

EXECUTIVE BOARD

BAPTIST GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA



Kevin Meadows
Chair



Lora Gravatt
Vice Chair



Greg Randall
Secretary

Members by Virtue of Office

L. Richard Martin, Jr. (L), President

Richard is a lifelong Virginia Baptist. He grew up in Madison Heights Baptist Church and joined Huguenot Road Baptist Church (HRBC) when he relocated to Richmond. Richard has served Huguenot Road as Deacon Coordinator; Team Leader for Personnel, Judea Mission, and Bus Ministry Teams; and a member of the Endowment and Stewardship Teams. He also served as manager for HRBC's successful \$1.7 million capital campaign. Richard is a member of the Board of Trustees for HopeTree Family Services and is chair of HopeTree's Governance and Nominations Committee. He also serves as a director for the Virginia Baptist Children's Home and Family Services Foundation. Richard has served the River City Faith Network as Treasurer and Chair of the Stewardship Committee. Richard retired from the Virginia Department of Social Services after 35 years of service as Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs. Richard is married to Beverly Jean Martin and they share a blended family of one daughter, three sons, and seven grandchildren. Richard graduated from Lynchburg College in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics.



Adam Tyler (M), First Vice President

Adam has served as pastor of Grace Hills Baptist Church in Appomattox since June 2009. He was previously the pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Buckingham County. A graduate of Virginia Tech, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, and Palmer Theological Seminary, Adam was Second Vice-President of the BGAV in 2016, served two terms on the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, and currently serves on the Leadership Team of the Appomattox Baptist Association. At the 2018 BGAV annual meeting, he was elected to serve as First Vice-President of the BGAV. A lifelong Virginia Baptist, Adam has been involved in BGAV Partnership Missions for almost 20 years.



Jay Lawson (M), Second Vice President

Jay Lawson of Warrenton is a native Virginian—born in Richmond—but a Hamptonian by family heritage.

Jay and his wife, Claudia, have been married for 44 years, and they have two sons and a daughter. One son, Brenden, is a minister in Virginia. Their daughter, Caroline, is an associate pastor in New Jersey. They have six grandchildren and will retire from the pastorate of Warrenton Baptist Church on February 13, 2019.



He came to the Lord and was nurtured in his faith at Hampton Baptist Church. He was co-captain of the Hampton High School state championship football team in 1969 and played for Duke University. A graduate of Duke University (BA '74) and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div. '77), Jay served both North Riverside Baptist Church and Hampton Baptist Church as a summer youth minister and then was called to be the associate pastor at Temple Baptist Church, Newport News (1977–1979); pastor at Belhaven Baptist Church, North Carolina (1979–1984), pastor of Emmaus Baptist Church, Poquoson (1984–1992), pastor of Hilton Baptist Church, Newport News (1992–2000), and currently is pastor of Warrenton Baptist Church (2000–present).

Jay was on the group that formed V3 and has served continuously on the board since its formation. He is the current chair of V3, has chaired the BGAV Committee on Resolutions, has served on the Mission Board of the BGAV in multiple capacities over the years, and has been moderator of both the Peninsula and the NorthStar associations.

George Fletcher (M), Immediate Past President

Rev. George Fletcher was born in Richmond but did most of his growing up in Roanoke. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rev. Fletcher pastored four BGAV churches over the course of 38 years: Oak Chapel Baptist Church, Orange (1978–1983); East Highland Park Baptist Church, Richmond (1983–1989); West Side Baptist Church, Harrisonburg (1989–2001); and First Baptist Church, Winchester (2001–2016), from which he retired. He has served on boards for GraceInside, the former *Religious Herald*, and HopeTree Family Services. He has served in numerous local and associational positions and participated in Virginia Baptist Disaster Response. He and his wife, Peggy, have been married since 1975. They have two adult children, Bryan (and wife, Jenifer), and Jonathan, and three grandchildren: Natalie, Madalyn, and Laila.



John Upton (M), Executive Director

John V. Upton, Jr., was elected Executive Director of the BGAV during the annual meeting of the BGAV in November 2001. John had been group leader of the Mission Mobilization Group since 1995. Earlier he was pastor of Urbanna Baptist Church in Urbanna; and he and his wife, Deborah, served as missionaries in Taiwan through the Southern Baptist Convention’s Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board). John, a Norfolk-born Virginia native, is a graduate of Averett College (now University) in Danville and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY.



David Washburn (M), Treasurer

David was elected Treasurer for the BGAV during the annual meeting of the BGAV in November 2013. A native of Kinston, NC, David graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in economics in 1989. He worked in banking with First Union for six years and participated as an active layperson in the First Baptist Church of Wilmington, NC, when he received his call to ministry in 1995. He earned the Master of Divinity from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond in 1998 and was ordained to the gospel ministry by the First Baptist Church of Wilmington, NC. He then served as senior pastor of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Earlysville from 1998–2005 before being called to the First Baptist Church of Waynesboro, where he served for over eight years as senior pastor.



Members from the General Association

2019

Herbert Ponder (M), to serve a second term

Herbert has been the pastor of Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Richmond, since 1994, where he previously served on staff as an intern (1989), Minister of Education (1990), and Assistant Pastor (1992). He has been a part of Virginia Baptist life since joining Mount Tabor Baptist Church in 1989.



Positions held in BGAV life include: Young Leaders Program; facilitator for Growth Oriented Sunday School; member of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board; BGAV representative on the trustee board for GraceInside; member of the African-American Fellowship of Virginia of the BGAV; and River City Faith Network as part of the Executive Committee, New Work Committee, Budget Committee, and CVBM representative.

Michael Jordan (M), to serve a first term

Michael was born and raised in Boones Mill, where he was ordained to ministry in his home church, Fairmont Baptist Church. Michael graduated from Gardner-Webb University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, with further study at Gardner-Webb’s School of Divinity. Serving BGAV churches since 2001, he was pastor of Mulberry Grove Baptist Church, Buckingham (2001–2007), and Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Axton (2007–present). Michael has served in BGAV life by serving on the Virginia Baptist Mission Board while in Buckingham and serving as both Vice President and President of the Virginia Baptist Pastor’s Conference. Michael married his wife, Shelby, in 2000, and they have been blessed with six children. They adopted their most recent child, Paco, from Haiti in December 2017.



Becky McKinney (L), to serve a second term

Becky is a member of Chatham Heights Baptist Church, Martinsville. She has served as a Sunday school teacher, ESL coordinator, church and associational WMU director, member of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, and president of Woman’s Missionary Union of Virginia. Her professional background is in social work and non-profit management.



Kevin Meadows (M), to serve a second term

Kevin has served as pastor of Grandin Court Baptist Church in Roanoke since 2001. He has chaired the VBMB Committee on Glocal Missions, served on the VBMB Executive Committee, and served as Second Vice President of the BGAV from 2012–2013. He served as chair of the Executive Board in 2018 and was recently re-elected to serve as chair of the Executive Board in 2019.



Vacancy

Kevin James (M), to serve a first term

Kevin is a native of Virginia, born and raised in Winchester. He graduated from John Handley High School, the University of Virginia, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and Brenda met at the BSU while attending UVA and married in 1983. After graduating with an MDiv in Pastoral Care and Counseling and celebrating the birth of their first child, Katelyn, they returned to Virginia to serve Braddock Baptist Church in Alexandria as Associate Pastor. Less than two years later, they began pastoring Salem Baptist Church and have served there for more than 25 years. In that time, they had two more children, Emily and Corey. They have been blessed to see the Lord grow His church and His people. Mission opportunities have led them to serve in Caroline, southwest Virginia, the US, and the world.

**Mr. O. Bryan Taliaferro, Jr. (L), to serve a second term**

Bryan is part owner of two family businesses: Montague Farms, Inc., and Agriland, producing grain and exporting soybeans. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He also serves on the Board of "GO Virginia, Region 6," an economic development initiative of the Virginia General Assembly. As a member of Beale Memorial Baptist Church in Tappahannock, Bryan teaches a men's Bible class and is in the choir. He has traveled to Ghana several times, most recently through BGAV's More Than Nets (MTN). He holds BS and MS degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech.

**Rev. Lora Gravatt (M), to serve a second term**

Lora is currently serving as Discipleship Pastor at Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church. She has been a part of BGAV life since 1998 when she joined First Baptist Church of Woodbridge and served as the minister to children until 2008. Additionally, Lora has served on the planning teams for the 21-C Conference and has led workshops related to family ministry around the state. She also designed and now facilitates BGAV's Family Ministry Certification. Lora holds a Master of Divinity from The John Leland Center for Theological Studies and was ordained to the gospel ministry in 2008.

**Ms. Shirley Cobb (L), to serve a second term**

Shirley is an active member of Harrisonburg Baptist Church in Harrisonburg. She has taught Sunday school for 30-plus years and has served as a deacon and on various committees at the church. She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, having earned two MAs—one in English and one in counseling. While at Eastern Kentucky University, she was active in the Baptist Student Union and served in the summer of 1973 as a summer missionary through the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. She has also earned 30 more graduate credit hours in counseling from the University of Virginia. In 1975, she began working at the James Madison University Counseling Center as a counselor and as a study skills coordinator. Through the years, her responsibilities at the counseling center have shifted, and for the past 20 years she has been the associate director/clinical director of the counseling center.

**Mrs. Tamara A. McBride (L), to serve a second term**

Tamara A. McBride is presently Operations Manager at the East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, where she serves as the church clerk and deaconess chair. Currently she is the treasurer for the Virginia Baptist State Convention (VBSC); communications specialist for the National African American Fellowship (NAAF) of The Southern Baptist Convention; executive board secretary for the Virginia Minister's Wives and Minister's Widows, Inc. (VAMWMW); and has served on the Memorial Committee for the BGAV. She is married to Rev. Michael McBride, and they have two sons.



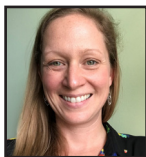
Esther Cash (L), to serve a first term

Esther Cash is a member of Broadus Memorial Baptist Church, where she served on the stewardship committee. She is the founding president of Xofficio. Prior to Xofficio, Esther was vice president and CFO of The Investment Fund for Foundations (TIFF).

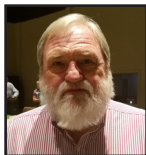
In her 13 years at TIFF, she was instrumental in establishing and overseeing the operations of TIFF's mutual funds, hedge funds, private equity funds, realty and resources funds, and other programs designed to meet the investment objectives and spending needs of non-profit organizations. She was also closely involved with TIFF's strategic development and educational initiatives. Her previous experience includes operations, administration, and data management responsibilities at Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. (GMO) and Cambridge Associates, Inc. Esther earned her BA in economics with honors from the University of Virginia.

**Brooke Holloway (M), to serve a first term**

Brook has served as Associate Pastor of Youth and Missions at Memorial Baptist Church in Arlington since April 2013. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies from Howard Payne University and a Master of Divinity from George W. Truett Seminary. She formerly served on staff at Central Baptist Church in Marshall, TX.

**Wayne McCarty (M), to serve a first term**

Wayne served two years in the US Army during the Vietnam War. He is a graduate of Southwest Virginia Community College and attended East Tennessee State University. He is also a graduate of the John Leland Center for Theological Studies. Throughout his time of service in the Kingdom he engaged in numerous local, regional, statewide, US, and international mission projects. He has been and continues to be actively involved in Disaster Response, has served on the Virginia Baptist Mission Council, and has served as Senior Pastor of Cowan's Branch Missionary Baptist Church for the past eight years. He previously served at Mill Creek Baptist Church and Dorothy Street Mission Church in Kingsport, TN.

**Greg Randall (M), to serve a second term**

Greg has served as a youth minister, minister of education, and senior pastor in three Virginia Baptist churches. He is currently the senior pastor of Clarksville Baptist Church and began his ministry there in September 2006. Greg has served on the BGAV Mission Council and is a former trustee of the *Religious Herald*.

**Stapleton W. Wills (Pete), to serve a first term**

Pete is a lifelong resident of Louisa County, and graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). He has maintained his own CPA practice in Charlottesville for over 40 years.

Pete has been a member of Mechanicsville Baptist Church in the Goshen Association for over 60 years. During that time, he has served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, member of the Stewardship Committee, and moderator. He has supported the Goshen Association, serving on the Association Council for a number of years as moderator, and has served on several search committees for Directors of Missions.

He has actively supported Virginia Baptists representing Mechanicsville Baptist Church as a messenger to the annual meeting for many years and served on the former Virginia Baptist Mission Board.

Pete and Mary Holley Wills have been married for over 40 years. They have no children but lots of nieces and nephews.

