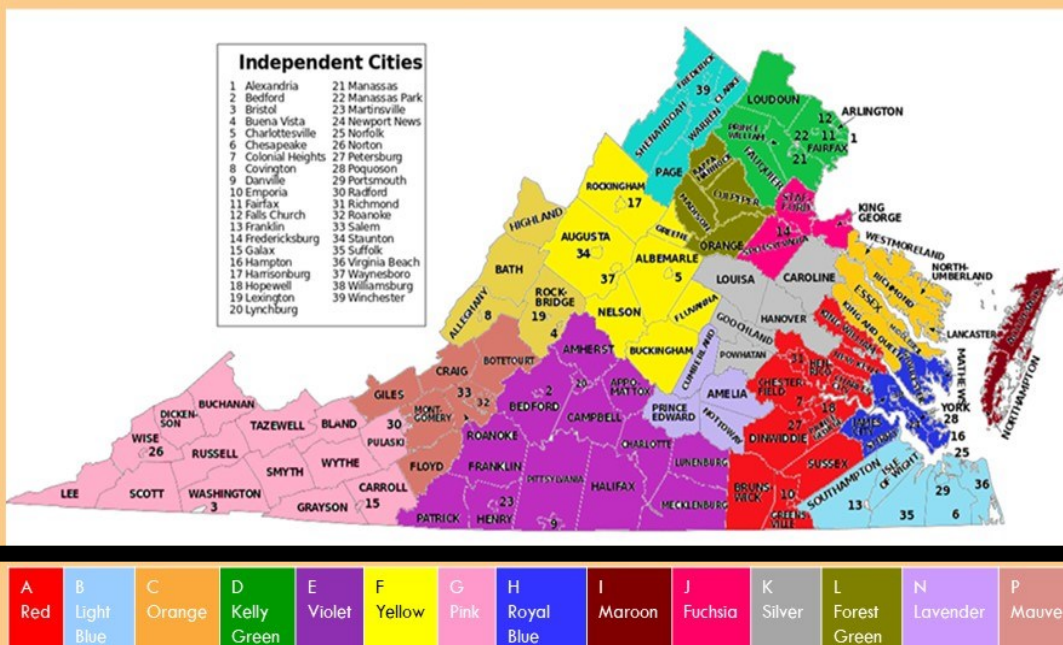


## Information About BGCVA—The Staff



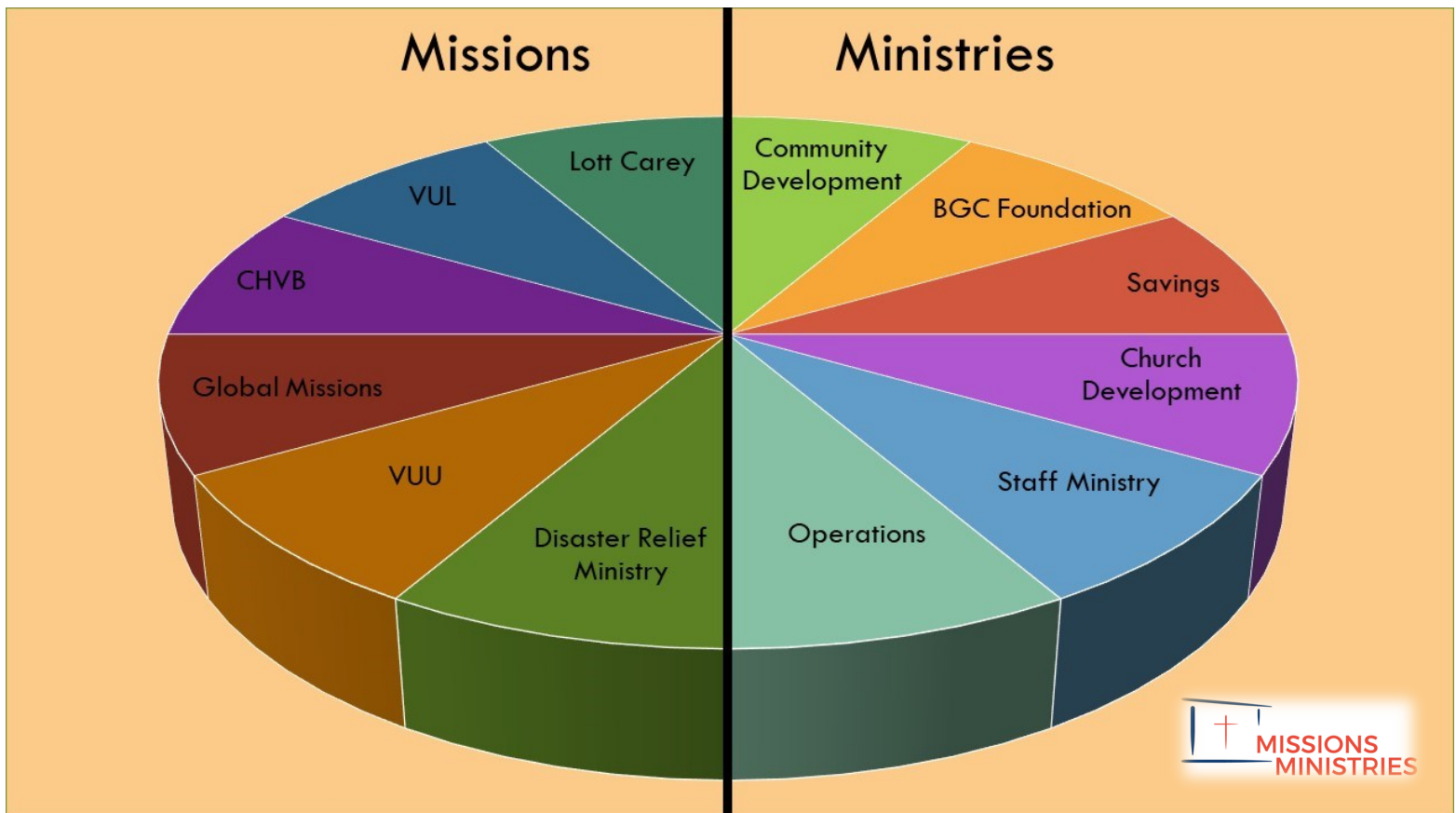
## BGCVA WOMEN'S MINISTRY AREAS

The Baptist General Convention of Virginia  
Women's Ministry  
**Map of the Regional Structure**





## BGCVA Financial Forecast



When each church and association gives at least \$1200 annual or \$100 monthly it will help us to reach our goal of \$1,200,000.

## Information About BGCVA—Ways To Give

### BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA



**PayPal:**  
**BGCVA Website: BGCVA.ORG**  
**Click on Donate**

**Cash App:**  
**Download App**  
**Enter Amount**  
**Pay To: \$BGCVA**

**GIVELIFY:**  
**Download App**  
**Find: Baptist General Convention**  
**Tap Amount**  
**Give**

**Mail in Gifts:**  
**BGCVA**  
**1214 West Graham Road**  
**Richmond, VA 23220**

## BGCVA Christian Faith Formation

Defined...

- The totality of all of the experiences of a person's life throughout all stages of life.
- Conception – Birth – Toddler – Primary – High School – College/Workforce – Young Adults – Middle Adults – Senior Adults

What is Faith Formation?

It is...

- Every action, experience and relationship that nurtures and leads to a transformative relationship with, trust in and total dependency on God.
- Throughout this nurturing process persons are shaped, formed and transformed in their relationship with God, self, others and the world.

Faith Formation Shapes...

- Our view and interaction with others,
- How we see and interact with God's people,
- How we view the world by
  - ⇒ Following the heart of God for the mission of God's Church and
    - \* Equipping God's people to go out into world to spread God's Kingdom.

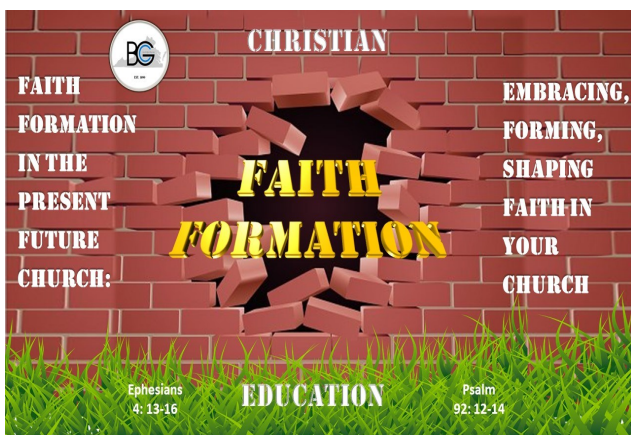
Therefore, Faith Formation can be defined as...

"The processes by which a person grows in faith that leads to a life that is shaped by God's love in order to invite the world to join us as Christ's followers."

To have our Faith and life formed by God's love, we need to know...

1. The story of God,
2. What it means that God loves us (in spite of...),
3. And how God expects us to act in our daily lives.

Faith Formation Conference is uploaded on our webpage for your edification and spiritual development.



### Legacy 2030

#### First Genesis of Virginia and Baptist General Convention of VA

Layout and Goals:

- **\$25,000 of new wealth creation by 100 individuals or churches over 5 years = \$2.5 million in New Wealth Creation by 2030**
- This is accomplished by individuals and/or churches each investing \$2,500 annually over the 5-year period (Planting Season) and allowing that amount to grow for 5 years (Harvesting Season).
- We will be providing workshops on Wealth Creation throughout the BGCVA community by request.
- We will also do targeted events in once a year in areas such as Northern VA, Tidewater VA, Richmond VA, and Roanoke VA. In addition to the Fall, Spring, & Summer Sessions of the BGCVA.
- During these workshops we will continue to promote charitable giving of life insurance (Legacy Planning) as well as Clergy Compensation Strategies.
- Ultimate GOAL - The Baptist General Convention of Virginia would like to over a ten-year period, place \$125 million dollars through Life Insurance, Investments and Annuities. This goal can be met with the aid of 500 contributors (churches, entities or individuals). **\$25,000.00 \* 500 contributors = \$125 million**
- If you or your church is interested in how to start building wealth for Legacy 2030, contact First Genesis of Virginia at (757) 627-6603 or via email at [Kenyatta@firstgenesiswa.com](mailto:Kenyatta@firstgenesiswa.com) !

Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Stratos Wealth Partners, Ltd., a registered investment advisor. Stratos Wealth Partners, Ltd. and First Genesis of Virginia are separate entities from LPL Financial.

## Homegoing Celebrations

**The Reverend Paul A. Clark**, Former Director of Christian Education for 1974-1980. A resolution honoring him is available to read at the BGCVA office.



**The Reverend Dr. Faye Savage Gunn**, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria



**The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, US Supreme Court Justice

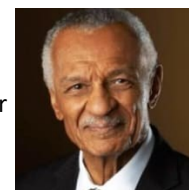


**Congressman John Lewis**, Civil Rights Pioneer



**The Reverend C. T. Vivian**, Civil Rights Leader

**Actor Chadwick Boseman**



And remembering the 210,000+ persons that have died from COVID-19.



# Preservation of African American Churches, Cemeteries, Historic Structures, Associated Land and Landmarks in Virginia

To Baptist General Convention Churches and Associations:



We are delighted to announce that Dominion Energy has provided a significant grant to BGCVA to assist churches and associations in historical preservation.

We have included a brief survey for you to share information about your church and /or association. Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/F2Hr1TAHq3coRMyM6>

This is an opportunity for your church and/or association to join us in this endeavor. If interested, please fill out and return the survey.

**Brief background:** Many churches may be eligible based on their history of significant accomplishments to be designated as significant historical structures in Virginia and/or the United States (separate registries). The project will take your church historian or other designated persons through the process to determine if your church, other historic buildings, schools, cemeteries may be eligible to receive designations and recogni-

tions.

This initiative funded by Dominion Energy will enable Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA) to provide training for new and current Church Historians. These historians would research; document and archive all data related to the assigned church and would attend BGCVA sponsored training and other applicable training needed to conduct the work. -

The key component to the success of this initiative involves **documenting and archiving BGCVA church documents in an onsite (BGCVA) and digital archive for documents, books and digital records**. This archive would also include data and documents (special occasions, association meetings, etc.) from our churches over the years. A primary outcome for this initiative will be the creation of **digital archive of the history of BGCVA and the churches participating in the project**. This project also includes assisting churches with researching and documenting other properties including cemeteries and other structures that could possibly be recognized for their historical significance.

**NOTE:** Churches that currently maintain their archives and artifacts would continue to do so but participating churches would have the option of having a digital archive accessible online.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact:

Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Project Director

[eburke@bgcva.org](mailto:eburke@bgcva.org) or 804-228-2421 or 804-337-7215 (cell)

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# BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA

1214 West Graham Road, Suite 1 | Richmond, Virginia 23220-1400

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Website: [www.bgcva.org](http://www.bgcva.org) | E-mail: [info@bgcva.org](mailto:info@bgcva.org)

## STATE OFFICERS

The Reverend Dr. James E. Victor, Jr.  
President

The Reverend Milton P. Bunting  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

The Reverend Dr. James E. Coleman, Jr.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

The Reverend Dr. Griselda A. Bayton  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

The Reverend Dr. Glenn E. Porter  
Secretary

The Reverend Dr. William J. Reid  
Assistant Secretary

The Reverend Willis A. Funn  
Treasurer

The Reverend Dr. Robert L. Pettis, Sr.  
Parliamentarian

The Reverend Dr. Raymond L. Palmer  
Legal Advisor

## BGC FOUNDATION

The Reverend Dr. Robert G. Murray  
Board Chair

## MINISTRY PRESIDENTS

The Reverend Dr. Gregory L. Beechaum, Sr.  
Clergy Ministry

Mr. Reginald S. Davis  
Men's Ministry

Mrs. Polly Jones Mason  
Women's Ministry

## ADMINISTRATION

The Reverend Dr. Leo Whitaker  
Executive Minister

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Ms. Aria Kirkland-Harris  
Ministry Assistant to the Executive Minister

The Reverend Dr. William H. Whitaker, II  
Ministry Assistant to the Executive Minister

## PROGRAM MINISTRIES

The Reverend Dr. J. Elisha Burke  
Director of Health, Wellness, & Social  
Justice

Mrs. Sheryl B. McDowney  
Director of Faith Formation

Mrs. Keshia H. Butler  
Program Secretary

Mr. Bruce J. Martin  
Operations Technician

Fall 2020

Dear BGCVA Family,

Peace and Blessings in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Savior!

In the aftermath of Hurricane Laura, President James Victor is calling on the Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA) family to respond in love and generosity. This appeal to support our brothers and sisters in the Gulf Coast communities impacted by Laura is critical. Our targeted interest is the churches, their pastors, and members. We seek to raise funds that will enable and empower religious communities so that they will continue the great work of community building and faith formation in their beloved Gulf Coast region.

Those suffering now are in dire need of support. We, as a people, are now fighting three pandemics — COVID 19, Police Violence, and now, destruction caused by natural disaster. We have witnessed the inadequate response of our Nation in the past, and we will not let our sisters and brothers suffer alone in silence.

Our initial response will include a campaign for financial support from individuals, our churches, and the community at large. These funds will be coordinated through Lott Carey and with local ministries. We are inviting all of our pastors and churches, moderators and associations, Christians and ministries to join with us in this effort of service. Like our faith, your financial gifts unite us for greater service and your contributions amplify our collective witness in the world.

Second, we will join our other faith partners and social agencies in developing service opportunities in the and around the Gulf Coast. Right now, the request for financial support to sustain day-to-day existence is paramount. Because many homes were destroyed, it is impossible for them to receive clothing and household goods at this time. We will also work with our business partners to assist in helping them to rebuild their homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

Finally, we know that God honors unity and kingdom building. Therefore, we asked that you pray for our brothers and sisters in the Gulf Coast region. Let us work in love and grace in meeting the needs of those impacted by Laura. Please remember in your prayers those who were harmed by the storm, police violence, and the novel coronavirus.

Donations to BGCVA's Disaster Relief Fund may be submitted directly online via the BGCVA website ([www.bgcva.org](http://www.bgcva.org)), by CashApp (download app, enter amount, pay to \$BGCVA, by Givelify (download app, find Baptist General Convention, tap amount, give), by phone at 804-228-2421, by postal mail, or in person at the convention office at 1214 West Graham Road, Suite 1, Richmond, VA 23220.

As we respond with disaster relief service, we will honor our existing financial accounting practices and systems. Please include your contact information with your donation so we may send you a receipt and a final report of our combined efforts. All gifts will be used to serve those who are in need because of this current disaster.

May GOD continue to bless you for all you do for the work of CHRIST!

For The Kingdom of Christ, We are,

*James E. Victor*

Dr. James E. Victor, Jr. President

*Leo Whitaker*

Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister

**We are BGC...Bringing People Together, Growing Churches, and Changing Communities!**

~ Act 1:8; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 10:13-16



## **PRAYER FOR PROTECTION AND PEACE, Psalm 91 (NIV)**

### **A CALL TO PRAYER – A CALL TO CARE**

The Reverend Dr. Leo Whitaker, BGCVA Executive Minister – Fall 2020

**People:** <sup>1</sup> Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup> I will say of the LORD, “God is my refuge and my fortress my God, in whom I trust.”

**Leader:** Lord, we thank you for meteorologists and scientific scholars alerting us of the storms. We praise you, O God, for the fortitude of civil servants who responded well to insure the safety of all citizens. You blessed elected officials to govern with grace and prepare us for such times.

**People:** <sup>3</sup> Surely God will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. <sup>4</sup> God will cover you with feathers, and under God’s wings you will find refuge; God’s faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, <sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. <sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

**Leader:** We witnessed your power to create storms. You allowed strong winds to blow hard and ocean waters to rise high. We praise you, O God, that winds still obey Your voice! You alone are our awesome GOD!

**People:** <sup>8</sup> You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. <sup>9</sup> If you say, “The Lord is my refuge” and you make the Most High your dwelling, <sup>10</sup> no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.

**Leader:** We pray for the families of whose loved ones transitioned to the safe shores of the celestial city during the storm and through the Covid-19 pandemic. May your comforting hand rest upon Jacob Blake and all the families who have lost a love one in this season. May your arms offer rest to first responders who served well, knowing ALL life is precious in your eyes. We humbly bow to your sovereign will. Only your HOLY SPIRIT can share the comforting ministry of your presence and peace.

**People:** <sup>11</sup> For God will command angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; <sup>12</sup> they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

**Leader:** We praise you, O God, for allowing our commonalities to unite the nation and world in support of Black Lives; to push supremacist ideologies and political differences aside to treat each person with worth, warmth, and value of what it means to be created in your image.

**People:** <sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. <sup>14</sup> “Because you love me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue you; I will protect you, for you acknowledge my name.

**Leader:** Now Lord, help us to place our unified actions into concrete waves of compassion in everyday living – personal and public acts for the good of our sisters and brothers in America and around the world. May each of us honor the humanity and divinity in all people.

**People:** <sup>15</sup> You will call on me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble, I will deliver you and honor you. <sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy you and show you my salvation.”

**Leader:** May we join our resources together to meet the ongoing demands of those affected by the pandemic, police brutality, and natural disasters as they begin the process of rebuilding their lives. Please move on the hearts of social organizations, governmental agencies, community programs, and **THE CHURCH**, to serve and share their gifts with empathy. Let us remember, ‘but for the grace of GOD’, we could be in the same situation or worse. Lord have mercy on us all.

**All:** Help each of us to see beyond the disasters, storms, tragedies, and work to establish equality for all; that we might continue to give YOU praise and glory for reminding all of us “that all things work for the good of them who love you and are the called according to YOUR purpose.” (Romans 8:28) Amen!

## Clergy Care & Leadership Support: When Ministers & Church Leaders Need a Minister

The telephone rings at 3:00 in the morning with a call from a church member needing to talk to you about a family member who has either died or is gravely ill. The last, quarterly church meeting was held nearly three months ago and the next one is only two weeks away, but your spirit is still wrenched from the hurtful words spoken to you in the last church meeting. You're the minister over the Couples Ministry or the leader of the Marriage Enrichment Ministry, but you can't let anyone in the church know that you and your spouse have secretly decided to separate and your belief is that your marriage will probably end in divorce. You've been "invited" to take leadership in a ministry, but you don't feel you have the training and skills necessary to successfully lead the people of God.

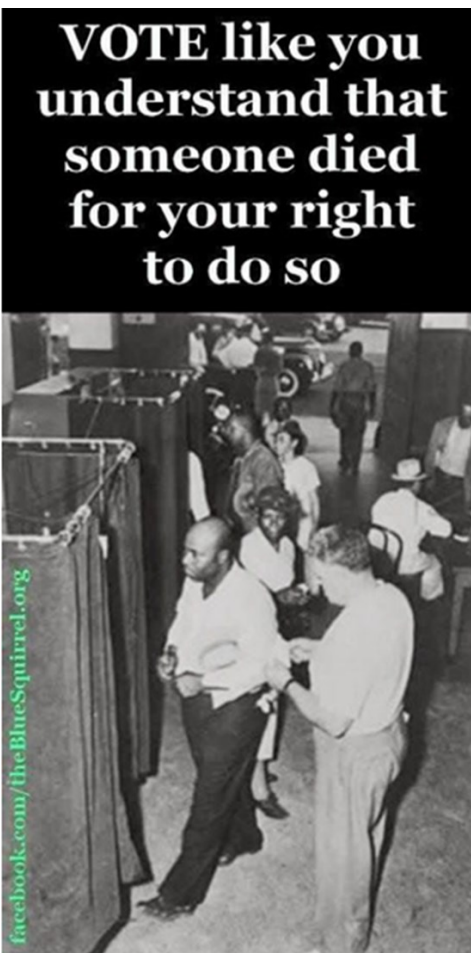
With the new pressures of doing ministry in a pandemic era of COVID19, many pastors are ministers are wondering where they can find confidential, clergy care and ministry leaders are likewise seeking sources for convenient and reliable ministry training. The Baptist General Convention is proud and thankful to be able to offer Conversations in Clergy Ministry and Ministry Training Track are both facilitated by Dr. William "Dr. Bill" Whitaker as a part of the BGCVA Clergy Ministry which is led by Dr. Gregory Beechaum.

Conversations in Clergy Ministry meets via Zoom every 1st Thursday at 12:00noon and provides discussions on clergy care and healthy ministry life. There is no charge for BGCVA affiliated pastors and ministers and persons who attend the monthly Conversations in Clergy Ministry sessions are provided with clergy care discussions on how to navigate and overcome ministry related crises in an effort to balance home and ministry life.

The Ministry Training Track (MTT) also meets via Zoom, but on every 3rd Monday at 12noon. MTT provides church leadership training in Baptist doctrine and polity, church governance and finances, ministry group formation, people skills, and much more.

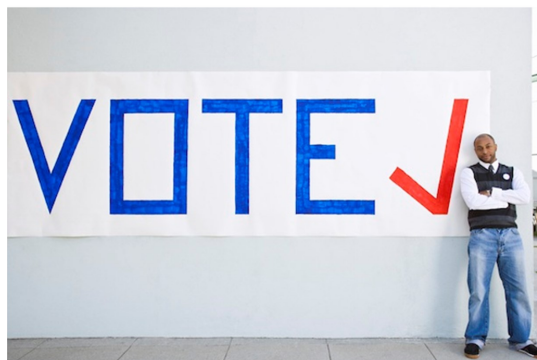
Dr. Bill is the new Ministry Assistant to Dr. Leo Whitaker, the Executive Minister of the Baptist General Convention. He is the Pastor of the Covenant Fellowship Baptist Church in Chesterfield, Va., the Church Business Manager for the First Baptist Church, South Richmond, and he has served for the past two years as the facilitator of the BGCVA Ministry Training Track.

Dr. William "Dr. Bill" Whitaker, [whwhitaker2@bgcva.org](mailto:whwhitaker2@bgcva.org)



### Virginia Board of Elections:

1. Registration - <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/> Registration Deadline – Oct. 13th
2. Absentee and Early Voting - <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/>
3. Absentee and Early Voting - Sept. 18th – Oct. 31st  
Registration Drive Training - <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/>
4. Become and Officer of Election - <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/officer-of-elections/>
5. Become a Poll Worker - <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/officer-of-elections/>





## My Community Counts!

The 2020 Census is here, and the results will shape the future of

# Virginia

for years to come.

I challenge you to complete the census.

#shapeyourfuture

<https://2020census.gov/en.html>

There is still time to respond!



**BE THE CHURCH**  
Protect the environment. Care for the poor.  
Forgive often. **Reject racism.**  
**Fight for the powerless.**  
Share earthly and spiritual resources.  
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

Baptist General Convention of Virginia  
BGCVA 2020-2022 Theme:  
*We are BGC...Bringing People Together,  
Growing Churches, and Changing Communities!*  
~ Act 1:8; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 10:13-16

Women's Ministry

Week of Prayer

October 11 – 17, 2020

Praying n' Trusting  
God During These  
Trying Times

  
*Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer*

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” 1 John 5:14 (NIV)



## Attention All Youth Pastors, Youth Directors, and Youth Workers!

BGCVA inviting you to join the Baptist General Convention of Virginia's Youth Ministry Advisory Team (YMAT). Together, we will plan, implement, evaluate and elevate BGCVA'S Youth Ministry in conjunction with both our 28 associations and 1079 churches. The YMAT will develop and design strategic plans and programs and other events in your area as well as give leadership to statewide engagements.

The virtual meetings are on the 2nd Saturdays of each month at 9 AM.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102131267?pwd=N0lDSk93NFJ0ZnRldXBiWGVJL3FLZz09>

Meeting ID: [821 0213 1267](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102131267?pwd=N0lDSk93NFJ0ZnRldXBiWGVJL3FLZz09)

Passcode: [5yUatT](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102131267?pwd=N0lDSk93NFJ0ZnRldXBiWGVJL3FLZz09)

Dial by phone: [+1 301 715 8592](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102131267?pwd=N0lDSk93NFJ0ZnRldXBiWGVJL3FLZz09)

Meeting ID: [821 0213 1267](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102131267?pwd=N0lDSk93NFJ0ZnRldXBiWGVJL3FLZz09)

Passcode: [778991](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102131267?pwd=N0lDSk93NFJ0ZnRldXBiWGVJL3FLZz09)

For questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Executive Minister Whitaker 804-228-2421 (office) or [executiveminister@bgcva.org](mailto:executiveminister@bgcva.org).

We look forward to working with you!

## Black Lives Matter!

Remembering those who were killed or injured by police brutality and the families that are affected!

- George Floyd
- Briana Taylor
- Jacob Blake
- And many more!







Baptist General Convention of VA Clergy Ministry Invites You To:



# CONVERSATIONS IN CLERGY MINISTRY

EVERY FIRST THURSDAY  
@ 12 PM

Topic Conversation  
Spiritual Closure: Caring  
for Ourselves  
While Remembering  
Those Who We Have  
Lost



Meeting ID: 876 5365 4568

Passcode: 790104

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653654568?pwd=c2d5Nm1TbDNNU1IWMWFGTkVJOVAvQT09>

Dial by your location: +1 301 715 8592 US

\*\* For more information contact the BGCVA Office 804.228.2421 or [info@bgcva.org](mailto:info@bgcva.org) \*\*

[www.bgcva.org](http://www.bgcva.org)



Baptist General Convention of VA  
Ministry Training Track (M. T. T.)



## Preparing Leaders for Ministry in the Pandemic and Beyond

EVERY THIRD MONDAY  
@ 12 PM

Meeting ID: 889 5297 9107

Passcode: 457526

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88952979107?pwd=eStXTm5XNlR0a1RseER3dFAiYUtgdz09>

Dial by your location: +1 301 715 8592 US

\*\* For more information contact the BGCVA Office 804.228.2421 or [info@bgcva.org](mailto:info@bgcva.org) \*\*

[www.bgcva.org](http://www.bgcva.org)



# Baptist General Convention of VA

## 2021 Event Calendar

EST. 1899

### January

- 9 Virtual Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference
- 18-19 MLK Celebration and Day of Ministry Service
- 24 Statewide BGCVA Day

### February

- 5 VUU Founders' Day
- 19-20 Virtual Mid-Winter Ministries Session

### March

- 6 Virtual Children and Youth Workers' Conference
- 13 VUU Church Leadership Conference

### April

- 2-3 Young Adult Weekend, Place: TBA
- 8 Spring General Board Meeting, BGCVA State Office, Richmond

### June

- 27- 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel, Norfolk

### July

- 2 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel, Norfolk
- 10 BGC Day @ Kings Dominion
- 10 Children's Home Founders' Day
- 16-17 Youth Retreat @ VUU

### September (Christian Education Month)

- 4 Church School Conference, BGCVA State Office, Richmond
- 9 General Board Strategic Planning Meeting, BGCVA State Office, Richmond
- 11 Church School Conference, Tidewater

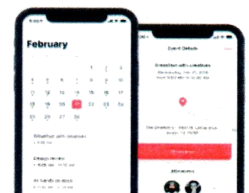
### October (Clergy Appreciation Month)

- 10 Clergy Appreciation Day
- 10-16 BGCVA Week of Prayer
- 14 Fall General Board Meeting, BGCVA State Office, Richmond
- 16 Church School Conference, Northern VA

### November

- 2 Day of Social Action
- 6 Fall Session, Fifth BC, Richmond
- 20 Church School Conference, Roanoke

\*\*\*\* Events are Virtual During the Pandemic. \*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\* Dates and Locations are Subject to Change. \*\*\*





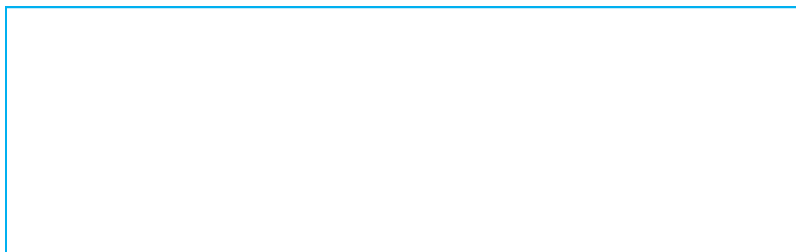
Baptist General Convention of Virginia

1214 West Graham Road

Richmond, Virginia 23220

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## BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA



We are BGC...Bringing People Together,  
Growing Churches, and Changing Communities!

~ Act 1:8; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 10:13-16



# NOV 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> FALL SESSION 2020

From Generation to Generation:  
Revisiting the Village

FRI TO SAT  
7 PM 3 PM

REGISTRATION  
IS  
**\$30 PER  
PERSON  
OR  
\$100 PER  
CHURCH**

### SESSION SPEAKERS



THE REVEREND MICAH  
JACKSON  
PASTOR, SEVENTH  
STREET MEMORIAL  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
RICHMOND



THE REVEREND CC  
JACKSON  
PASTOR, SEVENTH  
STREET MEMORIAL  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
RICHMOND

BGCVA | 1214 W. Graham Road | Richmond, VA 23220  
Dr. James E. Victor, Jr., President Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister

### PRAISE & WORSHIP

MINISTRY FAIR  
GET PLANNING RESOURCES FOR YOUR  
2021 MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

THEME INTERPRETATIONS &  
PANEL DISCUSSIONS

WORKSHOPS AND MORE!

REGISTER TODAY! AT [WWW.BGCVA.ORG/EVENTS/HTML](http://WWW.BGCVA.ORG/EVENTS/HTML)