SUMMER ISSUE 2018

A Publication of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia

Baptist Herald

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119th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education Pictorial Reflections

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A Word From President Howard

"Reviving Our Roots: Prophetic Preaching and Our Missional Mandate…Luke 4: 18-19"

Blessings to each of you my brothers and sisters in Christ! It is with great joy and thanksgiving that I applaud each of you convening and celebrating the great work of our beloved BGCVA's 119th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. I commend Vice President James Victor, Secretary Milton Bunting, Assistant Secretary Griselda Bayton, exemplary leadership of our Clergy, Women and Men's Ministries, our stellar staff and committed Executive Minister, Dr. Leo Whitaker. Moreover, the sacrifices and services rendered by our Steering Committee, hosts associations and moderators and local musicians were second to none. Again, thank you for your labor in the Lord. I have received continued confirmation of the relevancy and impact of each of our classes, lectures, fellowships and worship experiences

I trust that we will continue to preach and witness prophetically while attending to the essential needs of all of God's people. The current socio-political climate is one of racial divisiveness and misogynistic and xenophobic rhetoric that threatens to form itself into real policies—policies that are contrary to the life and ministry of Jesus. As a convention and individual churches, let us continue to stand for justice by first practicing justice among ourselves and then daring to stand collectively as a Body of Christ before those who threaten the well-being and prosperity of us all.

As I stated last year, I still discern a spirit of revivalism that will envelop our convention and every partnering community of Christ throughout the Commonwealth. This will demand an intentionality of inclusivity and interdependence among believers in the rural, urban and suburban regions of Virginia—throughout Central, Northern, Tidewater, Southwest and Eastern Shore of both conservative and progressive; mega and more intimate size congregations.

Moreover, I look forward to thoroughly revealing and explicating the specific vision and scope of our collective ministry to the Executive and General Boards in the near future; and, to each of you at the 2018 Fall Session in Richmond.

Again, I ask for your continued support as we collectively have a charge to keep and a God to glorify. Please join us all in Richmond at this year's **Fall Session** in **November**. I am convinced that "no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no minds imagined what God has prepared for those who love God…I Corinthians 2:9"

Graciously Submitted,

Gregory M. Howard

Greetings From the Executive Minister

Greetings!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Peace and blessings to you, our BGC Family!

We are blessed beyond measure to be included in the work of the Eternal. OUR LORD has favored us and has called us to collectively, collaboratively, and compassionately serve in ripe fields of kingdom harvest! We are grateful for each of you and your ongoing support to the vision, mission, and ministry of BGCVA. Please join us in praising God for blessing us beyond measure and allowing our efforts to strengthen our bonds in the faith.

Your Herald highlights our various ministries and partnerships. The Annual Session pictorial reflections, training events across Virginia, Youth Retreat and King's Dominion Day, the BGC Foundation, The Moderator's Ministry; and so much more in this issue. Social concerns for our brothers and sisters in the Carolinas is also addressed. We have created a Ministry Relief Fund to give special attention to any crisis wherein we can minister and share the love of Christ. Every effort to mobilize our BGCVA Family to update voter registration and to encourage all citizens to participate fully in our democracy and VOTE! November 6, 2018! We will continue to provide more information via the worldwide web as well as in targeted mailings.

In January our administrative offices were flooded because of a frozen pipe. All of the carpet and most of the sheet rock had to be removed and Servpro was onsite to handle the cleanup. Brotherhood Mutual was ready to serve and has submitted the funds for the repairs to the offices. Today, the administrative offices reflect the professional atmosphere you deserve as well as modern décor for our staff and visitors.

We salute our leadership for investing in us this high and holy call. Thank you Dr. Gregory Howard, Rev. William Reid, Sister Gracie Davis, and Brother Steven Brown for your committed contributions of heart, mind, and service to the work of ministry. We are appreciative of each leader's stellar witness to the BGCVA ministry. Further-

more, we continue to be amazed by the loving fellowship and support that we experience as we travel across the state. May GOD bless each of you!

We want to sincerely thank all of you for both your participation and contributions that make "BGC THE PLACE TO BE!". We appreciate ALL monetary contributions weekly, monthly or quarterly. When making contributions please make all checks payable to the Baptist General Convention of VA and use the "memo" section to designate the purpose for your contribution. Our prayers are focused on your growth and reach in Christ, in the church, and in the community. May your ministry experience extraordinary favor and peace!

For The Kingdom of Christ, I Am

Dr. Leo Whitaker

Highlights from the 2018 BGCVA Gala

The 2018 Annual Session Closing Gala was a night filled with good cheer, good food, and good friends. This night was a culmination of 4 days of preaching, teaching, and fellowshipping. BGCVA celebrated all of our wonderful, and faithful givers of 2017; and, recognized the "top" givers with a trophy. This is always a highlight of the Annual Session. Without the support of our churches, associations, and individuals, BGCVA would not be able to offer all the great services that aid you in ministry. So one more time: THANK YOU! WE LOVE AND APPPRECIATE YOU EMINCELY!

God has indeed brought us from a long way, so we give honor to him for his faithfulness. We are most grateful for our new President, Dr. Gregory Howard and our new Executive Minister, Dr. Leo Whitaker. The BGCVA has always been blessed with great leadership and we are waiting with anticipation and expectation of what God will do through Dr. Howard and Dr. Whitaker.

There was an air of excitement at this year's Gala (and of course thankfulness that this was the last night. Thank you Lord!). Everything about the gala was on point—the gentle soothing voice of Sheila Diggs-Jones, the soft strumming of the harpist-Sheryl Bruce Johnson, the melodies of the Jason Jenkins Trio that made our hearts glad, and last but certainly not least, Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ took us to church by reminding all of us to "Tell the Truth.". What a night! What a night!

No one will forget the sacred ceremony of the installation of Dr. Leo Whitaker as the third Executive Minister—it felt like we were standing on holy ground after the prayer given by Dr. Andrew White. In conclusion, a grand time was had by all.

Health, Men and Social Justice Ministries @ Annual Session

Monday, June 25, 2018—Clergy & Community Outreach Day. Plenary: Seeking Justice: Action, Resources and Reflection. Panel Moderator: Rev. Dr. Paige Lanier Chargois, BGCVA Social Justice Commission. Panelists: Reverend Kevin Chandler, President, Virginia State Conference (VSC) NAACP, Pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, South Boston, VA; Reverend Rodney M. Hunter, Executive Director, Virginia Interfaith Council for Public Policy, Pastor, Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, Richmond, VA, Chair, The Jubilee Fund, WMUMC Board member, Ecumenical Poverty Initiative; Reverend Linwood T. Blizzard II, Senior Pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church, Heathsville, VA, Board Chair, Macedonia Community Development Corporation, LEAD Northern Neck, the Northumberland Branch of the NAACP, and E.M.P.O.W.E.R. (Equipping Minds by Preventing Oppression with Educational Resources).

Convention Community Service Projects

Thank you for your generosity in support of the Mercy Mall "Suitcases of Hope" outreach initiative. The toiletries, supplies and Bibles you donated are a blessing to the families served in Chesterfield, Richmond & Vicinity. Special thanks to BGCVA Women's Ministry for providing leadership, planning and transport of the items. Thank you to the volunteers that assisted at Mercy Mall while in Richmond during Annual Session. Our second service project was the collection of "reader" eyeglasses for persons incarcerated at Riverside Regional Jail, Prince George VA. This facility serves eight counties. Thank you for donating eyeglasses to assist inmates as they prepare for reentry.

Community Health and Wellness Breakfast— "Building a Healthier Community Together", June 26, 2018

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

Thank you for your support of our Annual Breakfast and Outstanding Community Service Awards. The awards were presented by Mr. Donald Barrow, Manager, Optima Health and Dr. Burke in Outstanding service in Education, Health, Housing and Finance. The 2018 awardees are:

EDUCATION - Belinda S. Piercy, Retired Educator, Adjunct Professor, J.S. Reynold CC,

Grantee Specialist, ICF International; HEALTH - Phillip B. Duncan, M.D., F.A.C.C., Heart Care For You, (CHMN), P.C. Chester, VA; HOUSING - Rev. Lorae Ponder Executive Director - Homeagain – Richmond; FINANCE – Malita Jefferson BB&T Corporation - Lighthouse Project; and

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY/FOOD INSUFFICIENCY - Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church – Richmond - Rev. Tyrone Nelson, Pastor

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – Mr. Donald Barrow in recognition of retirement from Sentara Health, but specifically for the design of the Optima Family Health Care Initiative which has supported BGCVA Health Ministry and many others throughout Virginia the past five years.

We also recognized some of our many Community Health Partners that support health ministry in our churches each year. Special thanks the Coordinators of the Health and Service Providers:

Mrs. Francine Hunter (Chickahominy Baptist Association Health Ministry); and Mrs. Edith Jones, Co-Chair (Mosby Memorial Baptist Church and BGCVA Health Ministry Advisory Committee).

Again, we especially thank Mr. Barrow and Minister Nancy Shavers for the Optima Health Family Care Faith Partnership and for sponsorship of this Annual Breakfast and Community Service Awards.

Interim General Minister of Virginia Council of Churches Appointed

From the Virginia Council of Churches:

The Reverend Mary Anne Glover has been called as the Interim General Minister of the Virginia Council of Churches. Reverend Glover was the first African-American woman to be installed in the office of Regional Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She served as Transitional Regional Minister of the Northeastern Region beginning September, 2008 and was installed as Regional Minister in 2012. She previously served nine years as Associate Regional Pastor in the Christian Church in Ohio.

Additionally, Reverend Glover's prior ministerial service included pastorates of congregations in Indianapolis, Minneapolis, and Louisville.

Reverend Glover holds a B.S. degree from East Carolina University and an M. Div. from Lexington Theological Seminary. She was the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) representative to the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland in 1991 and interned at the U.S. Office World Council of Churches in 1990. She has also undertaken studies in Clinical Pastoral Education supervision. During her 2003 sabbatical, Reverend Glover studied at the Harvard Divinity School as a Merrill Fellow.

She has been engaged in many areas of ecumenical ministries and Disciples church life, including senior leadership positions with the Black Ministers Fellowship, the Common Global Ministries Board, the Council on Christian Unity, the Church Women Staff Fellowship, the United Church of Christ Executive Council (representing the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ), the Church Women United National Board, and the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches Beyond Racism Together Committee.

BGCVA welcomes The Reverend Mary Anne Glover! We look forward to working together with you!

Baptist General Convention of Virginia

Women's Ministry

Week of Prayer

October 14-20, 2018

Prayer for Unity In the Body of Christ

I Corinthians 12:12

BGCVA 2017-2020 Theme:

Reviving Our Roots: Prophetic Preaching and Our Missional Mandate *Luke 4:18-19 NIV*

Dr. Gregory M. Howard
Convention President

Mrs. Gracie T. Davis
Women's Ministry President

Dr. Leo Whitaker
Executive Minister

Support To:	Amount
Baptist General Convention of Virginia	$ 15,000
Virginia Union University	$ 6,000
Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention	$ 3,000
Children's Home of Virginia Baptists, Inc.	$ 3,000
Margaret Rose Johnson Scholarship Fund	$ 3,000
Total	$ 30,000

Help Us Reach Our Week of Prayer Goal!!!

All contributions to the Week of Prayer should be made payable to the BGCVA and sent to the BGCVA State Office: 1214 West Graham Road, Suite 1, Richmond, VA 23220

BGCVA Fall Session 2018

November 8

4:00 to 8:00 PM

Fifth Baptist Church

1415 West Cary Street

Richmond, VA 23220

Highlights

- **Welcome Reception to new pastors, churches & moderators**
- **Ministry Fair**

Guest Preacher Dr. John W. Kinney, Pastor Ebenezer Baptist Church Beaverdam, VA; Director, Center For African American Pentecostal and Leadership Development, Virginia Union University Richmond, VA

Guest Presenter Dr. Mark A. Croston, Sr. National Director of Black Church Partnerships LifeWay Christian Resources Nashville, TN

Cost is $40 per person

(Includes registration materials)

Registration Deadline is November 2

PLEASE Register Today!!

(online; via phone; traditional registration)

Save The Dates!!!

2019 BGCVA Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference

JANUARY 12

Inclement Weather Date: January 19

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

First Baptist Church Centralia

2920 Kingsdale Road

Chesterfield, VA

Reception from 4:00—5:30 PM

Cost is $40 per person

(Includes registration materials)

Registration Deadline is January 5, 2019

Register Today!!

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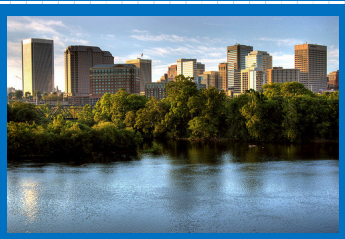
2019 BGCVA Mid-Winter Session

FEBRUARY 22 – 23

Inclement Weather Date: March 1—2

In Central VA



BGCVA Retreat Registration Deadline – February 16, 2019

Healing Communities - Stations of Hope Training

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." -Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

The Social Justice Commission of BGCVA has been collaborating with local, state and national organizations to fight against mass incarceration. Mass incarceration has had its greatest negative impact on the poor, people of color, and particularly black males since these groups are often targeted, arrested and jailed at a much higher rate and at a much younger age than other groups. There are many issues that have led to a disproportionate number of African Americans being tracked into the "school to prison" pipeline. As a result we now how record numbers of incarcerated persons of all ages.

In the wake of this reality, we advocate for changes to the law that in effect are unjust for many. We also push for changes in the laws, legal system, its courts and local, state and national representatives that support disproportionate sentencing, low felony thresholds and other practices that feed mass incarceration.

The reality is, every time a man, woman, boy or girl is locked up their families are often hurt and sometimes devastated. It's not only the presence, but loss of income, relationships and even hope. For some there is shame and embarrassment and the loss of a residence, vehicle and debt incurred leading up to the incarceration. Another reality stemming from mass incarceration is that most of the incarcerated will be released at some point which creates many challenges for the households they return too (if that is even possible) and a challenge for the community at large. As you may be aware, there are some programs available to assist those coming of incarceration, but not enough. This is especially so in small towns and rural areas. There are even fewer services to assist the families, especially children, of the incarcerated while they are imprisoned.

There are many formerly incarcerated, recently released, about to be incarcerated and suffering mothers, fathers, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, unless and friends in our churches and their surrounding communities. Many may be suffering in silence and thinking they are alone and some may be losing hope.

The Good News is that BGCVA has a presence in virtually every corner of the Commonwealth of Virginia and we are hoping many of our churches will become "Stations of Hope" for individuals and families impacted by incarceration. Since 2016, we have been sharing information at BGCVA conferences on the "Healing Communities – Stations of Hope" church-based model for serving returning citizens (healingcommunitiesusa.com).

For additional information call 804-228-2421 or email eburke@bgcva.org.

On January 20, 2018 we held our first "Stations of Hope" Training in Williamsburg at the Holiday Inn – Gateway. Facilitator: Rev. Dr. J. Elisha Burke - "Understanding the Impacts of Incarceration on Health" and Guest Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Harold Dean "Doc" Trulear, Director of the Healing Communities Prison Ministry and Prisoner Reentry Project of the Philadelphia Leadership Foundation & Associate Professor of Applied Theology at Howard University School of Divinity

This was a learning opportunity for new and existing ex-offender ministries to learn the Healing Communities model of faith-b based re-entry ministry. The model is focused on building relationships of healing, redemption and reconciliation in families and communities impacted by crime and mass incarceration.

Healing Communities is a framework for a distinct form of ministry for men and women returning from or at risk of incarceration, their families and the larger community. Healing Communities challenges congregations to become Stations of Hope for those persons affected by the criminal justice system.

This session trained clergy, other church leaders and members to:

- Walk with the returning citizens (connect returning citizens to resources that will help set attainable goals)
- Help them connect with their faith (provide spiritual support)
- Open their hearts to them (foster positive relationships)
- Embrace them (extend open and affirming fellowship)

- Provide understanding (collaboration with family and friends to rebuild relationships)
- Advocate for political change on a local, state, and federal level

We are thankful for the ___ individuals representing ___ churches in attendance at this session. A follow-up session was held on April 7th at BGCVA. Participants received the BGCVA Re-entry and Aftercare Ministry Toolkit to information for next steps as they prayerful move forward with this ministry.

Associations and churches are encouraged to host Stations of Hope training for persons interested in starting a Reentry ministry or adding it to an existing prison outreach ministry.

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ and the Faith Community Baptist Church, Richmond, VA for being the first to offer a "Second Chance Sunday" as a part of this initiative. This was a blessed celebration with and for families and community members impacted by incarceration. I am also thankful to have been the guest preacher for that Sunday.

BGCVA is on these social media sites....

Youth and Young Adult Ministries Update

Every new year signifies the ending of an era as well as the beginning of a new one. For the Youth and Young Adult Department here at the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, we have been overwhelmed by the kindness of God in this new calendar year.

In March, we kicked off with our Annual Youth Worker's Conference that was entitled "Tackling Taboo Topics." It was here, where over 100 leaders labored together to understand hard issues involving not only our young people but also our children; topics in which we tend to shy away from in our traditional religious settings.

In June, during our Annual Session we had about 30 youth to participate for the week, where we engaged in conversations about "Jesus & Justice." It was here where they actively discussed how it feels to be a young Christian in an age that is still overly saturated with racial, social, political and economic injustice. Also in that week, we provided moments for our young people to learn about their Black History at the Richmond African American Museum and created opportunities to give back through community service at the Children's Home of Virginia Baptists, Inc.

We have also supported back-to-school drives in our service area of Petersburg and from this point forward, each year we will choose a different city for our constituents to send resources for school supply drives across the state every August.

Our Youth Retreat which was held on the campus of Virginia Union University this July, brought together around 200 youth and leaders for two wonderful days filled with myriad of worship services, experiential learning opportunities as well as a closing King's Dominion Family Day at JoyFest 2018. This year we were blessed to be able to tag team with STREAM, which is a theological camp dedicated to teaching youth not only about biblical principles but also how to implement them in the community. Our youth will be partnering with this camp and others next July as well.

In September, we will be starting a Youth Retreat 2019 Campaign where are goal is to reach $2,000, these funds will be added to our overall retreat budget to help provide more meaningful experiences for our children next year. We are indeed excited about what God has done and continues to do for this department but we still need your help. If any of your youth leaders/workers would like to serve as volunteers for our annual events such as Youth Workers Conference and Youth Retreat, please email kjennings@bgcva.org or youth@bgcva.org. Also if you have a youth, who would like to become a youth officer, we ask that you contact us at the emails listed above or call the state office at 804-228-2421.

For we know, that God has given us an awesome ministry here at Baptist General that requires us all to push and do more each day. For in the words of the renowned and revered Womanist Theologian, the late Dr. Katie G. Cannon, "Do the work that your soul must have!" BGC this is our soul's work…let us continue to press on and watch God reveal beautiful new beginnings!

In the service of our Lord,

Min. Kaiya Jennings

Youth & Young Adult Director

A Special Thanks to Annual Session Vendors, Exhibitors, and Sponsors

It's with much gratitude that BGCVA expresses our appreciation for those vendors, exhibitors, and sponsors who took time out of their busy schedules to 'share their wares' with the constituents at the 119th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education. We appreciate your faithful attendance each year. Please plan to join us in Norfolk in 2019.

- Bernice Vaughan (The Hat Lady)
- Edora Greenhill (Traci Lynn Jewelry)
- Mary Kirkland (Mpulse Boutique)
- Nichelle Cooper (Simply Vettore)
- Doris James-Taylor (Especially Yours Inclusive)
- Shirley Simms (Agape Custom Communion Covers)

Men's Ministry @ 2018 Mid-Winter Ministries Session

The Men's Ministry gathered on Friday, February 16, 2018 for "Brothers Night" featuring Presentations and Dialogue with Steven Brown, Men's Ministry State President and special guest Ron Clark, MPP, Preventive Health & Health Services Coordinator / Virginia Department of Health Virginia Dept. of Health and Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Men's Ministry Director.

Mr. Clark emphasized that the health challenges of African American men can be lessened by adopting a healthy lifestyle and sticking with it. The discussion also included some of the men sharing their own challenges as well as testimonies to the benefit of regular doctor visits. Mr. Clark also shared information on how to establish healthy routines over the course of each day. Dr. Burke also reminded the men to include men's health information as a permanent focus of the local church men's ministry and plan accordingly. State Director, Steven Brown, a retired nurse, moderated the discussion and was instrumental to this lively, relevant discussion. He also challenged the men to go back to their churches and encourage the men to have similar talks in their men's ministry meetings and other gatherings.

On Saturday, February 16, 2018 the Men's Ministry gather for a Presentation and Dialogue with Rev. Dr. James E. Coleman, Jr., Director, Doctor of Ministry Program at Virginia University of Lynchburg, Senior Pastor and Founder at Providence Transformation Church International and Co-Chair, BGCVA Social Justice Commission. Dr. Coleman is the author of Return of the Men: Increasing the Presence and Participation of Black Men in the Church. Dr. Coleman's addressed the long-standing challenge of African American churches to attract and keep males actively engaged in the church. Those gathered reflected the fact they most of the males currently active in our churches are older males, with younger men notably absent. To add a young man's perspective, Dr. Coleman's co-presenter was his son Rev. James Eric Coleman who is currently a student at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

2018 Annual Session Congress of Christian Education Report

Many thanks to the persons who attended the seminars and classes that were offered at the 119th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education at the Richmond Marriott Hotel June 24 – 28, 2018.

The following totals reflect cumulative attendance reports for morning prayer, Monday Seminars, and Tuesday – Thursday Classes.

Morning Prayer (M – T)	35
Monday AM Seminars	270
Tuesday – Thursday Classes	599
Total Week Class Attendance	**869**
Total Week Prayer Attendance	**35**

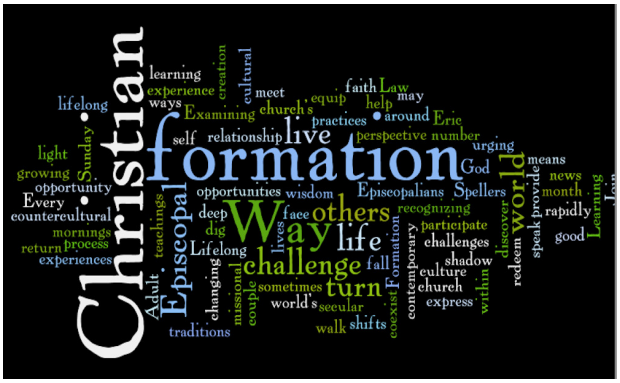
Please start encouraging persons now to attend the 120th Annual Session in 2019 at the beautiful Norfolk Marriott Hotel in Downtown Norfolk.

A special thank you to all the most excellent facilitators for such a tremendous job in pouring some of your God-giftedness into your students! For that BGCVA is forever grateful!

A special thank you to all of the classroom assistants. We appreciate your willingness to serve and assist in making the Congress of Christian Education a valuable experience for both teachers and students.

I praise God for each teacher and seminar leader! Evaluations prove your students felt it was indeed worth the sacrifice of rising early in the morning to attend the Congress learning experience!

For those who volunteer at the Congress Desk year after year! Thank you for being a part of the team! You are a blessing from God! Words cannot express how indebted I am to you. You start 3 weeks prior to the beginning of the Annual Session to make sure everything is in order and teachers have everything they need. You warn when classes may exceed the actual space allotment and recommend when to move, close, or eliminate particular classes. I praise God for your beautiful spirit!



A Special Thank You to the Annual Session Host Committee

On behalf of President Gregory M. Howard, Executive Minister Leo Whitaker, Program Chair James E. Victor, Jr., and, BGCVA Staff, we extend our deepest appreciation for all your arduous work during the planning and execution of the 119th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia in Richmond. It was a pleasure having you and churches in the Richmond and surrounding areas sharing with constituents across the depth and breadth of Virginia. Evaluations indicate that your hard and diligent work was not in vain.

Your enthusiasm, planning assistance and participation aided tremendously in making June 24 – 28 a meaningful and memorable experience for the over 400 messengers and friends who chose to share with us.

To the 2018 Host Committee, words cannot adequately express our deep appreciation for your love and desire to cross every "t" and dot every "i" to ensure that every detail was well taken care of – well above expectations. We say thank you to:

- The Reverend Dr. Stephanie Wilkes Jefferson
- The Reverend Dr. Ricardo L. Brown
- The Reverend Dr. Barbara Cain
- The Reverend Dr. Griselda A. Bayton
- Mrs. Florence Taylor
- Mr. Johnny Branch
- The Reverend Annesto Younger
- Ms. Edith Jones
- Ms. Francine Hunter
- Ms. Tammy Woodson
- Ms. Ellen Sookins
- Ms. Nancy Broadie
- Mr. Jarius Wilson
- The Reverend Pierce Williams

Please let BGCVA know if any of the staff or officers of Baptist General Convention of Virginia can be of assistance to you as together we continue to advance the Kingdom of God.

Again, thank you! May God continue to bless you to be a blessing to others.

Around the State—BGCVA Participation in Your Association

BGCVA was well represented at Association during the summer. Officers, Board Members, Former Presidents, Staff, and/or Ministry Shared Ministries extended greetings, conducted workshops or preached at 26 of our 29 Associations during the summer.

Please call the BGCVA office or email BGCVA if you would like someone from BGCVA to attend or participate in other events of your Association.

Northern Virginia

Northern Virginia

Northern Virginia

Tuckahoe

Tuckahoe

James River District

Star of the East

Lebanon Virginia

Lebanon Virginia

Homegoing Celebrations 2018

On behalf of President Gregory M. Howard, Executive Minister Leo Whitaker, the BGCVA Staff and the entire BGCVA Community, we extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the following persons. Although our hearts are saddened, God knows that you have fought a good fight and are ready for your eternal reward. BGCVA, all of Christendom, and the world are all the better because God allowed you to make a lasting impact on our lives.

- Ball, The Reverend Dr. M. Sylvia (Pastor, Sweet Union Baptist Church, Roanoke; Member, BGCVA General Board and BGCVA Finance Commission)
- Bracey, Jr., James (Husband of Mrs. Theresa J. Bracey – BGCVA Finance Commission)
- Brown, Venna S. (Sister of former BGCVA President Dr. Curtis J. Strader)
- Christian, Elizabeth J. (Mother-in-Law of Reverend Dr. Jerome Ross, Pastor, Providence Park Baptist Church, Richmond)
- Franklin, Letitia, Former Area L Vice President, BGCVA Women's Ministry
- Keaton, The Reverend Dr. Joseph A. (Pastor Emeritus, Central Baptist Church, Roanoke; Former Moderator, Valley Baptist Association)
- Parrott, The Reverend Dr. Joan S. Parrott (Pastor, First Baptist Church, Hampton)
- Riddick, Moses (Father of former BGCVA President Dr. Dwight Riddick, Pastor, Gethesame Baptist Church, Newport News)
- Taylor, Rosa (Mother of BGCVA Office Manager/Accountant The Reverend Janet L. Wynn)
- Walker, The Reverend Dr. Wyatt Tee (Member, VUU Board of Trustees; Former Pastor, Gillfield Baptist Church, Petersburg and Canaan Baptist Church, Harlem, New York; Chief of Staff for The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- Williams, The Reverend Leroy (Former pastor, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Emporia

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA

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President

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

The Reverend Milton P. Bunting
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The Reverend Dr. Griselda A. Bayton
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Mr. Steven Brown
Men's Ministry

Mrs. Gracie Taylor Davis
Women's Ministry

ADMINISTRATION
The Reverend Dr. Leo Whitaker
Executive Minister

September 20, 2018

Dear Clergy Brothers and Sisters,

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

It was only a year ago that we wrote to you asking for your help and support in ministering to the needs of our sisters and brothers in Texas, Louisiana, and Puerto Rico. Your generosity allowed for more than $100,000 dollars from BGC churches and association to be given to the Houston Metropolitan Baptist Minister's Conference (HMBMC) and the Lott Carey Foreign Missionary Convention. In our Winter 2017 Baptist Herald there is a picture of Dr. Greg Howard presenting a $50,000 dollar check to the HMBMC. On your behalf, the other funds was mailed to Lott Carey Convention.

Now, we are all grateful that the load Florence was carrying was lessened by our GOD. But, the impact the rains produced is still great and has created floods beyond the normal borders.

Many of our brothers and sisters who pastor and worship in the Carolinas need our help. We have spoken with Dr. Haywood Gray who is the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Incorporate regarding how BGC associations, churches, clergy, and Christians can be supportive.

It has been placed upon our hearts to make an appeal to **our brothers and sisters** in ministry to show the love through their generosity of giving to assist those who have suffered loss of loved ones, loss of property, displacement and employment. Therefore on behalf of the Clergy Ministry, we make an appeal to all BGC clergy, moderators, churches, Minister's Conferences, Church School Unions, and Deacons, Missionaries, and Ushers Unions to make contributions. Please make your contributions payable to the Baptist General Convention of Virginia: Disaster Relief Ministry.

We have included our litany entitled "A CALL TO PRAYER, A CALL TO CARE." Please share it during a worship experience and other times as you make your appeal to the congregation. In addition, we will be planning mission opportunities to help and to assist our fellow Christians in the Carolinas.

May God richly bless each of you in your efforts to partner with us as we share our love and resources during this challenging time.

For The Kingdom of Christ, We are

Dr. Gregory M. Howard, President

The Reverend William J. Reid, President, Clergy Ministry

Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister

Enclosure: A CALL TO PRAYER, A CALL TO CARE, A CALL TO SHARE

A Call To Prayer, A Call To Care, A Call To Share

Psalm 34 (NIV)

A Litany in Remembrance of those affected by Hurricane Florence

By The Reverend Dr. Leo Whitaker, BGCVA Executive Minister – September 17, 2018

People: [1] Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. [2] I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress my God, in whom I trust."

Leader: Lord, we thank you for meteorologists and scientific scholars alerting us of the storms. We praise you, O God, for the fortitude of civil servants who responded well to insure the safety of all citizens. You blessed elected officials to govern with grace and prepare us for such times. God, we thank you for the efforts of first responders, police officers, National Guards, utility and mass transit whom you allowed to work in concert for our safety.

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

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

People: [8] You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. [9] If you say, "The Lord is my refuge" and you make the Most High your dwelling, [10] no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.

Leader: We pray for the families of whose loved ones transitioned to the safe shores of the celestial city during the storm. May your comforting hand rest upon them. May your arms offer rest to first responders who served well, knowing ALL life is precious in your eyes. We humbly bow to your sovereign will. Only your HOLY SPIRIT can share the comforting ministry of your presence and peace.

People: [11] For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; [12] they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

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

People: [13] You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. [14] "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

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

People: [15] He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. [16] With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

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

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

Mid Winter Ministries Session Rebirth the Moderators' Ministry

The BGC Moderator's Ministry was reenergized at the 2018 Mid-Winter Ministries Session. Several Moderators and Vice-Moderators from across the state met at the Gethsemane Baptist Church, in Newport News. This ministry is designed for all moderators and vice-moderators. It provides BGCVA an opportunity to assist moderators in fulfilling their office and administrative duties.

BGCVA is on these social media sites....

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION FOUNDATION

1214 West Graham Road, Suite 1, Richmond, Virginia 23220-1400
Phone: 804-228-2421 ♦ Fax: (Administration) 804-228-1040
Website: www.bgcva.org ♦ E-mail: info@bgcva.org

FOUNDATION BOARD

LEADERSHIP

Dr. Robert G. Murray, Chairperson

Dr. Gregory M. Howard, Convention President

Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister

August 14, 2018

Dear BGC Family,

May grace, mercy and peace be yours! It was a blessing to gather in Richmond for our Annual Session, and to be blessed by the Lord with a good feeling that the Lord is renewing our Convention and that the future is looking GREAT! Congratulations to Dr. Gregory Howard, our President and may God's blessings be his as he leads us to higher grounds. Also, we pray for the best for Dr. Leo Whitaker, our new Executive Minister, as we have the highest of hope for our years to come under his administration.

To all of our BGC family, please accept our sincere gratitude for your continued support to the Baptist General Convention Foundation since 1995 and during our dormant years (2010-2018). Prior to the Annual Session, the BGC leadership endorsed the restart of the Foundation as a financial arm of the Convention. However, we are returning with a "New Vision" where our funds will create a legacy that will "Give and Live" as we build the Principle and utilize the Interest only. Also, BGC has an Angel Donor who will Match our first $25,000 raised to open this investment fund in the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, which historically has returned 8% to 10% interest annually.

We can raise this initial $25,000 by this Fall Session if 50 Churches give $500 (total of $25,000) or if 500 BGC members or friends give $50 (total of $25,000) or any combination of these two efforts could help us reach this goal. Then, going Beyond this Fall Session, if we have the 50 donor churches AND the 500 Donor members to continue to give, our convention can raise $50,000 per year for the next 5 years! The result would be $250,000+ in our "New Vision" Foundation that will continue to "Give and Live"!

At our Annual Session, we were able to raise over $10,200 to put into this fund. However, we need to raise $14,800 to open the account at $25,000 by the Fall Session. Also, with the matching $25,000 we will be able to start our Foundation with $50,000 at our Fall Session (November 8, 2018 at Fifth Baptist Church, Richmond, VA).

It would be a blessed goal for our Convention to rebuild an even stronger Foundation providing scholarships, grants for special ministries, and even a convention center on the shared properties of the Children's Home of Virginia---It is our prayer that God will bless us with a vision for the great things He has in store for us (Jer. 29:11).

We would deeply appreciate Donations and Pledges being sent NOW to the BGC office and being given during the Fall Session. Please designate these special gifts for the BGC Foundation. We are also looking for willing and dedicated Foundation Board Members. Please feel free to contact Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister; Dr. Gregory Howard, President; or me, Foundation Board Chair. Thank you in advance for your commitment and support!

Yours in God's love and service,

Robert G. Murray, D. Min., Chair

A Word From the Baptist General Convention Foundation

The BGC Foundation Board met at the Mid-Winter Ministries Session and voted to reactivate Their mission of support to BGCVA. A missive, penned by Dr. Robert G. Murray, informs and inspires BGCVA member churches and Christians to support the Foundation. The goal of raising $25,000 will be matched by a private donor for a total amount of $50,000. This amount will be placed in the Foundation to continue our growth and partnership with likeminded foundations and donors.

During the Annual Session $5,800 was raised and additional funds were sent to the office. The total to date is $10,000. What an amazing opportunity we have to prepare for our future! We thank the Foundation Board leaders and members for their service and generosity. Also, Mrs. Edna Crabbe, Secretary of the Foundation, was presented with a plaque and words of appreciation during the 2018 Annual Session.

The BGC Foundation thanks each of you for your support and encourage you to continue to participate in this most worth stewardship ministry.

<<< Dr. Robert Murray's Foundation Letter

Children's Home Update

Our Children's Home is in need of immediate financial support. Each month there is a note of $7,000 and utility bills of $3,000. During our retreat we were blessed to raise more than $1,080. We ask you to share this plea with the churches and pastors in your association.

On behalf of BGCVA, President Howard and Executive Minister Whitaker provided greetings; and, presented financial contributions at the 71st Children's Home Founder's Day on July 14. A total of $45,518 was contributed! However, since that time, more funds have been received. The new total is beyond $53,238. Praise GOD! On November 17 at 10:00 AM at the BGCVA headquarters, a special meeting of the Trustees of the Children's Home, the officers of Virginia Baptist State Convention and the officers of the BGCVA will be held to communicate current affairs and future events. Thank you for investing in our Children's Home!

BGCVA Headquarters Is Blessed By In-Kind Services

Cash, checks, and credit cards are not the only way to make a stewardship impact in ministry. In-kind gifts are contributions of goods or services that Christians and churches can offer to the BGCVA. Similarly, when a person or entity pays for services on the convention's behalf, the payment is an in-kind contribution.

- The **Second Baptist Church of Falls Church**, where the Reverend Samuel Barnhart, Sr. serves as pastor, has created a ministry fostered by Mrs. Virgie Simmons-Jones, that partners with national businesses who donate supplies for non-profits. This ministry has generously offered items for the BGCVA headquarters that will provide for much needed upgrades. Vice President James Victor arranged the delivery to the headquaters by several members of the Men's Ministry of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Arlington. What a great display of in-kind resources and services: needed packing, transportation, and unpacking. On the second visit to Second Baptist, BGCVA received more items that required renting a truck and identifying items for the kitchen, restrooms, shelving, bookcases, larger carpet remnants, lights, vanities, and plenty of items for weatherization.
- Another marvelous display of in-kind ministry was shared by Dr. Wilson Shannon and the Men's Ministry of the **First Baptist Church of Centralia** in Chesterfield. They provided lawn care services to the grounds of the BGCVA headquarters. During the summer, the men partnered and mentored several male students in high school and in college from FBC. The students used the riding lawn mower, weed eater, electrical hedge trimmer and traditional garden tools to beautify our grounds. A wild urban forest was transformed into a shining star of horticultural splendor.

  In additional, many thanks to our ministry partner at FBC Centralia for graciously hosting our Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference in January. BGCVA was welcomed to the church for this event. In addition, FBC provided a catered lunch at no cost to BGCVA.
- Earlier this year, the **Gethsemane Baptist Church** in Newport News and Dr. Dwight Riddick welcomed BGCVA Mid-Winter Ministries Session participants. Their generosity was expressed in a two-day event that created space for the Women Ministry, Men's Ministry, Moderator's Ministry and officers of the BGCVA. Vendors were granted space in the foyer to display and market their goods. Ministry partners were able to converse with attendees. Lunch was catered by First Baptist Church East End "Lighthouse Catering" of Newport News. This 5-Star ministry unfolded on the hinges of hospitality and grace. We thank Dr. Riddick and President Gregory Howard for their combined in-kind services and witness.

We invite your church and association to join those who have blessed the work of our Convention in this new ministry approach. Opportunities abound for in-kind gifts to BGCVA for other churches to participate. We currently need painters and both carpet and tile installers for the multi-purpose and conference rooms as well as our main restrooms.

At print, we have listed a few additional things needed to continue our immediate improvement to the office. A new riding lawn mower, weed eater with hedge trimmer, backpack blower, and mulch, outdoor pesticide, will continue our ability to maintain our beautiful lawn. The parking lot needs to have sealant applied and lines repainted.

In the multiple purpose room, we need new carpet 12,000 square feet, 100 standard ceiling tiles, flood lights (indoor), 48" Fluorescent tubes (F40T12), U-shaped fluorescent tubes (F40T12) and indoor pesticides.

In-kind contributions can greatly impact the day to day expenses and long and short -term improvement. We are delighted to have in-kind endeavors that increase the effectiveness of the ministry of BGCVA and our partnering missions. In-kind contributions are sacred seeds of stewardship sown on rich, holy, and fertile ground.

Brotherhood Mutual Church Insurance Testimonials

Baptist General Convention of Virginia's Ministry Partner Program we have with Brotherhood Mutual Church Insurance Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana has been very beneficial. Many of our churches have already taken advantage of the high quality property, liability, church owned vehicle, and workers compensation coverage this fine company offers and have been pleased with the savings in premiums as well as improvements in coverage protection and great service. Here are a few of their testimonials:

⇒ **St. John Baptist Church, Tappahannock**

It is truly a pleasure to work with David Rogers. He has been extremely helpful to our church officers as we went through the loss of our church by the tornado on February 24, 2016. He helped with the process of assessing the damage and filing our claim. This process was new and unfamiliar to us. He assured us he was available to assist us throughout the whole process. We appreciate the support and service of Mr. David Rogers as he represents the Brotherhood Mutual Insurance.

We look forward to working with you as we plan to rebuild our church.

God bless you.

Rev. Linwood L. Jones, Jr., Pastor
George Johnson, Chairman of Deacons
Sandra Payne, Church Clerk

⇒ **First Baptist Church Bute Street, Norfolk**

May grace, mercy and peace be yours! It is a privilege and pleasure for me to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. David Rogers, who has served as our church insurance agent for more than 25 years. We have been pleased and blessed by his knowledge and understanding of our work and ministry both to our congregation and to the community. He has helped us to save considerable amounts of money by matching our need to serve with the right insurance products.

Mr. Rogers has a great commitment to providing the most up to date coverage to help churches with their program ministry expansion. One of the insurance coverages for First Baptist was to provide adequate protection for children. His presentation was helpful to us as we opened our school, giving the latest information of state and federal requirements. Also, he has helped with our ministry of a banquet facility and our assisted living facility. In other words, he has helped protect and insure us with ministries beyond our church walls.

Please know that Mr. Rogers has my highest recommendation for your church insurance. He will seek to help you with a product that "fits" your needs. I have recommended him to other pastors and churches and we, at the Historic First Baptist Church of Norfolk, have been very satisfied with his services.

If you need further information concerning Mr. Rogers and his service in the insurance industry, please do not hesitate to contact me. May God bless your ministry.

Yours in God's service,

Robert G. Murray, D. Min., Senior Pastor

⇒ **Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Centreville**

Mr. Rogers has tailored insurance coverage for the Mount Olive Baptist Church through Brotherhood Mutual that delivered on hid words. We have better coverage at a lower cost. If a pastor, officer or member of a church has heard Mr. Rogers' emphatic statement of how he can bring savings and better insurance coverage to the church through Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company and have not given him the opportunity to demonstrate it, the church just might be paying "more for less".

I strongly recommend David Rogers and

Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company to all who're looking for the best service and the best coverage.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson, Senior Pastor

If you have a testimonial about your experience with Mr. David Rogers and Brotherhood Mutual Church Insurance send it to BGCVA today!

Are you contemplating and seeking God's direction for your ministry? If so, allow BGCVA to assist you!

M.T.T. is held 9 AM—2 PM:

- **October 27, 2018**
- **January 26, 2019**
- **February 15—16, 2019**

@ the BGCVA State Office, 1214 West Graham Road, Richmond, VA 23220

Cost is $50.00 per Training Session

Note: All participants are asked to have a letter of recommendation from their pastor and/or deacon chair.

Our new Ministry Training Track or M.T.T. is specifically designed for:

1) lay persons who are interested in lay leadership (deacons, trustees, ministry leaders, and finance committee)
2) those discerning their call to ministry or initial sermon/licensing
3) pastors, associate ministers, assistants to the pastor, assistant pastors, or associate pastors seeking to enhance their ministry preparedness
4) ministers interested in the ordination process; or chaplaincy. Chaplains maintaining or seeking ecclesiastical endorsement, continuing education, and peer review as a Board Certified Chaplain will discover the benefits of partnering with BGCVA
5) all new pastors and ministers who were ordained by other faith traditions are strongly urged to participate in M.T.T. and explore the Baptist history and heritage.

Each participant will be given a selection of courses to enhance his/her ministry goals. As well, combined classes and ministry sessions will enhance vocational clarity and commitment.

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

2018 Voter Registration and EVERY VOTE MATTERS

Steps to take immediately:

- Go to www.VirginiaRegister2Vote.org and check YOUR voter registration status. Click: Register To Vote on the State Board of Elections portal to check your status, if you are not ACTIVE, you can register online and your registration will immediately (no paperwork needed)

On www.VirginiaRegister2Vote.org you can:

- Check on the status of your voter registration to make sure you are listed as ACTIVE.
- If you are listed as INACTIVE but your info is correct, you can find contact info for your local Registrar's office.
- You can actually register to vote directly with the State Board of Elections (no paper needed and information is immediately sent to State Board of Elections.
- You can get an Absentee Ballot mailed to you from your local Registrar's office.
- You can officially change your address if you have moved (you can also use www.VirginiaRegister2Vote.org if you move in the future).
- Returning Citizens (formally called ex-Felons) can confidentially check to see if their Voting Rights have been restored yet.
- If their Voting Rights have already been restored, Returning Citizens can immediately register to vote online.
- If their Voting Rights have not been restored, they can confidentially begin the process to get their Voting Rights restored.
- Everyone should check to see if the Voting Rights of a spouse, church member, loved one or a friend have been restored
- Visit the Virginia Board of Elections website https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation to find your polling location along with finding out about upcoming elections and candidates for office in your area. You can also find your local Registrar/Elections telephone number on this site.
- Get all information about Voter ID cards, order a Voter ID card

Additional Information:
Virginia State Conference NAACP - http://www.vanaacp.org/ or http://www.virginiaregister2vote.org/

Rev. Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Director
BGCVA Social Justice Ministry
804-228-2421 or eburke@bgcva.org

OUR FAITH OUR VOTE OUR VOICE

EVERY VOTE MATTERS!

THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IS

NOVEMBER 6, 2018

Every Vote Matters! Register if you have not done so. If you have not voted in the last few years, contact your local voter registration office to make sure you are still listed as eligible to vote in your locality. Contact your local Voter Registration office or register to vote online at:
https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation

Also, update your address and contact information if anything has changed. To find voter registration information for your locality or to update your information online go to: https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup

The Deadline to update your address or register to vote on Nov. 6th is:

October 15, 2018

We encourage every registered voter to stay informed on the issues and then VOTE in every election (local – state – national).

Contact Information:
Virginia Department of Elections
Telephone: (804) 864-8901

Toll Free: (800) 552-9745 FAX: (804) 371-0194
TTY: 711
Email: info@elections.virginia.gov

BGC Scholars Program

The Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA) is proud to partner with Virginia Union University (VUU) in assisting our youth [with the help of our associations and churches] with a special scholarship opportunity. Students actively participating in their church with a 3.0 or better GPA are eligible to enroll in the program. Upon acceptance, BGC Scholars will receive a quarterly enrichment sponsored by BGCVA for their academic and personal development. VUU has pledged to match all BGCVA funds, up to $3000 per BGC Scholar to cover financial gaps. A financial "gap" is the amount remaining after all of a students' financial aid and other scholarships have been applied to their account. Many students leave school because they do not have the financial means to cover the "gap". Therefore, our goal is to remove the burden of finance so that our students may concentrate on their academic futures. We are seeking 100 students who are ready to begin undergraduate work in 2019 and who meet the BGC Scholars eligibility requirements.

"Help Us Grow a New Generation of Leaders!"

BGCVA 2019 Conferences & Events

Please include these Dates on your 2019 Church Calendar

January
- 12 Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference, Richmond
- 21-22 MLK Celebration and Day of Ministry Service
- 27 Statewide BGCVA Day

February
- 1 VUU Founders Day
- 22-23 Mid-Winter Ministries Session, Central VA

March
- 2 Children's & Youth Workers' Conference, Richmond
- 9 VUU Church Leadership Conference

April
- 11 Spring General Board Meeting, Richmond

June
- 23-27 120th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Norfolk

July
- 12-13 Youth Retreat @ VUU, Richmond
- 13 Children's Home Founders Day

September (Christian Education Month)
- 7 Church School Conference, Central VA
- 12 General Board Strategic Planning Meeting, Richmond
- 14 Church School Conference, Tidewater

October (Clergy Appreciation Month)
- 10 Fall General Board Meeting, Richmond
- 13 Clergy Appreciation Day
- 13-19 BGCVA Week of Prayer
- 19 Church School Conference, Northern VA

November
- 6 Day of Social Action
- 7 Fall Session, Richmond
- 9 Church School Conference, Roanoke

***** Dates and Locations are Subject to Change. *****
Full Calendar of Conferences & Events Coming Soon!!

Baptist General Convention of Virginia
1214 West Graham Road
Richmond, Virginia 23220

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Remember BGCVA in your financial contribution.

Donate to the