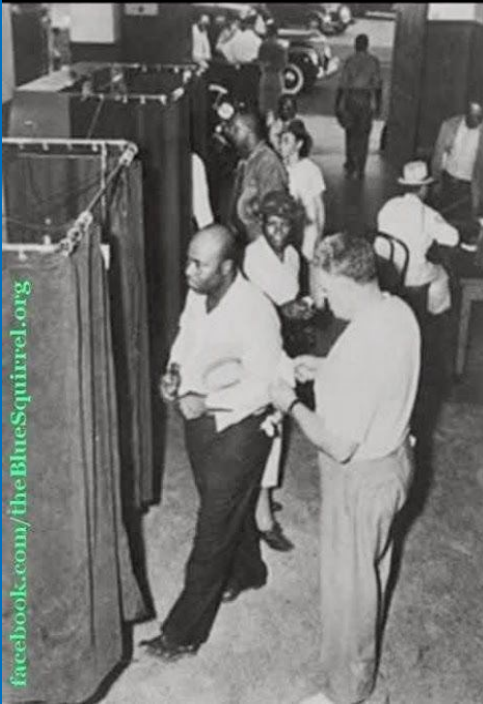


Baptist Herald

REMEMBER TO
VOTE

VOTE like you
understand that
someone died
for your right
to do so !



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*I will give
you shepherds
after my own
heart, who will
lead you with
knowledge
& understanding*

JEREMIAH 3:15

Baptist Herald

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Election Protection

ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

Bring the proper ID to the polls. If you are not sure what to bring go to <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/photo-ids-required-to-vote/>

- You have the right to select virtually anyone to assist you at the polls, if needed. (Except your employer or union agent)
 - You have the right to cast a provisional ballot, at least. * never leave without casting at least a provisional ballot *
 - If you are in line at the time the polls close, you are able to vote. #StayInLine
- If you are using a paper ballot and make an error, you are allowed to spoil that ballot and get a new one.

1-866-OUR-VOTE

The NAACP and coalition partners will staff an election protection hotline (1-866-OUR-VOTE). Over 2,000 lawyers, law students, and paralegals are working to make the NAACP Election Day efforts a success.

Top 5 reasons to call voter protection:

- Polling Location either not open on time or closed early
- Polling Location Moved, no notice
- Voter Prevented from Voting—especially when in the correct precinct, having the correct ID
- Not allowed assistance or given assistance when required

Intimidation or misinformation by polling officials

Source – NAACP <https://www.naacp.org/elections-protection/>

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE (866)-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

Virginia has a long and ugly history of voter disenfranchisement and suppression. In the past, tactics like poll taxes and literacy tests kept Black voters from casting ballots; today, we see measures like voter ID laws, voting rights stripped from returning citizens, malfunctioning and in-

cure voting machines, and long lines.

Virginia's General Election will be held on November 3, 2020.

Things to remember:

Polling locations are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

If you are standing in line at 7 p.m., you must be allowed to vote.

Bring ID with you! You will be asked to provide ID to vote, but if you don't have a form of acceptable ID, you can sign a statement confirming your identity and must be allowed to cast a regular ballot.

<https://www.protectthevoteva.com/election-protection.html>



President James 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

Thematic Focus 2020-2022 (Act 1:8; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 10:13-16)

We Are BGC...

Bringing People Together, Growing Churches, and Changing 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.

First Sunday In Advent 2020
Week 1 – HOPE
November 29, 2020



PRELUDE (YOUNG ADULT)

Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectation, waiting and preparation for both the **celebration** of the Birth of JESUS at Christmas and the return of JESUS at the Second Coming.

Advent is the beginning of the Church liturgical (calendar) year. It is the beginning of a Hope that we will see fulfilled as we culminate with a Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Worship.

As we read the texts, sing the songs, light the candles, we cannot forget that we are in the midst of a global pandemic. A pandemic that knows no respective age – young, old; no respective color – black, white, beige, brown; no respective station in life – rich, poor, or somewhere in-between. Through it all we have learned that we are really one in God's eye! What affects my brother and sister in my small portion of the world also affects my brothers and sisters all around the world. For we are all connected and praying for the same cure!

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING (Isaiah 64:1-9 – AMP)

1 ASSOC. MIN. ¹Oh, that **YOU** would tear open the heavens and come down,
That the mountains might quake at **YOUR** presence—
²As [sure as] fire kindles the brushwood, as fire causes water to boil—
To make **YOUR** name known to **YOUR** adversaries,
That the nations may tremble at **YOUR** presence!
³When **YOU** did awesome *and* amazing things which we did not expect,
YOU came down [at Sinai]; the mountains quaked at **YOUR** presence.

1 Choir Member ⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any **GOD** besides **YOU**,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for **GOD**.

⁵**You** come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember **YOUR** ways. But when we
continued to sin against them **YOU** were angry. How then can we be saved?

⁶All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

1 YOUTH ⁷There is no one who calls on **YOUR** name, or attempts to take hold of **YOU**; for **YOU** have hidden
YOUR face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet **YOU**, **LORD**, are our **GOD**. We are the clay, **YOU** are the potter; we are all the work of **YOUR**
hand.

⁹Do not be angry beyond measure, **LORD**; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we
pray, for we are all **YOUR** people.

LIGHT 1 PURPLE CANDLE (Teen)

Young Child: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

People: **On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned!**

Older Adult: The Light that is the Word of **GOD**, **GOD** incarnate

1 Youth Leader: **Let us worship as we await the arrival of the newborn king!**

CONGREGATIONAL SONG – Jesus, the Light of the World!

PRAYER (Young Adult)

Oh, how we long for **YOU**, O **GOD**, to leave heaven and physically come to see about us! Have mercy on those 225,000+ persons who lost their battle with COVID-19 and those who are sick with COVID-19 and in need of a healing

touch from **YOU**. **YOU** and **YOU** alone are our Heavenly GOD. We are the clay, **YOU** are the potter; we are all the work of **YOUR** hand. Have mercy on us, O GOD and bring healing to those who are sick and those who are hurting. Forgive us for doing wrong and help us to do **YOUR** will **YOUR** way!

1 Deacon (On behalf of Congregation) – Oh, look down on us, we pray, for we are all YOUR people. AMEN!

Second Sunday In Advent 2020
Week 2 – PREPARATION
December 6, 2020



PRELUDE (YOUNG CHILD w/ Parent to Assist)

Today is the second Sunday in Advent. Today we will light two purple candles.

RE-LIGHT 1 PURPLE CANDLE and LIGHT A SECOND PURPLE CANDLE (PARENT)

Young Child: Why are you lighting 2 purple candles?

Older Child: We relight the first candle to symbolize our **HOPE** that the birth of **JESUS** brings to us. We light the second candle on the Advent Wreath to symbolize the **PREPARATION** everyone must make in their heart and mind to receive **GOD’S** gift of the **BABY JESUS**.

Scripture (Young Adult): Isaiah 40:3 – 11 (AMP)

Read scripture. The scriptures are not new. The lighting of the candles are not new. Yet, as Christians, we repeat rituals that have meaning to us. These rituals remind us that our one and only **SAVIOR** is going to come again into the world. As we wait for the second coming of **CHRIST**, we remember that our **HOPE** is on the way; and, we prepare our heart, mind, and soul to receive **CHRIST** when **He** returns.

Solo: (Led by Older Adult or Choir): **Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing**

Young Adult:

Last week we lit 1 purple candle to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. Today we light a second purple candle to remind us that we need to get ready for Christ’s return. It may be a short or a long wait. However, we must be prepared whenever Christ comes back.

Young Child: We keep the **Light of CHRIST** burning bright so everyone can see!

1 Person Respond: **The Light is CHRIST!**

Teenager: The second purple candle reminds us to always keep the **Light of CHRIST** alive in our heart!

1 Person Respond: **What can we do to keep the Light of CHRIST alive in the world?**

Older Child: We can pray for people who are sick with COVID-19 and ask **GOD** to help them feel better.

1 Person Respond: **The Light is the WORD OF GOD – GOD incarnate. Let us worship as we await the arrival of the newborn King!**

Solo: This Little Light of Mine

Prayer (Older Adult): **JESUS, we welcome YOU into our heart! Each week we add another light for YOU while we wait for YOU to come again. Help us to always let YOUR light grow brighter in our hearts every day. And so, we always welcome You into our heart. Amen.**

Third Sunday In Advent

WEEK 3 – JOY

December 13, 2020



Prelude (Senior Adult)

L – The Advent story is one of hope, mystery, anticipation, preparation, a kingdom of this world and the next, and a

King appearing when we least expect.

P – **Heaven touching earth, the footsteps of the Divine walking dusty roads as they once did in Eden; and, a people, searching for a Savior, and walking past a stable.**

L – Open our eyes and hearts, O GOD, that this might be an Advent of **Joy** to the world for all.

RE-LIGHT 2 PURPLE CANDLES and LIGHT the PINK CANDLE (Young child, older child and parents)

Younger Child: Why are we lighting 2 purple candles and the pink candle?

Older Child: We relight the first purple candle help us remember the **Hope** that the birth of **BABY JESUS** brings to all. We relight the second purple candle to help us remember the **PREPARATION** that all of us must make in our hearts and minds to receive God's gift of Baby **JESUS**.

Older Adult

So, today we light the third candle – the pink candle of **JOY**! Can you image the joy Mary must have felt? Let's listen to Mary's unspeakable joy in Luke 1:46b -55!

Scripture (Young Adult)

Luke 1:46b – 55

Prayer (Teenager) – (The prayer should be from the heart and about **JOY**) – using the teen's own words – **and not read**.

Song of Affirmation – ****Unspeakable Joy*** by Gospel Artist Douglas Miller. *(Have a person to sing the song or use a recording of the song. You may also access a video recording of the song via U-tube).*

Closing Prayer (Middle Adult)

GOD, the **GIVER** of all Life, this season is alive with the blessings of unspeakable joy. The sounds of this season remind us of the hope that is reborn second by second, day by day in each of our lives. May Christmas be more than a time of lighting candles or giving and receiving gifts. Our prayer is that this season be a time of renewed commitment to **YOU, O GOD!** In our daily living, may we never forget to live large enough that **YOUR** Grace is made real; that our service is sanctified by **YOU**; and, that we realize we can never out-give **YOU**. In the name of **JESUS, THE CHRIST CHILD** we pray...Amen!

***IN ADVANCE OF THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT, identify one or 2 persons who can sing the above song for the Advent presentation. If your soloist/choir/chorus/group is unable to sing this song, you may ask if there is someone in the congregation who can lead in the singing of the song. Or perhaps you know of someone outside of the church who would volunteer to come and sing the song. If all fails, PRAISE GOD FOR TECHNOLOGY! Check U-Tube! OR FIND ANOTHER SONG ABOUT JOY!**

December 20, 2020

Person – We will sing GOD’S steadfast LOVE forever!

[illegible]

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2020



Prelude (READ EXUBERANTLY WITH EXCITEMENT!)

Youth Can you believe it! Our waiting is over! We are prepared!
Children **JESUS, THE CHRIST is born!**
Congregation Let's go tell it!
Solo **Go Tell It On the Mountain**
Older Teenager **Light 1 Purple Candle – Our HOPE is here!**
Young Adult **Light 1 Purple Candle – Our PEACE is here!**
Mid-Adult **Light 1 Pink Candle – Our JOY is here!**
Adult **Light 1 Purple Candle – Our LOVE is here!**
Older Adult **CHRIST, Our SAVIOR Has Arrived AFRESH in the lives of All Who Seek HIM!**

Solo **He Lives!**

Scripture (Adult): Isaiah 40:3 – 11

Read scripture. **State:** This scripture is not new. The lighting of the candles is not new. Yet, as Christians we repeat rituals that have meaning to us. These rituals remind us that our one and only Savior is going to come again into the world. As we wait for the second coming of Christ, we remember that our hope is on the way; and, we prepare our heart, mind, and soul to receive Christ when He returns.

Solo: Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

Young Adult:

Centers and margins, ins and outs, popular and unpopular, geeks and goons, fat and thin, young and old, black and white, rich and poor, the haves and the have nots, saints and sinners – all of us are YOURS – for we were all made by YOU, O GOD. All of us are here because YOU left glory to meet us where we are – here on earth. This you did because of your never-ending **LOVE** for each of us. Help us to show our **LOVE for YOU** by showing **YOUR LOVE toward those whose bodies are in pain from Covid-19** and those who are their caretakers and those who have lost loved ones. For all of us are **YOUR** handiwork! Thank you for being Who YOU Are! Thank you for **YOUR never-ending Great LOVE toward each of us! AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!**

Solo: Joy to the World!

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Christ Child who forever lives within each of us. Now, Will YOU allow this **Child to control the very fabric of your being?** Remember, we are made in **GOD'S Image!**

HELPFUL HINTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

ESSENTIAL: **PLEASE HAVE EVERYONE TO MUTE THEIR MICS BEFORE BEGINNING AND, TO CUT OFF ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE BACKGROUND!**

Please have only 1 person reading or speaking at a time.

Never have people to respond in unison. This does not go well with virtual platforms and comes out muffled and noisy. HAVE ONE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLES EACH WEEK AND ONE PERSON ON STAND BY.

Instructions For Lighting The Candles On The Virtual Advent Wreath

Virtual Advent Wreath

May The Blessed Season Of Advent Light Your Way To A Merry Christmas

Click [HERE for a Virtual Advent Wreath](#) with wicks that light when clicked.

Homegoing Celebrations



Mr. Joshua Henderson – Son of Northern Virginia Baptist Association Moderator Augustus Henderson & Mrs. Jacqueline Henderson



Some kids need foster families;
some need permanent
adoptive families.

Your family
is just what
they are
looking for.

Contact VA OCOC today to find out
more about adoption!!

- Sandy Berkeley – (804) 837-9292 or sberkeleyvococ@gmail.com
- Diana Chappell (757) 343-3358
dchappelloonechild@gmail.com
Cassandra Calender-Ray- oonechild@aol.com

• Inquire on website at
www.vaonechurchonechild.org



November is Adoption Awareness Month

Virtual Lock-In 2020: Do You See What I See?

**December 18, 2020 @ 7 PM &
December 19, 2020 @ 9 AM**

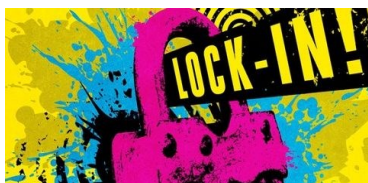
**A Time to Look Back,
Look In,
Look Out,
Look Around,
and Look Up!**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Each participant is requested to memorize this scripture and video themselves reciting it and send their recording to info@BGCVA.org. Your videos will be shared during the Lock-In and at other BGCVA Events.

The goal for BGCVA is to bring children, youth, and young adults together for a two-day fun, fellowship, and faith-sharing Lock-In that will provide encouragement, engagement, and excitement for all.

Cost - \$10.00 Per Person or \$100.00



Per
Church

BGCVA Children and Youth Workers' Conference 2021

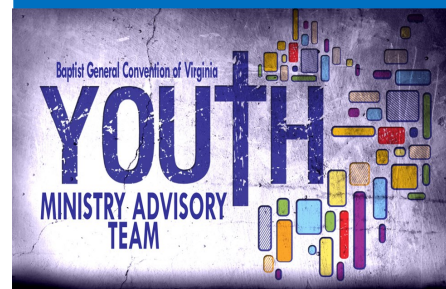
March 6, 2021

**Bringing New Generations To Jesus ...
Mark 10:13-16; Act 1:8, Matthew 9:35-38**

The Children and Youth Workers' Conference will explore and examine methods and models to bring current and future generations to Jesus, to the church and to the associations. Each presentation will place emphasis on enhancing intergenerational ministries and methods while creating new approaches to serving these diverse populations. All youth, parents, youth directors, youth ministers, youth workers, and youth friendly adults are encouraged to participate.

Cost - \$20.00 Per Person or \$100.00
Per Church

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102131267?pwd=N0lDSk93NFJ0ZnRldXBiWGVLJl3FLZz09)
[pwd=N0lDSk93NFJ0ZnRldXBiWGVLJl3FLZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102131267?pwd=N0lDSk93NFJ0ZnRldXBiWGVLJl3FLZz09)

Meeting ID: **821 0213 1267**

Passcode: **5yUatT**

Dial by phone: **+1 301 715 8592**

Meeting ID: **821 0213 1267**

Passcode: **778991**

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

We look forward to working with you!

Healthy Foods Pantry Program

Virginians experiencing food insecurity also face health issues like diabetes and high blood pressure. Access to nutritious foods helps create a healthier population. For the proposed project, the Churches of Norfolk, VA, Baptist General Convention and Optima Health will partner to address food insecurity in the Norfolk area through a healthy foods' pantry program. Participants are screened for food insecurity and chronic health conditions, a referral is made to the healthy food pantry partner, and participants receive up to 50 pounds of healthy food each month, access to on-site nutrition activities and services with the goal of improving the participant's health and well-being. The group is to include 100 households, including referred Optima Health Medicaid members and self-referred community members.

The Baptist General Convention will provide overall oversight of the project, including reporting on client engagement, as well as the food. The Churches of Norfolk, VA will provide the pantry and facilitate food distribution. Optima Health will be the primary referral source of consenting participants, using the Unite Us platform, based on the Department of Medical Assistance Services – Manager Care Organization Member Health Screening criteria for food insecurity and chronic conditions.

The program will be offered to Medallion and Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus members. If the program is successful, as determined by the metrics below, the parties will seek to expand the program.

Metrics

Participants receive up to 50 pounds of healthy food each month

60% of the participants will engage

50% of the participants report their situation improved from the beginning to the end of the program

- Needs
- Food
- Chronic Disease
- Homeless – Living
- Transportation
- Screening

Optima Health & Baptist General Convention

Internal Frequently Asked Questions Healthy Foods Pantry Program

1. What is the Healthy Foods Pantry Program?

The Healthy Foods Pantry program is a social determinants of health initiative sponsored by Optima Family Care, Baptist General Convention and the Churches of Norfolk, VA to:

- Address food insecurity.
- Provide access to nutritious food.
- Encourage healthy behavior through member education and outreach.

2. Where is the program offered and when will it be offered?

Optima Health will offer this program in Norfolk year-round.

3. Who is eligible to participate?

One hundred households are eligible when at least one member meets one of the following criteria:

Food Insecurity

- During the Manager Care Organization Member Health Screening, the member responds “yes” to the question “In the past 3 months, did you worry whether your food would run out before you got money to buy more?”

Chronic Health Condition

- During the Manager Care Organization Member Health Screening, when asked the question “Has a doctor, nurse, or health care provider told you that you had/have any of the following chronic health conditions,” the member responds he/she has diabetes, heart disease, or high blood pressure.

Lack of Medical Care

- During the Manager Care Organization Member Health Screening, the member responds “no” to the question “When was last medical appointment or have you been seen by a medical provider this year?”

Transportation

- During the Manager Care Organization Member Health Screening, the member responds “yes” to the question “Was a

medical appointment missed because of the lack of transportation?”

Homelessness

- During the Manager Care Organization Member Health Screening, the member does not have a physical address (a place to resided).

4. What if I do not have a chronic health condition, can I still participate in the program?

If you do not have a chronic health condition, you will not be a part of the program; however, you will still be referred for services to address your food insecurity need.

5. What happens when the 100 households have been identified?

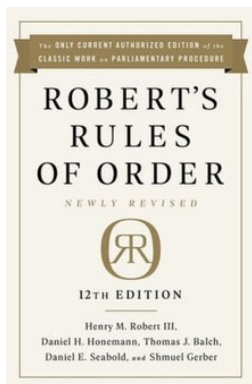
Once the 100 referrals have been made and accepted into the program, additional members will be referred to other community-based organizations for services to address their needs.

6. How does the program work?

Eligible members must:

- Complete a Manager Care Organization Member Health Screening
- Respond “yes” to food insecurity question AND have a specific chronic health condition (diabetes, heart disease or high blood pressure), then
- Referral made from Optima Health to the Baptist General Convention via the Unite Us platform for program intake, outreach and education
- Referral made from the Baptist General Convention to the Churches of Norfolk, VA via the Link to Feed platform for food pantry distribution of 50 pounds of food per month per household
- Member reports to one of the churches in Norfolk, VA listed to receive healthy food weekly every Friday, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

For any additional questions, please email Dr. Leo Whitaker at executivem-inister@bgcva.org.



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE HELPS GET THINGS DONE —

DECENTLY AND IN ORDER!

Saturday, November 21, 2020
9:00 – 11:00 AM
VIA ZOOM



COST - \$20.00 Per Person

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Register Today! www.bgcva.org

Baptist General Convention of Virginia

PRESENTER: The Reverend Dr. Robert L. Pettis, Sr., BGCVA Parliamentarian
Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia

For more information contact the BGCVA office, 804-228-2421, info@bgcva.org

BGCVA—Ways To Give

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA



PayPal:
BGCVA Website: BGCVA.ORG
Click on Donate

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Pay To: \$BGCVA

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

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BGCVA
1214 West Graham Road
Richmond, VA 23220

Dominion Energy & BGCVA—The Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Services Initiative

The Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Services initiative will provide an intergenerational skilled [weatherization training series](#) to enhance the Baptist General Convention of Virginia's and Rebuilding Together Richmond's engagement of non-profits, academic institutions, government agencies, businesses, and civic communities in providing weatherization services for 15 households in need. The initiative has three significant facets, namely **(1) Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Workshops**, **(2) Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Coaches**, and **(3) Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Tune-Ups**. Each facet is designed to inform, to inspire, and to involve junior and high school students, disengaged young adults, college and graduate students, [veterans, and selected clients who are seniors or have a disability.](#)

(1) Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Workshops will be developed virtually and shared through the ZOOM video conferencing platform. We will invite Dominion Energy's contractors, employees, and retirees to serve as instructors for the virtual Workshops and leaders of the Tune-Ups. When in-person gatherings are safe, programming will be held at the Baptist General Convention of Virginia and the Children's Home of Virginia Baptists, which will provide its facility and buildings as learning labs for the program.

Each workshop must be created and formatted for the various age groups/audiences by the staff and the consultants. There will be a curriculum for the areas of weatherization, energy efficiency, volunteering, the role of the coaches, and related disciplines. The instructors will teach life skills and provide hands-on experiences on practical weatherization, ecology, energy efficiency, and environmental justice.

Participants who complete the Workshops will have the opportunity to serve as a Coach to assist with performing Tune-Ups directed by RTR.

(2) Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Coaches will work with residents of the 15

assigned households to review utility bills and provide individualized, helpful tips to help them with cost savings. Each Coach will continue to follow the clients twice before the end of the initiative to share additional information, conduct satisfaction surveys, and report on other improvements made on the home.

The Coaches will also be available for public service announcements and conversations regarding the initiative and Dominion Energy's Share Programs. Coaches can allow the clients to speak to the benefits of both the



Weatherization Works

Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Services and Dominion Energy Shared Programs.

(3) Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Tune-Ups will provide 15 low-income households—consisting of seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities—with weatherization and energy efficiency services. With the guidance from Energy Conservation Inc. (ECI), RTR's trusted weatherization partner with over forty years of experience, we will provide weatherization and energy efficiency recommendations and relevant upgrades. The purposes of the Tune-Ups are as follows:

- To reduce unnecessary energy consumptions,
- To reduce high energy costs,
- To reduce emissions that harm the environment, and
- To improve the living conditions of the home.

The Tune-Ups will be free of charge to each household. The exact services that each recipient receive may vary by home. Services may include but are not limited to, the following:

- Energy assessments
- Replacing incandescent lights with LED lights in high use areas
- Air vent and duct sealing
- Attic insulation
- Water-saving services
- Installation of energy-saving showerheads and high-efficiency faucet aerators
- Wrapping water heater and hot water pipes
- ENERGY STAR refrigerator replacement
- Indoor air quality improvements

Coaches will assist with volunteer-friendly weatherization and energy-efficient services that can be conducted during the assessment.

For more information contact Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister, at executiveminister@bgcva.org



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 recognitions.

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 or 804-228-2421 or 804-337-7215 (cell)

SPONSORED BY





BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA

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

Phone: 804-228-2421 | Fax: (Administration) 804-228-1040 | Fax: (Program Ministries) 804-228-1998

Website: www.bgcva.org | E-mail: info@bgcva.org

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The Reverend Milton P. Bunting
1st Vice President

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2nd Vice President

The Reverend Dr. Griselda A. Bayton
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Assistant Secretary

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Women's Ministry

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Executive Minister

The Reverend Janet L. Wynn
Accountant

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

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

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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 National Disasters, 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 severe storms 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 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), 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

Adoption Awareness Month VA One Church, One Child

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. This year, stronger than ever before, Virginia One Church, One Child is appealing to churches to help the hundreds of children desperately awaiting adoption by sharing this presentation with your congregation.

Hundreds of children--now more than 700--are currently waiting for a family to adopt them. Your leadership will encourage members of your congregation to consider adoption. Please say "yes" to our invitation to share this information as an announcement or as slides on one or more Sundays in November.

Please email VA One Church, One Child at oonechild@aol.com to let us know when you will share this important message.

Rev. Wilbert D. Talley, President
Virginia One Church, One Child

November is Adoption Awareness Month

More than 700 children in Virginia
now need a "forever" family through adoption.

VA One Church, One Child encourages families in congregations across VA to consider adopting a child. Won't you answer the call outlined below:

- Matthew 25:40 "... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
- James 1:27 "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: "to look after orphans and widows in their distress ..."

Inquire today!

- Visit www.vaonechurchonechild.org
- Speak with our recruiters at (804) 837-9292 or (757) 343-3358



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Supported by a grant from the Virginia Department of Social Services Grant # FAM-20-093 | www.dss.virginia.gov

Matthew Graphics LLC 604.242.4001 (2014)

Why Christians Can Celebrate Halloween

Some people believe that Halloween celebrates evil and should be banned. Just the opposite is true!

"Halloween" is a short form of the words "All Hallows' Evening." Halloween means "Holy," as in the words "Hallowed Be Thy Name..." so Halloween means "the evening before All Holy Ones' Day," or the Feast of All Saints. Many Christians celebrate this on November 1st.

During the Middle Ages, European Christians would gather in churches on this night for worship. They would recall the saints' victories over evil. At some of these services the churches would put on little plays in which they acted out Jesus' victory over Satan and his forces. The actors wore unusual costumes.

So... when Christians celebrate Halloween, we are really recalling that Jesus has defeated evil by his death and resurrection. We remind ourselves that with FAITH and GRACE we can too.

Happy Holy Evening!



BGCVA Clergy Ministry “The Pandemic Era Cyber Ministry”

Clergy Ministry Officers:

- ◇ Rev. Dr. Gregory L. Beechaum, Sr. - President
- ◇ Rev. Dr. William “Dr. Bill” Whitaker, II - Ministry Assistant to the Executive Minister (Emphasis on Clergy Support & Leadership Development)
- ◇ Rev. Gloria Newsome Brickhouse - Vice President
- ◇ Rev. Michael E. Shannon - Secretary
- ◇ Rev. Dr. Tracey D. Holley - Assistant Secretary

“The Baptist General Convention of Virginia is delighted to increase our ministry services to our clergy sisters and brothers. Since my first day as the Executive Minister, I have invited the Reverend Doctor William (Dr. Bill) Whitaker, II to serve as a part of our teaching team. He has with clarity and compassion served as the facilitator for the Ministry Training Track (MTT). Because of our current global and national pandemics, our clergy need additional support to continue to effectively lead in ministry. Therefore, BGCVA has asked Dr. Bill to join the BGCVA staff as a Ministry Assistant to the Executive Minister for Clergy, Pastoral and Leadership Development. In this role, Dr. Bill Whitaker will provide staff support to the Clergy Ministry. He will assist Dr. Gregory Beechaum and the other Clergy Ministry in caring out the Vision, Mission, Theme, and President Focus. In addition, his office will enhance greatly our ability to offer relevant training opportunities and resources for clergy and laity. Please welcome him and join me and praising God for grant us another opportunity to ministry to our BGCVA Family!”
Dr. Leo Whitaker

“Pandemic Era Ministry”, “Virtual Worship, and “Cyber Ministry”...

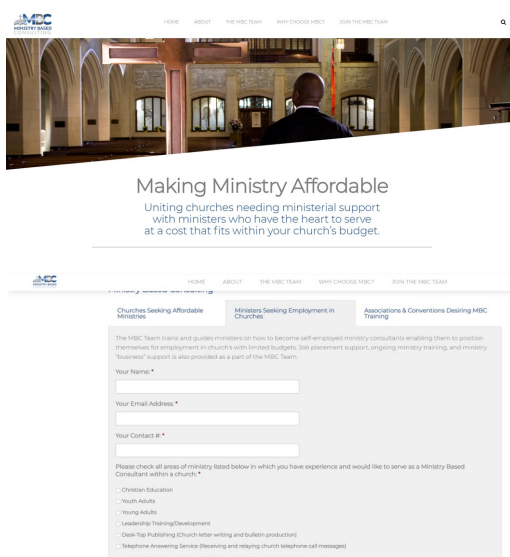
These are all new terms that the religious community is struggling to embrace during this time of COVID-19. Churches of all sizes and locations are all struggling with the impacts of COVID-19 on our church budgets and worship as well as our personal, professional, and ministry lives. However, the Clergy Ministry of the Baptist General Convention is leading the way by providing virtual support and cyber ministry platforms that enable the churches, pastors, ministry leaders, and staff members of BGCVA churches to successfully navigate the numerous challenges of Pandemic Era Ministry.

Virtual Resources & Support

Our Executive Minister, Dr. Leo Whitaker has

authorized “Dr. Bill” Whitaker to begin work on new on-line, virtual features that will soon be added to the Baptist General Convention of Virginia’s website. In addition to the current **Vacant Pulpits & Ministry** listings at BGCVA.org, the BGCVA Clergy Ministry is seeking ways for churches to afford ministry help on reduced ministry budgets.

As churches, ministers, lay leaders, and employees of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, you will soon be able to either request or offer affordable ministry services based on your specific ministry



needs. The current draft of the BGCVA website additions are being coordinated by Dr. Bill as a part of this ministry work at BGCVA. Look forward to seeing more as progress is made on this area of the Clergy Ministry.

Details on this valuable ministry resource will be introduced as a part of the upcoming BGCVA Fall Session and training is being provided as a part of the Clergy Ministry’s monthly **Ministry Training Track (MTT)**.

Virtual Ministry Training

The Clergy Ministry of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia is now providing virtual leadership and ministry training for individual churches and leadership groups. There’s no need to wish for training when BGCVA is making your wishes come true by sending the training right to you! Just email Dr. Bill at whwhitaker2@bgcva.org to request a training date and time and training will be provided by Dr. Bill for

your leadership in the convenience of your leadership’s homes. You may also call Dr. Bill at the BGCVA Headquarters at (804) 228-2421.

Ministry Training Track (MTT)

The Ministry Training Track is currently in its third year of ministry service within BGCVA and currently meets every 3rd Monday each month from 12:00noon – 1:00pm. All MTT Sessions are free of charge to all BGCVA churches and church leadership and are held via Zoom allowing you to receive ministry training and support in the convenience of your home, office, or place of your choosing. However, persons desiring to attend an MTT session are asked to register for the session of your choice at www.bgcva.org.

Whether you are a member desiring to become a leader, a leader with the call to minister, a minister discerning the call to pastor, or a pastor preparing for retirement, MTT meets and joins you wherever you are in your ministry journey to provide you with seminary level training, guidance, support, and resources. A primary focus of the Ministry Training Track is to ensure that all BGCVA leaders, ministers, and pastors have a strong foundation of Baptist doctrine and polity. Topics of Training include:

- Baptist Doctrine
- Virtual Ministry Development
- Organizational & Staffing Models
- Trusteeship
- Church Budgeting & Finances
- Conflict Management & Prevention in the Church

Clergy Conversations

Are you in need of prayers, support, and guidance, but don’t know where to go for caring and compassionate listening ears? Join Dr. Beechaum, Dr. Bill, and the members of the Clergy Ministry for Clergy Conversations every 1st Thursday from 12:00noon – 1:00pm. Topics of discussion are provided to address the present and prevailing needs of the clergy community. If you would have a suggested topic of discussion for an upcoming Clergy Conversation, please email Dr. Bill at whwhitaker2@bgcva.org or call the Baptist General Convention of Virginia at (804) 228-2421.



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=c2d5Nm1TbDNNU1lWMWFGTkVJOVAwQT09>

Dial by your location: +1 301 715 8592 US

** For more information contact the BGCVA Office 804.228.2421 or info@bgcva.org **

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=eStXTm5XNlR0a1RseER3dFA1YUtgdz09>

Dial by your location: +1 301 715 8592 US

** For more information contact the BGCVA Office 804.228.2421 or info@bgcva.org **

www.bgcva.org

Church/Pastor Anniversaries 2020

Churches

- ◆ Faith Community Baptist Church, Richmond – 25 years
- ◆ Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Norfolk – 100 years
- ◆ Third Baptist Church, Portsmouth – 135 years (September)
- ◆ Fifth Street Baptist Church, Richmond – 140 years (October 18)

Pastors

- ◆ The Reverend Michael E. Shannon, Sr., Petersburg – 5 years
- ◆ The Reverend Vernon W. Hairston, Sr., Suffolk – 10 years
- ◆ The Reverend Dr. Grace E. Tolliver, Richmond – 20 years
- ◆ The Reverend Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ, Richmond – 25 years
- ◆ The Reverend Dr. Kirkland R. Walton, Glen Allen – 35 years (April 18)
- ◆ The Reverend A. Lincoln James, Jr., Richmond – 40 years (October 4)
- ◆ The Reverend Tyrone E. Nelson, Richmond – 15 years (June 19)

- ◆ The Reverend George E. Brown, Waverly – 5 years (September 20)

Ministries

- ◆ The Reverend Drs. Teresa & Robert Sutherlin, Lancaster (Gloucester Point) – 40 years

Retirements

- ◆ The Reverend Dr. Raymond L. Lassiter, Jr., Hampton—54 years

New Pastors

- ◆ The Reverend Kelvin C. Smith, Shiloh Baptist Church, Dinwiddie
- ◆ The Reverend Dr. Gregory M. Howard, Union Branch Baptist Church, Chesterfield
- ◆ The Reverend D. Tyrone Brandon, First Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk
- ◆ The Reverend Dr. Joshua Mitchell, Thirty-first Street Baptist Church, Richmond

BGCVA Women Ministry—Taking it to the Streets!

We are BGC...Bringing People Together, Growing Churches, and Changing Communities! ~ Act 1:8; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 10:13-16



United for Greater Ministry



Changing Communities



Bringing People Together



Baptist General Convention of Virginia

2021 Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference

January 9, 2021

8:00 AM—2:00 PM

**Inclement Weather Date:
January 16, 2020**

VIRTUALLY via Zoom

**Registration:
\$50 Per Person**

Deadline: January 8, 2021

"But let all be done properly and in an orderly manner." (1 Cor. 14:40 NASB)

**Save
the
Date!**

**This exciting, one-day
conference is designed for
Pastors, Trustees, Deacons,
Treasurers, Finance Ministry,
Finance Committee, etc.**

**REGISTER ON-LINE AT: www.bgcva.org
For more information call 804.228.2421
Email: info@bgcva.org**

We are BGC...Bringing People Together, Growing Churches, and Changing Communities! ~ Act 1:8; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 10:13-16

Baptist General Convention of VA

2020 -2021 Event Calendar



2020 November

- 3 Day of Social Action
- 6 & 7 Virtual Fall Session
- 21 Virtual Parliamentary Procedure Workshop

December

- 18 & 19 Children, Youth, & Young Adults Virtual Lock-In

2021 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- 122nd Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel, Norfolk

July

- 2 122nd 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

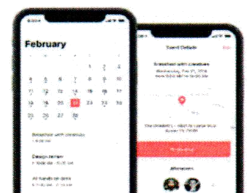
October (Clergy Appreciation Month)

- 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
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Thank you for Your Support of the
Baptist General Convention of Virginia!

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
6th - 7th

**FALL
SESSION
2020**

From Generation to Generation:
Revisiting the Village

FRI @ 7 PM AND SAT @ 9 AM

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!

Program

Friday, November 6

7:00PM Opening Session

7:45PM Ministry Breakout
Sessions - Women, Men,
Clergy, Moderators &
Youth (With Different
Zoom Links)

Saturday, November 7

9:00AM Morning Session

10:00AM Morning Plenary
- From Generation to
Generation: Revisiting the
Village

11:30AM Introductory
Workshop - Preserving
Sacred Spaces

12:00PM Closing Session -
Mental Health,
Bereavement & Memorial
Service

REGISTER TODAY! AT WWW.BGCVA.ORG/EVENTS/HTML