New BGAV Position Will Coordinate Long-Term Tornado Recovery Volunteers

As the Appomattox Long-Term Recovery Committee continues its work to assess and finance rebuilding projects throughout the county, a new position will help ensure those projects are completed.

Kristen Curtis, a resident of Appomattox, will serve as Volunteer Coordinator, a position supported by the BGAV through Virginia Baptist Disaster Response.

“Our teams were some of the first to arrive in Appomattox following the tornadoes,” said Aaron Lee, Disaster Response Coordinator, “and it is important for us to continue walking alongside the community for the long haul. Supporting this position is one way we can offer continued assistance to the community’s rebuilding efforts.”

Alongside casework, fiscal management, construction coordination, and spiritual care on the committee, the Volunteer Coordinator will match volunteers with appropriate tasks to help residents continue the rebuilding process. Adam Tyler, pastor of Grace Hills Baptist Church in Appomattox and second Vice President of the BGAV, currently serves as chair of this committee.

Curtis has served alongside staff and volunteers as a consultant and program coordinator, and she co-wrote a proposal resulting in a $2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to begin the Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence at Samford University.

“I am excited,” Curtis says, “to help my neighbors in Appomattox rebuild their homes and find a ‘new normal’ after the terrible destruction they experienced.”
Curtis and her husband, Scott, moved to Appomattox in 2015, and both have been active in disaster relief efforts following the February tornadoes.

“Generous donations from Virginia Baptists following these tornadoes will allow us to complete projects in Appomattox and Essex counties and the town of Waverly,” says Lee. “And the ongoing support of disaster response through cooperative giving and regular donations allows us to supplement those donations with funding for this Volunteer Coordinator position.”

Virginia Baptist Disaster Response is an active volunteer arm of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, responding to disasters through official channels in Virginia and around the country. In 2015, volunteers contributed more than 2,800 hours responding to disasters in Virginia, Maryland, Arkansas and South Carolina.