



# BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA

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May 14, 2020

From the President and Executive Minister of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia

In response to Governor Ralph S. Northam's address on the implementation of Phase One in the reopening of businesses, public spaces and communities of faith; it is our hope that you (church) will be mindful of the health and well-being of each congregant and your greater surrounding community's health. The "light" may turn green but please pause and look both ways before proceeding as we have learned that COVID-19 is still spreading in many contexts and is projected to have a resurgence in other localities over the next few months. Please remain precautious and prudent in executing your local ecclesiastical affairs as our primary mandate is to love God and one another.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact us at the Convention. Also, our website has clear guidelines and protocols for cleaning or making safe your churches, homes, and communities amidst this pandemic. Let us all remember the words of Dr. Anthony Fauci, who compassionately declares the following, "reopening too soon risks needless suffering and death." The number of African American deaths is most alarming. It is the highest among the general populations in America. We must protect ourselves, our homes, our churches, our communities, and our world!

For The Kingdom of GOD, We Are

Dr. Gregory M. Howard

Dr. Leo Whitaker

Enclosure (Virginia Forward Phase One Religious Services Guidelines)

BGCVA Theme:

Reviving Our Roots, Prophetic Preaching & Our Missional Mandate ~ Luke 4:18-19