

A Publication of the
Baptist General
Convention of
Virginia

Baptist Herald

Clergy Appreciation Month

October has long been recognized worldwide as Clergy Appreciation Month. The call to honor our church leaders' contributions can be traced back to St. Paul. In establishing the first Christian churches, St. Paul advised the congregation to give "double honor" to the elders of the church who managed the affairs of the church well, "especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Timothy 5:17).

St. Paul further urged Christian communities to acknowledge those "who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you," holding these spiritual leaders "in the highest regard in love because of their work" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

In 1994, the American Christian organization Focus on the Family began promoting Clergy Appreciation Month as a national month of observance. In highlighting Clergy Appreciation Month, Focus on the Family sought to encourage the faithful to outwardly show their appreciation for religious leaders on a national level.

From Clergy Appreciation Month grew the idea of emphasizing one specific day to nationally pay tribute to our clergy. This day became known as Pastor Appreciation Day. Also referred to as Clergy Appreciation Day, this day of showing national gratitude for clergy members is celebrated on the second Sunday in October.

Why It's Important to Celebrate Pastors and Clergy Members

As of mid-2018, there are approximately 51,000 people in the United States who are officially employed as clergy. When we consider all that religious leaders do, it becomes clear how important it is to celebrate and uplift our hardworking clergy.

Reason 1: Pastors and clergy serve the church daily. On a daily basis, clergy members prepare weekly messages, manage the maintenance and financial obligations of their church, and, most importantly, nurture the spiritual well-being of their congregants.

Reason 2. Pastors and clergy serve the church and community during major life moments.

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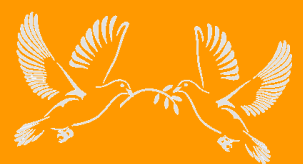
Disaster Relief Fund Message—P.10



*And now, friends,
we ask you to honor
those leaders, who work
so hard for you,
who have been given the
responsibility of urging
and guiding you
along in your obedience.*

**OVERWHELM THEM WITH
APPRECIATION & LOVE**

1 Thessalonians 5:12



Baptist Herald

Executive Editor:

The Reverend Dr. Leo Whitaker

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Mrs. Sheryl Blowe-McDowney

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Aside from these daily duties, clergy members participate in the highs and lows of the lives of their church-goers and other members of the community. Clergy members lead mourners during funerals, pray over the sick, and minister to the imprisoned and abandoned. Moreover, clergy members bear the emotional pressure heaped upon them by disgruntled congregants, and also absorb the hostile criticism of an increasingly anti-religious society.

Our clergy members also oversee our most joyous occasions. The clergy play a vital role in marriages, baptisms, Holy First Communion, and requests for special blessings. Religious workers also uphold the institution of marriage by counseling struggling couples to hold fast to their marital vows, and guide the Lord's flock by giving clarity to those with a fractured sense of faith.

Reason 3. Missionaries sacrifice their comfort and safety for the gospel.

Last, it's important to note that clergy members often risk their physical well-being for the sake of doing God's Work. Clergy serve as missionaries in hostile areas worldwide, care for people with contagious diseases, and literally stand at the front-lines of social justice movements.

7 Ways to Honor Pastors and Clergy

Given everything that the people who serve pastorally do, we should take time to appreciate and encourage them and their staff members. Whether you choose to honor your spiritual leaders and their staff during Clergy Appreciation Month or another time of year, here are 7 ways to show your gratitude for their service and sacrifice:

1. Send your religious leader a clergy appreciation greeting card or hand-written note with a message of gratitude for him or her.
2. Ask your children to draw a picture or create other artwork for a clergy member or Sunday school leader.
3. Lend your pastor a hand by volunteering at the organization where he or she ministers, such as a hospital or nursing home.
4. Take a group photo with fellow church-goers in front of the church or other organization where the clergy member works. Present the photo as an already-framed gift.
5. Give your religious leader a "thank you basket" filled with his or her favorite brand of coffee, favorite snack, or hard-to-find allergy-friendly food items.
6. Create a photo calendar with a picture of saints or inspiring Bible passages for each month of the year.

7. Request contributions from your congregation to update your clergy member's office with ergonomic chairs and keyboards, new software, new artwork, or other furnishings.

Source: <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-pastor-appreciation-day-and-clergy-appreciation-month.html>

Celebrating Years of Service

- ◆ Dr. Willis A. Johnson, 60th Pastoral Anniversary



- ◆ Dr. Robert L. Pettis, Sr., 40th Pastoral Anniversary



- ◆ Rev. Robert C. Davis, 45th Pastoral Anniversary

- ◆ Dr. Robert A. Diggs, Sr., 25th Pastoral Anniversary



- ◆ Rev. Rashad Cartwright, 5th Anniversary



Pastoral Installations

- ◆ Dr. Proctor N. Beard, Sr. — First Shiloh Baptist Church, Mechanicsville



- ◆ Rev. Pierce A. Williams—First Union Baptist Church Dill Road, Richmond



- ◆ Dr. Demetrius A. Russell, Sr.—Sweet Union Baptist Church, Roanoke



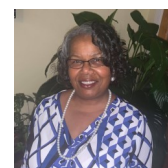
- ◆ Rev. Nathaniel Mitchell, Swan's Point Baptist Church, Spring Grove

- ◆ Dr. Gregory M. Howard, Union Branch Baptist Church, Chesterfield



We Welcome New BGCVA Staff

- Dr. Stephanie Wilkes, Sacred Spaces Project Assistant
- Mr. Jae Howard, Sacred Spaces Project Assistant



Lott Carey's New President

The Reverend Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart is a pastor, preacher, visionary, builder, mentor, adjunct professor, and daughter of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. She has led the congregation of Christ Missionary Baptist Church since March 1995. She is a native Memphian and "daughter" of Christ Missionary Baptist Church where she was baptized, and mentored for ministry by her predecessor and former pastor, the Rev. Eddie L. Currie. On March 4, 1995, she was elected by majority vote to serve as the pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church. She is the first African American female elected to serve an established African American Baptist congregation in Memphis and Shelby County.

She is a 1978 graduate of Memphis Catholic High School. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Marketing in 1982 from the University of Memphis. In 1989, she received a Masters of Education in Administration and Supervision from Trevecca Nazarene College in Nashville, Tennessee. She received the Master of Divinity degree from Memphis Theological Seminary in May 1996. Rev. Stewart also attended the Harvard Divinity School Summer Leadership Institute for Church Based Community and Economic Development (2000). She received the Doctor of Ministry degree from the ITC-Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC)-Atlanta, Georgia on May 5, 2007. She is currently pursuing a PhD in African American Preaching at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dr. Stewart has received numerous honors and awards for her outstanding service to the church and the community such as Outstanding African American Student Award from Memphis Theological Seminary (1996)), and Outstanding African American Alumni Award Memphis Theological Seminary (1998) Outstanding Citizen of the Year from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority (2000), The Community Service Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (2000), the O'landa Draper Humanitarian Award, the Pastor of the Year Award (medium size church) from the Gospel Bridge Awards (June 2004), and The World's Most Loved Pastors (November/December 2005-Gospel Today magazine) and the Women of Wisdom award from the Women's Foundation of



Greater Memphis (April 2007). She received the Pastor of the Year award from Citizens for Better Service (2012). She was the first female to receive the prestigious Carter G. Woodson Award from Southwest Community College-February

2013. In February 2017, she received the Living Legends Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the community. In April 2017, she received the Class of 2017 Women of Excellence Award from the Tri-State Defender and she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Memphis Juneteenth Festival (June 2017).

Dr. Stewart's work has been featured in numerous books and publications such as Audacity of Faith: Christian Leaders Reflect on the Election of Barack Obama, What We Love About the Black Church: Can We Get A Witness? and Black Practical Theology. She has been featured in Gospel Today and Spirit magazine, "Soul Sanctuary" (released April 2006), a desktop documentary of the essential highlights of the African American worship experiences across denominations nationwide and The African American Pulpit, a quarterly journal that serves as a repository for the very best of African American preaching and provides practical and creative resources for persons in ministry.

Dr. Stewart has had the distinction of being the morning preacher for the Hampton Ministers Conference in June 2009 and the Conference Preacher for the Hampton Ministers Conference in June 2011.

She has served as a Team Leader for the Pastoral Excellence Program for Lott Carey International, a development and advocacy organization. She has served as Adjunct Faculty for Memphis Theological Seminary and a Faculty Mentor for United Theological Seminary Doctor of Ministry Program. She is currently a Visiting Professor of Practical Theology for the Samuel D. Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.

Dr. Stewart was recently inducted into the Martin Luther King Board of Preachers-Class of 2018 (April) and elected to serve on

the National Board of the NAACP (February 2017). In August 2015, she was elected to serve as the Second Vice-President for Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention. She also serves as a member of the Advisory Council for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, Co-Convener for the Women in Ministry Conference-Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Convener and a Trustee for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Pastors Conference. She is a former board member of the Advisory Board for The African American Pulpit, The National Civil Rights Museum and Bread for the World. Dr. Stewart is the founder of Greater Works Inc. a non-profit organization devoted to philanthropy and ministry development. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. In September 2015, she released her first book entitled We've Got Next: HERstory in HIStory.

Under Dr. Stewart's leadership, CMBC has experienced significant numerical, physical and financial growth. The church has purchased several additional properties to accommodate their increasing growth. The church offers more than fifty ministries, which are intended to minister to the Spirit, Soul and Body of every person and lead to personal transformation. She travels extensively conducting workshops, revivals, and seminars. Dr. Stewart is a woman with a heart for God and God's people.

Lott Carey's New Second Vice President

Congratulations to our BGCVA State President, Dr. James E. Victor, Jr. on being elected as Second Vice President of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention!



Lott Carey =||=

Pastoral Mentorship & Training Program

1. Baptist Church Doctrine & Polity
(Sept. 25, 2021 COMPLETED)



4. Baptist Church Politics & Power Struggles
(Dec. 11, 2021 @ 10am)

2. Pastoral Ministry Development & Formation
(Oct. 23, 2021 @ 10am)

5. Pastoral Candidacy Interviewing, Contracts, Compensation, & Benefit Negotiating
(Jan. 22, 2021 @ 10am)

3. Ministry Ethics & Etiquette of Pastoral Leadership
(Nov. 13, 2021 @ 10am)

6. Juniper Tree Care & Support for Pastors & 1st Families in Crisis
(Feb. 26, 2022 @ 10am)

Register at <https://www.bgcva.org/training.html>

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA

NOVEMBER
5th @ 7 PM
NOVEMBER
6th @ 9 AM



VIRTUAL
FALL
SESSION
2021

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

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



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

SESSION SPEAKERS



DR. TYRONE FREEMAN
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
AUTHOR OF
MADAM C.J.
WALKER'S
GOSPEL OF
GIVING: BLACK
WOMEN'S
PHILANTHROPY
DURING JIM
CROW



DR. ROSCOE D. COOPER, JR.
CHESTERFIELD, VA
PASTOR OF
METROPOLITAN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN
BAPTIST CHURCH



DR. GINA WHITAKER
CANNON
RICHMOND, VA
PASTOR OF
GRAYLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH



DR. TODD C. DAVIDSON
HAMPTON, VA
PASTOR OF
FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
HAMPTON

CONVERSATIONS
WITH
DEAN JOHN E. GUNS



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PANEL DISCUSSIONS

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AND YOUTH
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WWW.BGCVA.ORG/EVENTS

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

Virginia Baptist State Convention's New President

The Reverend Dr. D. Tyrone Brandon, Sr.

A native of Alton, Virginia and raised in Mount Vernon, N.Y. Rev. Dr. D. Tyrone Brandon, Sr., is the Pastor at the historic First Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia. He was licensed to preach the Gospel in 1984, by Rev. Dr. Richard H. Dixon and the Macedonia Baptist Church, Mount Vernon, NY. In 1985, Pastor



preached at various revivals, retreats, conferences and conventions. He travels extensively around the United States, preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a passion to develop dynamic disciples who will impact the world. Pastor Brandon has devoted his life to winning lost souls for the Kingdom in such a way that families are strengthened, broken hearts are healed, and those who are bound are set free.

Brandon was called to serve as the Children and Youth Pastor of Zion Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia. He served there until 1993, when he received the call to serve concurrently at Saint Mark Church of Dabney, VA as Children and Youth Pastor and Tabernacle Baptist Church of Chesterfield, VA as Director of Christian Education. He faithfully fulfilled his duties to these two congregations until April of 1995 when he was called to be the fourteenth pastor of Little Zion Baptist Church of Carson, VA where he served for twenty-four years. In August 2019 Pastor Brandon accepted the call to become the sixth Pastor of historic First Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia.

Humility, compassion, and integrity best describes the ministry of Pastor D. Tyrone Brandon. He has served as Vice President at Large, Virginia Baptist State Convention. Currently he serves as South Eastern Regional Vice President Moderator Division National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Former Moderator of Bethany Baptist Association, Baptist General Convention Executive Board. Former, Treasurer of Young Pastor and Minister Department of Virginia Baptist State Convention, Baptist General Convention Board of Evangelism, NAACP and SCLC. He served as President of the United Churches of Dinwiddie and United Fellowship of Churches Sussex. He also serves on various boards of community and civic organizations. In 1996 and 1998 Pastor Brandon was the recipient of The

Outstanding Young Men of America award. Pastor Brandon has

Academically prepared, Pastor Brandon attended Virginia Union University and a 2014 graduate of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. Rev. Brandon is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry as a member of the Beta Cohort of Leonard N. Smith Fellows at Virginia University of Lynchburg, VA and has received several honorary doctorates. He is the devoted husband of Deaconess Lady Beverly Brandon and they are the proud parents of two children, De'ja Tiara and D. Tyrone, Jr., (DJ).

BGCVA Flu Vaccination Clinic September 24 Highlights



Homegoing Celebrations

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

On behalf of President Victor, Executive Minister Whitaker, staff, and officers of the Baptist General Convention, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of the following pastors, who have transitioned into eternal rest in 2020.

- ⇒ Sister Victoria Houston
- ⇒ Dr. William H. Gibbs
- ⇒ Brother Johnnie Edward Blackwell, Jr.
- ⇒ Sister Alice Horton
- ⇒ Sister Burnell Marilyn Maddox
- ⇒ Sister Evelyn Virmae Brown
- ⇒ Dr. James Edward Leary
- ⇒ Presiding Elder Sidney Williams
- ⇒ First Lady Alfreda E. Knight
- ⇒ Brother Chadwick R. Cooper
- ⇒ Sister Hattie Ann Thomas Lucas
- ⇒ Sister Sophia Piland Smith
- ⇒ Mrs. Janice Mack
- ⇒ Brother Javell Heggs
- ⇒ Dr. Patricia Turner Olds
- ⇒ Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Sr.
- ⇒ Dr. Thelma Greenlee
- ⇒ Sister Cassandra Collins Crawley
- ⇒ Sister Brenda Johnson Greene



BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA SACRED SPACES

(Preservation of African American Churches, Cemeteries, Historic Structures,
Associated Land and Landmarks)

"Think of the past, of the time long ago; ask your parents to tell you what happened,
ask the old people to tell of the past." (Deuteronomy 32:7 – GNT)

"Somebody's Calling My Name" Webinar Series

September 30th

6:00 - 7:30 PM

SACRED SPACES UPDATES & RESOURCES

Dr. J. Elisha Burke

Dr. Stephanie Wilkes

Researching and Documenting Church History

Presenter: Bessida Cauthorne White

Bessida Cauthorne White, Historian at Angel Visit Baptist Church, Dunnsville, Virginia, will share some of the techniques that she has used in researching and documenting the history of Angel Visit Baptist Church and other churches in the Middle Peninsula. Topics that will be discussed include sources of church history materials, maintenance and storage of church records, oral histories, milestone celebrations, and ways of sharing church history with congregations and others. *Bessida Cauthorne White is an activist, a family and community historian, and a retired attorney. She chairs the Trustee Ministry and the History Ministry at Angel Visit Baptist Church.*

Telling Your Story (Memory & Reality)

SACRED SPACES WEBINAR REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://www.bgcva.org/events.html>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85397492418?pwd=MzI1SHhCU0xIOVVEc0RPQksrR1MwUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 9749 2418 Passcode: 111110

One tap mobile +1-301-715-8592#

Email: eburke@bgcva.org

Phone: 804-228-2421

Website: www.bgcva.org

1214 West Graham Road, Suite 1, Richmond, VA 23220

BGCVA Executive Minister Whitaker's—Around The State



At Dr. Clifton Whitaker's Home-going Celebration



Visit from Virginia University of Lynchburg



With Dr. Tyrone Freeman and Dr. Kirkland Walton



At Tidewater Metro Baptist Ministers Conference of Virginia. New President, Dr. Melvin T. Blackwell, Sr.

Children's Home Ms. Janice Mack's Celebration of Life



BGCVA Women's Ministry Toiletry Drive for the Women's Shelter



Baptist General Convention of Virginia

Hybrid Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference

ENGAGE
2022

January 8, 2022 8:30 AM—1:00 PM

Inclement Weather Date: January 15, 2022

Registration: \$30 Per Person, \$100 Per Church

Deadline: January 8, 2022

First Baptist Church Centralia and Via →

2920 Kingsdale Road
Chesterfield, VA 23237

Masks Required.



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

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

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

"The Doors of the Church are Open" (Part 2)

Register at <https://www.bgcva.org/training.html>



Sat., Oct. 2, 2021
10a – 12n via Zoom

Meeting ID:
876 5365 4568

Passcode:
790104

Call In:
(301) 715-8592

- Constitution, Bylaws, & Operations Manuals – What's the Difference?
- What Should/Should Not Be Included in Your Church's Constitution & Bylaws?
- Who Should Write & Oversee the Constitution & Bylaws?

Facilitator - Dr. William H. Whitaker, II
Director of Clergy & Leadership Development
Baptist General Convention of Virginia

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA

WWW.BGCVA.ORG | INFO@BGCVA.ORG | 804.228.2421

GRIEF MINISTRY



"God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." Psalm 46:1-2 KJV

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY @ 9 AM

**AUGUST 14TH, SEPTEMBER 11TH, OCTOBER 9TH, NOVEMBER 13TH,
& DECEMBER 11TH**

Dr. Micah Jackson, Pastor/Chaplain, Facilitator



Registration is \$15 a Session or \$50 for All Five—Register at www.bgcva.org

JOIN US IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

THE Hills We Climb



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\$300 • (5 Attendees & Under)
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Baptist General Convention of Virginia Health Ministry presents...

Sitting Down At The "Medicare TABLE"

A Series of Virtual Seminars on Medicare and Retirement

October 12th, 20th, & November 9th

4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.



Zachariah & Diana are back at the **Medicare Table** again and ready to bring you information about **your** Medicare Plans and the upcoming changes that may affect many of you. Come join us for another session designed to help you increase your Medicare knowledge.

We want to always review basic Medicare and test your understanding. Have your Medicare cards near you if you have questions about your individual Medicare plans, pull up a chair and have a seat at our **Medicare Table**.

Here are some of the **menu** topics we will be serving at **The Table** today!

***Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (Oct 15-Dec 7)**

***The ABCDs of Medicare** ***How has Covid affected Medicare costs**

***Annual Changes Notices that you may have received**

***Part D – Your Medicare Drug Plan** ***Medicare and Veterans**

Watch out for Medicare Scams!

DON'T CALL THOSE 800 NUMBERS ON TV—YOU HAVE YOUR LOCAL AGENT!!

So much to cover! So little time! So, meet us at the table and let us serve YOU!

For those who are already on Medicare, the **Medicare Annual Election Period** will start on **Oct. 15th** and continue until **December 7th**. This is the **ONE** time of year that most Medicare beneficiaries need to check in and review you current Medicare Health Plan and decided to keep or change it and we are happy to provide that service.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84841393708>

Meeting ID 848 4139 3708 Passcode: 543673
Join by Telephone +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592

Baptist General Convention of Virginia

804-228-2421 www.bgcva.org

Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Director of Health & Wellness eburke@bgcva.org

Zachariah & Diana Edwards, Independent Brokers & Certified Senior Advisor **Edwards Medicare and Retirement**, 9100 Arboretum Parkway, #180 N. Chesterfield, Va. 23236 (804) 674 1795 (804) 330-0090 diana@dianafedwards.com
zach@eifolutions.net www.edwardsmedicareandretirement.com

Facts & Faith Fridays



Facts & Faith Fridays began in March 2020 as a weekly call led by Robert Winn, M.D., director of VCU Massey Cancer Center, with African American clergy in Virginia to address the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on the Black community. The call has evolved to address higher rates of cancer and other health issues in diverse communities and continues to address COVID-19. The group invited Virginians of all faiths and races to participate in this webinar.

This Zoom Webinar was co-sponsored by The Governor's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; the Office of Health Equity at the Virginia Department of Health; VCU Massey Cancer Center and faith leaders from Massey's Facts & Faith Fridays group.

Please join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/96061021775?](https://zoom.us/j/96061021775?pwd=Vmx2cFUXOGZ3QmpOODkwWXM0dWdMUT09)
[pwd=Vmx2cFUXOGZ3QmpOODkwWXM0dWdMUT09](https://zoom.us/j/96061021775?pwd=Vmx2cFUXOGZ3QmpOODkwWXM0dWdMUT09)

Meeting ID: 960 6102 1775

Passcode: 074279

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,96061021775#,,, *074279#

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923

or

+1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 960 6102 1775

**FACTS &
FAITH
FRIDAYS**

Every
Friday 3 - 4 pm



MEETING ID: 960
6102 1775

PASSCODE: 074279

OR CALL OR CALL
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HOSTED BY

REV. F. TODD
GRAY

DR. ROBERT
WINN

RUDENE
HAYNES



Passcode: 074279



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

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Parliamentarian

The Reverend Dr. Raymond L. Palmer, Esq.

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Mrs. Sheryl B. McDowney
Director of Christian Faith Formation

Mrs. Keshia H. Butler
Program Secretary

Mr. Bruce J. Martin
Operations Technician



September 28, 2021

Dear BGCVA Church Family:

We have exciting news to share with you. We have arranged with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company, to be part of their ministry partner program. Brotherhood Mutual provides high-quality insurance protection and risk management services and works exclusively with churches and related ministries.

When churches practice good risk management, they provide a safer place for their members to worship, resulting in few losses. When that happens, Brotherhood Mutual gives our denominational office a Safe Ministry Reward payment. The ministry partner program does not affect insurance premiums, but it does help our denomination when member churches and ministries manage their risks well.

You can find more information about Brotherhood Mutual and the many risk management services that the company offers at www.brotherhoodmutual.com, or you can contact our agency Sanford Insurance Agency, P. O. Box 1690, Midlothian, VA 23113. The agent of our preferred carrier is Mr. David Rogers. He can be reached at (800)359-5091 office or (804)334-4953 cell. If we can answer any questions about our experience with Brotherhood Mutual, just let us know.

Call us here at the Convention Office or call David Rogers directly if you wish to receive a free, no obligation proposal. We think you would be glad that you did.

Blessings,

Leo Whitaker
Group Executive

James E. Victor, Jr.
President

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

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



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

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
Secretary

The Reverend Dr. William J. Reid
Assistant Secretary

The Reverend Willis A. Funn
Treasurer

The Reverend Dr. Robert G. Murray
Chair, BGC Foundation Board

The Reverend Dr. Raymond L. Palmer, Esq.

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

Mr. Larry Pinchback
Men's Ministry

Mrs. Polly Jones Mason
Women's Ministry

ADMINISTRATION

The Reverend Dr. Leo Whitaker
Executive Minister

The Reverend Janet L. Wynn
Accounting Consultant

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

The Reverend Dr. William H. Whitaker, II
Director of Clergy Ministry and Leadership
Development

The Reverend Dr. J. Elisha Burke
Director of Sacred Spaces, Health, Wellness,
Men, & Social Justice Ministries

Mrs. Sheryl B. McDowney
Director of Christian Faith Formation

Mrs. Keshia H. Butler
Program Secretary

Mr. Bruce J. Martin
Operations Technician

September 16, 2021

Dear BGCVA and VBSC Family,

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

President James E. Victor and President D. Tyrone Brandon would like for the Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA) and the Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc. (VBSC) to partner once again in our response to natural disasters. This single appeal to support our brothers and sisters in the gulf states and along the northeast coast of America impacted by Ida is critical. Our targeted interest is the churches, their pastors, and members. We seek to raise funds that will enable and empower the religious communities, so that they will continue the great work of community building and faith formation in communities in America and in Haiti.

But for the grace of GOD, Ida would have had us all standing in the need of prayer and support. Those suffering now are in dire need of our ongoing support. We have witnessed your loving support to disasters in Haiti, Bahamas, and Puerto Rico. These countries still need and welcome our support. Now, the citizens of America are waiting on us in word and in deed.

Our initial response will include a campaign for financial support from individuals, our churches, and the community at large. These funds will be coordinated 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 unites us for greater service to those who are impacted by natural disasters. Your contributions will greatly enhance our collective witness.

Second, we will join our other faith partners and social agencies in developing service opportunities in the Haiti and in America. 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 work with our business partners to assist us in helping them to rebuild their homes, neighborhoods, communities, and country.

Finally, we know that God honors unity and kingdom building. Therefore, we asked that you pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti and in America. Let us work in love and grace in meeting the needs of those impacted by Ida's wind and water as well as in the earthquake. Please remember in your prayers those who were harmed by other storms, violence, and accidents.

While we are partnering in disaster relief service, we will still honor our existing financial accounting practices and systems. You may send your gifts as outlined

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Program Secretary

Mr. Bruce J. Martin
Operations Technician

below base on your affiliation or your preference. All gifts will be used to serve those who are in need because of this current disaster.

Donations to BGCVA's Disaster Relief Fund may be submitted directly online via the BGCVA website, by CashApp (\$BGCVA), by Givelify (Baptist General Convention), 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.

Donations to VBSC's Disaster Relief Fund may be submitted directly online via the VBSC website, by Givelify (Virginia Baptist State Convention) by phone at 757-622-7418, by postal mail or in person at the convention office at 813 Henry Street, Norfolk, VA 23504.

Please include your contact information with your donation so we may send you a receipt and a final report of our combined efforts. We will be looking forward to hearing from you.

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., Baptist General Convention of Virginia

D. Tyrone Brandon

Dr. D. Tyrone Brandon, Sr., President, Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc.

Leo Whitaker

Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister, Baptist General Convention of Virginia

BGC Easy Giving Methods

Mail-In Gifts:
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Pay To: \$BGCVA

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

PayPal:
BGCVA Website: BGCVA.ORG
Click on Donate

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



**BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA
PRESENTS**

AT THE
MARRIOTT
NORFOLK WATERSIDE
235 E Main St, Norfolk, VA 23510
P: (757) 627-4200

MEGA MID-WINTER RETREAT 2022

Registration
is
\$50 Per Adult
\$15 Per Child

*Women's Ministry ~ Men's Ministry ~ Clergy Ministry
~ Special Featuring Children's Ministry (Grades 1-5) ~*

Hotel Reservations
are
\$149.05 Per
Room Night
(Single/Double)
Taxes and fees included

SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 18 – 19, 2022

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

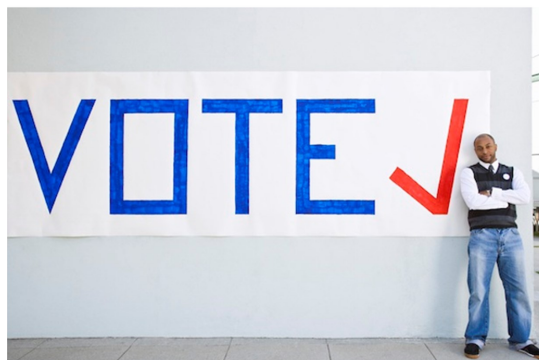
**VOTE like you
understand that
someone died
for your right
to do so**



Virginia Board of Elections:

1. Registration - <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/>
2. Absentee and Early Voting - <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/>
- 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/>

Virginia General Elections are Tuesday, November 2nd !





YOUTH RETREAT 2022

LOVING WHO I AM!

LEARNING WHO I WANT TO BE!



MARCH 25 – 27, 2022 SAVE THE DATE!

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, [a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:2 (NIV)

We ask that churches have a ratio of 1 male leader: 4-5 male youth and 1 female leader: 4-5 female youth. Medical forms are required.

Hotel Reservations are \$149.05 Per Room Night (Single/Double) Taxes and fees included



AT THE

MARRIOTT NORFOLK WATERSIDE
235 E Main St, Norfolk, VA 23510
P: (757) 627-4200

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

www.bgcva.org

Attention All Youth Pastors, Directors, & 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 and training sessions are each Thursday at 5:30 PM.



Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102131267?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102131267?pwd=N0lDSk93NFJ0ZnRldXBiWGVJL3FLZz09)

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

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!



BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA
WOMEN'S MINISTRY
WEEK OF PRAYER
October 10 – 16, 2021

"We Are the World .We Are Your People, Please Hear Our Prayer"



Lord Pour Out Your Love, Life, and Liberty



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10 (English Standard Version) ESV

We are BGC ...

Bringing People Together,
Growing Churches, and
Changing Communities!

Clergy Conversations

Thursday, October 7, 2021

12:00noon

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653654568?pwd=c2d5Nm1TbDNNU1lWMWFGTkVJOVAwQT09>

Meeting ID: 876 5365 4568

Passcode: 790104

Conference Call: (301) 715-8592

Register at <https://www.bgcva.org/training.html>

Facilitator: *Dr. William H. Whitaker, II*
BGCVA Director of Clergy &
Leadership Development



Baptist General Convention of VA



Ministry Training Track (M. T. T.)

**EVERY
THIRD MONDAY
@ 12 PM & 6 PM**

Meeting ID: 876 5365 4568

Passcode: 790104

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653654568?pwd=c2d5Nm1TbDNNU1lWMWFGTkVJOVAwQT09>

Dial by your location: +1 301 715 8592 US

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VA

2022 EVENT CALENDAR

EST. 1899

January

- 8 Virtual Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference
17-18 MLK Celebration and Day of Ministry Service
23 Statewide BGCVA Day

February

- 4 Virtual VUU Founders' Day
18-19 Mega Mid-Winter Ministries Retreat, Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel

March

- 25-27 Youth Retreat I, Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel

April

- 14 Virtual Spring General Board Meeting
23 VUU Church Leadership Conference

May (First Responders Month)

- 7 Virtual VBS Conference

June

- 4 Virtual Children & Youth Empowerment - No Judgement Zone!

26-29 123rd Annual Session and Congress of Christian Faith Formation, Richmond Marriott Downtown

Weekly

- Every Thursday @ 5:30 PM –
Youth Ministry Advisory Team: Meeting & Training

July

- 9 BGC Day @ Kings Dominion
9 Virtual Children's Home Founders' Day
15-16 Virtual Youth Retreat II

August

- 26-27 Virtual Back 2 School Weekend

September (Christian Faith Formation Month)

- 8 Virtual General Board Strategic Planning Meeting
17 Virtual Faith Formation Conference

October (Clergy Appreciation Month)

- 9 Clergy Appreciation Day
9-15 BGCVA Week of Prayer
13 Virtual Fall General Board Meeting

November

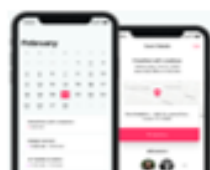
- 1 Day of Social Action
4-5 Virtual Fall Session

December

- 17 Virtual Youth Ministry Lock-In

Monthly

- Every 1st Thursday @ 12PM –
Clergy Conversations
Every 3rd Monday @ 12 PM –
Ministry Training Track
Every 4th Thursday @ 10 AM –
Moderators' Meeting
Every 4th Thursday @ 6 PM –
Sacred Spaces Webinar
Every 4th Saturday @ 10 AM –
Pastoral Mentorship & Training Program



**** Events are Virtual During the Pandemic. ****

*** Dates and Locations are Subject to Change. ***

Phone: 804-228-2421 Email: info@bgcva.org

REV. 9/29/2021

BGC Easy Giving Methods



Mail-In Gifts:
BGCVA

**1214 West Graham Road
Richmond, VA 23220**



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



GIVELIFY:

Download App

Find: Baptist General Convention

Tap Amount

Give



PayPal:

BGCVA Website: BGCVA.ORG

Click on Donate



Baptist General Convention of Virginia

1214 West Graham Road

Richmond, Virginia 23220

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Permit No. 954**

**Thank You for Your Support of the
Baptist General Convention of Virginia!**