

Report of the
EXECUTIVE BOARD
to the
**WEST VIRGINIA
BAPTIST CONVENTION**
September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023



DOING CHRIST'S WORK *together*

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West Virginia Baptist Convention
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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

to the

West Virginia Baptist Convention

September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022

In Article II of the West Virginia Baptist Convention's Constitution, the purpose of the Convention is stated as follows: "The purpose of the West Virginia Baptist Convention shall be to promote the preaching and teaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ among its member churches by offering opportunities for mutual inspiration and fellowship, providing leadership training and program resources, assisting in the establishment and strengthening of Baptist churches in West Virginia, encouraging and coordinating mission support for the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., and providing avenues for working together in denominational, moral and spiritual matters."

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Dr. Michael B. Sisson

The first question I ask the staff to answer in their weekly field report is "Where did you see God's hand at work this week?" I include that because it is easy to get entrenched in all that is going on around us and miss what God is doing in our midst. As I review this past year it is clear God has been at work within our Convention family in powerful ways!

As I travel around the state, I am witnessing what I believe is a resurgence in WVBC churches. After two years of reading articles written by the supposed experts that said following the pandemic people are done with the local church, I am seeing the exact opposite. While admittedly some nominal Christians have seized the opportunity to not rejoin the church in worship attendance, however many new people are beginning to fill the pews and church attendance has recovered with several churches experiencing growth. Baptisms seem to be increasing. And in many churches, of all sizes and locations, there are often 15-30 children present for morning worship with many young families becoming increasingly active in the church's ministries.

It has been a blessing to see Camp Cowen attendance nearing the numbers of years pre-2020 with 70 people giving their heart to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior this year. Likewise, Parchment Valley has had a strong year with a full ministry calendar as they were home to numerous camps and conferences which the Lord used for His glory as 87 people gave their hearts to Christ this calendar year. It has been a successful year as both Camp Cowen and Parchment Valley were able to make huge strides in eliminating deferred maintenance which is evident in both the appearance and functionality of both properties. Specifically, at Cowen the caretaker's house received a much-needed renovation and at Parchment Valley the construction of the Whippoorwill Covered Campfire was completed. The covered campfire has proven to be much more than an additional building space to be rented, since its dedication it has been a tool the Lord has used to change lives in powerful ways.

The past year we celebrated with Jim Anderson as he retired from his many years of faithfully serving as an area minister to the Southeast area of the state. We welcomed Dana Gatewood who served as Southeast area minister for eight months before returning to pastor the local church. While we were sad to see him step away, we are thankful for all he accomplished in his short time and for his continued support of the WVBC! Jon Villers was then called to fill the ministry position of Southeast area minister and is off to an amazing start! Jon has a pastor's heart and with the current stresses pastors are facing, he will be a valuable partner to walk alongside them and provide much needed encouragement.

One of the new initiatives being led by Koreen Villers, Jill Narraway and the Discipleship Commission is the Mental Health initiative. It is not a secret that mental and emotional health struggles have reached epidemic levels that impact all ages from children to teens to young adults to senior adults. This is an area that ministers previously have not been prepared to address. In March the "Engaging Mental Health with Hope Conference" was held at Gassaway Baptist Church. The response was amazing. Out of that conference several Certified Christian Counselors were identified from WVBC churches, and a resource page was created on the Convention website. Other seminars are being planned to equip people who work with youth, children and college students to better minister to people who experience struggles with mental and emotional health. Some Certified Christian Counselors are currently working on creating a Bible Study on the topic of what Scripture says about mental health. The list of things the Lord is doing is more than this brief report allows me to describe.

This does not mean the year has been without challenges. Currently there is a rise in the number of pastors leaving their churches, some by choice and others by the growing sense of dissatisfaction in some congregations. This is an area where we need to be praying and seeking the Lord's guidance as we strive to be helpful to both churches and pastors. We are also experiencing what may be a record number of open pulpits with a deficit of pastors available to fill them. We know God is still calling people to the pastoral ministry, but we need to do more

to identify those being called and in equipping them to serve the local church.

While we cannot know what this upcoming ministry season will bring, we have learned that with the Lord's guidance and the enabling of the Holy Spirit we can accomplish even greater things for our Lord as we embrace His call to continue "Doing Christ's Work Together!"

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Rev. Don Biram

Dear West Virginia Baptist Convention Family,

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21 NIV

Paul's prayer for the Ephesian Church has been and is my prayer for our West Virginia Baptist Convention Family. As we have spent a year in ministry together emphasizing how we may be a community of faith serving the communities God has placed us in, I believe it is no accident that God has brought us to this moment. He is doing a good work in each of our lives and through our lives. It has been my privilege to serve as your Convention President seeing God bring answers to my prayer for our convention family.

I am excited at each of the opportunities God has provided for us to respond to the needs of those around us and of the faithfulness of our hearts as He has stirred us to give faithfully of time, abilities and treasure in response to those in need.

I am excited about the doors of opportunity He has opened for our support of missions and our missionaries on the field spreading the Good News of Christ. To see individuals stepping out in faith to engage opportunities of sharing the Hope of Christ Jesus to our broken and lost world.

I am excited about the countless lives touched and changed through our children and youth ministries; camps and conferences at our Baptist Camp at Cowen and Parchment Valley Conference Center in Ripley. The hundreds of people devoting prayer, time and energy to see students have the opportunity to step away from the normal routine of life to get away with Jesus and hear His word to them.

I am excited about the opportunities God has given us to reach into the mission field on college campuses around our state and provide a place for young adults to connect with Christian community and grow in their personal walk with Christ. In addition, to come alongside them as they seek God's plans for their lives.

I am excited about our West Virginia Baptist family around the state investing God's Word in their communities in varied and creative ways. I am excited about witnessing His continued work in the days ahead. God bless you and thank you for allowing me to serve our great West Virginia Baptist Convention Family.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES COMMISSION

Mrs. Koreen Villers, Staff Liaison

Always mindful of the Commission's responsibility of supporting the discipleship ministries of the local church, the **Discipleship Commission's emphasis** for 2023 was Mental Health.

The following workshops were offered at the Annual Training Event, held in February 2023:

- ✠ After School Programs – Reaching Community: This workshop aims to describe why an after-school program is beneficial to a community, some of the startup considerations for forming an after-school program, and the operational requirements for running a long-term program successfully. Led by Dianna Graves.
- ✠ Amy Bush – Healing and Helping: A workshop helping 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.
- ✠ Rob Ely and Kevin Sions – Walk With Me! A journey of walking with others to deepen our faith. 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. Louis Evans Jr. – We will help people understand that “changing the world” is about our daily walk with others.

The Discipleship Commission along with a planning team of several LPC’s from our WVBC churches started planning a Mental Health Conference in October 2022 for March 2023. The Engaging Mental Health with HOPE conference was held March 25, 2023 at the Gassaway Baptist Church with 186 in attendance. The main speaker was Michelle Nietert. We offered 7 breakout sessions:

- ✚ What Grieving People Wish You Knew - Annette K. Crislip, M.A., LPC
- ✚ Be Anxious for Nothing: What is Anxiety and How Do We Deal With It? - Kim Harrison, MA, LSW, LPC
- ✚ Suicide Scare! How Can I Know Suicide Risk Level? - Christie Eastman, LPC
- ✚ Mental Health First Aid for Youth - Jesse Nowery
- ✚ Healed to Help - Amy Bush, MA, LPC
- ✚ Practical Pastoral Care for Emergencies: Bringing Spiritual Healing into Times of Distress - Rev. Jason Robbins
- ✚ Integrating Faith and Trauma-Informed Care in Ministry - Michelle Nietert

We had a couple LPC’s available during the day as part of a care team to help those who may need to talk personally about a topic they heard about or need to pray with someone, or just need to talk to someone.

Each attendee received a toolbox, that was a folder of resources and information related to mental health. Included in the toolbox, was a list of counselors that our Planning Team recommended throughout the state. At the opening session Peyton Lavalee, Miss Morgantown 2023, shared her story and struggles with mental health. Russ Philpott shared a devotion. Friday evening, Christie Eastman, offered a training for Youth and Children’s leaders to teach SAF-T Sensation Awareness Focused Technique. That was attended by 28 people from around the state. The entire conference was videoed and is available on our website. You can watch the main speaker sessions, the breakout sessions and view all the resources presented in the toolbox.

Our mental health emphasis continued with a Mental Health First Aid Training for Youth on August 26 at Emmanuel Baptist in Parkersburg. We had 24 in attendance. The Discipleship Commission is planning on having a Mental Health First Aid for Adults training online sometime this fall or early spring. Christa Raitz and Russ Philpott are working on a Bible Study on mental health that will be available for churches to use in whatever format they want.

The Discipleship Commission continued in 2023 to disciple children, youth, and adults in ministries with events scheduled at Camp Cowen and Parchment Valley. Events were hosted by Youth and Children’s Ministries, Brothers Keeper, Golden’ers/Senior Adults, Worship Arts Ministries and the WV Baptist Historical Society.

The Commission looks forward to the Emphasis for 2024: **Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ.**

WEST VIRGINIA AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH ***Mrs. Jillene Narraway, Director of Camping and Youth***

The 2022-2023 Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT) was comprised of the following students:

Matthias Freeman	Clarksburg Baptist Church
Donovan Haynes	Clarksburg Baptist Church
Ben Marsh	Summersville Baptist Church
Lauren Modesitt	Emmanuel Baptist Church, Parkersburg
Sarah Norweck	Pea Ridge Baptist Church, Huntington
Brayden Price	Saint Albans First Baptist Church
Zenna Zwill	Spencer First Baptist Church

The adult leaders through the school year included:

Janie Brownfield	Pea Ridge Baptist Church, Huntington
Bethany Cox	New Baptist Church, Huntington
Caleb Villers	Summersville Baptist Church

After many years of service to YMPT, Janie Brownfield and Bethany Cox retired from their leadership roles with YMPT. We are thankful for their faithful presence on the team!

YMPT’s theme for 2022-2023 was: Community. Community is one of the things we lost sight of the past couple years during the pandemic and are now trying to rebuild. But why did we feel the loss of community so much more than anything else? Teens are seeking true community: to be truly known and loved. Hebrews 10:23-25 says, ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider

how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. As believers were are known and loved by God through the work of Christ’s redeeming sacrifice! We are not alone, as a body of believers we are better together and called to make a difference in our world!

As teens across West Virginia headed back to school in the fall of 2022, WVBC youth ministry was back in full force as well! Youth Leader Core (YLC) entered the 44th year of ministry to the West Virginia Baptist Convention. This year’s 24 YLC students represented fourteen WVBC churches. Commissioned from their local churches, YLC students gathered for five separate weekends beginning in August and ending March. Leaders were: Sara Chambers, Jillene Narraway, Josh Weddle, Caleb Wise and Kali Wise.

Please remember Student Ministries in prayer this school year as we prayerfully discern the Lord’s leading for discipleship, evangelism and fellowship ministries to the youth of the West Virginia Baptist Convention!

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CAMP AT COWEN BOARD
Mrs. Jillene Narraway, Director of Camping and Youth

We celebrate eighty years of ministry on-site at the WV Baptist Camp at Cowen! The impact of 80 years multiplied by thousands of campers, counselors, directors, families and churches leaves us speechless as we take in the magnitude of the ministry God has blessed the WVBC with at camp! The summer of 2023 will leave a legacy of ministry, community and faithfulness!

Numbers

Campers	1,576
Counselors/leaders	374
Salvations	70
Rededications	209
Call to ministry	19

“Basecamp” was a powerful theme that conveyed the truth of the gospel and the camp’s unique role in the lives of many! As we focused on Psalm 23, the Lord ministered powerfully through the daily themes of rest, help, guide, protect, provision and community. At camp this summer we lived out Psalm 86:11: *Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: Unite my heart to fear thy name.*

The above numbers quantify our summer ministry, but they will always fall short of expressing the depth and power of the Lord’s work in our midst this summer! What we do at camp makes a difference. What we do at camp changes lives. What we do at camp has an eternal impact! And we don’t do that work alone! The West Virginia Baptist family of churches joins together to make camp happen and I am grateful the Lord has called us to this work and for your faithful partnership in this ministry!

Current studies show that about 64% of U.S. adults reported they had experienced at least one type of ACE before age 18, and nearly 1 in 6 (17.3%) reported they had experienced four or more types of ACEs. What are ACE’s? ACE stands for: Adverse Childhood Experiences (abuse, bullying/violence, homelessness, mental illness, parental abandonment, drug use, medical trauma, natural disasters, neglect, racism). ACE’s result in children with lower tolerance for stress (fighting, apathy, defiance), difficulty making/maintaining friendships, increases stress hormones and health problems, and reduced ability to learn, respond and grow.

As the body of Christ, we need to do all we can to reduce ACEs and work to build resiliency in children and teens. Like a balancing scale, resilience is the result of interactions between a person’s ACEs on one side and his or her protective factors on the other. Camping and youth ministry is built to foster resiliency growth as we provide a place to build healthy relationships, learn social skills and making friends, meeting basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, relationships), filled with caring/listening adults, and offers guided independence and problem solving.

Real life is full of difficulties. At camp, we have a chance to minister to campers in their good times and in their struggles. What a privilege to pray over graduating seniors, celebrating birthdays, high-fiving first time campers, and rejoicing when someone surrenders their life to Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior. And we have a privilege in the hard times that we often forget to see for what it is: an open door for real life ministry.

When we work through the difficult steps with a camper struggling with homesickness, as we respond to camper arguments, when we speak truth to a camper’s life, as we pray with a camper dealing with abuse or loss... that is when God gives us the amazing privilege as a community of faith to minister and work true discipleship. Praise God for His faithfulness and the opportunity to be used of Him to minister!

This summer’s staff has been another hard-working staff with a combination of full-time summer staff and our Young Leader Summer Staff Interns. All told, more than 30 individuals worked summer staff this year!

Camp Directors this year were:

Younger Midler	Debbie and Greg Boso
Junior 1	Libby Workman
Junior High 1	Monty Foster
Junior 2	Susan Armstrong and Erin Thorpe
High School 1	Lee Boso
Junior High 2	Matt Ash
High School 2	Bryan Cantrell
Family Camp	Bethany Cox
Older Midler	Koreen Villers
AB Men's Camp	Jim Mitchell
Camp Global	Todd McClure
Women's Camp	Maci Villers and Kasey Stevens

Thank you to the people and churches of the Convention who generously donate to support the mission, the numerous volunteers who give of their time to work on the camp facility, the more than 374 counselors, directors and the leaders who pour into the lives of campers, the parents who entrust us with ministering to their children. It is truly a place where we do Christ's work together.

We are excited to see what God will do at camp in 2024! Be sure to read more about the progress on the Sunny Day Activity Center and plans for a 2024 build! Your donations and support of that project are greatly appreciated and will expand the ministry of camp to our summer campers, fall-winter-spring groups and ministry to the community of Cowen and Webster County.

PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER
Rev. Frank Miller, Director

This is another incredible year of ministry at The West Virginia Baptist Conference Center (PV). Thousands of people have entered the grounds, enjoying summer camps, church retreats, family reunions, conferences, military events, Palmer Seminary classes and more. This year to date, we have hosted well over 200 events and 300 volunteers made it happen.

However, the highlight of the summer is the spiritual impact we experienced, as individuals made a decision to follow and serve Christ our Lord:

✠ Over 300 rededications

✠ 87 salvations

✠ 4 individuals felt the call to higher Christian education and a desire to pursue ministry.

Across campus we completed major remodeling projects in the lodges, dorms, LED lighting, and repaired and painted the water tower. In the Keeney/Crouch rooms of the Greenlee Activity Center we installed new flooring. Also our main road was paved and Frontier Fiber Optics were installed.

A great improvement was being awarded the Non-Profit Security Grant. PV installed 24 high resolution cameras. This provides for precise round the clock safety monitoring across the facility. Phase two will include installing security fencing and gates.

One of the most wonderful blessings we received was your prayers and financial support to complete the construction of the Whippoorwill "Charlies" Covered Campfire. The Lord brought incredible people together from blueprints to roofing to completing the vision. Many of these contractors and volunteers have experienced "changed lives at PV." Many plaques on the seating represent those who gave from the heart to see the project through.

As God gives us this unique tool to do more ministry we praise Him for His blessings to reach more people in the community for Jesus. He certainly showed up for the first multi church dedication for Jackson County, WV. Although the weather was hot, we had several hundred pack in for church where we sang, shared the gospel message. As we came together in worship, five individuals gave their lives to the Lord.

This is exactly the vision we had when you helped us fundraise for and build this new facility earlier in the year. Our prayers were this would be another tool for God to use as we live out our mission of being a place "where lives are changed." Thank you!

Brothers' Keeper brought in 140 youth and volunteers to canvas Jackson and Kanawha Counties to assist 52 homeowners in need of home repair. Teams came from seven states to work together and worship together. Worship was lead by our young leadership where five individuals gave their hearts to the Lord and two answered a call to serve in ministry.

Our summer and seasonal staff worked very well together to manage our guest needs. Our WVBC summer intern, Garrett Keen, was a great asset to us and we wish him well as he returns to Glenville State College to continue his education and be involved with Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) there.

We are grateful for your support so far this year, and we are looking forward to a full schedule of planned fall and winter events.

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mrs. Sue Hamric, President

The Historical Society continues to make progress with the reconstruction, reorganization and modernization of WV Baptist History archives. Following is a report of that progress from September 2022 through August 2023.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

Held at Summersville Presbyterian Church on Friday of the WVBC Annual Meeting. There were thirty-six people in attendance. Board of Directors for the upcoming year were approved by the membership at large. Guest Speaker was Dr. Lee Spitzer, author of two books – “Baptists, Jews, and the Holocaust” and “Sympathy, Solidarity, and Silence.”

2023 ANNUAL FEBRUARY CHURCH TRAINING EVENT

An Archiving Class was held in the Historical Society suite of rooms in Hill Hall.

There were approximately a dozen people in attendance.

The class was taught by Board Member Edna Fugate, Director of Library Services at Pikeville University, who had prepared an electronic presentation for the class, but improvised quite nicely as the internet service at the Parchment Valley Conference Center was down for the day.

MUSEUM

A major milestone has been attained in this area as the inherited collectibles and antiques from a private donor have been rehomed and relocated, including 2,295 books. Those few pertaining to WV Baptist history were retained, of course.

Fifteen months of contacting special interest groups, government agencies, specialized museums, county historical societies and others with deliveries and rendezvous points to locations all over the state is now complete.

Constructed within the museum is a replica of the Herald of Hope Chapel Car (that traveled throughout West Virginia) with original items from that railroad car such as a pew bench and pump organ (which is still in working condition), along with displays of church anniversary plates, Parchment Valley, American Baptist Women’s Ministries, WV authors and others.

DIGITIZATION

We have purchased two I-Pads with keyboards which will be used for research, archival inventory, and to serve as a kiosk for museum and other displays.

CHURCH HISTORY FILES

Three legal size, five-drawer filing cabinets full of Baptist church histories received a total makeover, inventoried and will soon be digitized.

FACEBOOK – WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We’ve created a “Thursday Trivia Question” which appears each week.

WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

We voted to become a member of this organization, which provides periodic workshop training, exhibitions and information.

2023 ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

While we decided not to personally appear at these meetings because of the meeting time constraints, we did send a cover letter and flyer to each of the 22 association clerks asking them to distribute the informational flyers at their meetings.

OUTSIDE ENTRY DOOR

What we thought would require a simple approval from the Parchment Valley Board of Directors became an intricate process. After their approval, our request was then put before the WVBC Board of Trustees who issued preliminary steps to be addressed prior to construction, and the perceived cost skyrocketed. We are working towards a solution.

HERALD OF HOPE CHAPEL CAR ADDENDUM

In response to one of our postings on our Facebook page, a lady from Indiana by the name of Joann Kluender (formerly from Quinwood, WV) commented that she had the commentaries of Rev. Newton, Chapel Car Pastor, and would get them to us. Sure enough, several months later she contacted us and made

arrangements to meet at Parchment Valley Conference Center to deliver the books.

Upon delivery, she explained that her mother had been acquainted with Rev. Newton and had in her possession his commentaries that were in bound volumes on board the Herald of Hope. At her death, they passed on to Joann.

She was a follower of our Facebook page and when she saw the entry introducing the Herald of Hope Chapel Car Replica in our museum, she knew she had found a home for the commentaries. A display case is being constructed so the books can be displayed within the chapel car replica.

CLOSING OF ALDERSON BROADDUS UNIVERSITY

We previously received a great portion of WV Baptist history items from ABU but upon learning of its demise, two board members made a trip to Philippi on Friday, August 4th to look for items that might be beneficial. They were able to salvage approximately two pickup trucks full of materials and exited the facility as the doors were being locked at 4:00 p.m. on that day for the final time. We have these items in storage and are working towards organization and storage issues.

We continue to move forward as best we can to serve the West Virginia Baptist Convention and the many churches that are a part of that organization.

WV Baptist Historical Society Members:

David Carpenter	Gary Higginbotham
Koneda Devrick	Jason Robbins
Edna Fugate	Jim Ross
Sue Hamric	Joyce Ross
Debbie Higginbotham	Joan Toler

LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

Dr. Mark McCloy, Staff Liaison

The Leadership Commission seeks to equip and support the leaders of the churches of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. Below are the three goals of the Leadership Commission and how things are going in general.

Goal 1: Address the significant leadership needs of West Virginia Baptist Convention churches

The Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies and the digital learning initiative - The name was officially changed in 2019 to honor Rev. Bobby Wood, who was a vital advocate and pioneer in the School of Christian Studies. Classes have met on zoom, skype, in person, at churches and in living rooms. The digital program has continued to thrive, in spite of the challenges offered by the pandemic. The in-person classes have been expanded to five new locations, and it is our hope that further locations will be added in the near future.

Palmer Seminary - Classes are still taking place! The intensives for the courses, both the masters level and doctoral level programs continue to grow!

February leadership training program - The Annual Training Event, hosted by Parchment Valley Conference Center, was a large success with over 200 individuals in attendance. Plans are already underway for the 2024 event, which will take place the first Saturday of February.

The Bible Conference happened in person at Parchment Valley. Thanks to Dr. Lee Spitzer, former leader of our entire denomination, for his wonderful teaching. This well-loved training, open to all who are interested, will take place on the first Saturday of March.

Goal 2: Address the emotional, physical, financial, relational, and spiritual needs of the West Virginia Baptist Convention clergy

Pastors4Pastors exists as the umbrella under which we care for the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of pastors in our Convention. Multiple events took place this past year, including a learning event prior to the Convention with Dr. Lee Spitzer presenting. Participants were all provided a copy of one of Dr. Spitzer's books. A pre-bible conference event featuring the topic "Galatians: A Pastor's Perspective," and a family picnic at Parchment Valley, which featured Rev. Jon Villers and his wife Koreen, speaking on their lifetime of ministry. A couples' event and marriage retreat were held in August.

Our Convention continues to participate in two wonderful scholarship programs for students seeking leadership training: the WV Baptist Education Society and the Bowen Trust. These scholarships provide resources to leaders within our convention that will allow them to pursue further education that they might not be able to pursue otherwise.

Please note that emergency financial assistance is available for pastors through both the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board and the West Virginia Baptist Convention itself.

Goal 3: Plan and implement leadership training as an integral part of our statewide events

This is where this commission is really doing stuff. A large part of the focus is to encourage the next generation within our faith family to pursue higher education. We have strategically sought to accomplish this through a plan started in 2016. Below is a brief break down and update:

Phase 1: The internship program - As of September 2023 over 54 students have been part of this program. We are actively giving the next generation opportunities to serve in our local churches and it has gone really well. Many have entered into seminary and/or full time vocational ministry. A very high percentage of the past interns are either serving in churches as ministers or attending seminary.

Phase 2: Mentoring for Pastoral Excellence - The fourth year of this pioneering program for pastors is now nearly complete. Seasoned mentors were paid to have monthly meetings with young pastors throughout our state seeing it as a “good to great” program. A covenant was signed by both parties to agree to meet and a retreat was planned for Parchment valley. Many thanks to the Bowen Trust for paying a portion of the mentoring fee for pastors.

This program has taken place as a partnership with the purpose of raising the level of excellence of pastoral leadership within the churches of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

Partners: West Virginia Baptist Convention and Renew Transformational Strategies (a leadership development ministry headed by Dr. Ed Rogers).

Project Summary:

Each participating leader is paired with a qualified mentor who has been selected on the basis of their experience and wisdom. Mentors and participants will meet monthly for a minimum of one and a half hours. The content of this meeting will follow an agenda. One third of this agenda will be consistent within all of the program and two thirds will be framed by the participant based on their current context and needs. In addition to the monthly meetings each participant and mentor will attend an annual conference to promote further learning and networking amongst the group.

Cost of the Program

\$1,200.00 annually (cost includes 12 mentoring sessions). Grants from the Bowen Charitable Trust have helped to offset the cost of this program.

Roles of the Partners:

West Virginia Baptist Convention

- ✦ Promote the program among the WVBC churches
- ✦ Recruit and vet potential candidates for the program
- ✦ Recommend mentors
- ✦ Approve pastoral participants
- ✦ Provide administrative support and payroll support for mentors

Renew Transformational Strategies

- ✦ Design and execute the program
- ✦ Recruit and train mentors
- ✦ Determine the common learning for 1/3 of each mentoring session
- ✦ Plan and execute the annual conference
- ✦ Assign mentors
- ✦ Ongoing evaluation of the program

BOBBY WOOD SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Dr. Mark McCloy, Director

The rebuilding of our in-person program has continued through 2023, with five new locations being added to help expand the reach of the program to more students. It is hoped that as these sites become more firmly established, we will be able to add even more sites in the near future.

The work of the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies (BWSCS) falls under the ministries of the Leadership Commission and helps fulfill the commission’s mandate to assist church leaders in development and use of their gifts to equip and lead congregations in ministry.

The School’s mission is to provide a basic level of courses in all areas of practical ministry. Although originally envisioned as a training program for bi-vocational pastors, the BWSCS is designed to meet the practical needs of any person interested in expanding their spiritual maturity, biblical knowledge and ministry skills. While the School

carries no college or seminary credit, it does provide creditable and recognizable training within the Convention family. Furthermore, Palmer Seminary now recognizes graduation from the school as a potential indicator of ability to succeed in seminary, and allows graduates the possibility of entry into seminary without the normally required bachelor's degree. The Pastoral Ministry track, for lay and pastoral leaders, is a three-year course of study, which qualifies graduates for ordination and full credentialing in pastoral ministry. (This same program is also offered digitally in a two-year format). We also offer ADVANCED level modules in special interest areas. These subjects have historically been determined by request of students and approval of the BWSCS Advisory Team, and are intended to be helpful to pastors and church leaders. Credit is also occasionally available for other Convention events, such as Camp Global, the Bible Conference and the Annual Training Event.

A new mission track is under development under cooperation with the Stewardship Commission.

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY

Dr. Lawrence Hoptry, Executive Director

The West Virginia Baptist Educational Society exists to financially encourage those individuals who are members of churches related to the West Virginia Baptist Convention. With limited funds, we help them receive the training that will enable them to better serve Christ and His church. We can offer this help because there are individuals, churches and associations who are willing to establish honorary gifts and memorials supporting education. A gift of \$100 will establish a honorary fund to pay tribute to a living person. A gift of \$100 will establish a memorial fund in memory of those who have earned their heavenly reward. Those who are interested in this type of support need only to contact the Executive Director. There are also churches and associations which have established a budget item or receive special offerings to help. Any gift in memory or to honor a living person or to the Student Fund, should be sent to Dr. Richard Sargent, 532 Rosita Lynn Drive, Point Pleasant, WV 25550.

Our student population has experienced remarkable changes since the pandemic with fewer taking classes in a traditional setting and more taking online classes or the smaller classes in the Palmer Seminary program at our Parchment Valley Conference Center, Ripley, West Virginia.

We have three categories of students:

1. We have pastors who are taking advanced training with the Palmer Seminary at our Parchment Valley Conference Center.
2. We have a new grouping of students who are availing themselves of the opportunity to study online but remain in their homes.
3. We have our traditional students who are on campus in one of our accredited schools.

We asked that students repay one year of service to the churches of our convention or to missionary service for each year of financial support from the Society. If there would be a change in their calling, we ask for a repayment of their scholarship so that others can be helped. These scholarships are offered on an interest free basis. Pastors attending the Palmer program or other advanced classes in ministry equals repayment basis.

In the economic conditions of our times, we cannot assume that someone else is going to provide the funds for this vital training. All of us are part of God's work and as each recognizes our financial part in the student's preparation, we can help lift their burdens. As all of us take part, not only are our leaders better equipped to serve the Lord, our individual churches are made stronger, more effective and closer to the Word.

Please help the Society support the educational efforts of our students.

PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WEST VIRGINIA PROGRAM

Dr. Allen Copenhaver

No report submitted.

PASTORS4PASTORS: WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTERS' COUNCIL

Rev. J. Anthony Pratt, President

The vision of *Pastors4Pastors: The WV Baptist Ministers' Council* is to provide environments for fellowship among the ministers of the West Virginia Baptist Convention; to provide opportunities for education, inspiration and personal/professional growth; and to encourage pastors and churches to maintain healthy relationships in ministry.

Pastors4Pastors has been active in 2022-2023, from our Annual meeting event in Summersville in October with Dr. Lee Spitzer sharing; to our Pre-Bible Conference event in March, which was wonderful also with Dr. Lee Spitzer sharing and teaching from the book of Galatians; then our family picnic at Parchment Valley in June was a wonderful time of fellowship, worship and togetherness. We co-hosted this event with the WVBC Ministers' Wives'

Fellowship. In August, P4P also hosted a couples event aboard the Valley Gem which was an enjoyable evening for pastors and their spouses.

Make plans to join us this year as we serve together, worship together and fellowship together! We had over 40 pastors attend one of our events this year!

P4P continues to offer mission scholarships to pastors in the state. As we move into the next year, we continue to seek ways to encourage and equip ministers serving West Virginia and God's kingdom. P4P is excited to continue to offer high quality events and opportunities. Cost of membership has remained \$25.00 per year which provides discounts for all P4P events. We would love to see more of our pastors involved in this ministry offered by Pastors4Pastors.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL STANDING

Dr. Matt Ash, Chair

The Committee on Ministerial Standing (COMS) is primarily responsible for two main tasks. First the Committee is responsible for recognizing the regional accreditation of the ordination of pastors within our West Virginia Baptist Convention. Our national convention of churches, ABC-USA recognizes this regional accreditation of pastors and therefore, we take very seriously this responsibility to approve this recognition in order to uphold the moral, ethical, theological and educational standards that have been established by our West Virginia Baptist Convention. Secondly, this Committee is responsible for dealing with formal allegations of clergy misconduct. This is also a very serious responsibility that requires diligence, respect and fairness. When these issues come before us, our goal is to seek reconciliation and restoration whenever possible. We also have to balance this desire with a responsibility to protect our churches, and to maintain confidentiality within the process. We had no issues of clergy misconduct this year. We approved two candidates for regional recognition of their ordination, and currently have two more candidates in the process of seeking recognition. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as chair of this committee this year. I have enjoyed working with the members of the committee, and strongly believe our convention must continue to maintain strong standards of integrity as we seek to minister throughout West Virginia.

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Rev. David Hulme, Staff Liaison

For the past several years, we on the Outreach Commission have focused our efforts in the areas of re-missioning and planting. We have explored, promoted and evaluated a number of approaches to both that we believe will result in healthy churches and effective planting strategies to reach our communities.

Church Health Check-up

We believe healthy churches are more effective in fulfilling their mission. Partnering with RENEW Transformational Strategies we have made available to churches an opportunity to have a thorough health check-up. The check-up is followed by an honest assessment of the church's health, along with recommendations for improving their health in certain areas. Several of our churches have participated in this assessment during the past year. Some have begun implementing its recommendations.

Bowen Grant

We believe pastors of churches going through the re-missioning process should have the tools they need to lead during such a time. Through a generous grant from the Bowen Charitable Trust, we can make coaching and/or training available to pastors of churches who have completed the health assessment and have moved into the implementation phase.

Dinner Church

We believe there are many in our communities who need Jesus, yet will never darken our church doors. To that end, we believe we must be creative in finding ways to take Jesus to them. For the past few years, you have heard a great deal about microchurches. We have narrowed that focus for the coming year to a particular aspect of the microchurch concept...Dinner Church. At our Annual Meeting, through the keynote address and other ways, you will learn how Dinner Church is reaching others around the country in a powerful way. We hope you will explore how Dinner Church can work in your community.

Finally, as we share ideas with you, we hope you will share your ideas and success stories with us. After all, it's about "Doing Christ's Work Together."

BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRY

Mr. Rob Ely, Director of Student Ministries

Rev. Kevin Sions, Northern Director for Baptist Campus Ministry

The ministry of BCM is actively involved in the lives of college students across 6 campuses in West Virginia:

- ✚ Fairmont
- ✚ Glenville
- ✚ Marshall
- ✚ Potomac State
- ✚ West Virginia University Technology in Beckley
- ✚ West Virginia University

Baptist Campus Ministry has the mission of “Changing lives that Change the world!” The investment into individual students to begin their faith journey or strengthen the faith their local church has been nurturing for years is an important part of BCM. This happens through weekly meetings, lteams—small group meetings and sharing great fellowship.

Changing the world happens as BCM students are involved with their campus community: student government, sports teams, dorm life, classes and the jobs they have on campus. The long-term investment pays when they graduate and become teachers, nurses, accountants and business people who take their relationship with Jesus into those different worlds!

In March 2022 Marshall and WVU BCM’s had the opportunity to serve in Jenkins, Kentucky, after the devastating floods, rebuilding homes and community facilities. Other campuses have done mission in their communities and are planning mission trips to Puerto Rico and Mexico in 2023.

BCM is going through some campus transitions. Rev. Tim Mitchem led the Concord BCM in 2022 and has resigned. Tim did a good job of continuing the outreach on that campus. After 13 years, Jon and Koreen Villers will no longer serve as BCM Associates following the closing of Alderson Broaddus University. We will miss their contribution to BCM. Todd & Erin McClure have stepped away from University of Charleston BCM. They have done an amazing job of ministry there.

Please pray for new BCM Associates at Concord, University of Charleston and the possibility of West Virginia State University. Also continue to pray for our AB Students who transitioned to other BCM’s across the state.

WEIRTON CHRISTIAN CENTER

Mrs. Kim Weaver, Director

The Weirton Christian Center has been serving the community for 106 years, under West Virginia Baptist Convention and Community Outreach Ministries of ABHMS. We truly appreciate the ongoing support of our WV Baptist family which represents our largest area of support which is crucial for our general operating expenses. Although we are now receiving reimbursement through the state’s child nutrition program for our afterschool and summer program, your support is needed for keeping our staff working and our lights on. Your churches have continued to support us and the work we do through even the roughest times. Since we still do not charge our children for any of our programming or services, we truly appreciate your ongoing, generous commitment to our ministry! Thanks to all who include us in their mission budgets, take up special collections for our ministry, or collections of items for the basic needs of our children. In this family, **WV American Baptist Women** are amazing supporters, advocates and friends of the Center. When they hear of a need, they fill it. These women inspire their churches to collect and give...whether it is Quarters for Grades, gift cards for children’s clothing needs, school supplies, after-school snacks, socks and underwear, Christmas shoeboxes and gifts or anything we might need. We are so thankful to be one of the WV Hope Ministries!! THANK YOU, LADIES, SO MUCH FOR YOUR LOVE, SUPPORT, CARDS and PRAYERS!

Our Preschool Program has a waiting list each year, and this past year, we had worked toward joining Hancock County Schools as a community preschool. This would have provided partial salary funding as well as food reimbursement, supplies and services for our children. In order to do this, we applied to become a state-licensed childcare only for 3- to 5-year-olds. Although everything else was fine, our playground is not commercial or fenced in, so we could not be approved unless that was completed. With one grant received and another one pending we are hoping for improvements, but it would take another \$70,000 for us to do all that needs done with commercial equipment and fencing. Although we are not licensed, we are very confident about our program. Because of a huge waiting list, we added a second preschool class for 3-year-olds. So, with all three classes, there are 42 each day for the upcoming school year and we graduated 32 in the spring.

Our Summer Program had 78 children attending and we had a wonderful reading contest – with all children reading a total of 900 books in seven weeks, in conjunction with the school’s summer reading challenge. Hancock County Schools sent their Story Book Bus, where they also received a book a week. We partnered with

WVU Extension for STEM activities and offered many special themed weeks including sports, dance, music and more. Our kids all together read over 900 books – and had grant funding for a librarian so they could even “check out” other books. We feel that many increased their reading levels, instead of having summer learning loss. And as we do every summer, we were able to send kids to camp for a week at a time with Jesus Loves You Scholarships. We also have a 4-day camp for all our WCC kids to go at once. If anyone has a group interested in helping out with that, please let us know. It’s a great time to share Jesus 24/7 and change some lives.

During the **Afterschool program**, we serve approximately 80 children, K-8th grade. The **Quarters for Grades** program inspires them to do better, and we monitor their progress because they are anxious to earn their rewards! We appreciate all the collections taken for our program, because it truly is our way to encourage them. We also have partners who provide life skills programs, and a new staff member was formerly a Home Economics teacher. We are now even able to offer things like sewing, since she has machines. Our **Journey to Leadership** program is sponsored by Cleveland Cliffs and enables us to pay our 7th and 8th grade students \$5 per hour and our high school students \$8.75 per hour – after they complete 60 hours of volunteer service in the center. They learn life skills like financial literacy, budgeting, cooking and more. We even re-started our **Entrepreneurial Program**, where older students will create jewelry and other items to sell and receive half the proceeds while the other half supports the program. It’s a great business learning program for them.

We are blessed to have four 15-passenger vans and three 8-passenger vans since it is so crucial to our program. We are transporting 28 students to and from the Tri-State Christian Academy, through the Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry foundation that allows us to provide Jesus Loves You Scholarships for Christian Education. For the afterschool program the buses bring them from the schools and we take them home. We serve breakfast, lunch and a snack to preschool, and dinner and a snack for the afterschool program. The WV Child Nutrition Feeding program reimbursement helps to cover our afterschool and summer costs. However, we need your help to cover our preschool feeding. We serve a large population of children in the extremely poor category – 78% of our children fall in the 50% and below poverty level. Since these families are not asked to pay for any of our services, we survive solely on donations, foundations and grants. We are also an agency of the Weirton United Way, which will be merging with six other counties next year. Please pray with us that our level of support will not decrease.

We are a Matthew 25 Ministry. We feed them, we help with clothing, we help with homework, we have a God’s Helping Hand fund to help their parents have what they need (like groceries and keeping utilities on), when emergency needs arrive. Our children have adult-size issues that they deal with such as parents in jail or drug rehab, bullying, all forms of abuse and much more. But none of this is as important as pouring God’s word into them every day and helping them to know Jesus. Even our preschool classes learn about 20 scriptures throughout the year and every area of our curriculum is based on Christianity. We have even had preschoolers leading their families to church and knowing the Lord. In the afterschool program, Bible lessons and weekly scriptures are part of the schedule just as much as help with homework, computer time, activities, fitness, snacks and dinner. No matter what happens in their lives, when they are away from us, they will always have a Helper in knowing the Lord. It’s amazing that many 20-somethings still reach out when they need a faith boost. They are still part of our WCC Family.

The Memorial Walkway is finished! But there is still room for more bricks, if you would like to honor a long-time supporter from your church, or in memory of loved one, or just have your church represented at the Weirton Christian Center, bricks are still available for \$75 each or \$100 for two. Please check our website and Facebook page for pictures.

If your church is looking for a new mission adventure right here in the state – please keep us in mind...whether you’d like to work with kids in the summer or help us with the garden or the facility. Or maybe have a crew to host a week of camp at Parchment Valley or Elkhorn Valley here in our area. We would truly appreciate being considered for a portion of your church’s annual mission giving. If you would like more information for your congregation, a video to share or would like to hear our story in person, please feel free to call the Center at 304-748-2353 or my cell phone at 304-479-2140 or email Kim@WeirtonChristianCenter.com. For 106 years, our Baptist family has been so crucial to our existence! **God continues to SHOW UP for us through your prayers and financial support to make a difference!!**

In downtown Weirton, our **Evyenia’s House of Hope** is home to Home Base and Youth Service Systems who use the house for supervised visitation, as well as an office for Catholic Charities. We work with these and several other community agencies in order to serve our families. In the past year, we were provided with the funding to create a parking lot, on some donated property downtown to make it easier on these clients being served. In the upcoming year, we are an Americorps site with a LifeBridge member who will help us grow and develop our grief support group for children – Never Alone Kids.

Please continue praying for this ministry. Adult Christian mentors, who are not here for the pay they receive, are our biggest expense and asset. God wants us there for these children and He always provides. We are so blessed! The Christian Center is the safe place for them, a place they come for support, love, faith and care, be-

sides the basic needs of clothing, school supplies and food. We have been able to see the fruits of our labors, as our children become young adults. We truly appreciate your prayers for us to make the right decisions in all areas. On behalf of the children and families we serve in Weirton, many thanks to our partners West Virginia Baptist Convention and American Baptist Home Missions for your ongoing support! Unfortunately, our list of wonderful supporters is too long to include, but each and every one is key to our mission to do God's work. Please know every prayer, every donation, every card and every encouraging word could not be more appreciated. **Thank you to all of you who help us fill the needs on a regular basis! We could not make the difference in so many lives without our American Baptist Family!**

For more information, call the center at 304.748.2353
e-mail Kim@WeirtonChristianCenter.com or contact Kim Weaver at 304-479-2140
www.WeirtonChristianCenter.com and Find us on Facebook

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. Mary Davis, President

The family of American Baptist Women's Ministries is a work sharing the gospel with churches, community and the world. Our mission is to serve others and promote spiritual growth.

International Ministries Adopt-A-Student through Global Servant J.D. Reed: the two ladies that we have adopted are Priscila Covarruvas in Mexico City, Mexico and Aracelys Camejo in Santiago, Dominican Republic.

STATE EVENTS

Spiritual Growth Retreat:

Our Spiritual Growth Retreat was held September 17 -18, 2022 and the committee was headed by Melanie Swisher. The theme was "We are Family," with Guest Speaker, Amy Bush and special music by the Villers Family. The community project was making scarfs for veterans. The collected offering was \$532.30 and was donated to "Warm Hands from Warm Hearts."

Women's Day:

Women's day was held on October 20, 2022 at Summersville Baptist Church, Summersville, WV. The theme was "Daughters of the King." Coordinator of Personal Development Sherry Hustead and her committee provided a wonderful program. Guest speaker was Dr. Sandra Lutz and music was provided by Brian and Sara McClure. The offering collected was \$731.88 and was used for the Camp Cowen Cabin Restoration Project and donated in the name of Dorothy Santrock.

ABWM Annual Conference:

The 89th Annual Conference was held June 3, 2023, in the Greenlee Activities Building, Parchment Valley Conference Center. The theme for the day's event was "Plant the Seed." The Guest speaker was Koreen Villers and special music was provided by Brian and Sara McClure. Each officer and coordinator had a table set up to present information to each of our guests. We had 97 ladies registered and the offering was \$766.50, which our treasury doubled to \$1,533.00. The proceeds were divided between our four WV Hope charities.

Communications:

Our Communications Coordinator position has been temporarily filled by Lou Ann Nicholas after our long time Coordinator Sue Hamric resigned. We thank Sue for her many years of service to the Board. The Monday Morning Mission (MMM) has been taken over by Sherry Hustead. We so appreciate Lou Ann and Sherry for stepping up for these responsibilities.

PROJECTS/MINISTRIES

Mission Outreach Project (MOP) — Goal — (\$6000)

The Mission Outreach Project for 2023 is Restoration Retreat for Indigenous Women Leadership Development in Mexico. The purpose is to disciple women so that they have the tools they need to further their discipleship to other women. The coordinator for MOP is Brenda Rosier and the amount that has been donated as of August 17, 2023 is \$3,032.13.

Special Project – Goal – (\$12,000)

The Special Project for 2023 is new playground equipment for the area at the Whippoorwill Covered Campfire. The coordinator for Special Projects is Nancy Adkins and the amount that has been donated as of August 17, 2023 is \$6,095.28.

Love Gift — 2023 monies as of June 30, 2023 is \$47,552.63.

The Scholarship Girls Loan Program (½ scholarship – ½ loan interest free)

The committee received and reviewed all applicants. The Scholarship Committee was able to award 13 girls with \$1,330.00 for the school year 2023-2024. Historical information worth sharing on this ministry is as follows:

Records prior to 1970 aren't complete as reported by the Scholarship Coordinator Jane Mullen. However, she has completed reports from 1971 to 2022. These records indicate that 618 girls have received scholarship/loans with the awarded amount totaling \$800,000. In the last five years \$88,410 has been awarded. All praise goes to God. In addition to the Scholarship/Loan each girl receives support from 8-10 churches in the state during her years as a "Scholarship Girl." This ministry has truly been blessed by God over the years.

WV HOPE 2022

✚Number of Associations reporting	9
✚Churches reporting	56
✚Number of workers	362
✚Gift cards and monies to WV HOPE	\$15,417.00
✚Local ministries	\$16,124.00
✚International Ministries	\$440.00
✚Total	\$31,981.00

Other ministries reported by numerous groups: blessing boxes to shut-ins, sweet boxes for college students, meals to shut-ins once a month, gifts given at Christmas to those who are in long-term care, lap quilts for nursing homes, support Ronald McDonald House, local food banks, clothing room, floor relief.

Send all reports and questions: **Dee Wanner Coordinator: 1925 Thorofare Road, Clendenin, WV 25045**

2023 WV HOPE projects: send all gifts and monies to recipients

Gabriel Project- provides monetary contributions and supplies. Three locations; PO Box 1182, Charleston, WV 25339; PO Box 6029, Wheeling, WV 26003; PO Box 338, Fayetteville, WV 25840

Union Mission – addiction recovery program, monetary contributions or personal hygiene supplies. Lindsay Stephens, PO Box 112, Charleston, WV 25301

Hope Center Ministries – addiction recovery program, Brian McClure, Director, 6148 Parkersburg Road, Sandyville, WV 25275

Weirton Christian Center: serving God and community focusing on providing a strong foundation for children by meeting their spiritual, physical and emotional needs. Kim Weaver, Director PO Box 2045, Weirton, WV 26062

WV Hope ministries are in place from January – December. All contributions to the WV Hope Ministries are sent to the providers. You are at liberty to select one or all of the ministries or you may select a local ministry to support or choose from International Ministries.

AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. David Hoge, Secretary

The ABMen of West Virginia have had another great year of worship, service and fellowship. During the 2022 Annual Meeting we had a great Men's Day trip to the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Mount Hope. This is the site where the National Scout Jamboree is held every four years and it is very impressive. It was a great opportunity to witness God's handiwork in a magnificent way and to clear our minds for the WVBC Annual Meeting at Summersville Baptist.

The annual AB Men's Prayer Breakfast was held in late February. Nearly thirty breakfasts across the state in almost every association allowed for some wonderful fellowship, worship and information sharing.

The Work Party at Cowen was held on April 22, 2023. Some men went up the week preceding and got an early start on the work. There was a lot of work to be done and a lot of work got done. The electric wiring was updated in several additional cabins, the pool was cleaned and prepared for the summer, trees were trimmed and lots of general maintenance also got done.

Disaster Relief is a never-ending ministry opportunity. Once again, this year we were able to show God's love in a very tangible manner to our neighbors in West Virginia and in neighboring states. Kentucky had a very rough year and we assisted after tornados and severe flooding in eastern Kentucky.

Men's Camp was held at the WV Baptist Camp at Cowen from August 4-6. Over 125 men and boys were in attendance including several men from Hope Centers in West Virginia. Kevin Sions was our keynote speaker on Running the Race and Bryan Angus from Barboursville Baptist led our worship. We heard a challenging message from Rick Gutierrez, an International Ministries global servant, about his work. Todd Godby led a powerful Circle of Prayer on Saturday morning. As always, we had an afternoon full of games, enjoyed singing and sharing at campfire and ate lots of food.

At our annual meeting on Saturday, August 6th, the following leadership was elected to the 2023-2024 ABMen of WV Executive Board:

President	Mark Shaffer
Vice President	Jim Mitchell
Immediate Past President	Dan Harbaugh
Treasurer	Erich Reggi
Secretary	David Hoge
WVBC Advisor/Communications	Frank Miller
Pastor/Counselor	Larry Dale
Men's Camp Coordinator	Jim Mitchell
Work Party Coordinator	Evan Frees
Disaster Relief Coordinator	John Vannoy
Assistant Disaster Relief Coordinator	Tom Dale
Prayer Breakfast Coordinator	Frank Miller
Scholarship Program Coordinator	Dan Harbaugh
Members at Large	Mike Akers, Keith Winnings, Robert Haught, Kenny Williams

For more information on any of our activities, visit our web page at the West Virginia Baptist Convention site (wvbc.org) under Auxiliary Ministries. We covet your prayers as we approach the 100th year of ministry for the ABMen of WV.

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Mr. Todd McClure, Minister of Missions and Finance

The Stewardship Commission exists to promote fundraising for Convention ministries, to provide funding for new church development and to provide mission education and opportunities for our family of churches. Below is a breakdown of our work in each of those areas:

Promote fundraising for Convention ministries: It has been another tremendous year in supporting our Convention ministries. Below are some of the highlights.

- **Mountain State Mission Offering:** Statewide support to the Mountain State Mission Offering continues to grow, as churches and individuals grasp the importance of this offering. Through this offering, 100% of your support stays within the WVBC to support our ministries.
- **World Mission Offering:** Not only did Sarah McCloy become fully funded in only 12 months (that's a record!), but several churches also added other new missionaries or increased their giving to current missionaries. We continue to be the leading denominational region in mission support.
- **Parchment Valley Conference Center:** Thanks to the generosity of dozens of churches and individuals, we were able to raise nearly \$250,000 to build the Whippoorwill Covered Campfire at Parchment Valley.

Provide funding for new church development: There were not any fundraising initiatives this year. However, we do manage an investment account for this program and look forward to coming alongside the Outreach Commission as new churches are planted.

Provide mission education and opportunities: It was exciting to see so many of our churches go on foreign mission trips this past year. The Stewardship Commission was able to assist in the following ways:

- **Camp Global:** This year marked our 15th Camp Global, our annual family missions camp at Camp Cowen. The theme was "How to Better Care for Our Missionaries." Several missionaries were present, including David and Joyce Reed, who serve with International Ministries in the role of Global Coordinators for Spiritual Care (essentially counselors for our missionaries).
- **Mission Deputation:** Nearly a hundred churches had the opportunity to host a missionary in their church this year. Sarah McCloy (Japan) spoke at many prior to her departure in March. Keith and Deborah Myers (Mexico) visited around 60 churches during their home assignment. Eric and Yuree Lembke (Thailand), Rick and Anita Gutierrez (South Africa), David and Joyce Reed (IM Global Coordinators), Jeni Pedzinski (IM Director of Mission Mobilization) and Tim and Stacy Reese (Dominican Republic) were also able to visit several.

- **Missionary Internship Program:** We had the privilege of commissioning our first missionary intern since before the pandemic. Katelyn Dorsey (Crab Orchard Baptist Church) served for 5 1/2 weeks in Mexico alongside Keith and Deborah Myers.
- **Mission Trip Leader Training:** After approving a new Short-Term Mission Trip Leader Training last year, we were able to offer two separate trainings—one via Zoom in December and the other in-person at our Annual Training Event. In total, 24 individuals completed the training.
- **Paul Fulks Scholarship:** Thanks to a scholarship fund established many years ago by former WVBC staff member, Paul Fulks, we were able to award a total of \$5,800 in scholarships to individuals going on their first international mission trip this past year.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mr. Todd McClure, Minister of Missions and Finance

It is always a pleasure to serve you. Below is a recap of the past year in my three focus areas.

Missions:

Sarah McCloy was commissioned in March to serve in Japan. She is now in the middle of language training.

Keith and Deborah Myers completed their home assignment and returned to Mexico in late April. I was able to lead one of the three teams from West Virginia that visited them this summer. A fourth team (led by Nancy Adkins) is scheduled to visit them next summer.

After spending nearly three months in West Virginia, Eric and Yuree Lembke were commissioned to Thailand, where they are now in language training.

J.D. and Rhonda Reed are transitioning from Bolivia back to West Virginia. However, they are continuing to serve with International Ministries. J.D. will continue to oversee the Masters in Theological Studies in Latino/a Ministries Program through Palmer Seminary requiring him to frequently travel, and Rhonda will be continuing to assist the House of Hope in an administrative capacity, while also moving into a global coordinator role with IM to help our missionaries address their physical and mental health.

Present at Camp Global were David and Joyce Reed (IM Global Coordinators for Spiritual Care), Rick and Anita Gutierrez (South Africa), Tim and Stacy Reese (Dominican Republic), Jeni Pedzinski (IM Director of Mission Mobilization) and Reid Trulson (retired IM Executive Director).

In addition to our full-time missionaries, I also had the privilege of working with our WVBC Missionary Intern, Katelyn Dorsey, who spent 5 ½ weeks in Mexico this summer. I also had the privilege of working alongside numerous short-term mission teams from our churches who served overseas this past year.

Finance:

I am thankful for your ongoing support of the ministries of the WVBC. As of the time of this writing, I am happy to report that all of our WVBC ministries are financially in the positive for the fourth year in a row.

We continue to benefit from legacy gifts. Over the next few years, this is something I would highly encourage churches to start promoting and educating their congregation on. Over the last couple of years, we developed some resources to help churches in this area.

Communication:

We continue to make huge strides in improving our communication. Broadly, that involves email, social media, websites, phone applications, newsletters, mailings and more. We have made upgrades to many of those systems, so hopefully you experience that. If there is any form of communication we can improve for you, please let me know!

Appendix A

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, October 7, 2022**

Present: President Cari Pauley, 1st Vice President Don Biram, 2nd Vice President Erich Reggi, Treasurer Todd McClure, Secretary David Hoge, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Discipleship Commission Chair Sandy Foster Currey, Leadership Commission Chair Darrell Mayfield, Outreach Commission Chair Phil Wayman, Stewardship Commission Chair Marijane Kiley, ABWM President Libby Young, ABMen President Dan Harbaugh, Ministers' Council Chair Anthony Pratt, At Large Member Yvette Shafer.

Absent: Past President Ryan Stoner, At Large Member Dan Londeree.

Cari Pauley called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. She led the group in a time of devotion about losing loved ones, but the hope that is found in Revelation 21. Anthony Pratt led the group in a time of prayer.

Sandy Foster Currey moved to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion was seconded by Yvette Shafer and passed unanimously.

Erich Reggi offered a motion to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2022 Executive Committee meeting that was seconded by Don Biram. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson provided an update on Convention Staffing. Steve and Missy McCartney are in the process of moving. Steve has qualified for disability assistance from the government. Interviews for the final two candidates for the Maintenance Director at Cowen have been scheduled for October 22nd. Evan Arkell has returned from his leave. Jim Anderson is retiring effective December 31, 2022 as the Southeast Area Minister.

The committee went into Executive Session.

Upon completion of the Executive Session, Marijane Kiley offered a motion that the Convention hire Dana Gatewood as the new Southeast Area Minister. Don Biram seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson continued his report. The staff adjustments and office changes are working well. The WVBC has adjusted the questions which we ask prospective employees and is retaining ministry profiles after a candidate obtains a new job and/or a position is filled. We have provided additional clarity in job descriptions and are reviewing job responsibilities with employees annually. We have also established clearer guidelines for working with youth.

The committee returned to Executive Session. Upon completion of the Executive Session, the committee took a short break.

Todd McClure reviewed the current financial statements. The financials for September closed today. We continue to see a slow decline in the United Mission giving. Disaster relief giving for several different events has driven up the One Great Hour of Sharing total. The Mountain State Mission Offering is down, but it has been a slow drop and small reductions from various churches, rather than churches or individuals having completely stopped giving. The Convention's investments have seen a decline, but it has not been as significant as the general market decline. Overall, God continues to provide and total giving is up. As of August 31st, the true bottom line for the WVBC is \$1,220 in the black; Parchment Valley is \$5,865 in the black; Camp Cowen is \$67,499 in the black; and Baptist Campus Ministries is \$2,473 in the black. A motion was offered by Darrell Mayfield to authorize overspending of the budget to provide salary to Jim Anderson and Dana Gatewood concurrently in December 2022. The motion was seconded by Anthony Pratt and passed unanimously.

Todd reported that Parchment Valley has received a bequest to address deferred maintenance and technology issues at the facility.

Todd also reported that the 2021 audit is finished and that the auditors have rendered a clear opinion with no findings. The new audit firm is working well and the modified procedures have helped to reduce cost.

Todd provided a missions update. Juan Aragon resigned effective July 31st. Work continues to clear up and redirect the funding sent to the Aragon's. Keith and Debbie Myers are still on home assignment. They are at 91% funding and need about \$1,500 more per month in recurring giving to be fully funded. Keith and Debbie have supported Sarah McCloy's efforts to raise support. She is currently at 74% funded. Once Sarah achieves 80% funding, we can start planning a commissioning service. She hopes to be able to leave for Japan in March 2023 to start language school which she will be in for a year. JD Reed is recovering from Dengue Fever and COVID. JD was back in West Virginia working on raising funds for the MTS program to train ministers. Rhonda is transitioning out of the House of Hope in Cochabamba into counseling work in La Paz.

Planning for the Annual Meeting in Summersville is wrapping up. The event will be focused around

“communities”. Michael Beck is the keynote speaker. Summersville is working on planning pre and post convention ministry opportunities.

Mike Sisson reported the Association Meetings have been very positive. Lots of evidence that we are doing together what we cannot do alone. We should not be discouraged about our individual circumstances as we all offer important contributions to God’s work.

Erich Reggi reported that the Nominating Committee still has some positions to fill and asked everyone to share names of prospective volunteers.

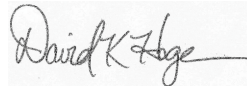
Future meeting dates of the Executive Committee and other Convention meetings and events were reviewed.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Cari Pauley, President
West Virginia Baptist Convention



David Hoge, Secretary
West Virginia Baptist Convention

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, October 8, 2022

The Executive Board gathered in the Santrock Building for worship and singing at 9:00 am.

Commission meetings were convened at 9:30 am and met till approximately 11:30 am.

WVBC President Cari Pauley called the Executive Board meeting to order at 11:57 am with 47 board members, WVBC staff and visitors present. The President opened the meeting with a devotional thought from Galatians, while reflecting on her year of service as President.

Zola Miller moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Erich Reggi and passed unanimously.

Anthony Pratt offered a motion to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2022 Executive Board meeting that was seconded by Koneda Devrick. No changes or additions were noted and the motion passed unanimously.

Todd McClure provided an overview of the financial statements. He noted that all ministries were in the positive and offered thanks to God and everyone for their faithful support. Cowen is in the positive because we have not been paying a maintenance director. At Parchment Valley, the surplus is partially due to contributions for the Covered Campfire, which is still in progress and looking for seating sponsors. The Convention's investments have not been performing great, but they will come back.

Mike Sisson was not feeling well, so Todd McClure gave the Executive Minister Report. The Convention is wrapping up the Association Meetings which have been very positive. Mike Sisson has attended 19 of the meetings. Our churches have been responding very positively to the recent disasters with funding, supplies and volunteer labor. Seven tractor trailer loads of goods have been sent to Kentucky or flood locations in West Virginia. Lots of great things happening with missions. We are grateful that Evan Arkell is back with us. Jim Anderson is retiring on December 31st. Dana Gatewood has been approved as the new Southeast Area Minister.

Cari Pauley reported that the Nominating Committee is still looking for individuals to fill positions and requested that anyone interested to contact Erich Reggi, the Nominating Committee Chair.

Todd McClure shared information on the Annual Meeting that will be held in Summersville on October 20th and 21st. Michael Beck will be the keynote speaker. He and his wife have helped start several micro-churches. We are trying to put our conversations into practice.

Commission Chair Sandy Foster Currey presented the Discipleship Commission report:

- ✚ Intentional Grandparenting Workshops had 41 attendees from 19 churches
- ✚ Annual Meeting workshops will include *Walk with Me* and *Healing and Helping*
- ✚ The 2023 emphasis will be Mental Wellness to include workshops at the Annual Training Event and possibly a mental wellness conference
- ✚ In 2022 Camp Cowen has had 1,321 campers, 295 counselors, 368 total adults, 60 salvations, 115 rededications, and 7 called to full time ministry
- ✚ Parchment Valley received a security grant, 69 salvations, 21 baptisms, 2 called to full time service, and Snow Camp!
- ✚ The WV Baptist Historical Society has found an original letter from William Carey in our records
- ✚ Many other exciting events and activities are also being planned or occurring

Commission Chair Darrell Mayfield presented the Leadership Commission report:

- ✚ Palmer Seminary is offering doctoral ministry classes and they are looking for 30 students; they are going to be graduating three more in December
- ✚ Pastors for Pastors held a family picnic, a cruise event in August, and will be having Lee Spitzer as their speaker at the Annual Meeting
- ✚ School of Christian Studies is currently offering classes at four locations, but are looking to increase to eight; they have about 10 students in each class, and are graduating 10 students at the Annual Meeting
- ✚ The new Missions track in the School of Christian Studies will start in November
- ✚ The WV Baptist Education Society has achieved incorporation. They are looking for one person to fill a vacancy on their board.
- ✚ We are still offering mentorships. We had eight participants this year and are looking for more.
- ✚ We are considering offering a marriage course, and another course on church hurt.

Commission Chair Phil Wayman presented the Outreach Commission report:

- ✚ The Outreach Commission has been working on and will soon be rolling out a health check for churches. It will help a church assess where they are, how they are accomplishing God's mission, how they are doing at working ON the church and so forth. They have partnered with Renewed Transformational Ministries in this project.
- ✚ They will be offering a micro-church workshop at the Annual Meeting
- ✚ The American Baptist Men have been heavily focused on Disaster Relief activities. They had a great Men's Camp in August.
- ✚ The American Baptist Women have been working on a lot projects, including a project with wells in Haiti.
- ✚ Baptist Campus Ministry has held their fall conference. They are looking to schedule a mission trip to Mayfield, Kentucky.

Commission Chair Marijane Kiley presented the Stewardship Commission report:

- ✚ Todd provided the Commission a thorough review of our finances which was encouraging. God is blessing us.
- ✚ The Commission received updates on each of our mission partnerships including Russia, India, Cuba and Enduring Love
- ✚ Juan Aragon has resigned from International Ministries as his transition continues
- ✚ Camp Global was held in July. In 2023 it will be the 15th year of Camp Global. We are looking at various changes that could further enhance participation.
- ✚ Missionary internship program is restarting after a break for the pandemic
- ✚ As mentioned, the Mission Track in the School of Christian Studies will be starting in November.

Keith and Debbie Myers thanked the WVBC for the support through their financial gifts, School of Christian Studies, Palmer Theological Seminary and their love and prayers. Keith gave an overview of the last 10 years where they have moved from a Ministry of Presence to a Ministry of Influence, and they are now transitioning to a Ministry of Equipping. They are looking to start Sunday School classes in some of their 35 churches.

Sarah McCloy reported that on August 1st she went full time with International Ministries. She is currently funded at 75% and hopes to leave for Japan in March.

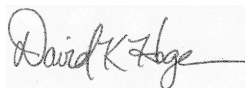
Marijane Kiley thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the representative to the Board of Global Ministries.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 pm following a prayer by Todd McClure.

Respectfully submitted,



Cari Pauley, President
West Virginia Baptist Convention



David Hoge, Secretary
West Virginia Baptist Convention

157th Annual Meeting
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Thursday and Friday, October 20-21, 2022
Summersville Baptist Church, Summersville, WV
Convention Theme: Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ
Theme Scripture: Mark 12:30-31

Session I: Thursday afternoon, 3:00 pm Cari Pauley presiding

Gathering Music by Monty Foster, Barboursville Baptist Church, Barboursville.

President Cari Pauley welcomed delegates and guests to the Annual Meeting and offered an opening prayer.

Dana Gatewood, Pastor of Summersville Baptist Church offered a welcome from the host church.

Monty Foster led the convention in congregational singing.

Cari Pauley called the Convention business meeting to order.

1st Vice President Don Biram presented the Annual Meeting Program. The program was approved unanimously.

Vice President Biram also presented the time, place and annual speaker for the 2023 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at South Parkersburg Baptist Church on October 19-20, 2023. Rev Phil Wayman from Clarksburg Baptist Church will provide the annual sermon. Rev. Corey Brooks from Breckenridge Missionary Baptist Church will be the Alternate Speaker.

2nd Vice President Erich Reggi presented the Nominating Committee Report.

Secretary David Hoge presented the Executive Board Report. The report is available on the WVBC website.

Cari Pauley asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting. No additional items were offered for consideration.

President Pauley recessed the business meeting until Session IV.

Special Music was offered by the Summersville Baptist choir.

Executive Minister Mike Sisson addressed the meeting. Using Acts 15:4 as a scriptural reference, Dr. Sisson thanked the delegates and guests and made sure they knew he loved them. The WVBC has much to celebrate. From 2019 to today, we have gone from exhausting our reserves to restoring and rebuilding them. We have welcomed two new churches in 2022, Mount Jackson Baptist Church and LifeSpring Community Church. Over \$300,000 has been given for disaster relief through our churches in the last year and we sent teams and supplies for incidents in West Virginia and across the country. We have an active Baptist Campus Ministry presence on nine campuses across the state where over 100 nations are represented. The missionaries we support around the world continue to do amazing work, and our newest missionary, Sarah McCloy, has raised 80% of her support needed to head to Japan. We are offering internships to young people from our churches to explore ministry. Lives continue to be changed at Camp Cowen and Parchment Valley. We have offered Grandparenting workshops across the state to help address the needs and bring recognition to immense opportunities for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. And so many other great things are happening in our commissions, auxiliary organizations and churches. We should be and are being intentional in engaging our communities for Christ in so many ways. Urging the convention to follow the model of the Good Samaritan, he offered a challenge to expand our definition of who is our neighbor. What would happen if we expanded our reach and went out to our communities instead of expecting them to come into our church? We are charged to take the church to the world not the reverse.

Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister, offered the closing prayer.

Session II: Thursday evening, 6:45 pm Don Biram presiding

Gathering Music by the Summersville Baptist Praise Team.

1st Vice President Don Biram welcomed everyone and offered an opening prayer.

A video highlighting the work of Baptist Campus Ministry was played.

Keith and Debbie Myers, missionaries in Mexico, greeted delegates and gave an update on their work in Chiapas and across southern Mexico.

Monty Foster led the meeting in some congregational singing.

Kevin Sions, Northern Director for Baptist Campus Ministries, offered a prayer and an offering was collected.

Music was provided by the Summersville Baptist Choir.

Dr. Tim Barry, President, Alderson Broaddus University awarded the Ward W. Hibbs Award to Dana Gatewood from Summersville Baptist Church. The Ward Hibbs award recognizes a West Virginia pastor who has made a contribution to the ministry of town and country churches.

The Alderson Broaddus Chapel Praise Team offered some musical selections.

Monty Foster led the meeting in robust congregational singing.

Jonathan Turner, pastor of Shuck Memorial Baptist Church in Lewisburg, offered the Annual Sermon focusing on what it really means to love our neighbor. Using Mark 12:30-31, he emphasized that we need to use not only our hearts to love God, but also our minds. To love our neighbors, God must be our all-consuming passion. God doesn't want our burnt offering, but our love and that we show that love through our action.

A communion service was led by Mike Sisson.

The closing prayer was offered by Rob Ely, Director of Student Ministries and Young Leader Development.

Session III: Friday morning, 9:30 am Erich Reggi presiding

Gathering music was offered by Brian Angus.

Erich Reggi offered a welcome and the opening prayer.

A video on the Brother's Keeper event in Jackson County was shown.

Sarah McCloy offered an update on her pending assignment in Japan outlining the work and partners she will engage.

Dr. Kimberlee Johnson offered a welcome from Eastern University.

David Hulme recognized new pastors and retiring pastors from across the WVBC.

Mark McCloy, Dr. Allen Copenhaver and Dr. Mary Beth McCloy led the graduation ceremony for the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies. There were 10 graduates from the School of Christian Studies.

Jim Anderson and Mary Jo Slater presented the James Anderson, Sr. Bivocational Pastor Award to Rev. Jerry Cook, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oceana.

Monty Foster led the convention with more congregational singing.

The Pastor's Choir offered a selection of musical numbers.

The morning keynote address was led by Michael Beck who is the Director of Re-Missioning for Fresh Expressions and a Director at United Theological Seminary. Michael talked about how the church of the 21st Century must go out to reach our community, not expect them to come in. Our culture today operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day. We have to move past the notion that all church happens in a traditional format on Sunday morning in our church buildings.

The closing prayer was offered by Frank Miller, Director of Operations at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

Session VI: Friday afternoon, 2:15 pm Cari Pauley presiding

Gathering music was offered by Monty Foster.

Cari Pauley welcomed everyone to the final session and led an opening prayer.

A video highlighting the year at Camp Cowen was presented.

A Global Missions update was given by Mayra Giovanetti, global servant to Colombia.

Monty Foster led the meeting in some congregational singing.

President Cari Pauley called the recessed business meeting back to order.

Erich Reggi again presented the report from the Nominating Committee. In addition to the printed report, Monty Foster has been nominated for a full term on the Baptist Campus Ministry Board. Mike Hopkins will also serve as the Union Association representative to the Executive Board. Cari Pauley asked if there were any additional nominations. No nominations were received from the floor. Koneda Devrick moved the Nominating Committee report be approved as presented. Sam Gasaway second the motion. The report was approved unanimously.

David Hoge again presented the Executive Board Report. Jason Marshall made a motion to approve the Executive Board Report. Darrell Mayfield seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

The Convention officers for 2022-2023 were recognized. Don Biram will serve as President. Erich Reggi will serve as 1st Vice President. Rosalee Copenhaver will serve as 2nd Vice President. David Hoge will serve as Secretary. Todd McClure will serve as Treasurer. David Moutz, Pastor at Oakwood Baptist Church in Charleston led an installation service urging the officers and meeting attendees to Show Mercy.

Monty Foster led the meeting in more congregational singing.

Todd McClure offered a prayer for the offering. The Summersville Baptist Acapella Group shared some music during the offering.

Michael Beck offered the afternoon keynote address. He continued to build on the theme of finding new patterns for believers to share their faith in every day lives. He discussed a variety of creative ways to improve your church's reach.

Mike Sisson offered a Sending Out charge urging everyone to be intentional in their words and actions.

Jill Narraway, Director of Camping and Youth, offered the closing prayer.

**West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, January 6, 2023**

Present: President Don Biram, 1st Vice President Erich Reggi, 2nd Vice President Roselee Copenhaver, Treasurer Todd McClure, Secretary David Hoge, Past President Cari Pauley, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Discipleship Commission Chair Lou Ann Nicholas, Leadership Commission Chair Darrell Mayfield, Outreach Commission Chair Andy Walker, Stewardship Commission Chair Yvette Shafer, ABWM President Mary Davis, ABMen President Mark Shaffer, Ministers' Council Chair Anthony Pratt, At Large Members Karla Carr and Clark Swepston.

Don Biram called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. He led a brief devotion and opened the meeting in prayer.

Anthony Pratt moved to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion was seconded by Yvette Shafer and passed unanimously.

Due to a copying error by the Secretary, there were no Executive Committee meeting minutes to approve. They will be approved at the next meeting. The minutes for the Annual Meeting in Summersville in October were distributed and reviewed. One correction was noted as Evan Arkell is the Southwest, not Southeast Area Minister.

Todd McClure reviewed the Convention financial statements through November 2022. Final financial numbers for 2022 will be available after the books close on January 9th. All ministries are in the positive, partially due to a planned gift by Peg Greenlee. All Convention events are self-sustaining. Todd also reviewed the various reserve accounts of the Convention. The Convention's operating reserve continues to recover after nearly being drained in 2018.

President Biram reviewed the necessity of the Conflict of Interest statements and the signed statements were collected from all committee members.

Mike Sisson provided the Executive Minister's report. He began by reviewing the proposed 2023 WVBC budget. He distributed some notes related to the Operating Budget that provided insight into the thinking and approach used as the document was prepared. A conservative approach – essentially a worst case scenario – was used, particularly related to the revenue portion of the budget. As a result of several changes in the Convention's staffing plan (elimination of Donna Snyder's position, realigning Teresa Miller's duties, transitioning a percent of Rob's time from the Cowen budget to the Convention budget) and the conservative approach, there was a net decrease in the budget of \$9,983.

After some discussion of the Convention's financial position, the length of time since professional staff had received a raise, and the committee's desire to show our appreciation to the staff, David Hoge offered a motion to provide all professional staff – including the Executive Minister – a 3% raise. Erich Reggi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the committee asked the Executive Minister to express our appreciation for their continuing hard work.

Todd McClure reviewed the 2023 budgets for Baptist Campus Ministry, WV Baptist Camp at Cowen, and the WV Baptist Conference Center at Parchment Valley. Each budget had been reviewed by the entity's own board. Darrell Mayfield offered a motion that the Executive Committee approve the WVBC, BCM, Cowen and Parchment Valley budgets as presented including the raise for the professional staff. Anthony Pratt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Don Biram reviewed the Presidential appointments. Anthony Pratt moved the committee approve the appointments. The motion was seconded by Erich Reggi and passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson requested approval to appoint Archie Snedegar as the representative from Calvary Baptist Church in Charleston to the Bowen Trust Board until the church hires a new pastor. Yvette Shafer made a motion to appoint Rev. Snedegar, which was seconded by Karla Carr and passed unanimously.

After a break, Mike Sisson also requested that Josh Smith be appointed as the Association Representative from the Twelve Pole Association to the WVBC Executive Board. Darrell Mayfield made a motion and Anthony Pratt offered a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mike Sisson offered a though overview of the need for the Convention to review and update policies to ensure we have done everything we can to protect ourselves. Specifically, we need to make sure that as an organization we are:

- ✚ Doing careful vetting and hiring of new staff
- ✚ Maintaining our background checks
- ✚ Conducting ongoing awareness training including issues related to harassment and sexual abuse of minors
- ✚ Undertaking consistent supervision of employees, including job descriptions, awareness training, and

- completing and reviewing performance reports
- ✦ Retaining complete records including personnel files (indefinitely), insurance policies (indefinitely for current coverages), training records, and background check reports
- ✦ Maintaining detailed written policies and procedures

Due to national headlines, thousands of child sexual abuse survivors have come forward. Claims can be made up to 36 years after an incident, or up to four years after the date of discovery. Lawsuits can and have been brought against alleged perpetrators, the perpetrator's employer and even volunteers.

In light of the need to maintain up to date policies, some revisions to the WVBC Staff Policy Manual were presented. A motion to approve these updates was made by Yevette Shafer. Andy Walker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

An update was recommended to the Pastoral Placement Profile which the Convention maintains to provide assistance when a Pulpit Committee is considering candidates. The Profile will now include a question about background checks. Moving forward, all applications will include four questions.

- ✦ Have you ever been charged, convicted, pled guilty or no contest to a felony charge?
- ✦ Do you consent to a background check?
- ✦ Have you ever been disciplined or censored for any reason by a church ministry?
- ✦ Do you consent to background inquiries to persons named by you and other persons?

Karla Carr offered a motion to approve the changes to the Pastoral Placement Profile. Cari Pauley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson gave an update on work to revise the WVBC Abuse Prevention Policy. He distributed a handout that provided an overall outline, which is being fleshed out. Clark Swepston offered a motion to approve the framework of the policy, with Erich Reggi offering a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mike also reviewed changes that are being incorporated into the Facility Use Agreement. The updates will provide greater clarity of the responsibility on the user of the facility through a property waiver. This update will primarily apply at Parchment Valley and Cowen.

Finally, Mike Sisson provided a draft of updates to the Document Retention and Destruction Policy to ensure proper record retention. A motion was made by Darrell Mayfield to approve the updates. Motion was seconded by Erich Reggi and approved unanimously.

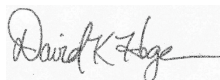
Future meeting dates of the Executive Committee and other Convention meetings and events were reviewed.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Biram, President
West Virginia Baptist Convention



David Hoge, Secretary
West Virginia Baptist Convention

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, January 7, 2023

The Executive Board gathered in the Santrock Building for worship and singing at 9:00 am.

Commission meetings were convened at 9:30 am and met till approximately 11:30 am.

WVBC President Don Biram called the Executive Board meeting to order at 11:42 am with 43 board members, WVBC staff and visitors present. The President opened the meeting with a devotional thought from Ephesians.

Cari Pauley moved to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion was seconded by Zola Miller and passed unanimously.

Darrell Mayfield offered a motion to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2022 Executive Board meeting that was seconded by Don Nestor. No changes or additions were noted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Todd McClure provided an overview of the financial statements. He noted that all ministries were in the positive, in part due to a planned gift from Peg Greenlee. Events that the Convention has held have been self-sustaining. Final numbers for 2023 will be available once the books close in mid-January. Todd thanked everyone for their faithful support.

Mike Sisson gave the Executive Minister Report. After assuring everyone that he loved us, he shared how God is working miracles in so many ways that it is hard not to appreciate. Mike gave an overview of the 2023 WVBC and auxiliary budgets. He noted that the Executive Committee had discussed and approved a 3% raise for professional staff, which is included in the budgets. Todd McClure provided additional context for the budgets, noting that the revenue is forecasted conservatively meaning it is a worst case scenario. As calculated, the budget would require us to use \$71,705 from our reserves, which is a drop from \$105,000 in the 2022 budget.

Commission Chair Lou Ann Nicholas presented the Discipleship Commission report:

- ✦ Annual Training Event will be held on February 5th at Parchment Valley. Workshops will include reaching the community through After School Programs; Healing and Helping; and Walk with Me by Rob Ely and Kevin Sions.
- ✦ The 2023 emphasis will be Mental Wellness which will include a conference on March 25th at Gassaway Baptist. The theme of the conference will be Engaging Mental Health with Hope. The keynote speaker will be Michelle Nietart. The goal of the conference is for everyone to leave with resources to use in their churches. The commission also is planning follow-up activities.
- ✦ Senior High Convention will be February 24 – 26 at South Parkersburg Baptist.
- ✦ Camp Cowen is celebrating the Adopt-a-Cabin program where twelve cabins received new windows and seven had the electrical service upgraded. They are looking for counselors and staff for this year's camping season.
- ✦ Parchment Valley is doing preventive maintenance and gearing up for an exciting year with several scheduled conferences. Construction of the Whippoorwill Covered Campfire is progressing with help from donors and local businesses.
- ✦ The WV Baptist Historical Society has digitized more documents and gotten the climate-controlled room fixed. They are working on the museum portion of the room.
- ✦ Children's Spring Rally will be held on March 4, 2023 at Parchment Valley with a theme of "Happy Campers."

Commission Chair Darrell Mayfield presented the Leadership Commission report:

- ✦ Palmer Seminary has seven new students starting in the spring in their MDiv program. They have 31 students registered for spring classes, including five in the DMin program. They anticipate three graduates in the spring semester.
- ✦ Pastors4Pastors held four events in 2022 and plans to continue the activities in 2023.
- ✦ School of Christian Studies has added four additional course locations to help boost enrollment.
- ✦ The WV Baptist Education Society is currently supporting between 30 and 40 students including five new students for the spring semester. Digital learning courses are available at any time.
- ✦ We are still offering mentorships. There are 11 currently being mentored with a capacity of 20.
- ✦ Currently have three interns and are looking for more.
- ✦ Mark McCloy has received all of the grants for which he has applied.

Commission Chair Andy Walker presented the Outreach Commission report:

- ✚ The Outreach Commission will support two sessions at the Annual Training Event on February 4 including a session on the 21st Century Christian by Michael Beck and a session on Hope for the Rural Church
- ✚ The commission has been working with Renew Transformational Ministries to a health check for churches, including a focus on re-missioning, and it is ready to go. This will be an in-depth professional assessment. It will help a church assess where they are, how they are accomplishing God's mission, how they are doing at working ON the church and so forth.
- ✚ The micro-church and church planting efforts continue.
- ✚ Mark McCoy has been working with a church in Chester, WV that is not being served well by their own denominational body.
- ✚ The American Baptist Men have been heavily focused on Disaster Relief activities. The annual Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for February 25th.
- ✚ The American Baptist Women have been planning for their Spiritual Growth Retreat and have begun planning for Women's Day at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- ✚ The Hispanic Ministries in Moorefield is going strong. The ministry in Ravenswood is struggling, and they are currently looking for a pastor. The Cuba partnership is going well with a trip tentatively planned for this spring.
- ✚ Baptist Campus Ministry is doing well on all campuses. Many students are involved in the Walk with Me book study. BCM will be taking a mission trip to Kentucky March 10-17. Also planning for Beach Week in May. Currently 90 of our 360 churches contribute to the BCM budget.

Commission Chair Yevette Shafer presented the Stewardship Commission report:

- ✚ Todd provided the Commission a thorough review of our finances, which were all positive.
- ✚ The trustees reported on work happening at Parchment Valley and Camp Cowen.
- ✚ The Commission received updates on each of our mission partnerships including Russia, India, Cuba, and Enduring Love.
- ✚ We are relaunching the support for short term mission trips, and there will be a short term mission trip training on February 4th at the Annual Training Event.
- ✚ Camp Global is scheduled for August 11-13, 2023.
- ✚ Missionary internship program is restarting after a break for the pandemic.
- ✚ Mountain State Mission Offering themes and materials were discussed.

Keith and Debbie Myers talked about their activity while they have been on home assignment. They have had opportunity to meet with many people around the state and across the country.

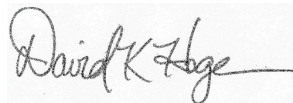
Sarah McCloy reported that her Commissioning Service will be on March 5th at 4:30 pm in Hill Hall at Parchment Valley. She is currently at 91% funding.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 pm following a prayer by Don Biram.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Biram, President
West Virginia Baptist Convention



David Hoge, Secretary
West Virginia Baptist Convention

**West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, May 5, 2023**

Present: President Don Biram, 1st Vice President Erich Reggi, 2nd Vice President Roselee Copenhaver, Treasurer Todd McClure, Secretary David Hoge, Past President Cari Pauley, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Discipleship Commission Chair Lou Ann Nicholas, Leadership Commission Chair Darrell Mayfield, Outreach Commission Chair Andy Walker, Stewardship Commission Chair Yevette Shafer, ABWM President Mary Davis, ABMen President Mark Shaffer, Ministers' Council Chair Anthony Pratt, At Large Members Karla Carr and Clark Swepston

Don Biram called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm. Anthony Pratt led a brief devotion on Matthew 25. Life is full of distractions and we all have a tendency to be as Peter was in this passage. Anthony led the group in prayer.

The minutes from the January 6 Executive Committee were distributed. Clark Swepston moved the minutes were approved as presented. Erich Reggi seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Todd McClure reported on the final financials for the 2022 fiscal year. Though the Convention investments did not do as well as recent years, we still had a very positive year. Revenues exceeded expenses for all programs. BCM ended the year with a surplus of \$14,632. The surplus for Parchment Valley was \$12,947. Cowen's surplus was \$55,818. The Convention budget ended the year \$88,375 in the black which did not include any borrowing from reserves. The Lord continues to bless us.

Todd also reviewed the financial statements through March 2023. Through March, BCM was +\$10,123, Cowen was -\$35,934, Parchment Valley was +\$29,376 and the Convention was +\$81,734. The deficit for Cowen is normal for this time of year due to the normal pattern of when summers camp registrations are paid. The expenses in renovating the house at Cowen are being paid from the Irene Brand money which was received in 2022. Payment on some grants received from the Bowen Trust were front loaded to allow the trust to comply with provisions of the trust and government regulations. All offerings show an increase except for One Great Hour of Sharing. Todd indicated we are still reviewing the change in investment firms. Investments have been moved into a Balanced Fund.

Todd McClure gave an update on missions. Since the last Executive Committee meeting, Sarah McCloy has been commissioned. She is in language school with over 200 students of which there are two Americans. Keith and Debbie Myers have gotten back Mexico. They will be hosting numerous mission teams this summer, including a Mission Intern Katelyn Dorsey from WVU Tech/Crab Orchard Baptist Church. JD and Rhonda Reed will be traveling back to West Virginia soon. Nathan will be starting college at WVU this fall. JD will be having cochlear implants this fall. The Lembke's have been in West Virginia since January. They have met their fundraising goal. Their commissioning will be May 21st in Kansas. Camp Global will be held the second weekend of August. The focus of Camp Global will be on how we can better care for our missionaries. David and Joyce Reed, Global Spiritual Care Coordinators, will be the main speakers. Rick and Anita Gutierrez will also be in attendance. Todd also mentioned the violence that has been occurring in India, Myanmar and Sudan which is causing issues for our missionaries and partners.

Mike Sisson provided the Executive Minister's report. Todd Godby has been hired as the Cowen Maintenance Director. We have a new minister along with a maintenance director. Things are going well. Jill will be moving into the caretaker's house after the renovations are mostly completed. An appreciation lunch was held at the office for the administrative staff on Administrative Services Day, and gift cards were provided to the administrative staff. Dana Gatewood is headed back to Summersville Baptist Church. He felt the calling to return to local ministry. June 1st will be his last day. He will help through the association meetings. Mike is talking to two prospects for the Southeast Area Minister. The Convention staff has studied and completed the assessment in Six Geniuses. Cowen is coming along in catching up with projects that needed attention and Parchment Valley has lots of work going on, including the completion of the Covered Camp Fire. The focus on mental health is exploding. Much evidence of the need for these activities which will continue. There are still challenges in securing sufficient summer staff for Cowen. Jill is working on several modified opportunities.

The Convention has partnered with Transformational Strategies for church health check-ups. So far, eight or nine check-ups have been initiated and/or completed.

Todd has been working extensively on communications materials and strategies, and both National and International Ministries have been duplicating his efforts. There is clear recognition that WVBC is getting it right.

Planning for the 2023 Annual Meeting, which will be held at South Parkersburg Baptist Church, continues. The focus will be on 'engaging'. We will be looking extensively at the concept and approach of dinner church.

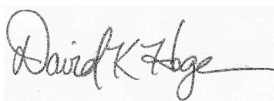
Future meeting dates of the Executive Committee and other Convention meetings and events were reviewed.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Biram", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Biram, President
West Virginia Baptist Convention

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K Hoge", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Hoge, Secretary
West Virginia Baptist Convention

**West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, May 6, 2023**

The Executive Board gathered in the Santrock Building for worship and singing at 9:00 am.

Commission meetings were convened at 9:30 am and met till approximately 11:30 am.

WVBC President Don Biram called the Executive Board meeting to order at 11:43 am with 38 board members, WVBC staff and visitors present. Mike Hopkins offered a devotion on "The greatest thought to ever occupy my mind...." He asked what that would be for each of us. A theological concept, our family or relationships, our meaning and purpose in life? Ultimately, each of us must give an accounting to God. Personal accountability is outlined in Luke 6:40 and relational accountability is noted in John 13:15. He concluded by saying that for each of us, the greatest thought should be, "Am I obeying Christ and am I treating others as God treated me?"

Don Nestor moved to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion was seconded by Zola Miller and passed unanimously.

Todd McClure provided an overview of the financial statements for 2022. Though the Convention investments did not do as well as in recent years, we still had a very positive year. Revenues exceeded expenses for all programs. BCM ended the year with a surplus of \$14,632. The surplus for Parchment Valley was \$12,947. Cowen's surplus was \$55,818. The Convention budget ended the year \$88,375 in the black which did not include any borrowing from reserves. For 2023, BCM was +\$10,123, Cowen was -\$35,934, Parchment Valley was +\$29,376, and the Convention was +\$81,734 through March. The deficit for Cowen is normal for this time of year due to the normal pattern of when summer camp registrations are paid. The expenses in renovating the house at Cowen are being paid from the Irene Brand money which was received in 2022. Payment on some grants received from the Bowen Trust were front loaded to allow the trust to comply with provisions of the trust and government regulations. All offerings show an increase except for One Great Hour of Sharing. Todd thanked everyone for their faithful support. The 2022 Audit is completed, and the organization received a clean audit report.

Mike Sisson gave the Executive Minister Report. After assuring everyone that he loved us, he shared how God continues to bless us. The Mountain State Mission Offering is extremely important in the overall wellbeing of the WVBC. The Mental Health conference was phenomenal and just a beginning. Opening back up after the pandemic is presenting lots of opportunities for renewal. People want a closer walk with Christ and a meaningful Godly relationship with others. Mike reported that Dana Gatewood has returned to Summersville and will still be a great support to the Convention. A search for a new Southeast Area Minister will begin. Mike ended by showing the new video promoting the Mountain State Mission Offering.

President Biram noted we had skipped approving the minutes so he requested a motion for approval. Dave Workman offered a motion to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2023 Executive Board meeting that was seconded by Don Nestor. No changes or additions were noted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commission Chair Lou Ann Nicholas presented the Discipleship Commission report:

- ✚ The Mental Health conference was a great success and has received great feedback that the commission discussed.
- ✚ A session on Youth Mental Health will be held on August 26th at Emmanuel Baptist in Charleston.
- ✚ Koreen is still doing safety and security talks.
- ✚ The Historical Society is still working on the laborious task of organizing the archives.
- ✚ The Golden'eers conference will be held in September.
- ✚ The Children's Spring Rally held in March 4, 2023 was a success even with a power outage at Parchment Valley, and planning for the fall rally is underway.

Joel Harpold presented the Leadership Commission report:

- ✚ Allen Copenhaver reported that Palmer Seminary has 31 students, including seven new ones. They anticipate four Masters and one Doctoral graduates this semester.
- ✚ Pastorsr4Pastors will have their summer picnic on Saturday June 10th and a dinner cruise on August 18th in Marietta.
- ✚ The Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies is still working to bounce back from the pandemic. They have seven in-person locations and about 30 students. Two new digital classes are starting.
- ✚ The Committee on Ministerial Standing has approved two candidates for ordination.
- ✚ We are still offering mentorships. There are 12 currently being mentored with a capacity of 20.
- ✚ Currently have 10 confirmed interns and there are five more interested churches.
- ✚ The Bible conference had 70 attendees.

Commission Chair Andy Walker presented the Outreach Commission report:

- ✚ Partnering with Renew Transformational Ministries, the commission is working on conducting church health check-ups. Twelve churches have participated in the program so far.
- ✚ Several micro-church efforts are underway and efforts are underway to start a dinner church.
- ✚ The American Baptist Men held the Prayer Breakfasts across the state in February and work parties at Parchment Valley and Cowen in April. They have provided some funding to BCM for a disaster relief trip at spring break. They will be awarding four scholarships through their scholarship program.
- ✚ The American Baptist Women have been planning for their Spiritual Growth Retreat and have begun planning for Women's Day at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- ✚ The Hispanic Ministries in Moorefield is going well with two services each week. FBC, Mannington is taking a trip to Mexico this summer.
- ✚ Baptist Campus Ministry is doing well on all campuses. The mission trip to Jenkins, Kentucky in March was a success. The annual Beach Week trip will be later in May. Currently 90 of our 356 churches contribute to the BCM budget.

Commission Chair Yevette Shafer presented the Stewardship Commission report:

- ✚ Todd provided the Commission a thorough review of our finances which were all positive.
- ✚ The trustees reported on work happening at Parchment Valley and Camp Cowen.
- ✚ The Commission received updates on each of our mission partnerships including Russia, India, Cuba, and Enduring Love
- ✚ Short term mission trip training was held in February at the Annual Training Event.
- ✚ Camp Global is scheduled for August 11-13, 2023 with the topic centered on how we can take better care of our missionaries.
- ✚ Mountain State Mission Offering materials were distributed and additional opportunities to share information were discussed.

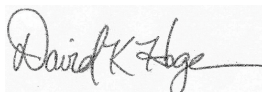
Future meeting dates were reviewed.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 pm following a prayer by Don Biram.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Biram, President
West Virginia Baptist Convention



David Hoge, Secretary
West Virginia Baptist Convention

**West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

Present In-Person: President Don Biram, 2nd Vice President Roselee Copenhaver, Treasurer Todd McClure, Secretary David Hoge, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Darrell Mayfield, Yvette Shafer, Mark Shaffer, Clark Swepton.

Present Online: 1st Vice President Erich Reggi, Past President Cari Pauley, Andy Walker, Mary Davis and Karla Carr.

Don Biram called the special meeting to order at 6:30 pm and opened the meeting with prayer

Mike Sisson outlined the recent history where Jim Anderson had retired as Southeast Area Minister and Dana Gatewood had been hired into the position. After a few months, Dana felt called back to local ministry. In such vacancies, the Executive Committee acts as the Convention's Personnel Committee. Mike has considered several individuals and offered Jon Villers for the committee's consideration.

Prior to interviewing Jon, Mike reviewed Jon's pastoral profile including his involvement in various WVBC churches and with Pastors4Pastors. Mike has checked with the references Jon has provided and no issues have arisen in the reference checks or background check.

Mike also outlined his conversation with Koreen, Jon's wife and current WVBC staff member. She is supportive of Jon's interest in the position and neither Mike nor Koreen foresees any issues.

Jon has been working on young leader development. Todd McClure described the quality of the work that Jon has done through BCM at Alderson Broaddus University.

The Convention equipment and assets will transfer from Dana to the new Area Minister.

The Committee invited Jon into the meeting. Over about 35 minutes, the committee members asked Jon various questions to which Jon responded.

Upon all committee members having had the opportunity to ask questions, the committee requested Jon step out of the room.

Darrell Mayfield made a motion to hire Jon Villers as the Southeast Area Minister. Mark Shaffer seconded. The vote was unanimous.

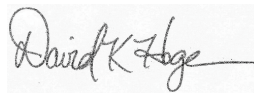
Jon was invited back into the meeting where the outcome of the committee's decision was shared. Jon accepted the position and there were multiple congratulatory statements made.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Biram, President
West Virginia Baptist Convention



David Hoge, Secretary
West Virginia Baptist Convention

Appendix B

2022 Financial Audit