

Report of the  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
to the  
**WEST VIRGINIA  
BAPTIST CONVENTION**  
September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025



**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, 2024 - August 31, 2025**

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**

*Michael B. Sisson*

Ministry wise, it has been a wonderful and impactful year for the WVBC family! This year has seen camps continuing to return to pandemic numbers at Cowen with 96 people accepting Jesus as Savior and 98 new believers coming to Christ at Parchment Valley. Baptist Campus Ministry has experienced a phenomenal year with attendance up on all campuses as well as adding a new campus bring the total number of WV colleges and universities to ten. As the WVBC family we continue to provide opportunities for leaders and pastors to continue their education. Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies currently has 63 active students with nine graduating this year. The partnership with Palmer Theological Seminary – WV Campus has seen a significant increase in the number of students pursuing their Master of Divinity degree.

Amid all these amazing things there appears to be an additional story emerging, perhaps a revival of sorts that might easily go unnoticed. The growing movement of God in the hearts of the younger generations. Stories out of Camp Cowen and Parchment Valley point to campers experiencing a sincere dedication of their commitment to Christ. This year a combined 159 rededications and 34 proclaiming a call to serve Christ in ministry. Brothers' Keeper, where 102 teenagers decided to use their summer break to serve some of the poorest in Jackson County, WV. One adult crew chief reported he looked up and the kids on the crew were leading a resident to Christ. A conversation with BCM directors and associates credits the success of their programs to the students leading and doing the work of campus missionaries seeking to bring other students into the faith community. This year saw nine young adults taking the summer to serve as interns with four working in local churches and five working overseas with missionaries. The Pastoral Mentoring program included 15 young pastors meeting with seasoned pastors as they experience the challenges of leading well in the complex times pastors are ministering. Another encouraging sign was that the baptisms reported by WVBC churches were the highest they had been in five years.

These recent trends seemed to be evidenced through out the United States:

- ✦ Millennials ages 29 to 44 and Gen Z ages 13 to 28 are showing increased spiritual openness compared to previous years with a recent surge in the number of Gen Z's attending church dubbed as "The Silent or Quiet Revival."
- ✦ In 2024 Bible sales are up 22% in the U.S.
- ✦ Research is showing that following decades of declining church attendance in the U.S., attendance seems to have leveled off and is once again showing signs of growth.

Clearly, there appears to be a spiritual awakening that is producing a hunger for the things of God.

However, the year has not been without its challenges. While some have led to positive outcomes such as the calling of Peter Coffey as the new director of Parchment Valley who is growing quickly into his new role! Others such as the resignation of administrative assistant Kayla Starcher to follow her calling to work with "Teach for America" has left behind a void in the important gift she brought to her role with the WVBC.

While I repeat often over the last seven years the idiom "there are no problems, only opportunities," the opportunities are not always easy to identify. For the WVBC the biggest challenge to date began to emerge near the end of 2024 when for the first time in several years the books closed with a \$74,757.00 deficit. We had hoped this was an anomaly but at the time of this writing, July 2025 closed with a \$153,569.00 deficit. Some due to a significant increase in property and liability insurance as well as increases in utilities, etc. Through retirements and resignations staffing has been reduced from 19½ in 2018 to 14 in 2025 with most staff taking on additional responsibilities to maintain the impactful mission and ministries we are doing together as WVBC churches.

Other deficit is due to reduced financial support. Much of which comes from the decrease in the ABC-USA offerings for United Mission and America for Christ, which the WVBC retains 65% and 29% respectively. One positive is that the Mountain State Mission Offering has shown some growth over last year. The challenge is how to increase financial support so we can continue to “Do Christ’s Work Together” with the same level of Kingdom impact we have seen in recent years. We are blessed to have a strong Convention family that pulls together in challenging times.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

***Roselee Copenhaver***

I have been honored to serve as your Convention president during this past year. It has been a blessed and full year of working alongside the Convention staff, various boards and others who have kindly given their time to serve in an Executive Board position. I have greatly enjoyed meeting and connecting with so many people in their paths to serve in some capacity.

Camp Cowen has had an amazing year with the completion and first season of use in the new Sunny Day Activity Building. I can only imagine what beautiful memories that this new facility will bring to so many lives. Camping season was successful with multiple campers and volunteers and has continued to grow over the last few years. Parchment Valley has transitioned under the new Director of Operations, Peter Coffey. They have been fortunate to make some additional upgrades, including carpeting in Hill Hall. Brothers’ Keeper had another successful year as well. Baptist Campus Ministry has continued to expand and new leaders have stepped up. I have greatly enjoyed hearing their stories of growth and seeing what God is doing with these students. AB Men and Women have continued to work diligently. AB Men have worked with disaster relief and helped so many in need this past year. AB Women Ministries are so active in so many aspects and never cease to amaze me with what they accomplish.

Even though this was simply a brief time, I am appreciative of the experience and being asked to be in such a vital role. I am reminded every day that as one, we have limits on what can be accomplished but as a whole, the potential is so great. Also, God can accomplish things through us, whether we feel worthy or not. Thank you for your prayers and support throughout this past year and allowing me to serve. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for each of you during the next year. I will always have a special place in my heart for the West Virginia Baptist Convention. God is so good!

## **DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION**

***Sandy Foster Curry, Chair ~ Koreen Villers, Staff Liaison***

In 2025, the Discipleship Commission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention continued to support the discipleship ministries of local churches with an emphasis on “Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ.” The Discipleship Commission focused on the following three areas: Discipleship, Mental Health for Pastors and Prayer.

The Commission began the year by offering various workshops at the annual WVBC Training Event:

- ✠ Reducing the Risk – Koreen Villers
- ✠ Grandfamily Support: Group Development – Phil Parvin
- ✠ Walk With Me – Rob Ely
- ✠ Navigating Church Antagonists: Biblical Strategies Resolving Conflict – Jason Robbins
- ✠ The Church and Facebook – Dan Londeree
- ✠ Personal Discipleship Through the Bible – Rob Ely
- ✠ I’m Listening: How to be Present when others are Hurting – Kim Harrison
- ✠ Youth Ministry: Exploring Realities of Ministry to Digital Natives – Jill Narraway
- ✠ Who Are We? Exploring the WVBC – Jon Villers
- ✠ How to Archive – Edna Fugate
- ✠ The Herald of Hope Chapel Car Ministry – Gary and Debbie Higginbotham

The Discipleship Commission planned to sponsor a Grandparenting Seminar on February 22, 2025 at Gassaway Baptist Church. The event was to be a simulcast of a live event happening in Birmingham, Alabama. Due to low registrations, the event was canceled. Those who were registered received a link to watch the event at home at their convenience.

Bill Mowry, the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting, planned a follow-up discipleship training event. The first cohort started in February – May. The staff who participated are Rob Ely, Kevin Sions, Koreen Villers and Jon Villers. Pastors who participated are Anthony Pratt, Lance Linden, Jason Robbins and John Putnam. They studied

the book: Walk With Me: Simple Principles for Everyday Disciplemaking. The second cohort begins in September and will go through March. The goal for this Disciplemaking Intensive is to enhance each leader's disciplemaking ministry through the provision of relevant resources, practical instruction, guided experience through assignments and mutual accountability.

- ✚ How to minister from a biblical picture of a disciple
- ✚ How to meet with someone one-to-one
- ✚ How to lead a discipleship triad
- ✚ How to discern needs and develop a discipleship plan
- ✚ How to practically encourage developing convictions
- ✚ How to effectively use questions
- ✚ How to encourage accountability, application, and give affirmation

This Disciplemaking Intensive will meet once a month for six months (August, September, October, November, January and February - we will not meet in December) for 75 minutes each session. Each session will include practical instruction, discussion of completed assignments, role-playing and mutual reporting/accountability for what people are learning. Accounting is more than "Did you do it?" but "What did you learn by doing?" The Intensive encourages learning through doing with subsequent review and assessment with peers.

A prayer book will travel from church to church in each association. Churches will be able to spend time in prayer with each other as the book is passed. Each church will be asked to write down prayer requests, all those in attendance, transport to the next church and join them for a service.

The mental health focus for 2025 was on pastors. The MMBB is currently offering six sessions of coaching or four sessions of counseling to pastors for free. Pastors do not have to be an MMBB member to use these services. The WVBC task force is trying to create a similar offering within the WVBC. The task force is also considering a training event providing resources for the pastors.

To assist churches with mental health in their churches, Christa Raitz and Russ Philpott created a video Bible Study for churches to use. The study includes discussion questions at the end of each video. This is available at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org).

Reducing the Risk Training: Insurance companies are canceling church policies, raising the deductible limits to unreasonable amounts and/or increasing their premiums sometimes at double, triple or more rates. Some must create child protection policies to keep their insurance or obtain new insurance. Koreen Villers continues to work with several churches to assist with writing their policies.

The Discipleship Commission continued 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'eers/senior adults and the WV Baptist Historical Society.

The Commission looks forward to the emphasis for 2026: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."

## **WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTRIES** *Jillene Narraway, Director of Camping and Youth*

Behind every incredible youth event, deep Bible study and unforgettable moment of fellowship, there's a team of dedicated, prayerful individuals making it all happen.

This is the Youth Ministry Planning Team—the ones who stay up late brainstorming ideas, wake up early, pray over every detail and pour their hearts into creating spaces where young people can grow in their faith. They don't just plan events; they follow the Holy Spirit's leading to prepare weekends of worship and discipleship that draw us closer to God and to each other. Every meeting, every checklist and every late-night text thread is all about one thing: helping others encounter Jesus in a real and powerful way.

The 2024-2025 YMPT was comprised of the following students:

- |                  |                                     |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ✚ Hana Biram     | Emmanuel Baptist Church, Charleston |
| ✚ Karmendi Fratt | Clarksburg Baptist Church           |
| ✚ Haley Johnson  | Summersville Baptist Church         |
| ✚ Faith Marsh    | Summersville Baptist Church         |
| ✚ Zachary Noble  | New Baptist Church                  |
| ✚ Allison O'Dell | Summersville Baptist Church         |
| ✚ Lillian O'Dell | Summersville Baptist Church         |
| ✚ Sophie Seckman | South Parkersburg Baptist Church    |
| ✚ Miriam Sions   | Goshen Baptist Church               |

✠ Parker Wood Summersville Baptist Church

Adult Leaders: Jill Narraway, WVBC; Sara Chambers, Madison Baptist Church; and Caleb Villers, Summersville Baptist Church.

This year's YMPT theme is: Teach Me Your Paths. Psalm 25:4-5: ***Show me Your ways, Lord, teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.*** This theme is speaking powerfully to students about their desire for God to lead and direct their faith journey and daily lives.

Events held this year were:

- ✠ Fall Rally, September 13-14, 2024 at Camp Cowen
- ✠ Senior High Convention, November 8-10, 2024 at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Charleston
- ✠ Junior High Convention, February 21-23, 2025 at Summersville Baptist Church
- ✠ Summer Kick Off, May 9-10, 2025 at Camp Cowen.

### Youth Leader Core

As teens across West Virginia headed back to school in the fall of 2024, WVBC youth ministry was back in full force as well! Youth Leader Core (YLC) entered the 46<sup>th</sup> year of ministry to the West Virginia Baptist Convention. The 2024-2025 YLC team of ten YLC students represented eight WVBC churches. Commissioned from their local churches, YLC students gathered for five separate weekends beginning in August and ending March. Leaders were: Jillene Narraway, Kim Harrison, Kim Conrad and Sara Chambers.

Please remember the 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** *Jillene Narraway, Director of Camping and Youth*

### Camp Cowen

In 2025, it was a blessing to minister to campers of all ages at this "little mission station on the Gauley River." It was a place filled with biblical teaching, fun activities, calls to commitment, laughter, tears of repentance, thousands of guests, hardworking staff and dedicated volunteers. As the community of believers gathered at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen, we introduced people to Jesus and grew as His disciples in a community of faith, making a profound impact on the lives of many.



PRAISE the LORD, a theme drawn from the often heard "Attitude Check" gave campers a biblical foundation to understand *who* God is, *why* we praise Him, *what* it means to praise the LORD, and *how* we praise the many ways we praise the Lord. Bible study and small groups were filled with engagement with God's word, discussions from a biblical worldview, powerful times of prayer and the work God did in our midst was truly astonishing to take in!

### Numbers

✠ Campers	1,613
✠ Counselors/leaders	417
✠ Salvation	96
✠ Rededications	93
✠ Call to ministry	37
✠ Desire to be Baptized	33

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, changes lives and has an eternal impact! Stories abound of the powerful response to the gospel, deep moments of prayer, growth in community and abundant ministry opportunities this summer.

Camp is blessed with a talented and dedicated group of weekly camp directors/director teams who were solidly invested and prepared for their weeks. The number of weekly program volunteers rose this summer as camps move towards staffing cabins with three counselors per cabin and bring new leadership to their teams. Camp directors this year were:

- ✠ Younger Midler Debbie and Greg Boso
- ✠ Junior High 1 Monty Foster
- ✠ Junior 1 Libby Workman

✠ High School 1	Lee Boso
✠ Junior 2	Susan Armstrong and Erin Thorpe
✠ Junior High 2	Matt Ash
✠ High School 2	DaVontaé Edwards
✠ 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

We celebrate Debbie and Greg Boso and Monty Foster's service as directors and leaders for camps for more than 20 years!

For Summer Staff, Cowen had 28 people on payroll throughout the summer and several volunteers. The model allowing staff to serve partial summers continues to prove fruitful while also requiring additional volunteers to serve for several specific sessions each summer. Summersville Baptist Hospitality Helpers continued to bless our guests on registration day! The success of what we do is deeply rooted in our connection with the local church. It is not just a partnership, but a vital part of our mission. It is exciting to see our churches flourish and their desire grow to bring campers and volunteers each week! We are blessed indeed!

On May 17<sup>th</sup> we dedicated the Sunny Day Activity as a testimony to God at work through the faithful people of the WVBC! A project totaling \$1.5 million, this is more than a building. Sunny Day provides safe indoor gathering and recreation space no matter the storms, heat or cold. Additionally, this facility will expand fall, winter and spring programming and community outreach activities. This summer, Sunny Day provided safety during thunderstorms, respite from the heat and additional recreation space for expanded activities. As we move into the "off-season," we prayerfully look forward to how God will open doors to new ministry through this phenomenal facility asset!

**PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER BOARD**  
***Peter Coffey, Director of Operations***

Parchment Valley Conference Center – "Where Lives are Changed"

What a year of ministry at The West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at Parchment Valley! Over 6,000 people have entered the grounds, enjoying summer camps, church retreats, family reunions, conferences, veteran's events, Palmer Seminary classes and Bobby Woods School of Christian Studies classes. We have been hosting community events like Ripley youth soccer, Jackson County youth soccer, Jackson County Hunting Heroes, hunter safety classes, DNR K9 training, WV search and rescue training weekend, Ripley Volunteer Fire Department and DNR dive team trainings, and the list goes on. So far this year, we have hosted 350 events with 230 volunteers helping to make this happen.

Our camp ministry season was incredibly blessed:

✠ First-time commitments	98
✠ Rededications	86
✠ Call to serve in ministry	11
✠ Baptisms	21

We continue working all over Parchment Valley to maintain and improve our conference center. We are in the planning process for lower lodge room remodels, playground addition and maintenance (Thank you American Baptist Womens' Ministries). The Santrock Education Building has received new couches and chairs for the common room. In addition, we have received a generous gift to replace the exterior doors, window blinds and bathroom fans. Window valances have been purchased and installed in the classrooms.

Todd McClure reported the mission house is currently under a six-month rental at the present time. We were able to replace the refrigerator and dishwasher through funds provided by ABW.

We are waiting on materials delivery of the fencing and gates to make this a closed campus for campers. Funding for this was provided by the grant obtained previously.

Our pool needed leak repairs at the beginning of the season, our maintenance director was able to complete the repairs just in time for our summer opening! Due to the continuing leaks and aging equipment, we are seeking bids for repairs and minor upgrades to allow our pool to continue to be a great place of fun and fellowship for years to come.

Brothers' Keeper brought in 102 youth and 40 volunteers to serve Jackson County residents in need. We were able to complete 37 projects for homeowners in need of home repair. Teams came from four states and together work was completed, lives were impacted with the Gospel with three homeowners being led to the Lord by

students! In the evening, we worshiped together and had great teaching by local pastors, where 15 students made first-time commitments and 20 rededicated their hearts to the Lord.

Jackson County Hunting Heroes (JCHH) recently had a community fun day and car show at Parchment Valley, which brought many folks from Jackson County and beyond. The JCHH annual hunt and fellowship is scheduled for December 4-6, 2025. They would welcome pastors to participate and minister to these combat veterans. The communities of Jackson County are raising funds to help pay for this annual event.

In January the WVBC Executive Board called Peter and Sherry Coffey to the ministry at Parchment Valley. Peter will serve as our Director of Operations. Peter shared with the search committee and WVBC Executive Board that his personal mission is always "To know Christ and make Him known" by "building relationships to strengthen outreach and share the Gospel," and we genuinely believe that was lived that out this year.

Peter would love to talk with anyone who has ideas for events or guest groups at Parchment Valley, please reach out with any and all ideas. Parchment Valley Conference Center is meant to be an extension of our WVBC churches ministries, and we need you to help us use this blessed place to continue to be an outreach to our state and beyond with the Gospel.

## **WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

***Sue Hamric, President***

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS**

This year, 2025, has been yet another year of sorting, categorizing and filing of historical materials in our possession and we are by no means finished with this project. However, after four years of weekly work days to organize our collections thus far, we have turned a major corner this summer.

We hired three college students as part-time employees for the purpose of entering our collections into our website via Air Table. That was their main focus although they did serve our needs in many other areas of our ongoing revitalization. With their assistance we were able to finally make significant progress in our organizational efforts for the Historical Society holdings.

Here's how to find us:

**Go to: West Virginia Baptist Historical Society; click on Browse Collections**

**or**

**Go to: WVBC.org; click on Ministries; click on Auxiliaries; continue as above**

There you will find category titles of our collections at the top of the sheet. Select the one you want to browse and check it out. This will tell you that we have historical information available for onsite perusal for those listed entries. Make sure your church and/or pastor is listed.

### **2025 ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON**

Accompanying us for our luncheon this year will be Rev. James Butcher, WV Author and Pastor of Milton Baptist Church. Rev. Butcher will lead a discussion on his newest book *Christian Pharisees*.

### **CHURCH MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES**

The in-person presentation of certificates at last year's annual luncheon proved very successful so we decided to make it a tradition. This year 16 anniversary churches received letters of invitation and will be provided two complimentary lunches each. Those churches without in-person representatives will receive their certificates through other means.

### **COMMEMORATIVE BRICK SIDEWALK TO NEW ENTRY DOOR**

This project ends December 31, 2025. Engraved bricks can be purchased online or through the Historical Society Board. The cost is \$100 and there can be up to three lines of engraving on each brick. Entry forms are located on our display table.

### **MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS**

Retired Global Servant Debbie Mulneix generously donated several boxes of memorabilia from her work and travels. We spent a good deal of time sorting through her materials and are very appreciative of them.

Our Baptist History is the responsibility of all of us. Please make sure your records are on file with the Historical Society. We're always looking for volunteers.

# **LEADERSHIP COMMISSION**

*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. The in-person classes have been expanded to a total of 12 locations, although it varies for each course. New deans have also been successfully recruited for the Northwest (Rev. Cecily Thompson), North-east (Rev. David Hulme), and Southeast (Dr. Greg Swisher) areas, as well as the digital program (Dr. Mary Beth McCloy).

**Palmer Seminary** - Program continues to do well, with this year being the celebration of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**The Annual Training Event** - The leadership training event, hosted by Parchment Valley Conference Center, was a large success with over 220 individuals in attendance and 26 different courses offered. Plans are already underway for the 2026 event, which will take place the first Saturday in February.

**The Annual Bible Conference** was offered at Parchment Valley. Dr. Trent Eastman brought an excellent class on the book of Acts. This well-loved training, open to all who are interested, will take place on the first Saturday in March and this year's topic will be Ezra and Nehemiah, and the return from exile.

## **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 Bill Mowry as our speaker. The topic was on discipleship in a pastoral setting.

An event featuring Dr. Trent Eastman was held prior to the Bible Conference, and there was also a family picnic at Parchment Valley, which featured Rev. John Putnam and his wife speaking on their lifetime of ministry. A couple's event (a boat cruise) was held in August. This year, a pastor's book study was also offered through the year on "Who Moved my Pulpit" by Thom Rainier.

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.**

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 2024 over 62 students have been part of this ministry intern program. We are actively giving the next generation opportunities to serve in our local churches and it has gone well. Many have entered 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 sixth year of this pioneering program for pastors is now nearly complete. Seasoned mentors were paid to have monthly meetings with young pastors through our state seeing it as a "good to great" program. A covenant was signed by both parties to agree to meet and a one-day retreat was planned for Parchment valley. Many thanks to the Bowen Educational 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 based on 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 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. Fifteen pastors were mentored through the program this year.

**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**

*Mark McCloy, Director*

Currently, we have grown the program to include up to twelve site locations for regular classes, although this number varies by course. Modules and elective (one day classes) are offered at both Parchment Valley and at a church in the Eastern part of the state (this location varies). It is hoped that as these sites become more firmly established, we will be able to add even more sites soon.

The work of School of Christian Studies 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 School of Christian Studies 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 credible 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 School of Christian Studies 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**

*Lee Boso, Executive Director*

The West Virginia Baptist Education Society exists to assist church leaders in obtaining the education necessary to be more effective in their service to the church and Kingdom of God. We provide scholarships to students seeking education in undergraduate, graduate, seminary and doctoral degrees. We work to support the work of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. Scholarships are awarded to students connected to WVBC churches and provide incentive to serve a Convention church as we ask for students to serve in a WVBC church or ABC-USA ministry a year for each year the scholarship is received and in the event this does not occur, the scholarship becomes a loan to be repaid at the student's ability.

This year, we have supported 30 students in the WV Palmer Extension, six of which are new applicants, six students pursuing undergraduate, graduate or online programs, with two new applicants and our first doctoral recipient. Our hope is that churches and associations will encourage students who are hearing a call to ministry to

apply for the scholarship. The applications are available online at [www.wvbes.org](http://www.wvbes.org).

This year, 2025, has been a year of transition for the West Virginia Baptist Education Society. We mourn the passing of our Executive Director, Dr. Lawrence Hoptry, and express our greatest gratitude for his 22 years of service to the students and work of this society. In recognition of Dr. Hoptry and to honor his service, the board has created the "Lawrence Hoptry Memorial Doctoral Scholarship."

As part of his legacy, the memorial endowment of the Education Society topped one million dollars during his tenure as Executive Director. With every gift given in memory or honor, the principal is invested, creating an endowment of which the interest is then utilized for scholarships to create a lasting legacy of educated church leaders. The *Karen S. Hoptry Memorial* has been renamed the *Lawrence L. and Karen S. Hoptry Memorial* and we welcome individuals, churches or associations to give to this or in honor another special person.

This year has seen donations that exceed \$1,300. With ongoing contributions, we are able to expand the resources available to students who are seeking to be faithful to their call and the service of West Virginia Baptist Convention churches and ABC-USA ministries. Thank you to the churches, individuals and ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention whose partnerships are connecting students to the resources and opportunities to fulfill the call of God!

### **PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WEST VIRGINIA PROGRAM** *Allen Copenhaver*

No report submitted.

### **PASTORS4PASTORS: WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTERS' COUNCIL** *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.

The Pastor4Pastors has been active in 2024. Our Annual Meeting event in Oct 2024 was a remarkable success at Oak Hill Baptist Church with Bill Mowry sharing about discipleship. Our Pre-Bible Conference event in March 2025 was a time of spiritual growth and growth for the pastor and pastoral staff of churches with Dr. Trent Eastman sharing. There was 20 pastoral staff members in attendance. Our Family Picnic at Parchment Valley was a time of fellowship, worship and togetherness; with Rev. and Mrs. John Putman sharing and Rev. Jason Robbins and Rev. Jon Villers leading us in worship. There was 30 in attendance. The Ministers Wives group helped make this event a great success!

Pastors4Pastors also hosted a couples event aboard the Valley Gem which was an enjoyable evening for pastors and their spouses. There was a mix up on the date with 16 couples gathering for a night of dinner in Marietta, Ohio. Then the following weekend 15 couples took the boat ride on the Valley Gem. It is our desire to provide four events for pastors throughout the year! A family event, a couples' event, a spiritual growth event and our annual meeting event. We also had a our second year of our book club featuring the book *Who Moved My Pulpit* authored by Thomas Raider. We met at the following churches for our book club: Highlawn Baptist in Saint Albans, Calvary Baptist in Oak Hill, First Baptist in Parkersburg and First Baptist in Glenville. We have had 14 pastors take part in this ministry! We are making plans for our 3<sup>rd</sup> book club meeting in 2026.

Make plans to join us at our Pre-Convention event at this year's Annual Meeting. The event will take place on Thursday, October 16th, in Charleston. Mac Lake will be joining us and leading us through several of his books on the topic of leadership.

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 several of our P4P events. We would love to see more of our pastors involved in this ministry offered by Pastors4Pastors

### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL STANDING** *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 approved three requests for regional recognition this year for Chad Raines, Cecily Thompson and Darrel Farley. We have had no issues of clergy misconduct come before this committee in 2025.

It continues to be a great privilege to lead and serve on this Committee. Our Convention is filled with amazing pastors and wonderful lay people, and this Committee is tasked with ensuring that we maintain those high standards as we seek to share the gospel of Jesus across West Virginia and beyond.

## **OUTREACH COMMISSION**

*Evan Arkell, Staff Liaison*

The major focus of the Outreach Commission this past year has remained on the Dinner Church Initiative, and trying to support the churches that are doing some sort of dinner/food ministry. Along with other micro-church and intentional micro-groups, these ministries are all varying types of planting new churches and/or may be adapted as possible church outreach.

Our January meeting mainly focused on hammering down on the details for the upcoming Annual Training Event. We had Dinner Church workshops along with Rob Ely's focus on Bill Mowry's work on triad and quad discipleship studies.

### **Dinner Church**

Dinner Church became the focus for the year at the WVBC Annual Meeting in October 2023. The keynote speaker was Verlon Fosner, the Dinner Church Collective's founder and director from Seattle, Washington. Verlon and his wife Melodee began starting dinner churches in Seattle several years ago. The WVBC staff performed a skit to try to demonstrate what a dinner church may look like to someone who doesn't know. Verlon's main topics focused on different aspects of dinner church.

We currently have several dinner churches that have started that all look very different and are experiencing varying levels of success.

Evan Arkell took classes through the Dinner Church School of Leadership this past year, September – June, but got behind and is currently still catching up with the work because he was on sick leave for a few months and had to miss many live courses. This program is an eighteen-hour graduate level field of study to continue the Outreach Commission's support of training those who are already participating or those that wish to begin a dinner church.

In Evan Arkell's absence at the May meeting, Rob Ely spoke on Bill Mowry's work and focus on smaller triad and quad discipleship groups following the standard reports.

The Outreach Commission continues to strive to be a source of encouragement to our WVBC family churches to find ways to reach the communities they serve when those they serve won't come to our Sunday morning church services. We also strive to find innovative ways to encounter our communities with the love and Good News of Jesus Christ. Let us all work together in achieving our mission of, "Doing Christ's Work Together!"

## **BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRY**

*Rob Ely, Director of Student Ministries*

*Kevin Sions, Northern Director for Baptist Campus Ministry*

Baptist Campus Ministry of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is making a difference on ten different college campuses in West Virginia. The ministry on each campus continues to grow and make a difference in the lives of students.

In the past year several college students have chosen to serve. The variety of service demonstrates the depth of ministry. Students have served from Mexico to Mingo County, WV and from Moorefield, WV to North East India in the Tura Christian Hospital. Living out the mission of *Changing Lives That Change the World* is the priority of students and leaders.

The foundations for service are being built each week in bible studies and personal discipleship. Outreach and service on each campus are training students to serve and return to the local church and employment opportunities to glorify God. Please pray for each of these ministries.

- ✠ **Concord** — Ethan Starcher / Thursdays @ 6:00 PM in the Student Center Room AB
- ✠ **Davis & Elkins** — Brett Rhinehart / Tuesdays @ 9:00 PM in The Chapel
- ✠ **Fairmont** — Karla Carr / Tuesdays @ 8:08 PM in the Newman Center
- ✠ **Glenville** — Lance Linden / Wednesdays @ 7:30 PM at Anchor Bible Church
- ✠ **Marshall** — Rob Ely / Wednesdays @ 9:15 PM at the Campus Christian Center
- ✠ **Potomac State** — Shannon Earle / Mondays @ 7:00 PM in the Life Sciences Building 208
- ✠ **WVU** — Kevin Sions / Thursdays @ 7:07 PM in the Towers Room G58
- ✠ **WVU Tech** — Anthony Pratt & Patrick Huffman / Thursdays @ 7:00 PM in the Life Sciences Building 208
- ✠ **University of Charleston** — Lori James / Mondays @ 5:30 PM on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor Clay Tower Study Lounge
- ✠ **West Virginia State University** — Rev. DaVontae Edwards / Mondays @ 9:30 PM

**Number 10 is an answer to prayer from last years Executive Board report!  
Please continue to pray for our churches and individuals who financially support BCM.**

## **WEIRTON CHRISTIAN CENTER**

### **Kim Weaver, Director**

Since 1917, the Christian Center has been serving Weirton under West Virginia Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Home Mission Society. As a Community Outreach Ministry, we are so thankful to be a WV Hope Ministry and truly appreciate the ongoing support of our WV Baptist Family. Thank you for being our largest area of support which is so 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 to feed our preschoolers, for keeping our staff working and our lights on. We can submit grants for special programs that definitely benefit our kids, but your churches have continued to support us and the work we do, even throughout the roughest times. Thank you for making us a part of your mission budgets, keeping us in your prayers and being faithful with your financial donations. 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 those who 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!

### **Programs**

**The Preschool Program** has a waiting list each year, and our reputation for a strong preschool education is so evident, even with elementary school teachers who come to tutor for summer. God has blessed us with the funding through generous people like you so we can still be free to all children. We even had a new playground to start the school year with – paid for by two foundations.

For the 25-26 school year, we have two three-year-old classes, for 18 total and 20 four-year-olds. They learn about 20 scriptures each year, as well as many words in Spanish and before they graduate can read site words, and some much more! They use ABC Mouse to stretch their skills and this year, we are making our computer lab an IPAD lab to eliminate a learning curve. Our teachers are amazing and one of the most important things they teach is love, caring and how to pray.

During the **Afterschool Program**, we serve approximately 80 children, K-12<sup>th</sup> 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. They receive help with their homework, dinner and a snack, special programs like piano lessons and dance and of course a Bible lesson each day. There is time for computer programs that aid learning for each class. We are in the process of updating our computer lab with the help of the JC Williams Foundation and ABHMS. Our **Journey to Leadership** program is sponsored by PNC Bank this year and it enables us to pay our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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. We currently have 20 students volunteering, working and learning life skills like financial literacy, budgeting, cooking, sewing 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.

Our **Summer Program** theme this year was the Armor of God – with 86 children. With the help of Weirton Kiwanis, we were able to have four elementary school teachers come and work with our children for our reading program. All our children were tested and every day there were children who worked one-on-one with a teacher for the seven-week program. We are praying that made the difference needed for many of them, as most were far

below the reading levels they should be in. Our reading contest encouraged kids to read books daily and most books or chapters read were rewarded in each class. Everyone went to our library for books and received several books to take home, thanks to a huge donation of leveled readers from Weirton Elementary School. Hancock County Schools sent their Story Book Bus to our center, where they also received a book a week. We partnered with WVU Extension for STEM activities, and we had a recreation director and crafts on a regular basis. Our goal each summer is to prevent summer learning loss. And of course we provide free lunch, snacks and lots of fun.

**Summer Camp:** 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. Since the beginning of the year, we covered 88 registrations for camp events. We also have a four-day WCC camp for all our kids to go at once and we get to spend 24-hour days with them and share Jesus. This year, five of them gave their lives to the Lord and they were baptized before we left. Since our previous funder has continued to reduce contributions for camp, we started a Camp Campaign to help us to continue what we have been doing since 2008. Thank you to all the churches and individuals that contributed to our Camp fund or sponsored a child for \$250 for a week of camp. Thank you for your prayers – always in these situations! When they go it is always a life-changing week. Although we are too far from Camp Cowen, who also helps change lives every summer, our camp is very similar and only 45 minutes away.

**Transportation:** We are blessed to have four 15-passenger vans and three 8-passenger vans since transportation it is so crucial to our program. We are transporting 14 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. With our vans getting older, the repairs have really increased this year– with large issues on a regular basis. We do have some special funding to help with gas and insurance, but this area is crucial and always in need.

**Feeding Programs:** We serve breakfast, lunch and a snack to preschool and dinner and a snack for the Afterschool Program. Also lunch and a snack during the seven-week summer 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 – 90% of our children fall in the 80% 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. The only income from services is a \$100 per child registration fee for preschool. It is costing us \$1,000 monthly to feed them. We are also an agency of the United Way, which recently merged with six other counties into Ohio Valley United Way. Please pray with us that our level of support there will not decrease in the upcoming year. We have been covered by Weirton's funds but will need to re-apply next year, as a "small fish in a big pond – rather than a big fish in a small pond."

**We are a Matthew 25 Ministry.** We feed them, we help with clothing, and daily homework, and 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. We have even been able to partner with a Christian Counselor who bills Medicaid and the growing list now serves 14 children on a weekly basis. There is no cost to us but the benefits to our children have been tremendous. One middle school girl who had complained of her mom not taking her to counseling became very depressed and we were worried about her. She had to change schools and her grades dropped to Fs. By the end of the school year, she brought her grades up to A's (big reward there!) and began participating in Leadership! 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, music lessons 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. 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. Above all, we give them Jesus.

Our Memorial Walkway still has 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. Maybe you have a crew willing to host a week of Camp at Parchment Valley or Elkhorn Valley here in our area and share their faith with our children. 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](mailto:Kim@WeirtonChristianCenter.com). For 108 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 Second Chances who use the house for supervised visitation. We work with these and several other community agencies in order to serve our families. Never Alone Kids is a peer support group for grieving children and teens. We try to fill the needs we see and so many have lost parents and are being raised by grandparents or other family members due to untimely deaths.

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, besides 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. **Thanks 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](mailto:Kim@WeirtonChristianCenter.com) or contact Kim Weaver at 304-479-2140.  
[www.WeirtonChristianCenter.com](http://www.WeirtonChristianCenter.com) and find us on Facebook

## **AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF WEST VIRGINIA** *Sherry Husted, 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.

### **STATE EVENTS**

**Spiritual Growth Retreat:** Our Spiritual Growth Retreat was held September 27-29, 2024. Kim Pickrell headed the committee. The theme was "Straighten Your Crown." The guest speaker was Jill Narraway and special music was provided by Brian and Sara McClure. The collected offering was \$3,017.55 and donated to the Sunny Day Building Fund. We had 160 ladies in attendance.

**Women's Day at the Annual Meeting:** Women's Day was held on October 17, 2024, at Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Hill. The theme was "Bridge to Joyous Living," Melanie Swisher provided an amazing program focused on outreach and missions. The main speakers in the afternoon were the missionary team to Puebla Mexico, the morning session had mission speakers Kim Weaver and Debbie Myers, and the music was provided by Ginny Prunty, Barb Hamblin, Koreen Villers, Brian and Sara McClure. The offering collected was \$2,062.00 and donated to Special Project Mission House at Parchment Valley. We had 125 ladies in attendance.

**ABWM Annual Conference:** The 91st Annual Conference was held June 7, 2025, in the Greenlee Activity Building at Parchment Valley Conference Center. The theme for the day's event was "What Type of Vessel are You?" The guest speaker was Cecliy Thompson, special music was provided by Amanda Emerick and her sister Becca Marlow. Each officer and coordinator had a table set and we had breakout sessions on each position on the board to train all the ladies what each board member and position is responsible for. The offering collected was \$963.00 and donated to Special Project Baptist Campus Ministry Internship. We had about 156 ladies registered.

**Love Gift 2024 Monies as of June 30, 2025, \$9,384.00**  
**WV Blessings as of June 30, 2025, \$31,500.67**

**Communications:** Our Communications Coordinator, Kim Conrad continues to increase and monitor our outreach through many different avenues including social media, website, weekly online newsletters and Seasons our outreach magazine. During the year 2024-2025, the communications of the ABWM of WV included the following efforts and results. [+ and – figures are changes in results from previous year]

### **Social Media**

#### **Facebook efforts**

3,988 followers (+165%)  
86 posts made (-1.1%)  
10,746 3-second views (+504%)  
1,272 1-minutes views (+926%)  
5,511 content interactions such as likes, shares, comments, etc. (-1%)

### Instagram efforts

36 followers (+64%)  
43 posts made (+7.5%)  
Total reach of 47 people with 36 interactions

### Reflection

The number of posts were relatively equal to the previous year with increased views/interactions meaning posts may have more meaning and relevance to followers. The number of posts need to increase for upcoming year to see even more activity on the platform.

The growth of our Instagram page is slow. Posts are copied from Facebook, so they are not unique for the platform. Very few people are seeing and interacting with the posts requiring more focused attention on this platform.

Increase use of social media platforms to encourage engagement and send more traffic to the website. There is huge potential to provide detailed information to more people through this connection.

### Website: [www.abwmwv.org](http://www.abwmwv.org)

6,598 visits (+476%)  
96.56% bounce rate (+26%)  
6,866 page views (+306%)

Top pages viewed were Home, Events, About, BBOM & Zoom, 2025 Women's Conference and Stories in Pictures. Top forms used were MMM signup (90), Zoom Bible Study signup (28), and Contact Us (4). Traffic sources included direct (52%), email blast (37%), social platforms (4.6%), search and referral (6%).

The website was used for two new strategies:

Signup for Zoom online Bible study (1 8-week study) with 28 people registering  
Online registration and payment of 2025 Spiritual Growth Retreat with 35 people successfully registering for the event online.

### Monday Morning Memo (MMM – weekly email newsletter)

47 total email blasts were sent out (+47%)  
395 subscribers (+18%)  
37% of website visits come from email clicks

**Reflection:** The website is being used more by the women across the state. The addition of a virtual Bible Study and online registration for an event was a great addition and obviously drove traffic. Unfortunately, visitors stick with just one page, so efforts need to be made to encourage visitors to use more of the website to decrease the bounce rate. The integration of MMM email blast and the website appear to be very effective.

### PROJECTS/MINISTRIES

**Mission Outreach Project (MOP) – Goal \$6,000:** The Mission Outreach Project for 2025 is Sewing Faith in Tribal Culture. The purpose of the funds is to buy sewing machines and other materials needed like needles, thread and other materials. The ladies will be able to learn how to make products that can be sold to help support their families. The women will also study God's word and grow in knowledge of Him, which will allow them to take the good news of Jesus into their homes, villages and tribes. The Coordinator for MOP is Sandy Foster Currey and the amount that has been donated as of August 31, 2025, is \$3,755.00.

**Special Project – Goal \$12,000:** The Special Project for 2025 is funding support for an Intern for Young Women Ministry and International Students at Baptist Campus Ministries – Marshall University Campus for two years. Changing Lives that Change the World. This position would report to the Director of Student Ministries with focused responsibilities to become an ambassador for introducing others to Jesus, develop Christ-centered laborers who understand, experience and pass on the following foundational Christian truths, and cultivate a solid ministry team for women's ministry and international students. The Coordinator for Special Projects is Nancy Wolfe and the amount that has been donated as of August 31, 2025, is \$4,045.00

### WV Hope 2024

Number of Associations reporting	9
Churches Reporting	45
Donation to WV Hope	\$22,562.00
Donation to Local Ministry	\$38,068.00
Donation to International Ministry	\$31,565.00
Total	\$92,195.00

Other ministries receiving donations as reported include: Local food pantries, shut in with meals and gift bags, recovery centers, holiday baskets and meals, shoe boxes, blessing boxes, backpack programs, coat and clothing giveaways, Veteran organizations, hygiene bags, community meals, scholarships, flood relief, shelter, schools, etc. Send all reports and questions: Coordinator, **Melanie Swisher, 305 Gatewood Avenue, Oak Hill, WV 25901, Phone 304-372-1822, or email [melanieannswisher@gmail.com](mailto:melanieannswisher@gmail.com)**

### **WV Hope 2025 Project**

**H2O Ministries of Mount Hope:** Help to offer hope to others. We serve families in counties Fayette, Raleigh, and Wyoming. We serve by providing free community meals, groceries and a clothes closet to the people of our area. Nancy Wolfe, 14 Ridge Road, Fayetteville, WV 25840

**Savannah's Closet:** Clothing them in love, one by one. We serve children in foster care and in emergency need mainly in Jackson County; but will serve any child. We have a boutique in Ravenswood where children in foster care or emergency need can "shop" for clothing, shoes, hygiene items, duffle bags and books. Jaysi Ludtman and Jessica Cummings, PO Box 651, Ravenswood, WV 26164

**Weirton Christians Center:** serving God and the 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.

## **AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN OF WEST VIRGINIA** *David Hoge, Secretary*

For over 100 years, the American Baptist Men of West Virginia have stayed true to our mission and ministry of service, mentoring, education and fellowship. This past year was another good one for the American Baptist Men of West Virginia.

For Men's Day at the 2024 Annual Meeting we had an exciting adventure with a speed boat ride on the New River, followed by a visit to Hawk's Nest State Park, including lunch overlooking the New River Gorge. The weather was beautiful and the scenery was even better. The fellowship during our Men's Day activities is always robust and we encourage others to join us each year, even if they cannot stay for the entire Annual Meeting.

The annual ABMen's Prayer Breakfasts were held in late February across the state in almost every association which included prayer, wonderful fellowship and information sharing. Over 400 men and boys partook in the scrumptious fare. The offerings collected were directed to our scholarship program and exceeded \$2,000.

In May, the ABMen awarded four more scholarships as we continue to grow this project. Interested individuals can find information and the application on the ABMen webpage of the WVBC website.

The Work Party at Camp Cowen was held April 27, 2024. As always, there was a lot of work to be done and a lot of work got done. The upgrade of the electrical wiring in the cabins was completed this year. The pool was cleaned and prepared for summer, trees were trimmed and lots of general maintenance was completed.

ABMen & Boy's Camp was held at the WV Baptist Camp at Cowen from August 1-3, 2025. Roger Adams was our keynote speaker and offered some wonderful teaching on "Coaching and Leading in Today's Church." Bryan Angus from Summersville Baptist once again led our worship. As always, we had morning prayer circle, an afternoon full of games and activities, enjoyed singing and sharing at campfire and ate lots of food. At our annual meeting on Saturday, August 2nd, we heard updates on each of our ministries and the following leadership was elected to the 2025-2026 ABMen of WV Executive Board:

President	Jim Mitchell
Vice President/Treasurer	Erich Reggi
Secretary	David Hoge
Immediate Past President	Mark Shaffer
Communications	Frank Miller
Pastor/Counselor	Larry Dale
Men's Camp Coordinator	Jim Mitchell
Work Party Coordinator	Stan Carr
Disaster Relief Coordinator	Mickey Skeens
Assistant Disaster Relief Coordinator	Eric Campbell
WVBC Liaison for Disaster Relief	Rob Ely

Prayer Breakfast Coordinator	Frank Miller
Scholarship Program Coordinator	Dan Harbaugh
Member At-Large	Mike Akers
Member At-Large	Keith Winnings
Member At-Large	Kris Dight
Member At-Large	John Golden

For more information on any of our activities, visit our web page at the West Virginia Baptist Convention site (wvbc.org) under Auxiliary Ministries.

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION**

### ***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:** Overall, it has been a great year in ministry. Here are some of the fundraising 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. I believe this offering is becoming increasingly more vital every single year.

**World Mission Offering:** Our region continues to strongly support global missions. As of the time of this report, we have contributed more than \$200,000 to supporting 26 different International Ministries missionaries and partners.

**Sunny Day Activity Center:** This past spring, we officially completed the \$1.6 million campaign! If you have not yet been to Camp Cowen to see the new facility, you need to drive down this fall. What a blessing this was for our youth this past summer!

We also continue to analyze the discuss the rapid decline of other traditional offerings, such as United Mission, Love Gift and America for Christ.

**Provide funding for new church development:** We do not currently have any new church plants in need of funding. However, several churches are continuing to try different versions of "Dinner Church." One church has baptized several new believers through this ministry.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> Camp Global, our annual family missions camp at Camp Cowen. The theme this year focused on prayer – particularly what Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38: *The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.* Several missionaries were present, including Rhonda Reed, Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovanetti and some representatives from our partnerships, such as Cuba, Enduring Love and the Russia Mission Partnership team.

**Mission Deputation:** Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovanetti were able to visit several churches during their time in West Virginia. We also have several more who will be visiting churches during the month of October.

**Mission Trip Leader Training:** We offered a training this year in February at our Annual Training Event at Parchment Valley. We will offer another at next year's Annual Training Event. We continue to get great feedback from our missionaries and International Ministries partners who have welcomed teams that have gone through this 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 scholarships to 33 individuals who went on short-term mission trips this year.

## **MISSION SUPPORT**

### ***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:** We had five Missionary Interns this year. Faith Lambert, Hunter Mitchell and Isabell Roop (all Marshall BCM students) served for three weeks in northeast India at the Tura Christian Hospital. Two others – Katie Gillespie (Fairmont State BCM) and Thane Howlett – served alongside Keith and Deborah Myers in Mexico.

As part of the Annual Training Event, I led a workshop on Short-Term Missions Leadership Training (which will be offered again next year). Several individuals attended that training, which also allowed me to come alongside them as they prepared for their trips. Through the Fulks Scholarship, we were also able to assist 33 individuals with funding for their trips.

It was a great privilege to work with Reid Truilton (Interim Area Director with International Ministries) and members of our WVBC-Russia Mission Partnership Team to discover new ways of supporting ministries in Russia (which is quite challenging right now). Working through the European Baptist Federation, we were able to fund one Russian church planter this year. IM also agreed to match our funding to support a second church planter.

Sarah McCloy recently completed her second year in Japan. She completed a second year of language study, while also working at Shokei Baptist Church and Shokei Gakuin University in Sendai, Japan.

Keith and Deborah Myers welcomed several mission teams this summer, including one from Summersville Baptist Church. They also hosted two of our interns.

Our dear brother, J.D. Reed, passed away this past spring. I am so grateful for the way many of you stepped up over the past year to care for him and Rhonda as he battled ALS. In addition to the impact he had on many of us, his work through Palmer's MTS Program – where he helped train well over a hundred pastors throughout the Spanish-speaking world – and through the House of Hope in Bolivia will continue to reap benefits for generations to come.

Rhonda continues to serve with IM in an extremely critical role as the global coordinator for health and wellness. In that role, she comes alongside several of our global servants to help care for and counsel them through physical and mental health needs. As part of her preparation for that role, she has been taking classes that have required clinical hours. However, still remains with IM and is still in need of ongoing financial support.

Present at Camp Global this year were Rhonda Reed, Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovanetti, as well as Jeni Pedzinski. We also have several more global servants joining us for this year's WVBC Annual Meeting.

**Finance:** Much like the stock market, this year has been a series of highs and lows.

One of the major highs came with the completion of our capital campaign to raise funds for the Sunny Day Activity Center at Camp Cowen. If you have not seen the new building in-person, it is well worth the drive to Cowen. I look forward to seeing how God uses this new \$1.6 million investment to reach more people for His Kingdom.

Another high also took place at Cowen. An anonymous donor stepped forward to pay for air conditioning to be installed in the Dining Hall. With it being an incredibly hot summer, this new air conditioning unit has already been enjoyed by thousands.

One more high – the Mountain State Mission Offering continues to grow! Through this offering, 100% of donations support the ministries of the WVBC. This offering is critical to our success, so it has been great to see this offering increase.

Now the lows – several of the other traditional offerings, such as United Mission (we retain 65%), Love Gift (we retain 54%) and America for Christ (we retain 29%) continue to rapidly decline. For churches who are interested in maximizing their financial impact, I would love to have a conversation with them.

**Communication:** Similar to last year, we continue to make improvements on all forms of communication. Over the past year, that has taken a lot of my time. Regular communication includes: weekly emails, social media posts, website updates, bi-monthly newsletters, bi-monthly pastor's mailings, bi-monthly clerk's mailings, quarterly treasurer's mailings and more. I am also currently working with the WV Baptist Education Society to create a website for them.

One thing we are discovering is that, despite these various forms of communication, there are still a lot of people who are not getting regular updates. If there are ways we can improve to help make sure you and your church get the information you need, please let me know! We are always aiming to improve.

**Appendix A**

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

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Friday, May 2, 2025

Present: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Chad Mugrage, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mike Cornell, Past President Erich Reggi, Secretary David Hoge, Treasurer Todd McClure, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Discipleship Commission Chair Sandy Foster Currey, Leadership Commission Chair Darrell Mayfield, Outreach Commission Chair Ethan Starcher, Stewardship Commission Chair Yvette Shafer, ABMen President Mark Shaffer, ABW President Sherry Husted, Pastors for Pastors Chair Anthony Pratt, At Large Members Ammie Rasmussen and Mark Evans

Chad Mugrage welcomed everyone, offered a brief devotion, and opened the meeting with prayer at 6:30 pm.

Anthony Pratt moved the agenda be approved as presented. Motion was seconded by Erich Reggi and passed unanimously.

Erich Reggi moved that the minutes from the committee's January meeting be approved as presented. Mark Shaffer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Todd McClure gave an update on Missions activity. Several short term mission trips are upcoming. In June, FBC St Albans is taking a team to the Dominican Republic and Summersville Baptist is headed to Mexico. A team from multiple WVBC churches is headed to Thailand in October. Sunrise Baptist Church is headed to Kenya. Several churches have also taken disaster relief trips to North Carolina and southern West Virginia. Sarah McCloy has finished her second year of language school and was selected by her peers to give the graduation speech. Keith and Debbie Myers are doing well and have a busy summer lined up. The WVBC will be sending five missionary interns this summer. It has been three months since JD Reed passed away. Rhonda is continuing to transition to an important role for International Ministries supporting the emotional and spiritual health of global servants. She is staying busy with lots of travel, including to Amsterdam. The committee is still working on finding opportunities with the Russian Mission Partnership.

Todd reviewed the financial reports. Each ministry is currently running a deficit, but every effort is being made to manage expenses. United Mission giving continues to drop. There is a small increase year over year in the Mountain State Mission Offering. Mike Sisson offered some thoughts as context for the financial reports. First, we have a lot to celebrate with the Sunny Day Activity Center. Fully funding the project is an incredible accomplishment, and a dedication service will be held on May 17. Mike believes it is time to implement the 2026 theme prior to the Annual Meeting as has been done in the past. The 2026 theme will be William Carey's quote that states, "Expect Great Things from God; Attempt Great Things for God". The theme scripture will be Ephesians 3:20 – "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." Mike shared how there are no problems, only opportunities.....to learn, to grow, to dream, to evaluate, to experiment and try new things, to ask better questions, to listen more carefully to God, and to seek the Lord more diligently. We need to understand that we are a tipping point and there is a clear trend in giving. 10 – 11% of the ABCUSA budget comes from West Virginia. 39% of the America for Christ budget comes from WV. But the WVBC ended 2024 with a deficit of \$74,000. We have to be cognizant of how to take care of and sustain ourselves. Property/liability insurance has increased 69.33% between 2018 and 2025 (from \$49,000 to \$83,000) and health insurance has increased over 10% even with the reduction in staff. It is going to take champions within the pews for us to face this situation. Mike also addressed the insurance crisis facing many of our churches. There are many factors that are influencing the situation, but the results are clear: increasing deductibles, increasing premiums (up 20-30%), policy cancellations, and difficulty in getting any coverage if a church is high risk.

Mike also talked about the 2025 Annual Meeting which will be held Oct 16-17 at Emmanuel Baptist in Charleston. Mac Lake will be the speaker and will talk about Identifying Leaders and Developing a Leadership Pipeline. He will also be speaking to Pastors4Pastors. Overall planning for the annual meeting is progressing well.

The audit is coming along, and we hope to have a draft report soon. Kayla Starcher is finishing up in mid-May and will be working with Teach for America. Ginny Prunty is finishing up in January, and Teresa is moving to the Convention office full time. Mike is continuing to look at the office staff configuration. Peter Coffey is doing a great job – still learning but things are going well. We have had to undertake another freezer repair at Cowen.

Future meeting dates were reviewed. Chad closed the meeting at 9:46 pm.

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Executive Board Meeting  
Saturday, May 3, 2025

The Executive Board gathered at the Santrock Building for worship and singing at 9:00 am. Koreen and Jon Villers led the group in some robust singing. Mike Sisson shared an update on the status of various convention activities and said we need to be in prayer for the Convention's finances. We have reason to celebrate God's goodness for his provision in the full funding for the Sunny Day Activity Center at Cowen. A dedication service for the center will be held on May 17. He encouraged folks to be looking for information on the Annual Meeting at Emmanuel Baptist in Charleston in October.

Commission meetings were convened at 9:50 am and met till approximately 11:30 am.

WVBC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Chad Mugrage called the Executive Board meeting to order at 11:45 am with 44 board members, WVBC staff, and visitors present. Chad offered a devotion from John 12:2-3. Everyone's service is different. However, because of what he has done, we each serve him. Chad prayed and opened the meeting.

Nancy Wolfe moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Brenda Fisher seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The minutes from the January Board meeting were distributed. Brenda Fisher moved the minutes be approved as presented. Darrell Mayfield seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Eric Kendall, Chair of the WV Baptist Education Society, announced the establishment of the Lawrence Hoptry Memorial Doctoral Scholarship to recognize and honor the contributions of Dr. Hoptry to religious education throughout West Virginia and for his service as executive director of the Education Society. Eric also announced that Lee Boso is serving as the interim executive director while they undergo the hiring process for a new director.

Todd McClure reviewed the financial statements. Comparative giving shows a drop in most categories, with a slight increase in the Mountain State Mission Offering. Currently each of the ministry budgets shows a deficit. WVBC staff are working to hold down expenses, but increases in liability and health insurance is making the ability to manage the deficit challenging. Karla Carr moved the statements be approved as presented. Erich Reggi seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson gave the Executive Minister's report. We all need to be WVBC ambassadors. Tell others what you hear and know is happening across the convention. The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on October 16-17 at Emmanuel Baptist in Charleston. Mac Lake will be the keynote speaker and will be talking about leadership development. The Prayer Books are still circulating. We must keep praying. Mike introduced Peter Coffey to the board. Peter is the new Director of Operations at Parchment Valley. Kayla Starcher will be wrapping up her service to the WVBC in May. She is moving to Kentucky to work for Teach for America. Ginny Prunty will be wrapping up her service in January. Mike also gave an update on Evan Arkell, whom many folks have asked about.

Sandy Foster Currey, Chair of Discipleship Commission, gave an update on the commissions activities.

- Peter Coffey gave a great devotion on Psalm 23 and finding time to abide
- The Annual Training Event in February was a great success
- Grandparenting Seminar is upcoming and will be simulcast
- The commission is continuing their mental health awareness and will be making videos available
- The Prayer Books are still circulating
- The commission is supporting several workshops at the Annual Meeting
- With the Sunny Day Center being completed, the harvest is ripe for a great summer at Cowen
- Parchment Valley is working on the sound system, and looking forward to Brother's Keeper this summer
- Jerry Losh is retiring from Golden'eers
- Spring Children's Rally was successful and another is being

Leadership Commission Chair Karla Carr gave the report on their activities

- Palmer Seminary is celebrating 100 years. Graduation will be on May 20 and they're planning a dinner in October
- The WV Baptist Education Society is currently supporting 30 students at Palmer and Liberty University
- One ordination is in the works
- Pastors4Pastors has several upcoming events including their book, a family picnic on July 19, and a dinner cruise on August 22
- Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies has numerous courses underway, including a variety of digital classes
- The Mentoring Program currently has space available
- Over 200 people participated in the Annual Training Event
- 2026 Bible Conference will have Trent Eastman as the speaker again
- The commission is also working on organizing several workshops at the Annual Meeting

Ethan Starcher, Chair of the Outreach Commission. Reported on their meeting.

- ABMen are continuing their disaster relief work following flooding in southern WV in February, and also supporting Brother's Keeper
- Additional volunteers are needed for Brother's Keeper
- ABW is currently reviewing their scholarship applications, and working on planning their Spiritual Growth Retreat
- BCM has a lot going on at campuses across the state, and have/are sending students all over the world on mission trips including the Dominican Republic, Petersburg, WV and Mexico – among others; various new ministry ideas are being implemented on various campuses including small group bible studies

Yvette Shaffer, Chair, reported for the Stewardship Commission.

- Received detailed financial update from Todd McClure
- Had a discussion about the insurance crisis facing churches
- Trustees reported that we are switching audit companies and they are planning for property work needed at the WVBC office in Parkersburg
- Updates on all the WV based global servant were received
- Five mission interns will be sent this summer
- Got updates on eight different upcoming mission trips later this year
- Had additional discussion about the Mountain State Mission Offering, following the work done from the January commission meeting
- Reviewed plans for Camp Global which will be August 8-9 at Cowen

Monty Foster suggested that we take time to remember various members of our WVBC family who have gone on to heaven. Chad invited folks to share the names of people who were on our hearts. Ron James, Cookie Hall, David Sneed, Linda Carpenter, and Georgia Parsons were mentioned among others. Chad mentioned that people actually die twice – once from their body and once when we stop talking about them.

Future meeting dates were reviewed. Chad closed the meeting with prayer at 12:42 pm.

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Friday, January 3, 2025

Present: President Roselee Copenhaver, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mike Cornell, Treasurer Todd McClure, Secretary David Hoge, Past President Erich Reggi, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Outreach Commission Chair Ethan Starcher, Leadership Commission Chair Darrell Mayfield, Stewardship Commission Chair Yvette Shafer, At Large Member Ammie Rasmussen

Rose Copenhaver welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. She offered a devotion on passion and then offered an opening prayer.

Ethan Starcher moved the agenda be accepted as presented. Yvette Shafer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The minutes from the October 4, 2024 were distributed. Mike Cornell moved the minutes be approved as presented. Darrell Mayfield seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Todd McClure presented the financial reports as of November 30, 2024. Through eleven months of the 2024 fiscal year, BCM was \$8,560 in the black (largely because of sharing Kevin Sions), Cowen is \$15,485 in the red (due to higher repairs and maintenance costs with the freezer/compressor issues), Parchment Valley is \$1,898 in the black, and the WV Baptist Convention is \$41,956 in the red. Hopefully end-of-year giving will help catch up. Our reserves continue to grow, but we will probably need to use some of the budgeted reserve to cover operational expenses. Erich Reggi moved to approve the financial reports as presented. Ammie Rasmussen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Todd and Mike Sission also presented the proposed housing allowances for 2025 for WVBC professional staff. Ethan Starcher moved the allowances be approved as presented. Darrell Mayfield seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson and Erich Reggi gave an update on the Sunny Day Activity Center. The electrical power to the building is still being finalized. The color has been chosen and material ordered for the sports flooring. Otherwise, the building is finished. Fundraising has been very good. As of the end of November, there was \$37,000 left to meet our fundraising goal. The Convention received a \$40,000 check and is expecting additional contributions. Completion of the building and successful fundraising is very exciting and offers lots of opportunities.

Mike Sisson gave the Executive Minister Report. The Annual Meeting went well with the theme emphasis of "for Christ". There is a lot of emphasis on renewing the spiritual facet of the Convention. The WVBC staff and commissions are still working on the mental health/burnout emphasis. The prayer books will be circulated across the convention. As for the Convention staffing plan, Kevin Sions is doing very well. Willow Tree is working though issues in partnership with Kevin and the WVBC staff. BCM is doing well at WVU, almost doubling in numbers this fall. Peter Coffey has started at Parchment Valley, and has had a great start. The WVBC staff retreat is January 13-17. Work is underway to get groundwork in place for Brother's Keeper in 2025. Teresa Miller will be transitioning to full-time in the WVBC office.

Todd and Mike Sisson reviewed the 2025 WVBC and program budgets. They reviewed the factors that were considerations in developing the WVBC budget. Ethan Starcher offered a motion to recommend approval of the WVBC budget. Darrell Mayfield seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The program budgets for BCM, Parchment Valley, and Cowen were also reviewed. Erich Reggi offered a motion to recommend approval of the program budgets, which was seconded by Mike Cornell. The motion passed unanimously.

The Presidential appointments for 2025 were distributed and reviewed. David Hoge offered a motion to approve the appointments. Erich seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

There are two unexpired positions vacant on the BCM board. Ashley Tomko from Clarksburg Baptist is being recommended to fill a full term on the board. Darrell Mayfield moved to appoint Ashley to a full term on the board. Mike Cornell seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The search for a person to fill the other vacancy will continue.

Upcoming meetings were reviewed. Of note, the nominating committee will meet following the Executive Board meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Erich Reggi offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Executive Board Meeting  
Saturday, January 4, 2025

The Executive Board gathered in the Santrock Building at 9:00 am. Jon and Koreen Villers led the group in some singing and Mike Sisson shared some updates. Dr Sisson assured us that he loved us, and opened the meeting with prayer. He welcomed new and returning board members. We all have a part in raising awareness of Convention benefits to younger generations. He reviewed the WVBC vision and 2025 emphasis of Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ.

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

WVBC President Rose Copenhaver welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:44 am with 41 board members, WVBC staff, and visitors present. She offered an opening prayer. Nancy Wolfe offered a devotion on prayer, focusing on the sixth chapter of Matthew. She encouraged everyone to write their prayers down so we do not forget and as a record of how God responded.

Greg Boso moved the agenda be accepted as presented. Koneda Devrick seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The minutes from the October 5, 2024 board meeting were distributed. Nancy Wolfe moved the minutes be approved as presented. Marijane Kiley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Todd McClure presented the financial reports as of November 30, 2024. Through eleven months of the 2024 fiscal year, BCM was \$8,560 in the black (largely because of sharing Kevin Sions), Cowen is \$15,485 in the red (due to higher repairs and maintenance costs with the freezer/compressor issues), Parchment Valley is \$1,898 in the black, and the WV Baptist Convention is \$41,956 in the red. Hopefully end-of-year giving will help catch up. Our reserves continue to grow, but we will probably need to use some of the budgeted reserve to cover operational expenses. Erich Reggi moved to approve the financial reports as presented. Yvette Shafer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson gave the Executive Minister Report. Peter Coffey has started at Parchment Valley, and has had a great start. He is working with Frank and Teresa. The Annual Meeting went well with the theme emphasis of "for Christ". We are in a very strong ministry season, particularly with young people. The WVBC staff and commissions are still working on the mental health/burnout emphasis. As a review of 2024: Parchment Valley had 105 salvations and there were 120 participants in Brother's Keeper; Baptist Campus Ministry is active on nine campuses, and all are growing with increased involvement; the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies has tripled their sites to eleven; and Cowen had 1710 campers and 384 volunteers, with 97 salvations and 150 rededications. Pastoral health is still a critical area and we need to strive to have thriving pastors, not just surviving. The Convention is operating as efficiently as possible, and he encouraged us to keep praying and sharing.

Todd McClure reviewed the 2025 WVBC and program budgets and gave a brief overview of the factors that were considerations in developing the budgets. Nancy Wolfe offered a motion to recommend approval of the budgets. Erich Reggi seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Presidential appointments for 2025 were reviewed by President Copenhaver.

Commission Vice-Chair Carmen Boso presented the Discipleship Commission report.

- The Annual Training Event will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup> and will include 24 workshops.
- There will be a workshop/discussion on the mental health initiative at the Annual Meeting.
- A Grandparenting Seminar will be held at Gassaway Baptist on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- The Sunny Day Activity Center is complete pending the installation of the electrical power box.
- There are five Cowen calendars left at \$30 apiece. See Jill Narraway if interested.

Commission Chair Darrell Mayfield presented the Leadership Commission report.

- Palmer Seminary will be holding an event in 2025 to celebrate their centennial year.
- Council on Ministerial standing has no issues before it.
- The Annual Training Event is February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Bible Conference will be on March 1<sup>st</sup>, with Trent Eastman once again being the speaker. There will also be a pre-conference session on Friday evening focusing on spiritual discipline.
- The prayer books will begin circulating among our churches very soon.
- Internship opportunities are available. Anyone interested should contact Mark McCloy.

Commission Chair Ethan Starcher gave the Outreach Commission report.

- ABMen have been doing some disaster relief in Mercer County. They will host prayer breakfasts across the state on Saturday, February 22. A list of sites is maintained on the WVBC website. Men's Camp will be held August 1-3, 2025.
- Baptist Campus Ministries had a great fall semester with over 400 students participating across the nine campuses. WVU, Marshall, and Potomac State are looking at spring break mission trip to Moorefield.
- Hispanic ministries are active in Hardy County. The ministry in Jackson County needs our prayers.
- Dinner church is having another training at the Annual Training Event. First Baptist in Spencer has had four baptisms directly tied to dinner church. They are looking attending a training in the Wytheville/Abingdon, VA area.

Commission Chair Yvette Shafer gave the Stewardship Commission report.

- Todd reviewed the financial reports in detail.
- Erich gave a report for the trustees outlining facility work that is continuing.
- The commission received updates on all our global servants.
- Upcoming short term mission trips were reviewed.
- Camp Global will be held August 8 and 9 at Cowen.
- Mission intern opportunities were reviewed.
- To help build WVBC awareness, a discussion of a photo booth at the Annual Training Event was held.

Todd McClure gave an update on the fundraising for the Sunny Day Activity Center. As of the end of November, there was \$37,000 left to meet our fundraising goal. The Convention received a \$40,000 check and is expecting additional contributions. Completion of the building and successful fundraising is very exciting and offers lots of opportunities.

Upcoming meetings were reviewed.

Mike Sisson offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.

159<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Thursday and Friday, October 17-18, 2024  
Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Hill, WV  
Convention Theme: Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ  
Theme Scripture: John 15:5

**Session I: Thursday afternoon, 3:00 pm**      **Erich Reggi, presiding**

Gathering Music by the Praise Team from Breckenridge Missionary Baptist Church  
President Erich Reggi welcomed delegates and guests to the Annual Meeting and offered an opening prayer.  
Greg Swisher, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church offered a welcome from the host church.  
Monty Foster led the convention in congregational singing.  
Erich Reggi called the Convention business meeting to order.  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Roselee Copenhaver presented the Annual Meeting Program. The program was approved unanimously.  
Vice President Copenhaver also presented the time, place, and annual speaker for the 2025 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Charleston on October 16-17, 2025. Rev DaVontae Edwards from Dunbar Baptist Church will provide the annual sermon.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chad Mugrage presented the Nominating Committee Report.  
Secretary David Hoge presented the Executive Board Report. The report is available on the WVBC website.  
Erich Reggi asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting. No additional items were offered for consideration.  
President Reggi recessed the business meeting until Session IV.  
Special Music was offered by Corey Brooks.  
Executive Minister Mike Sisson addressed the meeting. Using (INSERT) as a scriptural reference, Dr. Sisson thanked the delegates and guests and made sure they knew he loved them. By working together, the WVBC has much to celebrate. He reviewed many great statistics for the year. As missionaries, we are actively engaging in our communities, across the state, and around the world in many ways. Brother's Keeper had another great year, as did Baptist Campus Ministry. We are undertaking several activities to address mental health for our pastors, churches, and communities. It was another busy year with generous giving to Disaster Relief. He also shared an update on the Sunny Day Activity Center, where we have only \$119,000 left to finish paying for the building. In the coming year, our focus will turn towards doing everything 'for Christ' with a strong emphasis on discipleship. We will also have a strong prayer emphasis starting in January, including traveling prayer books.  
Jill Narraway, Director of Camping and Youth, offered the closing prayer.

**Session II: Thursday evening, 6:45 pm**      **Rose Copenhaver presiding**

Gathering Music by the Calvary Baptist Praise Team.  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Rose Copenhaver welcomed everyone and offered an opening prayer.  
A video highlighting the Mountain State Mission Offering was played.  
Ballie Myers was introduced as the new Short Term Mission Coordinator for International Ministries and gave an update on her work.  
Keith & Debbie Myers, International Ministries Global Servants, greeted delegates and gave an update on their work in Mexico.  
Monty Foster led the meeting in some congregational singing.  
Jill Narraway gave an update on the Sunny Day Activity Center sharing how we have been waiting for God to move, thanking everyone for their faithfulness, and how the facility will help expand ministry opportunities at Cowen.  
Todd McClure, Minister of Missions, Finance and Communication, offered a prayer and an offering was collected. Music was provided by Brielle Lyons.  
Jon Villers, Southeast Area Minister, awarded the Ward W. Hibbs Award to Mark Stump from Gassaway Baptist Church. The Ward Hibbs award recognizes a West Virginia pastor who has made a significant contribution to the ministry of town and country churches.  
The Calvary Baptist choir offered some special music and Monty Foster led the meeting in some robust congregational singing.  
Corey Brooks, Pastor of Breckenridge Missionary Baptist Church, offered the Annual Sermon focusing on Galatians 5:16-26. He pondered the question, "Is What You Are Doing Getting You Where You Want To Go?"  
A communion service was led by Greg Swisher and 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**

**Chad Mugrage, presiding**

Gathering music was offered by Wendy Graham.

Chad Mugrage offered a welcome and the opening prayer.

A video on Camp Cowen was shown.

A video was shown of Joyce Reed and Rhonda Reed providing an update on their current trip to Thailand following severe flooding that has directly impacted the homes of several IM Global Servants. David Reed offered further insight on the work they are doing, along with Rhonda, as Global Servants for International Ministries.

Dr Allen Copenhaver offered a welcome from Eastern University.

Kevin Sions, Jon Villers, and Anthony Pratt 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. Mark noted the significant increase in pastoral training over the last several years. There were five graduates from the School of Christian Studies.

Jim Anderson and Mary Jo Slater presented the James Anderson, Sr. Bivocational Pastor Award to Rev. Delmas Wolfe, Pastor of the Mount Hope Baptist Temple.

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 Bill Mowry with The Navigators Church Ministry and the author of "The Ways of the Alongsider". His presentation focused on the model, means, making practices, and mission to building an effective discipleship program.

The closing prayer was offered by Koreen Villers, Director of Discipleship.

**Session IV: Friday afternoon, 2:45 pm**

**Erich Reggi, presiding**

Gathering music was offered Wendy Graham.

Erich Reggi welcomed everyone to the final session and led an opening prayer.

A video highlighting the year at Parchment Valley was presented.

Sarah McCloy provided an update on her work as a global servant to Japan, thanking everyone for their ongoing support.

Monty Foster led the meeting in some congregational singing.

President Erich Reggi called the recessed business meeting back to order and reported there were 153 delegates and visitors in attendance at the meeting.

Chad Mugrage again presented the report from the Nominating Committee. President Reggi asked if there were any additional nominations beyond the printed committee report. No nominations were received from the floor. The report was approved unanimously.

David Hoge again presented the Executive Board Report. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Yvette Shaffer offered a motion to adjourn the Annual Business Meeting.

Dr. Allen Copenhaver led an installation service for new Convention President Roselee Copenhaver. The Convention officers for 2024-2025 were recognized. Roselee Copenhaver will serve as President. Chad Mugrage will serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

Michael Cornell will serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. David Hoge will serve as Secretary. Todd McClure will serve as Treasurer

Monty Foster led the meeting in more congregational singing.

Teresa Miller, Convention Office Manager and Acting Director of Parchment Valley, offered a prayer for the offering.

Bill Mowry offered the afternoon keynote address. He offered further explanation and insight into sustaining an effective discipleship effort, stressing it must integrate with the reality of today's world. Currently, skimming is the predominate form of reading. As a society, we are losing the ability to do deep thinking. Three core practices of Slow Disciple Making are: (1) Use the resources you have and do everything with excellency; (2) Go slow with love – machines, companies and politicians run; and (3) Go slow to go deep. Fundamentally, disciple making takes time.

Mike Sisson offered a Sending Out charge urging everyone to engage with their community IN CHRIST.

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

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Friday, October 4, 2024

Present: President Erich Reggi, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Roselee Copenhaver, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chad Mugrage, Treasurer Todd McClure, Secretary David Hoge, Past President Don Biram, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Discipleship Commission Chair Sandy Foster Currey, Stewardship Commission Chair Yvette Shafer, ABMen President Mark Shaffer, Pastors for Pastors Chair Anthony Pratt, At Large Member Ammie Rasmussen

Erich Reggi welcomed everyone, offered an opening prayer, and called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Anthony Pratt gave a devotional focusing on God's presence. He is always with us in the good times and the bad, the hard times and the easy times.

Don Biram moved the agenda be accepted as presented. Anthony Pratt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The minutes from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee were distributed. Chad Mugrage moved the minutes be approved as presented. Ammie Rasmussen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The committee reviewed proposed appointments to fill unexpired terms. Rev Anthony Pratt will fill an unexpired term on the Historical Society, Connie Byars will serve as the Rockcastle Association representative on the Executive Board, Konedra Devrick will serve as the Teays Valley Association representative, and Rev Chris Tatman will serve as the Elk Valley Association representative. David Hoge made a motion that all appointments be approved as presented. Don Biram seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson gave the Executive Minister's Report and updates on various Convention activities. The process for hiring a new Director for Parchment Valley is continuing. The committee has conducted several interviews. One promising candidate has declined the job. Resume review and interviews continue. Teresa Miller continues to cover day-to-day operations. The Executive Committee discussed various paths forward and determined that Teresa will need to continue to cover the Director responsibilities at least through the end of the year in the best-case scenario. After further discussion, Yvette Shafer moved that we provide Teresa a \$5,000 bonus for her service as Interim Director of Parchment Valley. Rose Copenhaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously. As for the Convention Ministry Plan, the transition from David Hulme to Kevin Sions is progressing well. John Villers is doing a great job at building relationships. He is connecting with churches who have not been involved with Convention activities for years. After the Parchment Valley Director situation is resolved, Mike hopes to move Teresa Miller to full time at the Parkersburg office. The BCM expansion to Concord and Davis & Elkins is going well. Attendance at all campuses is up this fall. They are still having a financial challenge even with the transition of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Kevin Sions' salary to the Convention budget.

Mike and Erich gave a report on the status of the Sunny Day project. Construction is going well, the building is underroof, and the interior rough-in is complete. Substantial completion of the building will be in late October. Main issue is the inability to get the guts of the electrical panel, which is on back order. Electricity is currently being run from the Breckenridge Amphitheater. The committee then discussed options with the flooring in the gymnasium/multi-purpose area. Within the contract with Pray Construction, the concrete floor was to receive a clear sealer and game lines. The option to not seal the concrete floor, but rather to put down a multi-purpose sports flooring floor in the gym and a Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP) in the classroom, hallway, and restroom was discussed. Yvette Shafer offered a motion to approve a deductive change order to the contract with Pray Construction to not seal and provide game lines to the concrete floor. This will result in a cost savings of \$26,870. The motion was seconded by Ammie Rasmussen and passed unanimously. Erich Reggi and Jill Narraway have made site visits to similar facilities and looked at various flooring options for the gym. Rose Copenhaver offered a motion to raise the overall project budget by \$67,745 to install the multi-purpose sports flooring floor in the gym and a Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP) in the classroom, hallway, and restroom. The multi-purpose sports flooring installation would carry over into early April for completion. Erich Reggi will continue to manage the installation of the flooring outside the contract with Pray Construction. Anthony Pratt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The two adjustments will result in a net increase of \$40,875 to the total project cost and the total outstanding amount that needs to be raised as of October 5, 2024 is \$116,106.

Todd McClure reported on the organization's finances. He reviewed the Comparative Report through August. There is nothing notably unusual in the giving compared to 2023 other than Campaign funding is up due to Sunny Day. Through the end of August, BCM is -\$58.08, Cowen is +\$2,775.62, Parchment Valley was -\$1,218.12, and the Convention was -\$70,144.16. Parchment Valley currently has over \$20,000 in outstanding receivables. The BCM budget is better with the relief from Kevin's salary. The expense for the freezer repairs lessened Cowen's surplus from the summer. The WVBC overall is doing ok, but it is a challenging year. Hopefully, investment return will once again cover the operating loss. Currently, our investments at Vandalia are up 15.4% for the year. We are trying to keep our reserves around \$600,000. Rose Copenhaver offered a motion to approve the financial statement, which Sandy Foster Currey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Todd also gave a Missions update. Keith and Debbie Myers are doing well. They had numerous groups come over the spring and summer including a group of WV American Baptist Women, the BCM from Fairmont State, and a group from Crab Orchard Baptist. All reports indicate good outcomes from the Women's Conference that the WV ABW helped to lead. Sarah McCloy is continuing her language study for a second year. She has started working part time at Shokei University and Shokei Baptist Church. Her partnership may take a visioning trip to Japan next year. JD and Rhonda Reed are back in West Virginia. JD's ALS is progressing and he has transitioned to long-term disability. They do need continued financial support as there have been challenges in the transition of insurance. Rhonda is continuing in her role as a counselor for missionaries. She will be travelling to Thailand next week to support three IM Global Servants whose homes have been flooded from record rainfall. Enduring Love has been working to support the Lebanese people who are caught in the crossfire of the fighting in the middle east. It is a very challenging time in Beirut. International Ministries has hired Baillie Myers as their short-term missions coordinator.

Mike provided an overview, and a discussion was held on dialogue that has been occurring between several regional ministers and the President and General Secretary of ABCUSA. Mike outlined concerns that the General Board is not adhering to resolutions and there has been a revision in the interpretation of policy even though there has been no formal change. The organization is allowing groups to use the ABCUSA logo and articulate they are formal partners even though they have not gone through the process to partner and do not agree with resolutions passed at previous Biennials. Anthony Pratt offered a motion to affirm our support of Mike Sisson's collaboration with the other Regional Executives and make our support of his signature on the letter that was sent to Rev. McCallister (ABCUSA President) and Reverend Dr. Jacobs-Strain (ABCUSA General Secretary) clear. Chad Murgage seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The board emphasized that we must move forward with our partners.

Mike Sisson shared that planning for the Annual Meeting at Calvary Baptist in Oak Hill on October 17 & 18 is continuing well. Everything seems in place. This year we will be focusing on the "...in Christ..." part of the recurring annual theme of Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ. The theme scripture will focus on John 15:5 where Christ says "I am the vine and you are the branches..." Mike is very excited about our keynote speaker, Bill Mowry, who will be talking at the Pastors for Pastors pre-convention event and leading a workshop in addition to speaking twice. Planning for the details of the prayer emphasis, including a Place to Place Heart to Heart prayer book continues. The commissions will discuss the emphasis tomorrow (Oct 5) and the kick-off of the traveling book may not initiate until January.

Mike also highlighted the ongoing efforts with the Pastor's Mental Health Initiative. There is work to create a hotline available to pastors and working on other educational opportunities. There will be a workshop on burnout at the Annual Meeting which a licensed professional counselor hopes to listen and hear what pastors share as their needs and concerns. Also plan to have a table where there can be casual sharing of experiences and struggles.

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 10:19 pm with prayer by Don Biram.

Respectfully submitted,

Erich Reggi, President  
West Virginia Baptist Convention

David Hoge, Secretary  
West Virginia Baptist Convention

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Executive Board Meeting  
Saturday, October 5, 2024

The Executive Board gathered in the Santrock Building for worship and singing at 9:00 am. Jon and Koreen Villers led the singing and worship. Mike Sisson welcomed everyone and talked about all the disasters that have been happening. The WVBC is on the ground in Bluefield/Mercer County helping West Virginians affected by Hurricane Helene. With the scale of the recent disasters, there will be lots of opportunities moving forward. We also need to remember overseas disasters and wars. He also talked about recent changes that have been made to the Sunny Day Activity Center plans which slightly increased the overall project costs. We have roughly \$125,000 left to raise. He gave an update on planning for the 2024 Annual Meeting at Calvary Baptist in Oak Hill. He also provided an update on the Pastors Mental Health Initiative, as we continue to develop and identify resources including looking at a hotline and other outreach opportunities. There will be a related workshop at the Annual Meeting.

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

WVBC President Erich Reggi called the Executive Board meeting to order at 11:49 am with 36 board members, WVBC staff, and visitors present. President Reggi opened the meeting in prayer. Brian Morrison gave a devotion on the mission work and his experiences in helping with prison ministry. The reincarceration rate is substantially different between church and unchurched men. Focusing on John 3:16-17, Brian reflected that we are all broken and in need of a savior.

President Reggi recognized Executive Board members who are completing their terms of service.

Marijane Kiley moved to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion was seconded by Don Biram and passed unanimously.

Zola Miller moved the minutes be approved as presented. Ammie Rasmussen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Todd McClure provided an overview of the financial statements. Through the end of August, BCM is -\$58.08, Cowen is +\$2,775.62, Parchment Valley was -\$1,218.12, and the Convention was -\$70,144.16. Parchment Valley currently has over \$20,000 in outstanding receivables. The BCM budget is better with the relief from Kevin's salary. The expense for the freezer repairs lessened Cowen's surplus from the summer. Overall, the WVBC is doing ok, but it is a challenging year. Hopefully, investment return will once again cover the operating loss. Karla Carr moved the financial report be approved as presented. Clark Swepston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson gave the Executive Minister Report. He encouraged support of the Mountain State Mission Offering and asked everyone to remember the WVBC in their church budget meetings. The Association meetings went well. If there is one word to describe the tone of the meetings, it would be missionaries. Implementation of the Dinner Church concept is progressing at several churches across the state. Mike encouraged all of us to keep at the important work we are all doing in many different ways and places.

Commission Chair Sandy Foster Curry presented the Discipleship Commission report.

- Carmen Boso provided a devotion to the Commission.
- The Grandparenting Summit was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and was livestreamed.
- The Commission has continued its emphasis on Mental Wellness. Small group videos have been prepared by a WV licensed counselor and are available on the WVBC website. Workshops will be held at the Annual Meeting.
- Work to support Pastoral Mental Health needs is continuing. The importance of confidentiality in this area was stressed.
- Other workshops at the annual meeting will focus on Children & Youth, and Liabilities/Risk Reduction.
- They received reports from BCM, Parchment Valley, and Cowen on many good things happening.
- There was a discussion on options for the traveling prayer book in 2025.
- The Historical Society is still working on the walkway outside of Hill Hall.
- The Fall Children's Rally will be held on November 2 at Parchment Valley.

- The Senior High Convention will be held on Nov 8-10 at Emmanuel Baptist in Charleston.
- The Junior High will be held in February.

Commission ViceChair Karla Carr presented the Leadership Commission report.

- Palmer Seminary has 17 students in the leadership course, 12 in the Greek course, and 24 in New Testament 1
- Pastors for Pastors has an active book club, had 50 people at their annual picnic, and 21 couples on their dinner cruise
- The Annual Training Event is being planned for February and the Bible Conference is again being planned for March.
- The Bobby Woods School of Christian Studies has 50 students in various tracks, and will have four students graduate at the Annual Meeting
- The Educational Society continues to distribute scholarship funds.
- In the Mentoring program, there are currently 11 mentorees working with mentors, and there no additional mentors available.
- No issues before the Committee on Ministerial Standing.
- There are five church interns in training. Individuals interested in being an intern should talk to Todd McClure.
- Strategies related to the Prayer Book were discussed. It can be a great unifier and is a real opportunity to engage churches who do not regularly participate in WVBC activities.
- The commission is exploring reinstating the Colloquium.

Commission Member Theresa Truax presented the Outreach Commission report.

- The American Baptist Men held their annual meeting and elected some new members to their Executive Board. The celebration of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary began during Men's Camp in August and will continue over the next year.
- The American Baptist Women held their Spiritual Growth Retreat.
- Baptist Campus Ministry continues to have great participation on all active campuses. The BCM Board is working on identifying leadership at West Virginia State University and West Virginia University at Parkersburg. Their Fall Retreat will be at Cowen on Oct 11-13 with a theme of Fruit of the Spirit. Fundraising efforts continue.
- With our Hispanic Ministry, Comunidad Luz y Vida in Moorefield has moved into a new location. A trip to Cuba is being planned November 8-15.
- Church Health Check-ups are continuing.
- A discussion was had about potential workshop sessions at the Annual Training Event.
- The Commission is continuing to work on options to assist churches in the Re-Missioning process.
- Dinner Church is still moving forward. Reports were given on how the program is operating at different sites.

Commission Chair Yvette Shafer presented the Stewardship Commission report.

- Todd reviewed the finances and budget.
- Brian Morrison reported for the Convention Trustees. The Trustees approved the budget changes to the Sunny Day project at their meeting earlier today. Facility improvements continue at Parchment Valley, Cowen, and the WVBC office.
- The Commission received updates on our Global Servants. Karla Carr reported that she had just gotten back from a trip to Chiapas, and Keith & Debbie are doing well. Six mission teams visited them from April through September. Nine women from the ABW of WV (plus Brian McClure) visited in June for 10 days. During the trip, they met with 37 women for a meeting on mental/spiritual/physical health. Sarah McCloy has started her second year in language school. She is also working at Shokei Church and University. JD and Rhonda Reed are in West Virginia. Rhonda has continued to move into her role as a counselor to other missionaries. They still need our support. The current status of mission support for all of the IM missionaries was reviewed.
- Ballie Myers has been hired as the Short Term Missions Coordinator by International Ministries.
- David Hulme will be leading a group to Cuba Nov 8-15 including Greg and Melanie Swisher, Cari Pauley, Phil Wayman, and at least one other person.
- The Commission received updates on each of our mission partnerships including Russia, India, and Enduring Love. The Russian partnership is still strained. Good things are happening with Enduring Love.
- There is a good prospect for a Missionary Intern to partner with Keith and Debbie Myers.
- The Commission reviewed and discussed some possible changes to Camp Global in 2025.
- The Commission discussed some potential workshops at the Annual Training Event in February including Church Administration, Short Term Mission Trip Leader, Risk Management/Liability/Insurance, and Church Security.

Mike Sisson provided some information on Church Mutual unilaterally cancelling some insurance policies for board members to be aware of in their own churches and associations. There are many challenges for some churches in getting coverage.

An Open House will be held for the Sunny Day Activity Center in November. The formal dedication will be held in the spring.

The dates of future meetings including the Annual Meeting were reviewed, and Erich thanked everyone for their commitment to the Convention.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 pm following a prayer by Erich Reggi.

Respectfully submitted,

Erich Reggi, President  
West Virginia Baptist Convention

David Hoge, Secretary  
West Virginia Baptist Convention