

157TH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION



MIKE SISSON
Executive Minister



JONATHAN TURNER
Annual Sermon



MICHAEL BECK
Keynote Speaker

20-21

OCTOBER

Summersville Baptist Church

422 Main Street, Summersville, WV 26651

INTENTIONALLY ENGAGING COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST

[The greatest commandment is:] "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

-Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

Doing Christ's Work Together

Executive Minister's Message

On behalf of the Convention family, I want to express our greatest appreciation and thankfulness to Pastor Dana Gatewood and the Summersville Baptist Church for graciously agreeing to host this year's 157th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention! We are especially grateful for the Annual Meeting planning team for all their hard work and dedication in making this special occasion a reality! Our Annual Meeting is a time that we, as the Convention family, come together to encourage one another and experience the rich fellowship and relationship-building opportunities that have come to define us as West Virginia Baptists!

This year we continue our theme of **"Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ"** by focusing on the key word "communities." Community has been defined as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. Our local congregations are surrounded by a variety of communities in need of a relationship with Jesus Christ. So, our

emphasis for 2023 will be on answering the call of Jesus to *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself."* (Mark 12:30-31)

In the season of ministry and opportunity before us, may we dedicate ourselves to praying and serving together so that we may reach as many people as possible with the Good News found in our Lord Jesus Christ! Let us follow the example of the apostle Paul in meeting people where they are in order to share with them the hope found only in Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 9:22-23). And may all we do be for His glory and honor!

As the West Virginia Baptist Convention Family of Churches, our mission continues: **Doing Christ's Work Together!**

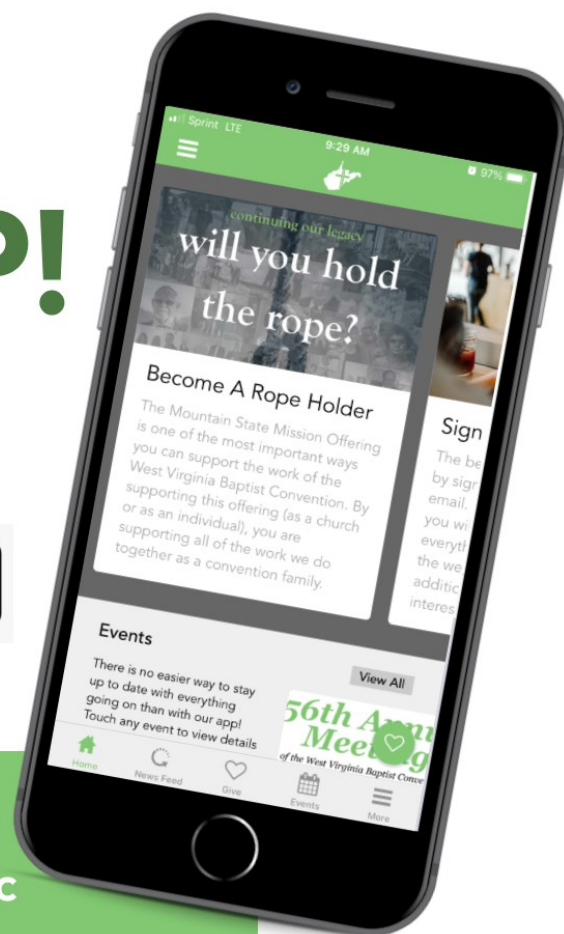
Richest Blessings,
Mike Sisson

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President's Message

How exciting it is to consider that West Virginia Baptists have been gathering for 157 years! This year's Annual Meeting, with the theme of **"Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ"**, promises to equip us to go into our own communities and expand the Kingdom. After all, if we love our neighbors as ourselves, we will want them to have the eternal life our Father promises us.

Thank you to our host church, Summersville Baptist. So much goes into planning an event such as this, and we truly appreciate everything you have done to make us feel welcome.

Thank you to Jonathan Turner, who will give our Annual Sermon. We look forward to hearing your message from God to us.

Thank you to Michael Beck, who will be our Keynote Speaker. We pray you will help us to look at our own communities with fresh eyes to be more creative in the ways we reach our friends and neighbors for Christ.

Thank you to Executive Minister Mike Sisson, and the entire WVBC staff. You amaze me! Through you, God is able to work miracles here in West Virginia.

Enjoy the Annual Meeting! It has been my privilege to serve as the President of the WVBC this past year.

In Christ,
Cari Ryan Pauley

Meet the Speakers

Michael Beck - Keynote Speaker

Michael is the Director of Re-Missioning for Fresh Expressions, Director of Fresh Expressions Florida, and the Director Fresh Expressions House of Studies at United Theological Seminary US. A fresh expression is, in its simplest form, a pattern for believers to share their faith in their everyday lives. Fresh expressions are about getting creative in your church's reach. Michael and his wife, Jill, actively participate in thirteen Fresh Expressions that are a product of the local church where he is pastor. These take place in places such as dog parks, salons, running tracks, community centers, burrito joints, and tattoo parlors. He and Jill have 8 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 pugs.

Jonathan Turner—Annual Sermon

Jonathan is a WV native who has been pastoring in Lewisburg at Shuck Memorial Baptist Church for the past twelve years. He is a graduate of Eastern University and Palmer Theological Seminary. He also serves as the chaplain of a local nursing home, Stonerise Lewisburg, which is a wonderful expansion of his ministry in the community. He is a certified mental health coach and helps lead a weekly recovery program at the church. He is passionate about knowing Christ and making Him known by being a bridge to our communities. Jonathan and his wife, Nikalee, love serving together and have three children, Paisley, Matherly and Elijah.

Jim Anderson, WVBC Southeast Area Minister

Evan Arkell, WVBC Southwest Area Minister

Brian Angus, Special Music

Tim Barry, President, Alderson Broaddus University

Don Biram, WVBC First Vice President

Rob Ely, WVBC Director of Student Ministries

Monty Foster, Pastor, Barboursville Baptist Church

Dana Gatewood, Pastor, Summersville Baptist Church

Mayra Giovanetti, International Ministries Global Servant

David Hulme, WVBC Northeast Area Minister

Kimberlee Johnson, Interim Dean, Palmer Seminary

Mark McCloy, WVBC Northwest Area Minister

Sarah McCloy, International Ministries Global Servant

Todd McClure, WVBC Minister of Missions and Finance

Peter McCurdy, International Ministries Global Servant

Sarah McCurdy, International Ministries Global Servant

Frank Miller, Director of Parchment Valley

Sherri Morris, Special Music

David Moutz, Pastor, Oakwood Baptist Church

Deborah Myers, International Ministries Global Servant

Keith Myers, International Ministries Global Servant

Jill Narraway, WVBC Director of Camping and Youth

Cari Pauley, WVBC President

Erich Reggi, WVBC Second Vice President

Kevin Sions, Northern Director of Baptist Campus Ministry

Mike Sisson, WVBC Executive Minister

Koreen Villers, WVBC Director of Discipleship

Annual Meeting Schedule

Thursday, October 20

9:00 AM: Exhibit Hall Opens

9:30 AM—2:00 PM: Pre-Convention Activities

- **American Baptist Men of WV**
Tour of Summit Bechtel Reserve
- **American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV**
Speaker: Sandra Lutz
- **Pastors4Pastors**
Speaker: Dr. Lee Spitzer

2:00 PM: Pastors Choir Rehearsal—Room 3

2:45 PM: WVBC Annual Meeting Session 1

- Gathering Music (Monty Foster)
- Welcome and Opening Prayer (Cari Pauley)
- Welcome from Host Church (Dana Gatewood)
- Congregational Singing (Monty Foster)
- Business Meeting (Cari Pauley)
- Special Music (SBC Acapella Group)
- Executive Minister Address (Mike Sisson)
- Congregational Singing (Monty Foster)
- Closing Prayer (Evan Arkell)

5:00 PM: BCM Banquet (Details on page 4)

6:00 PM: Pastors Choir Rehearsal—Room 3

6:30 PM: WVBC Annual Meeting Session 2

- Gathering Music (SBC Praise Team)
- Welcome and Opening Prayer (Don Biram)
- Missions Update (Keith and Deborah Myers)
- Congregational Singing (Monty Foster)
- Offertory Prayer (Kevin Sions)
- Offertory Music (Summersville Baptist Choir)
- Ward Hibbs Award (Dr. Tim Barry)
- Special Music (AB Chapel Praise Team)
- Congregational Singing (Monty Foster)
- Annual Sermon (Jonathan Turner)
- Communion
- Closing Prayer (Rob Ely)

8:30 PM: AB Reception (Details on page 4)

Friday, October 21

8:00 AM: Exhibit Hall Opens

8:00 AM: Community Ministry (Details on page 6)

8:00 AM: Education Society Breakfast—Shoney's

8:00 AM: Pastors Choir Rehearsal—Room 3

8:30 AM: Workshops Set 1 (Details on page 5)

9:15 AM: WVBC Annual Meeting Session 3

- Gathering Music (Brian Angus)
- Welcome and Opening Prayer (Erich Reggi)
- Missions Update (Sarah McCloy)
- Eastern University (Dr. Kimberlee Johnson)
- Recognition of New Pastors (David Hulme)
- Recognition of Retired Pastors (David Hulme)
- BWSCS Graduation (Mark McCloy)
- Bivocational Pastor Award (Jim Anderson)
- Congregational Singing (Monty Foster)
- Special Music (Pastors Choir)
- Keynote Address (Michael Beck)
- Closing Prayer (Frank Miller)

11:15 AM: Workshop Set 2 (Details on page 5)

12:00 PM: Lunch Break (Details on page 4)

- Minsters' Wives' Fellowship
- Palmer Theological Seminary
- WV Baptist Historical Society

2:00 PM: WVBC Annual Meeting Session 4

- Gathering Music (Monty Foster)
- Welcome and Opening Prayer (Cari Pauley)
- Missions Update (Mayra Giovanetti & McCurdy's)
- Congregational Singing (Monty Foster)
- Business Meeting #2 (Cari Pauley)
- Installation of Officers (David Moutz)
- Congregational Singing (Monty Foster)
- Offertory Prayer (Todd McClure)
- Offertory Music (Sherri Morris)
- Keynote Address (Michael Beck)
- Commissioning (Mike Sisson)
- Closing Prayer (Jill Narraway)

Fellowship Opportunities

Unless otherwise indicated, advanced registration for fellowship opportunities is required.
You can register for these opportunities and pickup your tickets at the registration table.



BCM Banquet—\$15

Thursday, October 20 at 5:00 PM
Summersville Baptist Church Family Life Center

Join us for our annual Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) Banquet and hear stories of how God is using our collegiate ministry to “change lives that change the world” on nine different campuses around the state. All proceeds benefit the ministry of BCM.

Alderson Broaddus Reception—FREE

Thursday, October 20 at 8:30 PM
Summersville Baptist Church Pavilion

Hosted by Alderson Broaddus University, everyone is invited to join us for a reception immediately following Session 2 of the WVBC Annual Meeting. No registration is necessary. We will have a campfire, s’mores and music led by Tony Nutter. You are also invited to bring camp chairs for seating.



Ministers' Wives' Fellowship—\$12

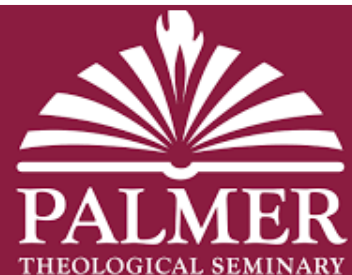
Friday, October 21 at 12:00 PM
Summersville Baptist Church Pavilion

The Minister's Wives Fellowship exists to be a place for community, encouragement and shared wisdom for women serving in the ministry with their husbands. Join us for a luncheon and enjoy a time of fellowship.

Palmer Theological Seminary—\$12

Friday, October 21 at 12:00 PM
Summersville Baptist Church Family Life Center

Hosted by Palmer Theological Seminary, join us for a luncheon and enjoy a time of fellowship, while hearing updates from leaders at Palmer Theological Seminary. Our WVBC family has greatly benefited from our WV extension program over the past couple of decades.



WV Baptist Historical Society—\$15

Friday, October 21 at 12:00 PM
Summersville Presbyterian Church

Hosted by the WV Baptist Historical Society, join us for a luncheon and hear from guest speaker, Dr. Lee Spitzer, as he shares about his latest book: “Sympathy, Solidarity, and Silence: Three European Baptist Responses to the Holocaust.” You do not have to be a member of the Historical Society to attend.

Workshop Options

Workshops will take place on Friday morning. You can register for a workshop at the registration table.

Workshops Set 1 (8:30 AM)

Church Health Checkup: First Steps to Re-missioning

Location: Room 3 (Upstairs)

Led by: Ed Rogers and Phil Wayman

Better church health begins with a church check-up. Learn how we can partner with you to explore areas where your church can improve its congregational health and check its course to determine if it is on mission.

Helping and Hurting

Location: Room 7 (Downstairs)

Led by: Amy Bush

A workshop to help us understand how tending to our own mental health is a prerequisite to serving others as well as gaining insight into what encompasses effective helping.

Keys to Building Christ-Centered Relationships in Mexico and Your Own Backyard

Location: Room 10 (Downstairs)

Led by: Deborah Myers

Participants will engage in meaningful conversations about the ministry of presence and influence. Both types of ministries require patience, waiting on God's timing. Sometimes our most effective ministry ideas do not require words. These methods for effective relationship-building span all cultures and languages.

Walk with Me!

Location: Room 6 (Downstairs)

Led by: Kevin Sions and Rob Ely

Join us for a book discussion by Louis Evans, Jr., about how a journey of walking with others can deepen our faith. The goal is to introduce others to a faith that is alive and growing. Maturity is seeing the future results of present action and doing what is necessary to make it right, whether that means taking time or expending an extra bit of energy. We will help people understand that "changing the world" is about our daily walk with others.

Journey to Japan

Location: Room 9 (Downstairs)

Led by: Sarah McCloy

Sarah McCloy will share about her calling to serve in Sendai, Japan, and about the exciting ministry opportunities there.

Short-Term Mission Trip Leader Training (Part 1)

Location: Room 12 (Downstairs)

Led by: Todd McClure

With travel restrictions now lifted, we are once again offering training for those desiring to lead a short-term mission trip. This updated training is required for those seeking a mission trip endorsement by the WVBC. The topics include a discussion of culture, travel and security, fundraising ideas and much, much more!. Attendance in both workshops (Part 1 and 2) is required.

Workshops Set 2 (11:15 AM)

Intentional Discipleship: Church Planting Everyone Can Do

Location: Sanctuary

Led by: Michael Beck

Evangelism, discipleship and church planting are not programs, departments or the expertise of specialists. They are a singular move of the Spirit that flows through the lives of every Jesus follower. When we do this in community with others, we are the fullness of the "priesthood of all believers." Discipleship means as we grow in our faith, we long to share it with others. It is "missional." It must eventually focus on cultivating community. Following Christ in this way transforms discipleship. First, it helps to love people as Jesus taught (Mark 12:28-31). Love is practical. And practical love has to be organized. Often in the Church, this feels overly complicated and confusing. This workshop will suggest a simple way that every believer can manifest God's organized love, providing practical examples that make the principle and practices real.

Walk with Me!

Repeat of first workshop. See description and location above.

Helping and Hurting

Repeat of first workshop. See description and location above.

Journey to Japan

Repeat of first workshop. See description and location above.

Keys to Building a Christ-Centered Relationship in Mexico and Your Own Backyard

Repeat of first workshop. See description and location above.

Short-Term Mission Trip Leader Training (Part 2)

Continuation of first workshop. See description and location above. Attendance in both workshops (Part 1 and 2) is required.

Community Ministry Opportunity

This hands-on ministry opportunity is being offered in place of the Friday morning workshop.



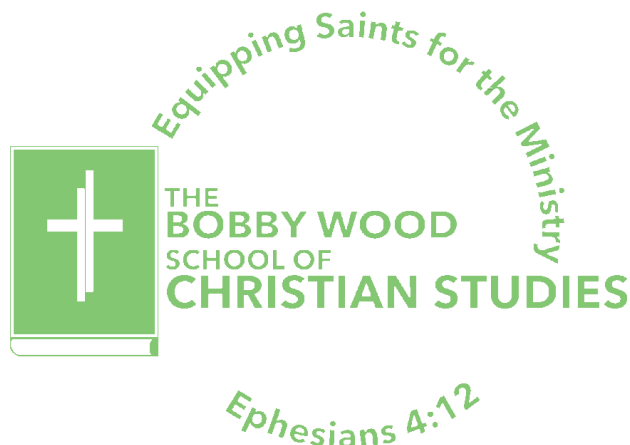
Outreach to the Nicholas County Community Day Reporting Center

The Day Reporting Center is a treatment alternative to incarceration for nonviolent offenders whose substance abuse problems have led to legal involvement. As part of this outreach, we will meet in the Summersville Baptist Church Family Life Center to prepare a breakfast, and then we will deliver the meal and visit with reportees of the center. This ministry opportunity is led by Dana Gatewood.

Those interested in volunteering should meet in the Family Life Center on Friday, October 21 at 8 AM. We will return prior to the start of Session 3 of the WVBC Annual Meeting. No prior registration is needed.

2022 BWSCS Graduates

Graduates will be recognized during Session 3.



Heather Dawn Camp, Diploma in Pastoral Ministry
James Stanley Carr, Diploma in Pastoral Ministry
Karla D. Carr, Diploma in Pastoral Ministry
Brink J. Frost-Doner, Diploma in Pastoral Ministry
David Kendall Hays, Diploma in Pastoral Ministry
Jacob Patrick Higgins, Certificate in Teaching Ministry
Charles Kent Hinzman, Diploma in Pastoral Ministry
Darrell Gene Mayfield, Diploma in Pastoral Ministry
John Stephen "Troy" Nesselrode, Diploma in Pastoral Ministry
Joseph F. Rogers, Jr., Diploma in Pastoral Ministry

Featured Offerings

The following offerings will be collected during the WVBC Annual Meeting.

1. Pastor Emergency Fund

This fund is managed by the WVBC and is used to assist pastors and their families during times of crisis.

Donations will be accepted during the full duration of the meeting and can be placed in the red buckets.

2. Annual Meeting Expenses

It takes nearly a year of planning by the church, as well as by the WVBC staff and officers, to prepare to host an Annual Meeting. Numerous expenses are incurred during that time to make sure it is an effective and celebratory event. Your financial support helps offset some of the costs, increasing our ability to provide a higher quality meeting.

This offering will be collected on Thursday evening, during Session 2 of our WVBC Annual Meeting.

3. Camp Cowen Cabin Restoration

The twelve original style cabins at Camp Cowen are undergoing a restoration project to improve ventilation, replace windows, replace storm and screen doors, update lighting, make repairs, and paint walls and bunk beds. Your financial support will refresh the cabins to improve guest experiences and prepare them for the future.

This offering will be collected on Friday afternoon, during Session 4 of our WVBC Annual Meeting.

Convention Rules

The following rules are extracted from the West Virginia Baptist Convention Constitution.

1. The voting membership shall consist of the Convention Officers and the pastor and two delegates from each cooperating member church, and one additional delegate for each one hundred members or major fraction thereof above the first one hundred members from each such church shall be entitled to no more than ten delegates plus the pastor in this class. Members must be present to vote; proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted.
2. The voting membership from a Cooperating member church which chooses to relate to its local Association and the Convention, but not to the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., shall have full voting privileges except they may not vote on matters relating to the "Covenant of Relationships" between the Convention and the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. or the election of American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. General Board members. These voting privileges and restrictions shall also apply to Executive Board and Executive Committee members.
3. Only church and "ex-officio" delegates, displaying their registration badges may make motions, speak, or vote at Convention business sessions. Delegates may speak only once, and then for not more than two minutes, on any motion under discussion. The Convention may waive this provision by majority vote.
4. All business matters to be considered at the Convention meeting must be presented in writing to the President during the introductory business session on the day preceding the annual business session.
5. The Convention shall be one session, recessing from meeting to meeting within that session.
6. Fifty registered church delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; once established, a quorum shall not be broken by the absence of delegates at that session.
7. Questions of parliamentary procedures shall be decided on the basis of the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

*A complete definition of voting membership is found in Article 1 of the WVBC Constitution and By-laws.
For a copy of the WVBC Constitution and By-laws, visit www.wvbc.org or scan the QR code to the right.

