Report of the

EXECUTIVE BOARD

to the

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION

September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026

West Virginia Baptist Convention

DOING CHRIST'S WORK *together*

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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
to the
West Virginia Baptist Convention
September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026

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 the Lord working in incredible ways during the ten weeks of summer at Camp Cowen with 101 people accepting Jesus as Savior and 90 campers rededicating their lives to following Jesus more closely. Likewise, Parchment Valley Conference Center saw 106 new believers in Jesus Christ and 114 rededications. Baptist Campus Ministry has experienced a phenomenal year with attendance continuing to increase on most of the 10 college campuses where they provide a Christian community for students. As the WVBC family, we continue to provide opportunities for leaders and pastors to continue their education through Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies and WVBC's partnership with Palmer Theological Seminary – WV Campus at Parchment Valley, not to mention regular training opportunities offered annually.

WVBC churches have a long and strong history of supporting missions. There have been 42 missionaries called to the field from WVBC churches. WVBC continues to lead all regions in mission support dollars each year. This past year more than 72 people from WVBC churches went on short term international mission trips (this does not include all those involved in local and nationwide mission work). In addition, two missionary interns, Allison and Lillian O'Dell, spent four weeks in Chiang Mai, Thailand, working alongside Mark and Alise Juanes who are global servants with International Ministries.

One of the greatest challenges in WV has also been one of the greatest opportunities to demonstrate the hope, love, and presence of God in a practical way. The recent back-to-back flooding across the state has impacted many people and churches. Perhaps the most devastating took place in July in Weston and Buckhannon, WV. The level of destruction impacted numerous lives and damaged an estimated 1,000 homes. First Baptist Church in Weston was impacted by the flooding and received immediate support in clean up from the members of WVBC churches. However, the story does not stop there. While in recovery, the church began to serve the community as a hub for resourcing supplies, meals, transportation, and coordinating recovery teams. WVBC churches from across the state responded with numerous supplies from bottled water to pressure washers and everything in between. Fruits of Labor Café and Ministry, owned and operated by Tammy Jordan Hall, wife of Pastor Derek Hall of Old Greenbriar BC, and in cooperation with several WVBC churches prepared and distributed an estimated 500-700 meals a week to Weston residents. Numerous teams from WVBC churches and BCM students provided clean up and some repair work to many homes in the area as well as the local Senior Center. Over $90,000.00 in disaster relief donations received has been distributed to those in need as of the writing of this report.

Amid all these amazing things God is doing, it appears the increased interest is the Christian faith continues to spread across the younger demographics. Local schools continue to see a very good response to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes programs offered as extracurricular options during lunch periods and breaks.

Baptist Campus Ministry continues to grow and students are seeking to reach their peers for Christ. And the stories of God's goodness continue to spread throughout the entirety of the WVBC family,

While I have repeated often over the last eight 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 continues to be a decline in financial support. While operating costs continue to rise due to inflation, financial support has declined. Our emphasis to try to address this challenge has been two-fold. First to carefully and consistently look for ways to cut costs without giving up ministry impact. The second, has been more diligence in our communication to share the many stories of the impact the ministries we do together are having on the people we are reaching for the Jesus Christ. We move forward in faith that God will provide for the work of His ministry, and our role is to make sure we are only doing work that honors and serves Christ.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Rev. Chad Mugrage

It has been an honor to serve our WVBC family as president for 2026. WVBC holds a very special place in my heart. I've been on the receiving end of the ministries of our WVBC ministries whether it was the ministries to youth, BCM or even the Palmer Seminary program. I've been grateful to be able to serve by giving back to the family that invested in me over the years.

Dr. Sisson challenged us a year ago to these verses "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory."—(Ephesians 3:20)
I've been able to witness how God is doing some amazing things in our churches and through the ministries of the WVBC. We are blessed with so many great ministries. Thank you to each individual and church who supports these ministries.

I pray for an amazing Annual Meeting. Our Annual Meeting is a time for us to join together and celebrate what God is doing. May God continue to use us to make an eternal impact in lives throughout the world.

DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION

Lou Ann Nicholas, Chair ~ Koreen Villers, Staff Liaison

In 2026, the Discipleship Commission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention continued to support the discipleship ministries of local churches with an emphasis on "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." 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 scheduled for February 7, but postponed till May 16, 2026:

- Recruiting Volunteers for Children's Ministry – Koreen Villers
- Planning a Community Festival – Roger Adams
- God's People, God's Word, God's Purposes – Rob Ely
- Same Storm, Different Boats: Bridging the Generational Divide in the Church – Jeremy Nicholas
- Who are WE? Exploring the West Virginia Baptist Convention – Jon Villers
- How does what I believe about God affect my Mental Health? – Christa Raitz
- Women's Ministry in WVBC – Sherry Husted & Koreen Villers
- Connected: Building Authentic Community in Youth Ministry – Jill Narraway
- Creating Remarkable Experiences – Corey Brooks

Bill Mowry, the Keynote Speaker at the Annual Meeting in 2024, planned a follow-up Discipleship training event. The first cohort started in February – May 2025. 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 began in September 2025 and will go through March 2026. The staff who participated are Rob Ely, Kevin Sions, Koreen Villers, and Jon Villers. Pastors who participated are Anthony Pratt, Lance Linden, and Jason Robbins. All of those who participated were grateful for the experience and learning from Bill Mowry.

The keynote speaker for Annual Meeting 2026 was Mac Lake. He spoke on discipleship and leadership.

Prayer books that traveled from church to church in each Association were brought to Annual Meeting 2025 and prayed over as a larger body.

The Mental Health focus for 2025-2026 is on Pastors. The MMBB is currently offering 6 sessions of coaching or 4 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 for the Pastors, providing resources.

To assist churches with mental health, 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 wvbc.org.

Reducing the Risk Training: Insurance companies are canceling church policies, raising deductible limits to unreasonable amounts, and/or increasing premiums, sometimes at double, triple, or higher 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 them in 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 2027: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." With a concentration on worship.

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTRIES

Jillene Narraway, Director of Camping and Youth

Youth Ministry Planning Team

Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT) is more than an event planning team, it is a place where young people are equipped, trusted, and challenged to lead.

Each year, high school students from across the West Virginia Baptist Convention bring their perspectives, gifts, creativity, and faith together to shape ministry for their peers. Through planning and leading statewide youth events, YMPT members gain practical ministry experience while growing in discipleship, teamwork, communication, and leadership. Their voices help identify what matters to students, develop relevant biblical themes, and create opportunities for worship, learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

The impact extends beyond any single event. YMPT invests in young leaders who return to their churches with greater confidence, stronger leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of what it means to serve Christ and others. At the same time, our statewide youth ministry is strengthened as ministry is developed not simply for young people, but with young people.

The 2025-2026 YMPT was comprised of the following students:

- Hana Biram- Emmanuel Baptist Church Charleston
- Alexis Browning- First Baptist Church of Hurricane
- Camryn McLain- South Parkersburg Baptist Church
- Syrenity Medford- Emmanuel Baptist Church Parkersburg
- Micaiah Moncrief- First Baptist Church of St. Albans
- Elanor Narraway- Cowen First Baptist Church
- Max Noble- New Baptist Church
- Alexis Presley- Mt Jackson Baptist Church
- Caleb Rhodes- First Baptist Church of St. Albans
- Kathleen Stoner- New Baptist Church
- Hannah Wagoner- First Baptist Church of Ravenswood

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

Throughout the year, YMPT events centered on Identity, grounded in Galatians 2:20: "*It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*" Students were challenged to look beyond the labels, expectations, and distractions of the world and discover their value and purpose in Christ. Through worship, Bible study, discussion, and fellowship, students explored what it means to find direction in God's Word, live confidently in who God created them to be, and make their identity in Christ known through the way they live.

Events held this year were:

- Fall Rally, September 12-13, 2025 at Camp Cowen
- Senior High Convention, November 14-16, 2025 at FBC St Albans
- Junior High Convention, February 20-22, 2026 at South Parkersburg Baptist Church
- Summer Kick Off, May 8-9, 2026 at Camp Cowen.

Youth Leader Core

For more than four decades, Youth Leader Core (YLC) has invested in the discipleship and leadership development of young people across the West Virginia Baptist Convention. During the 2024–2025 program year, 16 students representing 13 WVBC churches participated in this intentional journey of faith and leadership formation.

Commissioned by their local churches, YLC students gathered for five weekends from August through March. Throughout the year, students were challenged to better understand themselves, deepen their relationship with Christ, develop practical leadership and ministry skills, and discern how God is calling them to serve. The impact of YLC reaches beyond the five weekends as students return to their churches and communities better equipped and more confident to live out their faith and use their gifts in ministry.

YLC leaders were Jillene Narraway, Caroline and Jared Fitzwater, Josh Weddle, and Eli and Hailie Williams, who invested in students through teaching, mentoring, encouragement, and shared ministry.

Please continue to pray for these young leaders and for WVBC Student Ministries as we invest in a generation of students who are growing as disciples, discovering their gifts, and learning to lead as they follow Jesus.

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CAMP AT COWEN BOARD

Jill Narraway Director of Camping and Youth

Camp Cowen

In 2026, it was a blessing to minister to campers of all ages at this “little mission station on the Gauley River.” 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.



In 2026, our theme—Overflow—invited campers to discover the abundant, overflowing nature of God’s love, power, and mission. Rooted in Ephesians 3:20–21, this theme reminds us that God’s work in our lives is immeasurably more than we could ever ask or imagine. When God fills us with His Spirit, His presence doesn’t stop with us—it overflows! His goodness spills into our relationships, our worship, our service, and the world around us. Overflow calls us to live from that abundance, to let God’s love and power flow through us so others may see His glory.

Numbers

- Campers 1696
- Counselors/leaders 381
- Salvation 101
- Rededications 90
- Call to ministry 26
- Desire to be Baptized 46

Across the last 83 years, God’s people of the West Virginia Baptist Convention have been expecting great things from God and attempting great things for God through our summer camping programs at Camp Cowen. God continues to show He is doing immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine! From the continued growth of the facility to the powerful impact of ministry, God has blessed us exceedingly abundantly! We are thankful for a camp facility where campers can have fun in a safe environment, encounter powerful teaching from God’s word, respond in faith to the call to repentance, bravely discern God’s call to ministry, compassionately minister to those with broken hearts and difficult life situations, and develop the strong bonds of a large network of the body of Christ in a community of faith.

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 Middler: Kelly Hensley
- Junior High 1: Roger McKenzie
- Junior 1: Libby Workman
- High School 1: Lee Boso
- Junior 2: Susan Armstrong and Erin Thorpe
- Junior High 2: Megan Jones
- High School 2: DaVontaé Edwards
- Family Camp: Bethany Cox
- Older Middler: Koreen Villers
- AB Men’s Camp: Jim Mitchell
- Camp Global: Todd McClure

- Women's Camp: Maci Villers and Kasey Stevens.

For Summer Staff, Cowen had 28 people on payroll throughout the summer and several volunteers. More than 380 counselors and volunteers gave of their time and talents to make camp possible! 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!

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! We hosted 5,683 overnight guests and 6,473 have visited us for a day of activities, enjoying summer camps, church retreats, family reunions, conferences, veteran's events, Palmer Seminary classes and Bobby Woods school of Christian studies.

We have also been hosting community events like Ripley youth soccer, Jackson County youth soccer, Jackson County Hunting Heros, Hunter safety classes, DNR K9 training, WV search and rescue training weekend, Ripley Vol Fire Department and DNR dive team trainings, and the list goes on. So far this year, we have hosted 325 events with 280 volunteers helping to make this happen.

Camping season report:

Our camp ministry season was incredibly blessed:

- First-time commitments 106
- Rededications 98
- Call to serve in ministry 14
- Baptisms 36

We continue working all over Parchment Valley, to maintain and improve our conference center. We are still in the planning process for lower lodge room remodels, Playground addition and maintenance are almost complete with a new play surface coming this fall (Thank you ABW). The Santrock Education Building has received some TLC needed for the bathrooms, our exterior door project is out for quotes (Thankful for a grant to pay for this). This summer we had an unplanned replacement of our well pump controller and wiring. We have also been in a season of water heater and HVAC replacements.

The mission house has had increased usage this year with our rental guest and them two missionaries and a missionary family staying with us.

We have started the fencing installation, thank you BCM and ABMEN! Your work weekends made such a difference. The fencing and gates will help us to make this a safer campus for campers and guests. Funding for this was provided by the grant obtained previously.

Our pool needed several repairs and the PV board, and WVBC trustees authorized a contract for the work, which included some work performed by our maintenance team and staff. The work took some twists and turns but in the end the Lord blessed us with a beautiful, finished product. And a reduced use of chemicals over the season.

Brothers' Keeper brought in 69 youth and 25 volunteers to Serve Jackson County residents in need. We were able to complete 21 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 two making first time decisions! And nine

made decision to rededicate the walk to the Lord In the evening, we worshiped together and had great teaching by Todd McLure and Rob Ely.

Jackson County Hunting Heroes (JCHH) recently had a community fun day & car show at PV, which brought many folks from Jackson County and beyond. The JCHH annual hunt and fellowship is scheduled for December 3-5, 2026. They would welcome pastors to participate and minister to these combat veterans.

In January Amanda Hupp accepted the role of Assistant Director of Operations in addition to continuing as our contract food service director.

In March Nelson Fisher, our maintenance director of ten years, resigned to take another position locally. Nelson has been missed, however he has stayed connected and offers support wherever he can. We welcome John Methany as our part-time Maintenance director; He stepped into a large learning curve and has done well and has been a blessing.

Our team has stayed focused on our Mission to be a place where lives are changed. We have focused this year on Clearing a way to the cross, through service, whether cleaning bathrooms, hauling trash, serving food or repairing a toilet, everything that eliminates distractions helps people to hear the gospel messages shared clearly.

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sue Hamric, President

HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

We could simply type the single word “DITTO” under this heading as 2026 has been yet another year of sorting, categorizing and filing of historical materials in our possession. If you are looking for a volunteer outlet, Monday mornings are our scheduled workdays and whether or not you can utilize a feather duster or file documents in their designated locations, we would appreciate any help you can give.

2026 ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

- We are excited to announce that we will be honoring the Putnam Family during our luncheon on Friday, October 16, 2026 at New Baptist Church in Huntington. Throughout the history of our luncheon, this will be the first time we have included West Virginia Baptist Musicians. The Putnam Family has graciously agreed to perform a lunch break concert for all attendees.
- Lunch tickets are $20 and can be ordered online at WVBC.org. Our catered luncheon menu consists of honey sesame pork tenderloin, mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots and strawberry spinach salad.

CHURCH MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES

- Invitation letters have been sent to those churches celebrating milestone anniversaries in twenty-five-year increments. Two complimentary lunch tickets will be provided for each church if they wish to send representatives.
- Those churches without in-person representation will receive their certificates through other means.

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK SIDEWALK

- Due to a change in contractors and a change in sidewalk construction, this project is now perpetual. Engraved bricks can be purchased online or through the Historical Society Board members. 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.
- Preliminary plans are in the making for a dedication service.

BOBBY WOOD SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

- WV Baptist Historical Society Historians, Gary and Debbie Higginbotham, were contacted by Director Dr. Mark McCloy and invited to teach a class on WV Baptist History.
- They were delighted to accept the task and the class was held on June 20, 2026.
- The students were invited to search through their home church files as they completed the task curriculum of writing about them.
- What a perfect place to hold a BWSCS WV Baptist History class! The location is ideal; the students are surrounded by years and years of WV Baptist History which entitles them to dig deep for specific information or simply to browse and learn; and it also educates the students on who and what the Historical Society is all about as well as a knowledge of the archives.
- Dr. McCloy has commissioned Gary and Debbie to teach another class this Fall.

LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

Dr. Mark McCloy, Staff Liaison

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

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

The Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies and the digital learning initiative - The name was officially changed in 2019 to honor 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 varied in number of locations from as little as six to as many of twelve locations, it varies for each course. Deans for the school include Northwest area (Rev. Cecily Thompson), Northeast area (Rev. David Hulme), and Southeast area (Dr. Greg Swisher) areas, as well as the digital program (Dr. Mary Beth McCloy).

Palmer Seminary - Program continues to do well.

Annual Training Event - The leadership training event, hosted by Parchment Valley Conference Center, was a large scheduled to have the largest attendance ever, when inclement weather caused it to be postponed. The event was rescheduled for May with about half normal attendance. A total of 26 different courses were offered. Plans are underway for the 2027 event, which will take place the first Saturday of February.

The Annual Bible Conference was offered at Parchment Valley. Dr Trent Eastman brought an excellent class on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. This well-loved training, open to all who are interested, will take place on the first Saturday of March and next year's topic will be 1 and 2 Corinthians.

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 Mac Lake as our speaker. The topic was on leading yourself.

An event featuring Christa Raitz on “Compassion Fatigue” was held prior to the Bible Conference, and there was also a family picnic at Parchment Valley, which featured Rev. John Putnam and others singing, and Revs. Casey and Shelly Dawson speaking on their lifetime of ministry. A couple's event (a boat cruise) was held in August.

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

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

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

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 2026 over 74 students have been a 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. Avery high percentage of the past interns are either serving in churches as ministers or attending seminary.

Phase 2: Mentoring for Pastoral Excellence - The seventh 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. Thirteen 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 (to date, ten mentors have been trained)
- Determine the common learning for 1/3 of each mentoring session

- Plan and execute the annual conference
- Assign mentors
- Ongoing evaluation of the program

BOBBY WOOD SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Dr. Mark McCloy, Director

Currently, we have multiple locations for regular, although this number varies by course – ranging from six to twelve. 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 creditable and recognizable training within the Convention family. Furthermore, Palmer Seminary now recognizes graduation from the school as a potential indicator of ability to succeed in seminary and allows graduates the possibility of entry into seminary without the normally required bachelor's degree. The Pastoral Ministry track, for lay and pastoral leaders, is a three-year course of study, which qualifies graduates for ordination and full credentialing in pastoral ministry. (This same program is also offered digitally in a two-year format). Credit is also occasionally available for other convention events, such as Camp Global, the Bible Conference, and the Annual Training Event.

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.

In 2026, we supported 26 students in the WV Palmer program, with new applicants starting this fall, 5 students pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or online programs, 3 of those being new applicants, and 2 doctoral recipients, with one of those being a Palmer graduate transitioning into the Doctor of Ministry program. It is such an encouragement to watch the progression of students as they move through degree programs and serve in local ministries. Our hope is that churches and associations will encourage students hearing a call to ministry to apply for the scholarship. Applications are available online at www.wvbes.org.

In September of 2025, the WVBES Board hired Rev. Lee Boso as the Executive Director. Throughout the year scholarship applications and reapplications have been moved fully online. My vision is to make the work of the Education Society more widely known and accessible and to encourage the call of God in the lives of His servants in West Virginia and around the world!

This year has seen nearly $11,000 in donations that further seed our endowment to provide for students both now and in the future. We want to thank churches, individuals, and associations for their ongoing contributions. With these, we are able to expand the resources available to students desiring to be faithful with their call and service to West Virginia Baptist Convention churches and ministries withing the American Baptist Churches. To God be the glory in all His work!

PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WEST VIRGINIA PROGRAM
Dr. *Allen Copenhaver*

The 2025-2026 academic year was particularly exciting for Palmer Theological Seminary as we celebrated our centennial anniversary. Founded as Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1 925, the past year was marked by several celebrations at the St. Davids campus. A special West Virginia celebration occurred in conjunction with the annual meeting held at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Charleston.

Special guests included President Ron Matthews and Dean Kimberlee Johnson. Those receiving special recognition during the dinner included Lloyd Hamblin, Jr., Executive
Director of the Bowen Charitable Trust, and George Hancock-Stefan, Professor Emeritus ¸Lawrence Hoptry, former Director of the WV Baptist Education Society, was also recognized posthumously.

At the annual graduation banquet, five students were recognized for completing their M.Div. degree: Andrew Kiddle, Cole Linder, Jill Narraway, Olivia Tunnell, and Willie Washington, II I.

The seminary is thankful for continued partnerships with the WVBC, Parchment Valley Conference Center, the Bowen Charitable Trust, and the WV Baptist Education Society. These partnerships allow our work to both continue and flourish.

Also beginning in Fall 2025, our D.Min. program moved fully online. At present, two cohorts of 25 students from around the world are engaged in this innovative program that maximizes convenience and flexibility with life changing instruction.

PASTORS4PASTORS: WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTERS' COUNCIL
J. Anthony Pratt, President

The Vision of Pastors4Pastors: The WV Baptist Minister's Council is to provide opportunities 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.

Our WVBC Pre-Convention event at this past year's Annual Meeting was held at Oak Wood Baptist on Thursday October 16th with Mac Lake joining us sharing about Leading Yourself, a free book and workbook titled Growth Plan was given to each minister in attendance, lunch was provided by Oakwood Baptist in memory of Max Hill with Oakwood Baptist sharing about a mission scholarship established in memory of Max Hill for pastor's to use for mission trips! There was a large turnout for this educational event! Our Pre-Bible Conference Event was held at Parchment Valley Baptist Conference Center on March 6th with Chrisa Raitz leading a session on " Compassion Fatigue" with 25 pastors, spouses and staff members were in attendance. This was a great personal care event for ministers! On Saturday March 21st Pastors4Pastors hosted a one-day book club at Emmanuel Baptist with Jim Butcher sharing about his book " Christian Pharisees" this was a wonderful event for several of our pastors! Our family picnic was held on Saturday June 13th at Shelter # 1 at PVCC, with Casey & Shelly

Dawson sharing how ministry affects the family! This was a wonderful time of fellowship for our WVBC pastors' families! Our Couples Dinner Cruise on the Valley Gem was a wonderful night of togetherness for 21 pastoral couples, a night of trivia, dinner and fellowship.

Make plans to join us on Thursday October 15th, 2026, at the WVBC Pre-Convention Pastors4Pastors event with Kristina Gutierrez sharing, the event will take place in Huntington WV at the Christian Center located on Marshall University Campus! Our Pre-Bible Event will be Friday March 5th 2027 and our Family Picnic will be Saturday June 12th 2027 at Parchment Valley Conference Center, this upcoming year we are pleased to announce that we have planned a couples retreat that will occur at Hawks nest on August 6th & 7th 2027.

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 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 balance this desire with a responsibility to protect our churches, and to maintain confidentiality within the process.

We approved one requests for regional recognition this year for Joseph Smith. We have had no issues of clergy misconduct come before this committee in 2026.

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. Although the ATE was moved to May because of the bad weather in February we had a Dinner Church workshop along with Rob Ely's workshop focused on Bill Mowery's work on triad and quad discipleship studies. We were disappointed that although we had several folks signed up for the Dinner Church workshop for February, nobody signed up for the May event. We are working to figure out how/if we can get more interest around Dinner Church again.

May's meeting revolved around the workshops, teachers, etc. that were teaching at the Annual Training Event, along with receiving reports from AB Men, ABWM, BCM, and Hispanic ministries.

Disaster Relief

Since the May meetings we were forced to work on our disaster relief efforts. With early flooding in Boone and Logan counties there were a couple of work parties to help those in need. One of those was to help out Wharton Baptist Church, an independent church in Boone County. Then with the major flooding that happened later in the summer in Lewis and Upshur Counties we had many people and churches volunteer to do everything from collecting items, muck-outs, and some rebuilding at the Lewis County Senior Center. Rob Ely did a great job at coordinating most of the work parties and Pastor Mark Evans from Weston first Baptist Church has done an amazing job at helping with coordination of all of the help being received in Weston.

Dinner Church

We currently have several Dinner Churches that are functioning and that all look very different and are experiencing varying levels of success. Evan Arkell is now trained to help churches with any Dinner Church needs that they may have.

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

The college ministry of the West Virginia Baptist Ministry is called Baptist Campus Ministry. "Changing lives that change the world" has not always been the tagline, but it has always been the Misson! God has used BCM for many years across the college campuses in West Virginia.

BCM is blessed to have ministries on 10 campuses: Concord, Davis & Elkins, Fairmont, Glenville, Marshall, Potomac State, West Virginia State, West Virginia University of Technology, West Virginia, University of Charleston.

Davis & Elkins College welcomes Natasha Evans as the new BCM Associate. BCM would like to express gratitude for Rev. Brett Rhinehart for his years of service.

The mission or changing lives takes place as each campuses teaches the word of God and challenges the students to apply it to their lives. The learning happens at their weekly meetings and small groups throughout the week.

Community of believers gather around God's word and seek the purposes of God to fulfill the call on their lives. That is made possible by the generosity of our WVBC Churches and individuals each year. Please continue to pray for our associates on each campus as they partner with the Lord to "Change lives that change the world."

WEIRTON CHRISTIAN CENTER

Kim Weaver, Director

As a Community Outreach Ministry and one of the WV Hope Ministries, we are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our WV Baptist family. You are our largest source of support, helping cover the general operating expenses that keep our ministry serving children every day. While we continue to apply for grants to fund special programs benefiting our kids, your churches faithfully support our everyday work—even through the most challenging times. Thank you for including us in your mission budgets, keeping us in your prayers, and giving so

generously. Your commitment makes a meaningful difference and keeps our doors open.

We are also grateful to everyone who organizes special offerings and collects items to meet our children's basic needs. Within this faithful family, WV American Baptist Women are extraordinary supporters, advocates, and friends of the Center. When they hear of a need, they respond with love and action. They inspire their churches to collect and give—through Quarters for Grades, gift cards for children's clothing, school supplies, after-school snacks, socks and underwear, Christmas shoeboxes and gifts, and so much more. Thank you, ladies, for your love, support, cards, and prayers! And thank you to our entire WV Baptist family for helping us continue this ministry to children.

Preschool Program: For the 25-26 school year, we had two 3-year-old classes, for 18 total and 20 4-year-olds. This school year, 2026-27 we have two classes of 12 preschoolers for a total of 24, and 15 4-year-olds. For the first time ever, we just started a tuition fee that is on graduated scale, so that those who are in the 50% and below poverty level are still free and those in the 50-80% will receive a half scholarship. Our first month has gone great, and once again this year, we are close to winning the "Best of Best" Preschool for the local papers. Our teachers are amazing and one of the most important things they teach is love, caring and how to pray. 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! Most come back the summer after graduation for our Kindergarten Readiness class. We had one preschooler who came to us at 3 with no religion in the home, and within 6 years, while attending our afterschool program, her parents and both sets of grandparents have come to the Lord and been baptized. She continues to be a prayer warrior.

During the **Afterschool program**, we serve approximately 80 children, K - 6th Grade plus the Leadership program for 7th grade and up. Since the Leadership program was in our largest classroom, but they were used all over the building as helpers in classrooms, the office of the kitchen, there was a room full of empty seats. That led to the decision for this school year to open up another elementary class to include more children. We are still adding children on a regular basis right now. 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 fitness, and of course a Bible lesson each day. There is time for computer programs that aid learning for each class. Last year, we updated our labs to iPad labs, and 5 iMacs with the help of two grants.

Our **Project Leadership program** is sponsored by various grants, and it enables us to pay our 7th and 8th grade students $5 per hour and our High School students $8.75 per hour – after they complete 60 hours of volunteer service in the center. We currently have 14 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 Grow with God and we had 89 children attend. It was kicked off at the end of the school year when we partnered with a very passionate woman, Anita Weller, who provided 20 children with "Salad in a Bag" gardens to take home and grow. Throughout the summer we had gardening classes for all ages at our Community Garden. With the help of Weirton Kiwanis, we were able to have 3 elementary school teachers come and work with our children for our reading program. All our children were tested so we knew who needed help and they were able to work one-on-one with a teacher for the 7-week program. According to the tutors, there was a huge difference made 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. The second-grade class alone read 525 books. Everyone went to our library for books and received at several books to take home, thanks to a donation from Kiwanis, we were able buy new books for our library. 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 fitness program all

summer. 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. This year, we took 62 people for our 4-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, 10 of them gave their lives to the Lord and they were baptized before we left. It was the best of week of camp – most spirit-filled ever. Thank you for your prayers and donations! When they go it is always a life-changing week. Although we are too far from Camp Cowan, 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. For the Afterschool program the buses bring them from the schools, and we take them home. And we transport both ways in the summer. With our vans getting older, the repairs have really increased – with large issues on a regular basis. This is an area of need that your churches can help with.

Feeding Programs: We serve breakfast, lunch and a snack to Preschool, and Dinner and a snack for the Afterschool program and lunch and a snack during the 7-week summer program. The WV Child Nutrition Feeding program reimbursement helps to cover our Afterschool and Summer costs. We serve a large population of children in the extremely poor category – 90% of our children fall in the 80% and below poverty level. We are an agency of the United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley, which recently merged with 6 other counties. Thank you for all the prayers for our level of support – it is only $13,000 less than what we were getting from Weirton United Way.

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 has an office in our building. They receive counseling in their "safe place". There is no cost to us but the benefits to our children have been tremendous. In the Afterschool program, Bible lessons and weekly scriptures are a part of the schedule just as much as help with homework, computer time, activities, fitness, snacks, music lessons and dinner. It's amazing that many 20-somethings still reach out when they need a faith boost. They are still part of our WCC Family. 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.

We had a wonderful visit from our first BCM Mission Team from WVU! They shared their faith with our kids and worked at any project we gave them, with a wonderful attitude. 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. We would truly appreciate being considered for a portion of your church's annual mission giving. If you would like more information for your congregation, a video to share, or would like to hear our story in person, please feel free to call the Center at 304-748-2353, or my cell phone at 304-479-2140 or email Kim@WeirtonChristianCenter.com. For 109 years, our Baptist family has been so crucial to our existence! And you are all invited to join us for our 110th Anniversary next September! **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 where separated families can have visits, supervised by Second Chances. 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 asset – and expense. 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 go out 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!

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, the 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 19-21, 2025. Kathy Sponaugle headed the committee. The theme was "Letters to God thru Prayer." The Guest Speaker was Jill Narraway, and special music was provided by Brian and Sara McClure. The collected offering was $1220 and donated to the Mission Outreach Project Sewing Faith in Tribal Culture. We had 105 ladies in attendance.

Women's Annual Meeting: Women's Day was held on October 16, 2025, at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Charleston, VVV. The theme was "Emmanuel, God with Us." Martha Bennett and her committee provided an amazing program focused on outreach and missions. The Main Speaker in the afternoon was Sherry Husted, ABWM President; the morning session had Mission Speakers Kim Weaver and Shelly Dawson, and the special music was provided by Marsha Raker. The offering collected was donated to Special Project funding support for an Intern for Young Women Ministry and International Students at Baptist Campus Ministries — Marshall University Campus for two years. We had over 100 ladies in attendance.

ABWM Annual Conference: The 92nd Annual Conference was held June 6, 2026, at Parchment Valley Conference Center. The theme for the day's event was 'Growing Spiritually" (Key Scripture: 2 Peter 3:18). The Guest
speaker was Charmaine Stulp. Multiple sessions were offered, with breakout sessions on each position on the board to train all the ladies on what each board member and position is responsible for. We also had sessions dealing with personal spiritual growth. The offering collected was $3346.00 and was donated to Special Project Baptist, Repair the West Virginia Baptist Convention. We had 88 ladies registered.

Love Gift 2025, $15,610.06
WV Blessings 2025, $21,931.06

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.

PROJECTS/MINISTRIES

Mission Outreach Project (MOP) — Goal $6,000: The Mission Outreach Project for 2026 is to support life-saving care in West Garo. The purpose of the funds is to buy a new ultrasound machine for Tura Christian Hospital located in West Garo, North East, India. The Coordinator for MOP is Sandy Foster Currey.

Special Project — Goal $12,000: The Special Project for 2026 is funding to help support the funds for desperately needed repairs on the West Virginia Baptist Convention Office in Parkersburg, WV. The repairs would be used for
roof replacement, fixing plumbing in the bathroom no longer working upstairs, and significant exterior repairs of fascia and soffit. The Coordinator for Special Projects is Nancy Wolfe.

The Scholarship Girls Program (1/2 scholarship — 1/2 loan interest free): American Baptist Women Of West Virginia were blessed to be able to award $23,400.00 in scholarships/ loans for the 2025/ 2026 school year. Eighteen young ladies from eleven different churches were each awarded $1,300.00.

2025-2026 Girls / year	Home Church	College Attending
Kate Bennett (second year)	Hurricane First Baptist	Marshall University
Natalie Baisden (first year)	Judson Baptist	West Virginia University
Shilo Carr (first year)	New LIfe Ministries	Marshall University
Sophia Clay (first year)	Olive Missionary Baptist	West Virginia University
Taylor Cassell (second year)	Hurricane First Baptist	West Virginia University
Meredith Cottrell (third year)	Newark Baptist Church	West Virginia Wesleyan
Sarah Fleck (second year)	First Baptist St. Albans	Marshall University
Jordyn Floyd (first year)	Beckley First Baptist Church	Marshall University
Haley Johnson (first year)	Summersville Baptist Church	Concord University
Jodi Keen (second year)	Beulah Baptist Church	West Virginia University
Amilia Anne Nulton (first year)	Newark Baptist Church	West Virginia University
Allison O'Dell (first year)	Summersville Baptist Church	Concord College
Lillian O'Dell (first year)	Summersville Baptist Church	Concord College
Taylor Osborne (fourth year)	Harrisville Baptist Church	Columbia University
Mackenna Queen (first year)	Olive Missionary Baptist	Bridgevalley Community and Technical College
Cheyann Seevers (second year)	Newark Baptist Church	West Virginia University
Valkyrie Shearlock (first year)	Newark Baptist Church	West Virginia University
Miriam Sions (first year)	Goshen Baptist Church	West Virginia University

WV Hope 2025

Number of Associations reporting	6
Churches Reporting	41
Donation to WV Hope	14,874.70
Donation to Local Ministry	55,477.77
Donation to International Ministry	12376
Total	82728.47

Other ministries receiving donations as reported include Local food pantries, shut-ins 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 to Coordinator, **Melanie Swisher, 305 Gatewood Avenue, Oak Hill, WV 25901, Phone 304-372-1822, or email** melanieannswisher@gmail.com

WV Hope 2026

Cridlin Food & Clothing Pantry/Christian Associates
1038 6th Ave., Huntington, WV 25701
Lynn Cummings, Contact Person, 304-529-4740,
cridlinfoodpantry@gmail.com

Mission: To provide relief to those living who are unable (temporarily or chronically) to stretch their resources to meet their nutritional, hygiene, and infant essential needs in Cabell and Wayne.

Needs: Gift cards, money, gently used clothing, household items, nonperishable foods, etc.

Compass Women's Center
283 Don Knotts Blvd, Morgantown, WV 25405,
Lisa Liberda, Contact Person, 304-212-2131

Mission: Compass is a Christ-centered organization that offers hope by equipping women and families with support and information to embrace the gift of life throughout pregnancy and beyond. Compass serves family units in the Greater Morgantown area- Monongalia and Preston Counties.

Needs: Money, gift cards, gently used infant and maternity clothing, etc.

Hope Shop Food Pantry
55 Alpha Rd, Palestine, WV 26160
Herbert Andrick, Contact Person, 304-275-8706, hgandrick@yahoo.com

Mission: Ihe Hope Shop provides relief for the poor in and around Wirt County by distributing food, clothing, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items to those in need.

Needs: Money, gift cards, gently used clothing and household items, nonperishable food items.

S.A.F.E PO Box 66912419 Loop Seven Highway Welch, WV 24801
Alice Walker, Charlotte Walker, Contact Person
304-436-8117, AWalkersafe@yahoo.com , CharlotteEngland@yahoo.com

Mission: Assist victims (men, women & children) of domestic violence with the following: shelter women and children- homeless and domestic violence. Serve victims of sexual assault, human trafficking, and elder abuse. Assist with court hearings, filing emergency protective orders, referrals to law enforcement agencies and other agencies as needed in McDowell, Mercer, Wyoming counties, and others as needed.

Needs: Money, Gift Cards, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, hygiene supplies, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels, paper plates, and emotional needs. Kim Weaver, Director, P.O. Box 2045, Weirton, WV 26062

Weirton Christian Center

117 Ivy Lane, Weirton, 26062
Kim Weaver, Contact Person, 304 748 2353
weirtonchristiancenter@comcast.net

Mission: Weirton Christian Center is committed to sewing God and community with a focus on providing a strong foundation for children by meeting their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs. In 2024, Weirton Christian Center served 195 children with two Hands-On Preschool classes for 3- & 4-year-old children and a free after-school program and summer program for Kindergarten through Middle School students. Throughout the year, the Christian Center provides snacks, meals, homework help and tutoring, school supplies, computer access, fitness, arts and crafts, and music and dance lessons. The "Quarters" Reward program for attending, doing homework, grade improvement, and report card grades has been inspiring children to do better for years.

Need: Money for transportation, general expenses, and their Never Alone Kids counselors (a program for children who suffer from the loss of a loved one), and quarters (for grades) 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
Jim Mitchell, President

As one of the oldest American Baptist Men's groups in the USA, we have seen God at work through us in various forms of ministry throughout our 100 plus years of ministry. As we move forward and pray for God's direction, we are open to where He may lead us. Our ministries and mission include; disaster relief, camp and conference center facilities, work parties, Prayer breakfasts and our annual Men's Camp. Below includes highlights of these opportunities;

Disaster Relief - headed up by Mickey Skeens and Eric Campbell with Rob Ely as our \/NBC staff liaison. We invested over $50,000 in a new fully equipped large truck to support our disaster relief efforts. We coordinated efforts from member church volunteers to assist the Weston/Buckhannon, WV area. We estimate that there were over 75 volunteers on at least 15 different days to provide help and support. There was a college day organized to help hang drynwall in the Weston Senior Center.

AB Men's Prayer Breakfast - they were held on February 28th across the state in almost every association which included prayer, signing, fellowship, and information sharing. We had 24 Prayer Breakfasts statewide with over 400 men and boys partaking in the scrumptious fare. The offerings collected were directed to Parchment Valley to help upgrade their internet and WiFi services and exceeded $2,000. ABMen Scholarship Program - this year we awarded four more scholarships to young men furthering their post high school education. Interested individuals can find information and the application on the ABMen webpage of the WVBC website or contact Dan Harbaugh, Program Coordinator and who oversees the program.

Work Parties - 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 fencing around the relocated Dining Hall condensing units was completed, pressure washing, splitting firewood and completing the interior walls of the new Sunny Day Center were some of the many projects completed. Parchment Valley work party focused on finishing up and compelling all the work on the new playground.

AB Men & Boy's Camp - was held at the WV Baptist Camp at Cowen from July 31 - August 2, 2026. Roger Adams was again our keynote speaker and offered some wonderful teaching on "Followship - Lessons from Moses."
Cory Brown from St. Albans First Baptist Church led our worship sessions in signing. As always we had a morning prayer circle, an afternoon full of games and activities enjoyed singing and sharing at campfire and of course ate lots of food.

Men's Day - at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Charleston, we helped to sort clothes and items at the Heart & Hand Center in South Charleston. Lunch was provided by The First Baptist Church in South Charleston. Margaret O'Neal, Director from VO] 21 IIUnited Way was the keynote speaker. 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. During this next year, we will seek to discern God's leading, direction and purpose for all our ministries through the AB Men of WV.

At our annual meeting on Saturday, August 1st, we heard updates on each of our ministries and the following leadership was elected to the 2026- 2027 ABMen of 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 this year:

Promote fundraising for Convention ministries: Overall, it has been a great year in ministry. Here are some of the highlights:

Mountain State Mission Offering: Statewide support of this offering continues to grow, as church and individuals grasp the importance of this offering. Overall, it is up 7% over last year. Through this offering, 100% of your support stays within the WVBC to support our ministries.

World Mission Offering: Our region continues to strongly support global missions. Compared to other denominational regions, nearly 45% of the overall funding comes from our region. As of the time of this report, we have contributed more than $200,000 to support 29 different International Ministries missionaries and partners.

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

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." Multiple churches have 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, sending teams to six different countries. The Stewardship Commission was able to assist in the following ways:

Camp Global: This marked our 18th Camp Global, our annual family missions camp at Camp Cowen. Several missionaries were present, including Kyle Williams, Tim & Stacy Reese, and Rhonda Reed. We also received updates from the Japan mission team, Kainos Ministries (Kenya), our two missionary interns and a panel of kids who've served on mission trips over the past couple of years.

Mission Deputation: Kyle Williams was also able to spend a couple weeks with us, visiting several churches and speaking at association meetings.

Missionary Internship Program: This year, we had two interns – Allison and Lillian O'Dell. They served one month in Thailand, assisting Marc and Alise Juanes in the area of social media. At the conclusion of their internship, both participated in a debriefing, and we are excited to see how God uses this experience as part of their discernment for what God may be calling them to next.

Mission Trip Leader Training: We offered the training this year in May at our rescheduled 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 a total of $3,300 in scholarship to 15 individuals who went on short-term mission trips this year.

World Mission Conference: The WVBC had a total or 21 representatives at this year's World Mission Conference in Orlando, FL. This conference is hosted every other year by International Ministries (IM) and offers an opportunity meet missionaries, learn about what God is doing around the world through IM and explore further opportunities to get involved.

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 two Missionary Interns this year – Allison and Lillian O'Dell, of Summersville Baptist Church. They served together for a month in Thailand, alongside International Ministries global servants, Marc and Alise Juanes. Their primary responsibility was to assist them with social media to help improve the communication and grow the donor base for their nonprofit: Hope for Hilltribes.

As part of the Annual Training Event, I led a workshop on Short-Term Mission Trip Leader 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 mission trips. Through the Fulks Scholarship, we were also able to assist 15 individuals with funding for their trips.

Jason Marshall, chair of the WVBC Mission Partnership Team, traveled with me to Orlando to meet with Cesar Sotomayor of the European Baptist Union. During our meeting, we discussed the future of our partnership with Russia. More information will be provided at a later date.

Sarah McCloy recently completed her third year in Japan. She also welcomed her first mission team this summer, which was comprised of a group of three individuals from our WVBC family. Sarah will begin her home assignment next summer and will be available to visit churches and association meetings.

Keith and Deborah Myers recently celebrated 14 years with International Ministries. They continue to serve in Mexico and recently welcomed a team from Fairmont State BCM. They will also be on home assignment next year.

Rhonda Reed has served with International Ministries for 15 years. Having previously served in Bolivia, she is now in the important role of Global Coordinator for Health and Wellness. Within that role, she comes alongside our missionaries all over the world to help care for their needs. Recently, she had to complete a certain number of clinical hours in order to obtain her professional licensing for this role.

Present at Camp Global this year were Rhonda Reed, Tim & Stacy Reese and Kyle Williams. We also had various representatives share on recent mission trip experiences.

Finance: Much like previous years, support of the Mountain State Mission Offering continues to increase (up 7% over last year), while support of the other traditional denominational offerings continues to decrease. Unlike the other offerings, through the Mountain State Mission Offering, we retain 100% for our WVBC ministries. With United Mission, we retain 65%; with Love Gift, we retain 54%; and with America for Christ, we retain 29%.

A major fundraising highlight this year has been working with churches to assist flood victims across our state. Thanks to the support of dozens of churches, nearly $100,000 has been distributed to assist both churches and individuals. The way churches came together has provided a wonderful picture of what it truly means to "do Christ's work together."

Communications: A major part of my role is now focused on communications. At the start of the year, we hired Daniel McCloy as my administrative assistant to help me in this area. With his help, we have spent a lot of time improving our communication on social media (Facebook and Instagram). I hope you have seen the improvements on those two platforms. Daniel also now assists me with our weekly emails, our bi-monthly WV Baptist Newsletter, our bi-monthly mailings to pastors and clerks, as well as our regular website updates. Daniel also oversees our databases.

A lot has been done in this area, and we still have a lot more to do in the year to come!

APPENDIX A

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, May 1, 2026

Present: President Chad Mugrage, 1st Vice President Mike Cornell, 2nd Vice President Sandy Foster Curry, Secretary David Hoge, Treasurer Todd McClure, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Discipleship Commission Chair Lou Ann Nichols, Leadership Commission Chair Karla Carr, Outreach Commission Chair Ethan Starcher, Stewardship Commission Chair Yevette Shafer, ABMen President Jim Mitchell, ABW President Sherry Husted, At Large Member Jeremy Nicholas.

Chad Mugrage welcomed everyone at 6:30 pm. Sandy Foster Curry offered a brief devotion on the parable of the weeds. Weeds are persistent. We are God's handiwork and we have to be vigilent to monitor the "weeds" in our lives and our churches. We are beautiful in God's sight. Sandy led the group in prayer.

Mike Cornell moved the agenda be approved as presented. Motion was seconded by Karla Carr and passed unanimously.

Ethan Starcher moved that the minutes from the committee's January meeting be approved as presented. Lou Ann Nichols seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Todd McClure gave an update on Missions activity. Allison and Lillian O'Dell served as missionary interns in Thailand. Sunrise Baptist completed their trip to Kenya for the water system installation project and the Sewing in Faith project. Missionary Partnership Team members for Sarah McCloy are traveling to Japan for a visioning trip. David Hulme is leading a group to Cuba. Dan Chetti retired from Enduring Love on March 31st. 3 interns are going to a hospital in northeast India, and the ABW is working on purchasing an Ultrasound machine for the hospital. The World Mission Conference will be in Orlando in July.

Todd reviewed the financial reports. He first provided figures for the end of FY 2025. The WVBC, BCM, and Cowen all ended in the black. BCM had a $32,6632 surplus for the year. Parchment Valley ended the year $17,044 in the red. Compared to where things were in late summer, the financial summary for the year was quite a turn around. Todd reviewed the five year giving trends, noting a continued drop in United Mission. Todd also reviewed the finances for January – March 2026. Cowen is $31,435 in the red, BCM is $7,572 in the black, Parchment Valley is $18,216 in the red, and the WVBC is $18,642 in the black. The committee discussed nuiances and issues with each of the budgets. Karla Carr offered a motion to approve the financial statements. Jim Mitchell seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Todd also mentioned the Convention reserves. In 2018, the reserves were $0 having been depleted over several years. By 2025, the reserves had grown to $530,248.91, which increased to $573,531.40 in 2026. The Convention investments grew by 3.58% from January to April 2026. Work on the 2025 audit continues.

Mike also talked about various matters within the Convention. He reviewed how our communication strategy is working – generally well. The Mountain State Mission Offering is the giving of the future. In the wake of Ginny Prunty's retirement, there ontinues to be some evolution of staffing alignment in the Parkersburg office. Daniel McCloy is working well. Social media statistics are way up. Two gentlemen are covering the facilities work at Cowen as part time employees, and Sara Chambers is working well as the Admin Assistant (helping with YLC, YMPT,and Junior/Senior High Conventions). Koreen is helping with background checks. Nelson has left Parchment Valley, and two part time staff are covering the maintenance. Amanda ahs been hired as the Admin Assistant at Parchment Valley. Ministries are going well, including in our churches. God has worked lots of things out. Harvest Camping is happening at Parchment Valley.

The Annual Training Event has been rescheduled for May 16th. The 2026 Annual Meeting will be Oct 15 and 16 at New Baptist in Huntington. The theme verse is Psalm 145:3, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised."

Future meeting dates were reviewed. Chad closed the meeting at 9:53 pm.

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, May 2, 2026

The Executive Board gathered at the Santrock Building at 9:00 am. Koreen and Jon Villers led the group in some robust singing. Mike Sisson reviewed the mission and vision of the WVBC. Our 2026 theme is focused on Ephesians 3:20-21 “Expect Great Things from God. Attempt Great Things for God.” Mike offered three challenges – Raise awareness of the WVBC; Leadership Development – not just filling slots but developing and placing people from all generations; and, Don’t Miss the Movement!

Commission meetings were convened at 9:45 am and met till approximately 11:30 am.

WVBC President Chad Mugrage called the Executive Board meeting to order at 11:45 am with 42 board members, WVBC staff, and visitors present. Todd showed the new Mountain State Mission Offering video while everyone finished their lunch. Karla Carr offered a devotion asking everyone if they had ever heard “Keep the Main Thing, the Main Thing.” We all have a tendency to be lovers of ourselves as Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:2, and “lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, and unholy.” Instead, we need to be focused on our mission – to bring people to Jesus Christ. As Paul relates in the fourth chapter of Ephesians, we need to have Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ. Unity in the Faith and knowledge of the Son of God though the example of verse 16, “From him the whole body, joined and held together by each supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Karla offered an opening prayer.

Chad thanked everyone for coming. Anthony Pratt moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Eric Kendall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The minutes from the January Board meeting were distributed. Jonathan Radcliff moved the minutes be approved as presented. Marijane Kiley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Todd McClure reviewed the current financial statements, as well as the final figures from 2025. At the end of 2025, the WV Baptist Convention ended with a surplus of $21,000. At the end of March 2026, the WVBC had a YTD surplus of $18,642. Erich Reggi moved the statements be approved as presented. Casey Dawson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson gave the Executive Minister’s report. At the end of 2024, the WVBC was $74,000 in the red for the year. At the end of 2025, we were $21,000 in the black for the year. Have our ministries ever been better? They each happen because of all of us. We need to constantly be thinking of what we can do better.

The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held October 15 and 16 at New Baptist Church in Huntington. The theme will be “Celebrate the Glory of God.”

Lou Ann Nichols, Chair of Discipleship Commission, gave an update on the commission’s activities.

- Mike Harper gave a great devotion on Praising God on Difficult Days
- The commission will be supporting multiple sessions at the rescheduled Annual Training Event
- Parchment Valley has new staff (Amanda is the new admin assistant), is working on building new relationships, has a new playground, and doing some pool renovations
- Cowen had 225 at Women’s Camp, held the annual work party last weekend with good results, and still needs a lifeguard for the summer
- The WV Baptist Historical Society continues working on the convention archives and had a celebration for their new brick pathway
- Golden’eers starts on Monday
- The Children’s Rally had over 200 kids in attendance, and the Fall Rally will be held on November 7
- Junior High Convention was held at South Parkersburg Baptist

Leadership Commission Chair Karla Carr gave the report on their activities

- Greg Swisher gave a devotion on “No dead end jobs”
- There were several graduates from Palmer Seminary who participated in ceremonies in Philadelphia and in West Virginia
- Record attendance in the Bobby Woods School of Christian Studies; anyone who knows potential instructors should contact Mark McCloy; Fall emphasis is on “Communicating God’s Word”
- The WV Baptist Education Society is currently supporting 30 students at Palmer and Liberty University
- Pastors4Pastors have scheduled their family picnic for June 13 and assessing another dinner cruise in August
- The Mentoring Program currently has space available; 15 current pastors being mentored, one new approved, and one additional has expressed interest
- The commission is supporting workshops at the rescheduled Annual Training Event, 277 were registered for the February event and now working on registration for May 16
- About 60 folks attended the 2026 Bible Conference which focused on Ezra and Nehemiah
- The Committee on Ministerial Standing has no disciplinary or misconduct issues before them; Joe Smith was approved

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

- Their devotion focused on Matthew 25 and separation of sheep from goats. “Whatever you do to the Least of These”
- ABMen hosted the Annual Prayer Breakfast on February 28 and the offering will support improved internet service at Parchment Valley; they have scholarships available for higher ed and trade school; they held the Parchment Valley work party on April 10-11 and the Cowen work party on April 24-25; the 2026 Men’s Day activity will be at the Facing Hunger Foodbank in Huntington; and they are working on reimaging the ministry
- ABW held their board meeting on Feb 27 and 28; have organized a six week online bible study ith 30-35 participating; have 14 scholarship recipients this year; and are supporting the ultrasound project in northern India.
- BCM has a lot going on at 10 campuses across the state including several baptisms; there has been a donation of Bibles to all campuses; May 13-15 is a mission trip in lieu of Beach Week; numerous small group Bible Studies and Dunkin debriefs
- The Hispanic ministry is still working in Moorefield and is supporting a well project in Cuba
- They also will be supporting workshops at the rescheduled Annual Training Event
- Several dinner church locations continue to operate
- The commission spent time looking at how we meet the needs of the poor across the WVBC through blessing bags, meals and food pantries

Yevette Shafer, Chair, reported for the Stewardship Commission.

- Had a devotion by Yevette on John 1 where Jesus asks “What do you want? I want to know you more”
- Received detailed financial update from Todd McClure including the Monthly Comparative Report
- Had a discussion about educational tools available to support missions and stewardship
- Offering workshops at the rescheduled Annual Training Event on generational giving and Short-term Mission Trip Leader training
- Erich Reggi gave the Trustees’ report that Parchment Valley has installed new playground equipment and is working on pool renovations; PV also has a new mower and has completed repairs on the tractor; they have two new maintenance staff (Toby & John) and a new admin assistant (Amanda). Cowen has moved the new compressors and installed some plywood protection; the dining hall AC is working well. Exploring

quotes for new roof, façade, and plumbing issues at WVBC office in Parkersburg. Also received an update on the Convention's investments

- Received a report on Kenya Mission Trip from Casey Dawson; FBC Williamstown will be taking a Mission Trip to Honduras in August; Update on Fulks Scholarship received
- Updates on all the WV based global servants were received
- Five mission interns were sent in 2025 and still accepting applications for this summer
- Received updates on Mission Partnerships in Kenya, Cuba, Russia, and Thailand
- World Mission Conference will be held in Orlando July 29-31
- 2026 Camp Global will be August 7-8; Tim and Stacy Reese attending
- Working on a new initiative Mission Kids, led by Krista Durden

The Executive Board gathered to pray over all local pastors in attendance.
Future meeting dates were reviewed. Chad closed the meeting with prayer at 12:51 pm.

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, January 3rd, 2026; 6:30 pm
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Present: President Chad Mugrage, 1st Vice President Mike Cornell, 2nd Vice President Sandy Foster Currey, Treasurer Todd McClure, Secretary David Hoge, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Discipleship Commission Chair Lou Ann Nichols, Discipleship Commission Vice Chair Jeremy Nicholas, Leadership Commission Vice Chair Karla Carr, Outreach Committee Vice Chair Mark Evans, Pastors for Pastors Chair Anthony Pratt, ABW President Sherry Husted, ABMen President Jim Mitchell

President Chad Mugrage called the meeting to order at 6:34. Mike Cornell led a devotion on

As we have some new members of the committee, members introduced themselves and offered adjectives starting with their first letter of their names.

Mike Cornell moved the agenda be approved as presented. Anthony Pratt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Minutes from the October 2025 committee meeting were reviewed. Karla Carr moved the minutes be approved as presented. Sherry Husted seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Conflict of interest statements were distributed and reviewed. All members present signed a statement.

Mike Sisson reiterated that the Executive Committee is the Convention's personnel committee and maintaining confidentiality is critical.

Mike also provided an overview of five year financial trends for the WVBC. There is a continuing drop in the support for United Mission, Love Gift, and America for Christ. The growth is the Mountain State Mission Offering has not yet made up for the loss, but we are moving in a good direction. Education to help board members, churches, and givers understand the current situation and the impact of their giving is important.

Todd McClure reviewed the financial statements through November 2025. Cowen is $47,669 in the red. Camp registrations hit 91% of pre-COVID levels in 2025, and hopefully we can fully rebound in 2026. Maintenance costs and utilities were up in 2025 contributing to the loss. There are some rentals in November and December which will help reduce the deficit. Parchment Valley is $27,181 in the red. Rentals were down some in 2025, but should be back up in 2026 with Peter Coffey in place. BCM is $6,468 in the black. Splitting Kevin Sions with the WVBC budget has helped BCM. ABW is supporting a Women's Association and International Association at Marshall from WV Blessings. The WVBC is $43,334 in the red. Todd also reviewed the status of the reserves for each unit of the convention. Sherry Husted moved the financial statements be accepted as presented. Mark Evans seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Todd also reviewed the Convention's investments, which have had 18% growth for the year, and have a good outlook for the first quarter of 2026.

Mike Sisson gave an update on Convention staffing. Ginny Prunty is retiring. Teresa Miller continues to work as the Office Manager in Parkersburg and has assumed some of Kayla's duties, particularly remittances. Todd has transitioned to considerable focus on communications. Daniel McCloy has been hired to work on databases and supporting communications/IT. Sara Chambers has been hired to do some administrative work at Cowen. Still looking for an Administrative Assistant at Parchment Valley.

Mike also shared that there continue to be reports about growth in churches of all sizes. There are reports of a lot of baptisms, and it appears that Gen Z is flocking to church.

The committee went into Executive Session.

Jim Mitchell offered a motion granting Mike Sisson the authority to pull the funds needed for a retainer from the proper and optimal source. The motion was seconded by Karla Carr and passed unanimously.

The committee reviewed the draft 2026 budgets for each of the Convention's operating units. To give some context, Mike Sisson offered some insight into the budget notes. United Mission giving has fallen 9% and American for Christ has dropped 22%. The WVBC receives a portion of each of these offerings which has dropped significantly in recent years. No cost of living allowances are budgeted for any staff in the 2026 budget. The Convention will continue to pay 100% of healthcare. The convention will retain the same plan, even with an 8% cost increase, as no viable alternative was found. Liability insurance has increased from $51,600 in 2019 to $104,903 in 2026, which is a 103.3% increase. Auto insurance is increasing $1,516. The WVBC will be able to carry over $48,953 in grant funds. The bottom line of the budget is down $29,502 from 2025, but will still require $73,425 from reserves. A motion from the budget committee for approval was offered and passed unanimously.

The Executive Committee wanted to go on record to strongly affirm the dedication, leadership, and transparency of Dr. Sisson and Todd McClure.

Presidential Appointments for 2026 were distributed. Mike Cornell offered a motion to approve the appointments, which was seconded by Jim Mitchell. The motion passed unanimously.

Chad reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and closed the meeting in prayer at 9:53 pm.

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, January 3, 2026

The Executive Board gathered at the Santrock Building at 9:00 am. Koreen and Jon Villers led the group in some robust singing. Mike Sisson recognized Ginny Prunty on the occasion of her retirement after 30 years of service to the WVBC. Mike reviewed the mission and vision of the WVBC. Our 2026 theme is focused on Ephesians 3:20-21 “Expect Great Things from God. Attempt Great Things for God.” Mike offered three challenges – Raise awareness of the WVBC; Leadership Development – not just filling slots but developing and placing people from all generations; and, Don’t Miss the Movement!

Commission meetings were convened at 9:45 am and met till approximately 11:30 am.

WVBC President Chad Mugrage called the Executive Board meeting to order at 11:45 am with 49 board members, WVBC staff, and visitors present. Anthony Pratt offered a devotion centered on we were each created to be and do good. We all have a purpose from God which we need to strive towards each day. Anthony prayed and opened the meeting.

Anthony Pratt moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Eric Kendall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The minutes from the October Board meeting were distributed. Marijane Kiley moved the minutes be approved as presented. Sherry Husted seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Todd McClure reviewed the financial statements through November. Currently the ministry budgets for Cowen, Parchment Valley, and the WVBC show a deficit. BCM has a surplus of approximately $6,000. The Convention has a $43,000 deficit for the year, but things are trending in the right direction. The convention will be able to carryover about $50,000 in grant funding to 2026. Jim Mitchell moved the statements be approved as presented. Karla Carr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The 2026 Presidential Appointments were reviewed. Erich Reggi moved they be approved as presented. Theresa Truax seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson gave the Executive Minister’s report. He reminded us to “ask for our daily bread”, remembering that God doesn’t give us a lifetime of bread. The financial improvement since October is amazing. God is faithful. He is reviewed activities from 2025, demonstrating immense fruits of our labor.

Todd reviewed the 2026 Ministry Budget proposal. Chad asked the board to affirm Mike Sisson’s leadership. Marijane Kiley offered a motion to affirm Mike’s leadership. Mike Harper seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Nicole Rowe offered a motion to approve the 2026 ministry budget which was seconded by Erich Reggi. The motion passed unanimously.

Lou Ann Nichols, Chair of Discipleship Commission, gave an update on the commission’s activities.

- The convention staff is still working with Bill Mowry following the 2024 Annual Meeting
- They are encouraging folks to “try something new” in 2026
- The commission will be supporting nine sessions at the Annual Training Event in February
- Parchment Valley hosted “Thanksgiving in the Valley”
- Cowen has had a good year including 18 young people on YMPT
- The commission is continuing their mental health awareness and will be making videos available
- The Historical Society continues working on the convention archives

- Golden'eers had a successful fall retreat
- The Children's Rally will be held March 2 at Parchment Valley
- Junior High Convention is scheduled for March 20-22 at South Parkersburg Baptist

Leadership Commission Chair Karla Carr gave the report on their activities

- Record attendance in the Bobby Woods School of Christian Studies; any one who knows potential instructors should contact Mark McCloy
- Palmer Seminary cohorts are growing
- The WV Baptist Education Society is currently supporting 30 students at Palmer and Liberty University
- One ordination is in the works
- Pastors4Pastors had 40 pastors at their event at the Annual Meeting with Mac Lake; they are planning a compassion fatigue workshop on March 6, are continuing their book club, and have scheduled their family picnic for June 13.
- The Mentoring Program currently has space available; 15 current pastors being mentored, one new approved, and one additional has expressed interest
- The commission is supporting workshops at the Annual Training Event
- 2026 Bible Conference will have Trent Eastman as the speaker again; Trent shared an overview with the focus this year on Ezra and Nehemiah
- The Eastern Association has had 12 lay leaders become pastors
- The Committee on Ministerial Standing has no disciplinary or misconduct issues before them; they asked everyone to remember Matt Ash in prayer
- Eric Kendall reported the Education Society is currently supporting 30 Palmer students plus two undergrad and two doctoral students

Mark Evans, Vice Chair of the Outreach Commission reported on their meeting.

- They gave a brief orientation to new commission members
- ABMen will be hosting the Annual Prayer Breakfast on February 28 and the offering will support improved internet service at Parchment Valley; they have scholarships available for higher ed and trade school; the Parchment Valley work party will be on April 10-11 and the Cowen work party is on April 24-25
- ABW reports their theme for 2026 is "The Year We Grow, Serve, and Build"; they are starting a new online bible study
- BCM has a lot going on at 10 campuses across the state; not doing a Beach Week in 2026 but will be switching to a summer missions trip; while Christian groups often back away during finals week – BCM went full bore very successfully
- The Hispanic ministry is still working in Moorefield
- They also will be supporting workshops at the Annual Training Event

Marijane Kiley, Vice Chair, reported for the Stewardship Commission.

- They welcomed new commission members and provided overview of commission purpose (Missions & Stewardship)
- Received detailed financial update from Todd McClure including an overview of the flow of each offering or revenue stream and the Monthly Comparative Report

- Had a discussion about educational tools available to support missions and stewardship
- Previewed the workshop from the Annual Training Event on generational giving; also hosting Short-term Mission Trip Leader training at ATE
- Erich Reggi gave the Trustees' report indicating that the 2026 focus is property work needed at the WVBC office in Parkersburg; in 2025, Parchment Valley completed some lagoon repairs and Cowen's utility costs went up with new facilities; also received an update on the Convention's investments
- Updates on all the WV based global servants were received including a first hand report from Sarah McCloy
- Five mission interns were sent in 2025 and still accepting applications for this summer
- Received updates on Mission Partnerships in Kenya, Cuba, Russia, and Thailand
- 2026 Camp Global will be August 7-8
- The Commission reviewed and endorsed the 2026 WVBC budget

Sarah McCloy shared about her work in Japan. She is working with the church, supporting camp attendees, partnering with the Japan Baptist Convention, and also leading an English Outreach effort to build relations with locals who want to learn English.

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

160th Annual Meeting
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Thursday and Friday, October 16-17, 2025
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Charleston, WV
Convention Theme: Expect Great Things from God, Attempt Great Things for God
Theme Scripture: Ephesians 3:20

Session I: Thursday afternoon, 2:45 pm Rose Copenhaver, presiding

Marsha Raker and the Oakwood Baptist Praise Team led some congregational singing.
President Rose Copenhaver welcomed delegates and guests to the Annual Meeting and offered an opening prayer.
Don Biram, Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church offered a welcome from the host church.
Rose Copenhaver called the Convention Business Meeting to order.
1st Vice President Chad Mugrage presented the Annual Meeting Program. The program was approved unanimously. Vice President Mugrage also presented the time, place, and annual speaker for the 2026 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at New Baptist Church in Huntington on October 15-16,2026. Rev. Jonathan Butcher from Union Baptist Church in Parkersburg will provide the annual sermon.
2nd Vice President Mike Cornell presented the Nominating Committee Report, which will be voted on during Session IV.
Secretary David Hoge presented the Executive Board Report. The report is available on the WVBC website.
Rose Copenhaver asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting. No additional items were offered for consideration.
President Copenhaver recessed the meeting until Session IV.
Marsha Raker and the Oakwood Praise Team led some additional congregational singing and then provided some special music.
Executive Minister Mike Sisson provided an update on the successes and challenges for the Convention over the past year. He pointed out that God is doing an extraordinary work, not just across our state, but around the globe, especially among younger generations. He urged everyone to be prepared for what God is going to do in this coming year.
Todd McClure, Minister of Missions, Finance and Communication, reported on the Prayer books that had been circulating among WVBC churches through this year, and then closed the session in prayer.

Session II: Thursday evening, 6:30 pm Chad Mugrage, presiding

Marsha Raker and the Oakwood Baptist Praise Team led some congregational singing.
Chad Mugrage welcomed everyone and opened the session with prayer.
A video highlighting the Mountain State Mission Offering was played.
Keith and Debbie Myers, along with Rhonda Reed, greeted delegates and gave an update on their work with International Ministries.
Marsha Raker led some congregational singing.
Peter Coffey, Director at that Parchment Valley, gave an offertory prayer, and the offering was collected.
Dr. Allan Copenhaver gave a greeting and provided an update from Palmer Seminary.
Jon Villers, Southeast Area Minister, awarded the Ward W. Hibbs Ministerial Award to Jim Butcher from Milton 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.
Special music was provided by the Kanawha Valley Association choir and the Oakwood Baptist Praise Team.
DaVontae Edwards, pastor at Dunbar Baptist, gave the annual sermon. Focusing on Ephesians 3:20, he emphasized, “Our expectation of God will always be shaped by our vision of God.” And he further emphasized that we need to, “Dream God sized dreams. Pray prayers that stretch us. Attempt works that make heaven smile and hell nervous.”
A communion service was led by Don Biram and Mike Sisson.

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

Session III: Friday morning, 9:15 am Mike Cornell, presiding

Marsha Raker led some congregational singing.
2nd Vice President Mike Cornell welcomed everyone to Day 2 of the Annual Meeting and opened the session with prayer.
A video with Camp Cowen highlights from the last year was shown.
Karen Smith and Rick Guttierez gave on update on their work through International Ministries.
Rob Ely provided an update on the disaster relief work that has been happening over the last year.
Eric Kendall and Lee Boso gave an update on the work of the WV Baptist Educational Society.
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 Woods School of Christian Studies. There were nine graduates from the School of Christian Studies.
Marsha Raker led some congregational singing.
The Pastor's Choir offered some special music.
Mac Lake offered insights on the lack of leadership and the urgent need for leadership development.
Jim Anderson and Mary Jo Slater presented the James Anderson, Sr Bivocational Pastor Award to Sam Gasaway, Pastor of Judson Baptist Church in Winfield.
Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister, closed the session with prayer.

Session IV: Friday afternoon, 2:30 pm Rose Copenhaver, presiding

Marsha Raker led the group in more congregational singing.
President Rose Copenhaver welcomed everyone to the final session of the Annual Meeting, and opened the session with prayer.
A video highlighting the year at Parchment Valley was presented.
Pieter and Nora Kalkman gave an update on their work with International Ministries.
President Rose Copenhaver called the recessed business meeting back to order and reported that there were 162 delegates and visitors in attendance at the meeting.
Mike Cornell again presented the Nominating Committee Report. President Copenhaver 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.
Yevette Shafer offered a motion to adjourn the annual business meeting.
Marsha Raker led the group in a song.
Mike Stephens led an installation service for new Convention President, Chad Mugrage. The Convention officers for 2025-2026 were recognized. Chad Mugrage will serve as President. Mike Cornell will serve as 1st Vice President. Sandy Foster Curry will serve as 2nd Vice President. David Hoge will serve as Secretary. Todd McClure will serve as Treasurer.
Marsha Raker led some congregational singing once more.
Koreen Villers, Director of Discipleship Ministries, offered a prayer for the offering and Amy Harper provided special music during the offering.
Mac Lake again led the group in a session on practical ways to cultivate leaders. He shared, "The church does a decent job in teaching people how to live like Jesus, but we are dropping the ball in teaching people how to lead like Jesus."
Mike Sisson offered a sending out charge urging everyone to be deliberate in their engagement with others.
Jill Narraway, Director of Camping and Youth, closed the Annual Meeting with prayer.

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, October 3rd, 2025; 6:30 pm
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Present: President Roselee Copenhaver, 1st Vice President Chad Mugrage, 2nd Vice President Mike Cornell, Treasurer Todd McClure, Secretary David Hoge, Past President Erich Reggi, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Discipleship Commission Chair Sandy Foster Currey, Stewardship Commission Chair Yevette Shafer, Pastors for Pastors Chair Anthony Pratt, ABW President Sherry Husted, AbMen President Jim Mitchell, At Large Members Ammie Rasmussen and Mark Evans

President Rose Copenhaver called the meeting to order at 6:30. Sandy Foster Currey led a devotion on attempting great things for God using 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5. She celebrated each of our convention staff members and the amazing things they are helping us to accomplish. The mission trip to Thailand which Ammie Rasmussen and Yevette Shafer are participating was lifted up. Todd McClure led the group in prayer.

Yevette Shafer moved the agenda be approved as presented. Anthony Pratt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Minutes from the May 2025 committee meeting were reviewed. Sandy Foster Currey moved the minutes be approved as presented. Ammie Rasmussen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mike Sisson reported that Peter Shaffer has been brought forward as a nominee to fill the vacancy in the representative to the Executive Board from the Elk Valley Association. David Hoge moved Peter be appointed to fill the vacancy. Erich Reggi seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The committee reviewed the Nominating Committee Report which will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Mike Sisson gave an update on Convention activities. He distributed the Impact Report that was shared at the Association Meetings. He also shared the updated Ministry Guide. He then shared several charts showing the giving patterns for the Convention over the last five years, which indicate a clear decline and the inability for the WVBC to maintain a balanced budget. Mike offered several factors that are causing financial support to decline. 1. ABCUSA dissatisfaction; 2. Churches having tight budgets; 3. Insurance costs are up significantly; and 4. Older generations are passing away and younger generations are targeted givers. Two huge factors affecting the convention budget are insurance premiums across the board which are up 101% in the last seven years, and the continued increase in healthcare costs. The Convention's healthcare costs are up 16.64% in the last five years even with the reduction of five staff people. After a trend where the Convention was adding to its financial reserve each year, our expenses are now exceeding our income. On the current trajectory, we have enough reserves to cover the deficit for the next two years. Mike reminded us that none of this surprises God. It is a spiritual matter.

Mike then reviewed a draft strategy to cultivate greater financial support. The strategy involved shifting some of the administrative work which Todd is currently doing to other staff in the office so that Todd can spend more time focused on awareness activities including the website and other means to increase knowledge and appreciation of Convention activities in our churches. The staff configuration will continue to be assessed given Ginny Prunty's imminent retirement. Chad recommended that the

board give general support for the strategy and affirm its awareness and concurrence with a 2026 budget that will include a significant draw on reserves. Anthony Pratt offered a motion, which was seconded by Chad Mugrage to affirm the direction of the strategy. The motion passed unanimously.

Todd McClure distributed and provided a brief review of the WVBC, Camp Cowen, Parchment Valley and BCM budgets. He also reviewed the status of our investments. Year to date, we have had a 13% growth in our investments at Vandalia, and have a 10% return on the funds at Wesbanco. Todd reminded the committee that the current returns are only a snapshot and not guaranteed into the future.

Mike Sisson provided an update on planning for the Annual Meeting. He reviewed the theme, talked about Mac Lake's involvement as the keynote speaker, and the Prayer Books will be at the meeting. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary of ABCUSA, will be in attendance.

Rose reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and closed the meeting in prayer at 9:53 pm.

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, October 3rd, 2025; 6:30 pm
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Present: President Roselee Copenhaver, 1st Vice President Chad Mugrage, 2nd Vice President Mike Cornell, Treasurer Todd McClure, Secretary David Hoge, Past President Erich Reggi, Executive Minister Mike Sisson, Discipleship Commission Chair Sandy Foster Currey, Stewardship Commission Chair Yevette Shafer, Pastors for Pastors Chair Anthony Pratt, ABW President Sherry Husted, AbMen President Jim Mitchell, At Large Members Ammie Rasmussen and Mark Evans

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Yevette Shafer moved the agenda be approved as presented. Anthony Pratt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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