



(February - March)

## **Foundations: Building Blocks for Solid Spiritual Leadership**

**Rev. Milton P. Bunting**  
President

**Dr. Leo Whitaker**  
Executive Minister

One essential requirement of *Bringing People Together, Growing Churches, and Changing Communities* is that ministry leaders must learn and know the “How To’s” of church leadership. How to Unite (*Bring People Together*), how to Increase (*Grow Churches*), and how to Transformation (*Change*) of the people of God. Congregations with church leaders who possess these essential “How To’s” are positioned to thrive and prosper regardless of the numerous obstacles and challenges being faced by the post-quarantine church.

**Foundations: *Building Blocks for Solid Spiritual Leadership*** provides pastors, clergy, church officers, and ministry leaders with these essential “How To’s” during the months of February & March/2023. You don’t want to miss these training opportunities for ministry and leadership growth. Spread the word! Register your seat ([www.bgcva.org/training/](http://www.bgcva.org/training/)) AND encourage others to attend! God is calling us to *Bring People Together* to strengthen the leadership of EVERY church within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

To God be the Glory! Register today!  
Your BGCVA Clergy Ministry

**Rev. Gloria Newsome-Brickhouse**  
Clergy Ministry President

**Dr. William “Bill” Whitaker**  
Director of Clergy & Leadership Development





# Clergy Conversation

February 2, 2023

12:00noon

Leadership Building Block #1

## *The Rock of Revelation*

*"You are the Christ. The Son of the Living God."*

Matthew 16:16

*Facilitator:*

*Reverend Gloria Newsome-Brickhouse*

Rev. Milton P. Bunting  
President

Dr. Leo Whitaker  
Executive Minister

Rev. Gloria Newsome-Brickhouse  
Clergy Ministry President

Dr. William "Bill" Whitaker  
Director of Clergy Ministry &  
Leadership Development

*"On Christ, the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.  
**ALL** other ground IS sinking sand!"*

When Peter told Jesus, "You are the Christ. The Son of the Living God", Jesus responded to Peter that, "...this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 16:17 NIV) Before you can guide others as a Spiritual Leader, it must first be revealed to you exactly **Who** it is that is guiding you in your spiritual life. It cannot be taught. It must be revealed. Such a revelation is what differentiates a spiritual leader from a church leader. Spiritual leaders know Who their *Rock* is.

***The Rock of Revelation*** is a conversation for all Spiritual Leaders on two of the three focal points for the BGCVA theme; how to *Bring People Together* and *Change Communities* in the Name of the Lord. Simply put, you **MUST** know Jesus not only as THE Rock, but YOUR Rock of Salvation. Without this essential *Building Block for Solid Spiritual Leadership*, the church leader is nothing more than a leader in the church without the spiritual guidance of Jesus, our Savior.

Join us for this essential conversation as the Clergy Ministry provides the first building block for the foundation of your spiritual leadership in the church. **Register Today**  
([www.bgcva.org/training/](http://www.bgcva.org/training/))!!!

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653654568?pwd=c2d5NmItbDNNU1IWMWFGTkVJOVAwQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 876 5365 4568

**Passcode:** 790104

**Conference Call:** (301) 715-8592

# Ministry Training Track (MTT)

Monday, February 20, 2023

12:00noon

Facilitator: Dr. William H. Whitaker, II

BAPTIST



CHURCH

POLITY

*The Governance & Organization of the Congregational Church*

Zoom ID: 876 5365 4568

Passcode: 790104

Call In: (301) 715-8592

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

## Leadership Building Block #2

### Governance & Organization of the Congregational Church

*Doctrine* refers to the belief (Baptist) of your church. *Polity* is the way your church has chosen to “**bring people together**” to live out your belief.

As Baptists, we are autonomous, congregational bodies which means that we celebrate being distinct, diverse, and different in our organizational structures and forms of governance. However, regardless of your church’s form of governance or structure of organization, you, as a church leader must be united in how you act and conduct yourselves to live out your Christian beliefs.

Church leaders with differing polities within the same church will inevitably lead to factions and divisions within the body. **Bringing people together** begins with church leaders and congregations **Being** together as one body. It is difficult and nearly impossible for divided church leaders to unite others in the Spirit of Christ.

Come learn the polity of the Baptist church that unites and brings people together as one body in the Lord.

**Register today at ([www.bgcva.org/training/](https://www.bgcva.org/training/)).**



# Ministry Training Track (MTT)



## *“The Theology of a Church Meeting: Understanding Baptist Beliefs within Baptist Practices”*

Facilitator: Dr. James Victor

Monday, February 20, 2023  
6:00pm

Zoom ID: 876 5365 4568

Passcode: 790104

Call In: (301) 715-8592

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

### **Leadership Building Block #3** **Baptist Polity & Church Governance**

“Baptists are democratic in process. And they are often, therefore, noisy and messy in procedure”. (Everett C. Goodwin, *Down By The Riverside: A Brief History of Baptist Faith* p.4)

Because of our distinctive, denominational belief systems and theologies, church life in the Baptist tradition can become messy. As pastors, educators, and administrators, we witness this clutter most often in our business and church meetings. At times, heated verbal exchanges, unchecked emotions, and strained relationships derail the work of ministry. Yet, knowingly and unknowingly, there are theologies at work that can help us to understand the detrimental dynamics as well as find constructive strategies for healthier congregational polity.

This session of MTT is facilitated by Dr. James E. Victor, Jr. and embraces the ***Bringing People Together*** and ***Growing Churches*** components of the BGCVA theme. Come learn Baptist beliefs within the framework of Baptist governance and strengthen both your leadership, your congregation, and your church.

**Register today at ([www.bgcva.org/training/](https://www.bgcva.org/training/)).**



# Clergy Conversation

March 2, 2023  
12:00noon

## Leadership Building Block #4

### “Restoration of the Christian Foundation”

*If your brother sins against you, go to him and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves.*

Matthew 18:15<sup>a</sup> (GNT)

**Facilitator:**  
**Pastor Michael Shannon**

Rev. Milton P. Bunting  
President

Dr. Leo Whitaker  
Executive Minister

Rev. Gloria Newsome-Brickhouse  
Clergy Ministry President

Dr. William “Bill” Whitaker  
Director of Clergy Ministry &  
Leadership Development

## Leadership Building Block #4: Harmony & Oneness in Christ

We can never assume that just because we have accepted Christ, we have a natural willingness and ability to get along with other Christians. Every part of our faith encourages a foundation of unity and oneness in Christ.

Our hymns teach us to “Let There Be Peace On Earth” because “The Church's One Foundation Is Jesus Christ Her Lord”. Our Covenant encourages us “...*to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation*”. In times of disagreement, it prompts us to quickly follow the Word in Matthew 18:15, “If your brother sins against you, go to him and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves.” So, what is the church do when the Christian foundation of its leaders, members, and worshippers needs to be restored and repaired?

***Restoration of the Christian Foundation*** is a Conversation for all clergy, leaders, (and members) on how to *Bring People Together* and yes, *Grow Our Churches*. It is only by doing these things that we will be able to come together and *Change Our Communities* as the Lord desires for us to do. **Register Today ([www.bgcva.org/training/](http://www.bgcva.org/training/))!!!**

### Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653654568?pwd=c2d5NmItbDNNU1IWMWFGTkVJOVAwQT09>

Meeting ID: 876 5365 4568

Passcode: 790104

Conference Call: (301) 715-8592



# Ministry Training Track (MTT)

Monday, March 20, 2023  
12:00noon & 6:00pm

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.



*"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive.*  
1 Cor. 10:23 NIV

## ***AS ONE BODY IN CHRIST:*** **Leadership According to the Baptist Church Covenant**

Facilitator: Dr. William H. Whitaker, II

Zoom ID: 876 5365 4568

Passcode: 790104

Call In: (301) 715-8592

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

## **Leadership Building Block #5:** **The Baptist Church Covenant**

**Covenant:** 1. the **conditional promises** made to humanity by God, as revealed in Scripture. 2. to **promise** by covenant; pledge. 3. an **agreement**, formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified. (**Definition from** <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/covenanted>.)

***As One Body in Christ*** is the commitment we have made to each other AND most importantly, to God regarding the way we will live, lead, and serve as Baptist believers. It speaks to ***Bringing People Together*** and is the key phrase of faith from within our covenant that describes our promise and commitment to God. Although we are different and autonomous, we are ***One in the Lord***.

***As One Body in Christ*** is a session that teaches the history, meaning, and purpose of the Baptist Church Covenant and the many ways it shapes and molds our lives and leadership as Baptist believers. Yes. We are autonomous, different, and diverse, but we are all covenanted and called to be ***One Body in Christ***.

**Register today at ([www.bgcva.org/training/](https://www.bgcva.org/training/)).**