

BRINGING, GROWING, AND CHANGING CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

A LILLY ENDOWMENT, INC. GRANT

Rev. Dr. Leo Whitaker
Executive Minister
Co-Director of Grant

Rev. Dr. Linwood Blizzard, II
Co-Director of Grant

Rev. Dr. Mary Young
Consultant



Lilly Endowment Inc.

A private foundation since 1937



Building, Growing, and Changing Congregations and Communities Together

OUTLINE

- The History - BGCVA and Lilly Endowment, Inc.
- The Grant and Its Purpose
- The Curriculum and Program Design
- The Cohort Model
- The Regionalization
- The Program Team
- The Application
- The Church Learning Grants
- The Next Steps



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THE HISTORY - BGCVA AND LILLY ENDOWMENT, INC.

Rev. Dr. Mary Young, Consultant



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BGCVA'S THEMATIC FOCUS

We Are **BGC**...
Bringing People Together,
Growing Churches, &
Changing Communities

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



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THE GRANT AND ITS PURPOSE

- The grant will enable at least \$1.25 million to be expensed on improving the lives of our congregations and communities across Virginia over a period of five (5) years.
- The grant is designed to create a new space for congregations to reflect on who they are in today's POST-COVID religious environment in rethinking
- 250 congregations will participate within cohorts over the grant period.
- 50 congregations will be eligible to receive a share of the \$75,000 grant to address community and congregational needs.
- The grant will be housed at the BGCVA Headquarters, namely Suite 2. There will be upgrades for improving communications of needs of congregations across Virginia back to the office of BGCVA and a greater ability to dispatch resources, partnerships, and capacity building.
- Communication and technology upgrades of Suite 2 will assist BGCVA in centralizing this new point of service.
- The grant will enhance ministries to support some of the ongoing work of BGCVA.



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THE CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DESIGN

- Curriculum
 - How the congregation connects with God?
 - How the congregation connects with each other?
 - How the congregation connects with community?
- Program Design
 - Churches apply to be part of the regional cohort churches
 - Churches journey together as regional cohorts through the three (3) modules
 - First Year of 2024: June – October; Subsequent Years of 2025 – 2028: May – September
 - BGCVA assesses the needs of congregations (individually, regionally, and statewide) at the onset and throughout the process
 - BGCVA will build, develop, and employ “wraparound services” to begin addressing and meeting the identified needs
 - BGCVA will determine the efficacy of the program through pre-program and post-program evaluations



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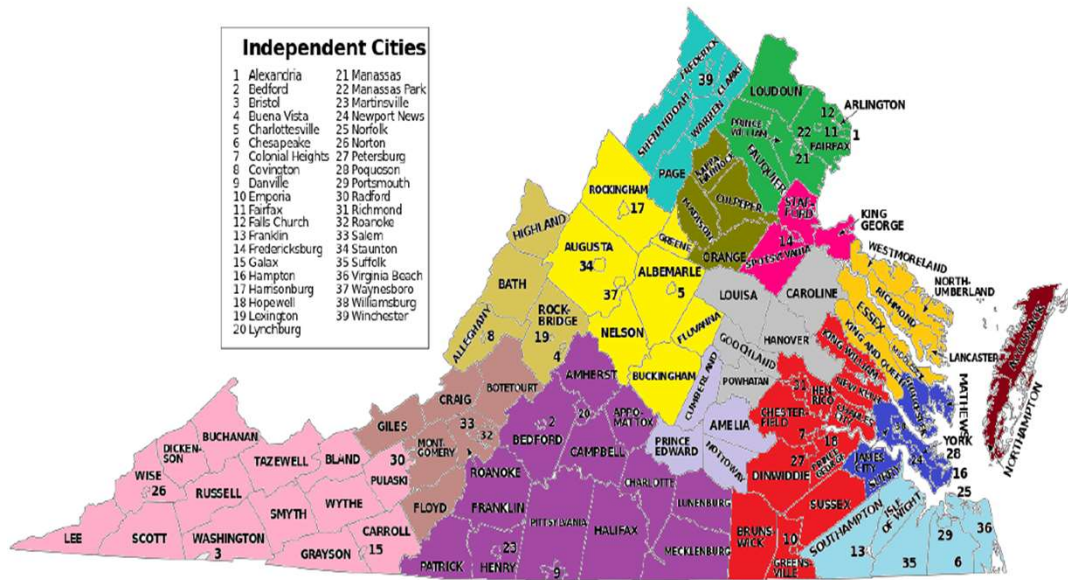
THE COHORT MODEL

- We grow together!
- Each regional cohort is composed of 10 churches per region per year
- Cohorts engage the material together and learn to work together as a regional community that continues to grow year by year



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THE REGIONALIZATION

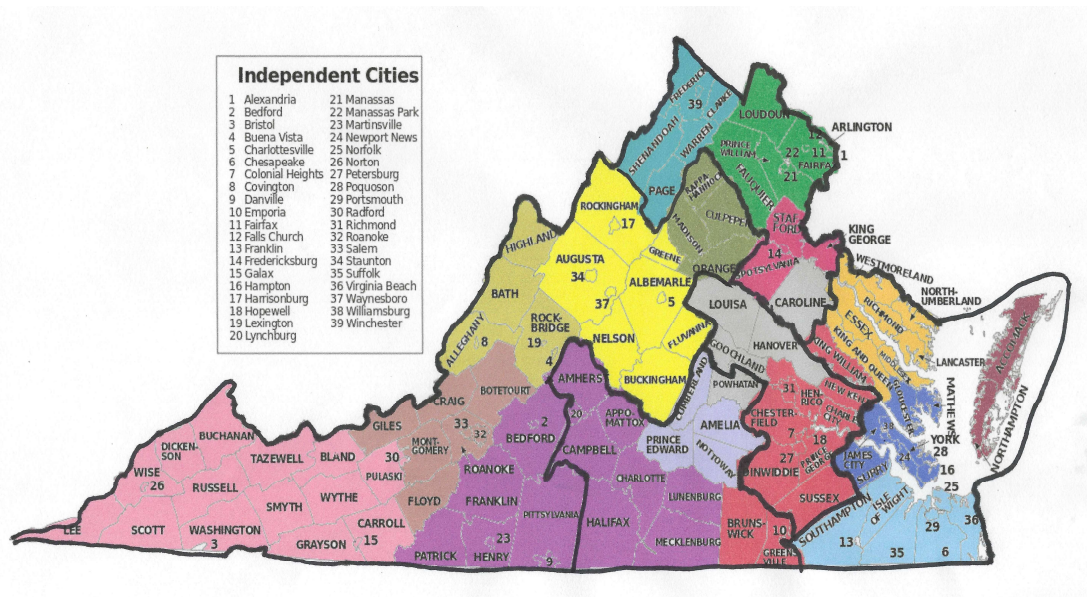


- Current regional separation
- City and county boundaries
- Associations
- Area (BGC Women's Ministry)



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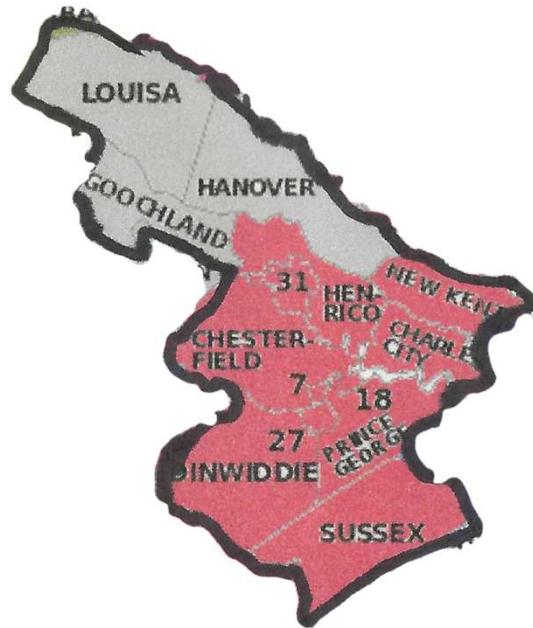
THE REGIONALIZATION



- Planned Regionalization for Lilly Grant
 - Aligning as close to Area Model
 - Consideration national regional alignment
 - Balance of numbers to ensure 50 churches in a region is not more than 35% of the number of churches in the region



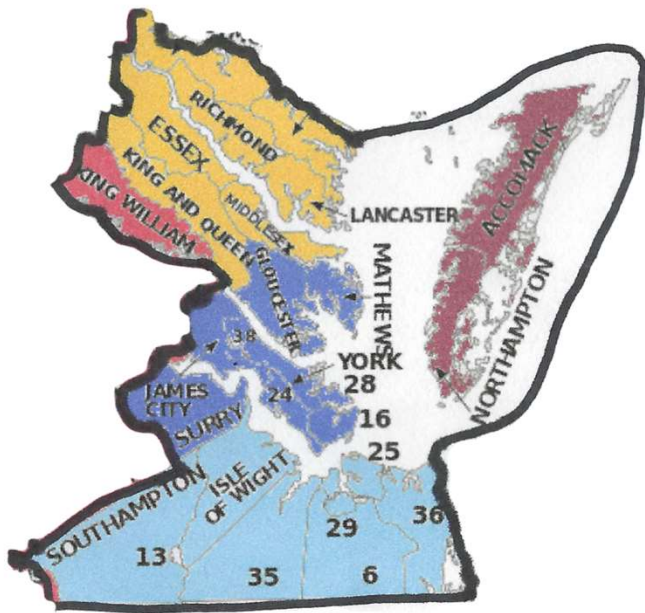
THE REGIONALIZATION – THE CENTRAL REGION



- Counties: Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Louisa, New Kent, Prince George, and Sussex
- Cities: Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond



THE REGIONALIZATION – THE EASTERN REGION

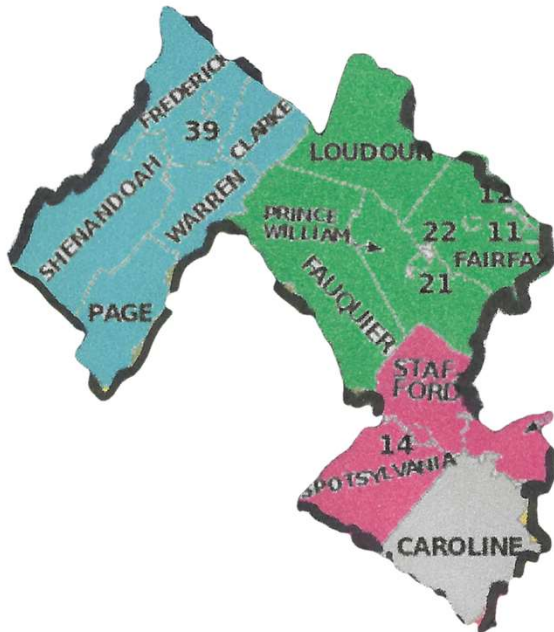


- Counties: Accomack, Essex, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, King And Queen, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northampton, Northumberland, Richmond, Southampton, Suffolk, Surry, Westmoreland, and York
- Cities: Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg City



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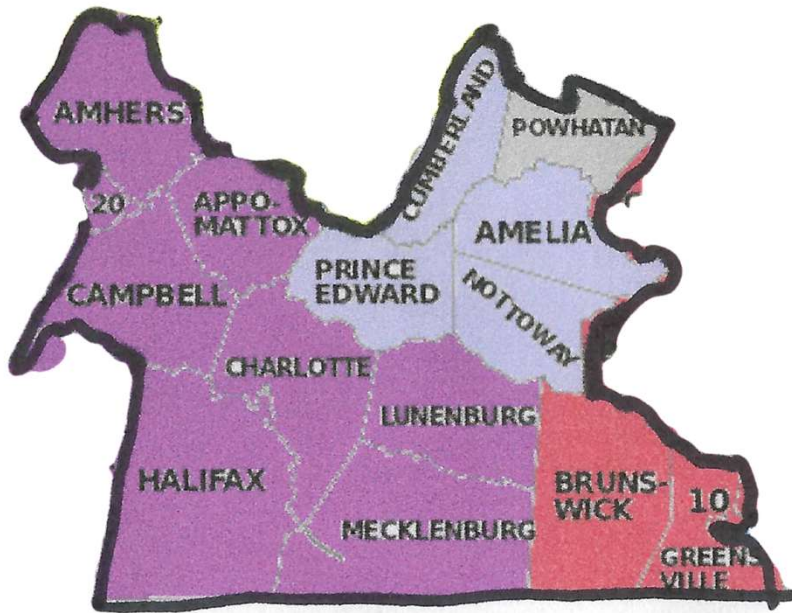
THE REGIONALIZATION – THE NORTHERN REGION



- Counties: Arlington, Caroline, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, King George, Loudoun, Page, Prince William, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren
- Cities: Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Winchester



THE REGIONALIZATION – THE SOUTHERN REGION

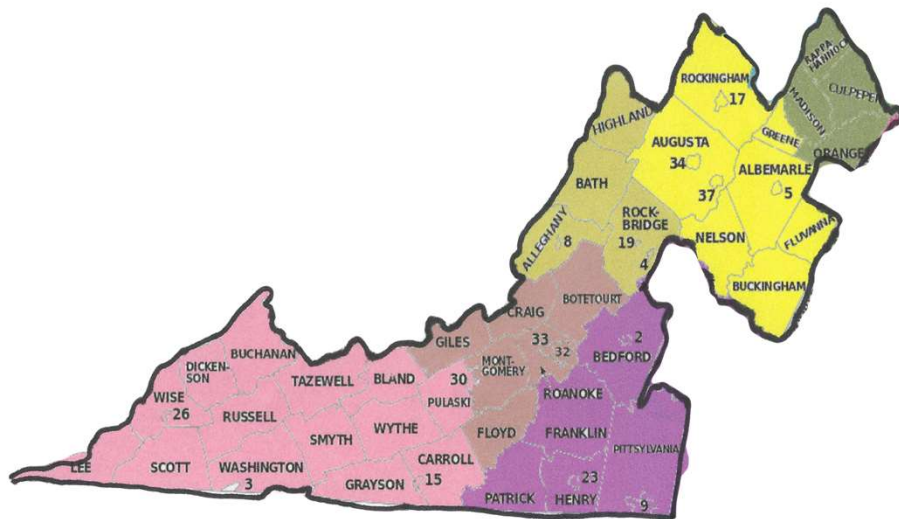


- Counties: Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Brunswick, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Greenville, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Powhatan, and Prince Edward
- Cities: Emporia, Lynchburg, and Martinsville



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THE REGIONALIZATION – THE WESTERN REGION



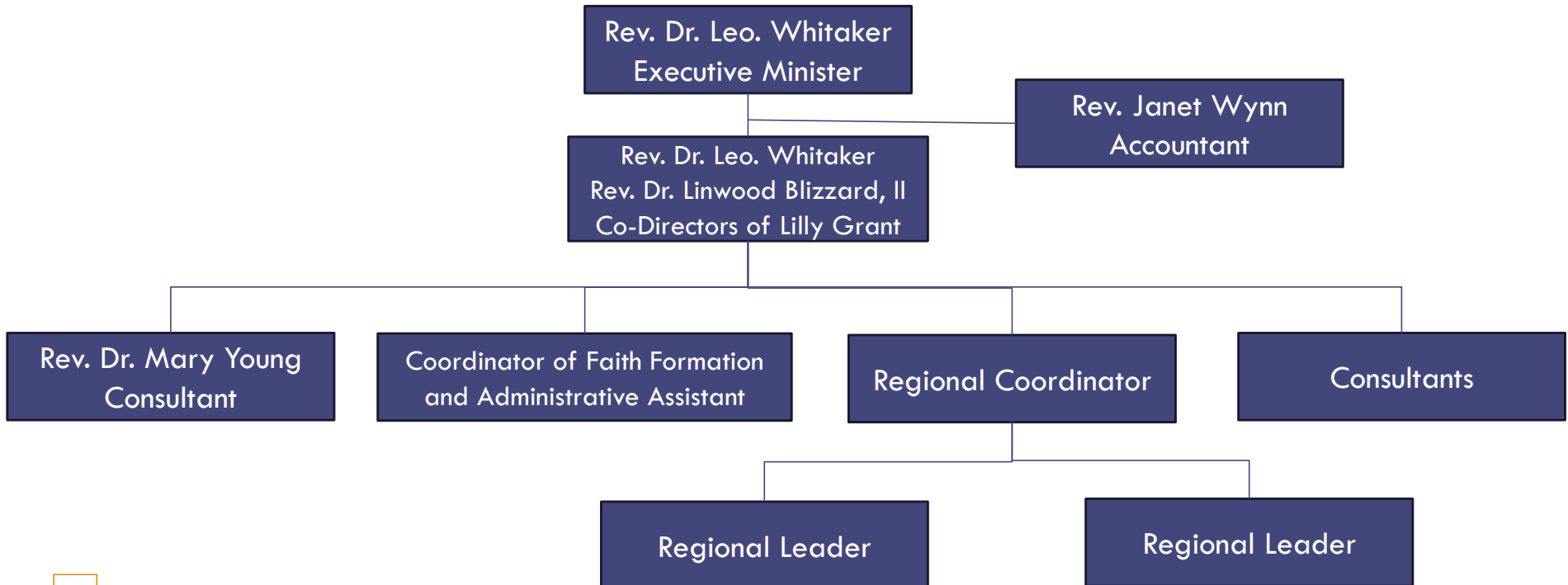
- Counties: Albemarle, Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Buckingham, Carroll, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Greene, Henry, Highland, Lee, Madison, Montgomery, Nelson, Orange, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Radford, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Salem, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe
- Cities: Bristol, Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Covington, Danville, Galax, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Norton, Roanoke, Staunton, and Waynesboro



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THE PROGRAM TEAM

Lilly Endowment Grant, Inc.





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THE APPLICATION

- Available in digital format
- Focuses on five (5) areas
 - Congregational Demographic Information
 - Pastor's Demographic Information
 - Church Participation and Engagement
 - Building, Growing, and Changing Congregations and Communities Together
 - Application Contact Information
- Application is due by April 29, 2024
- Those unable to complete digital application and send typed response to questions on one-pager to the BGCVA office by the deadline.



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APPLY HERE!

Application is active now. The direct link to the application will go active next week!





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THE CHURCH LEARNING GRANTS

- Allows churches to focus their energies on a particular community outreach program
- Grants are of \$1,500 per church on a yearly basis for 10 churches per year, divided evenly across the regions
- This is a combination of churches that are and are not in that year's cohort churches.



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THE NEXT STEPS

- Pray with your congregation and for the BGC!
- Consider the necessary steps to get your church to apply to be part of the cohort
- Apply to be part of the cohort by April 29, 2024
- Consider any technological barriers to your applying and let the BGCVA office know
- Mobilize the first cohort in **Building, Growing, and Changing Congregations and Communities Together!**
- We seek to build thriving congregations!

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WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?



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