BGAV: Affiliations Continue to Grow Outside the Commonwealth and Now Around the World

The Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) annual meeting took place from November 10-12, 2014 in Hampton. At the meeting, many exciting things happened. From insightful worship and challenging speakers to business sessions and voting, Virginia Baptists from across the Commonwealth experienced a meaningful time of encouragement and fellowship.

During the meeting, the BGAV welcomed its first international church—in Seoul, South Korea! Currently, the BGAV also has a member church in the District of Columbia and several others in 15 states. After the meeting, the BGAV also welcomed another international church in Ontario, Canada.

So why do churches outside the Commonwealth desire to affiliate with Virginia Baptists? Dr. John V. Upton, Jr., Executive Director, explained that it is “as much a temperament as it is geography.” Upton went on to describe that identity of the BGAV means that Virginia Baptists are gospel-centric, are relationally rich,
are reasonable and gracious, have a heart for the “not yet,” and believe in investing generously in shared mission. Many churches, regardless of their geographical location, share those elements of identity and want to identify with Virginia Baptists because of it. And it’s not only churches who want affiliation. At the annual meeting, a new covenant with Gardner-Webb University was formalized as the North Carolina school became the first outside Virginia to partner with Virginia Baptists.

Upton also introduced two videos about BGAV churches in Hawaii and New York. “They’re coming to us,” he noted. “Five years ago I would have never dreamed of this; there was not a designed strategy. Now we’re putting structure to it.”

Ministries like this one are made possible by the generous Cooperative Missions gifts of Virginia Baptist churches affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Check out more Kingdom Stories at BGAV.org/stories.

Read more articles, see photos, and watch videos presented at the 2014 BGAV Annual Meeting:

BGAV.org

Kevin Sweeney
Planter of Imagine Church
Honolulu, HI

Dan White, Jr.
Co-Planter of Axiom Church
Syracuse, NY

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