

Baptist General Convention of Virginia

Mid-Winter Ministries Retreat

February 19, 2021

We Are BGCVA.

**Bringing People Together,
Growing Churches, & Changing
Communities**

Ministry Training Track (MTT)

EST. 1899

11:00am Ministry Break-Out Session

President Dr. James E. Victor, Jr.

Executive Minister Dr. Leo Whitaker

Clergy President Dr. Gregory L. Beechaum, Sr.

Men's President Mr. Reginald S. Davis

Women's President Mrs. Polly Jones Mason

Baptist General Convention of Virginia Surveys

Please help BGCVA minister to your church and ministry needs by completing the following on-line surveys. By participating in the BGCVA surveys, you enable the Baptist General Convention of Virginia to plan, prepare for, and implement programs and services provide self-empowerment resources for both you, your ministry leaders, and your congregation as a whole.

BGCVA Member Church Questionnaire Survey

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the BGCVA website at <https://www.bgcvva.org/home.html>. A red oval highlights the URL bar. The page features the BGCVA logo and the text "Baptist General Convention of Virginia". Below this, a banner reads "We are BGC...Bringing People Together, Growing Churches, and Changing Communities!" followed by a biblical verse reference. A navigation menu includes links for HOME, ABOUT US, MINISTRIES, EVENTS, TRAINING, PARTNERS, and CONTACT US. On the left, there's a vertical bar with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email, and a Plus sign. A large central image shows a blue house with speech bubbles, with contact information for Keshia Butler. A red arrow points to a black bar at the bottom containing the text "BGCVA Member Church Questionnaire Survey". Below this bar is a set of small, colorful icons representing various church-related topics.

BGCVA Preservation of African-American Churches Survey

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA) website. At the top, there is a red circle highlighting the URL in the browser's address bar: <https://www.bgcv.org/home.html>. The BGCVA logo, featuring the letters 'BG' in a stylized font with 'VIRGINIA' written vertically below it, is positioned next to the title 'Baptist General Convention of Virginia'. Below the title is the tagline 'We are BGC...Bringing People Together, Growing Churches, and Changing Communities!' followed by a biblical quote: '~ Act 1:8; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 10:13-16'. A blue navigation bar at the bottom of the header includes links for HOME, ABOUT US, MINISTRIES, EVENTS, TRAINING, PARTNERS, and CONTACT US. To the left of the main content area, there is a vertical sidebar with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email, and a plus sign. In the center, there is a hexagonal grid graphic representing the 'Preservation of African American Churches, Cemeteries, Historic Structures, Associated Land and Landmarks in Virginia'. The grid contains images of various historical buildings and landmarks. A red arrow points to the text 'Preservation of African American Churches Survey' located at the bottom of the page.

BGCVA Clergy Ministry Survey



BGCVA Clergy Ministry Survey

- Identifying the ministry needs of BGCVA pastors and clergy.
 - Completely confidential and anonymous (no names or identifying information).
 - To participate, please contact Rev. Prince Rivers at privers3@gmail.com.

1. I feel emotionally drained by my ministry work

2. I feel used up at the end of my workday.

3. I feel tired when I get up in the morning and have to face another day at my church.



Bringing People Together, Growing Churches,
& Changing Communities

**Friday Morning (February 19, 2021)
Ministry Training Track (MTT) Discussion:
"Bringing People Together"**

Churches are comprised of numerous small relationships, each relationship either reflecting or rejecting the spirit and will of Christ. The first thematic focus of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia is the development of spiritual relationships as the Body of Christ. Guiding and teaching churches to bring people together in a manner that...

1. Honors God.
2. Reflects the Spirit of Christ.
3. Draws Lost Souls to the Lord

**Friday Evening (February 19, 2021)
Ministry Training Track (MTT) Discussion:
"Growing Churches"**

A continuation of Friday morning's session on "Bringing People Together", tonight's session on "Digital/Cyber Evangelism" as the method of growing the Body of Christ with two points of emphasis falling under this discussion. "Inreach", Increasing Membership Participation within the Church's Ministries and "Outreach", Ways to Utilize Virtual Ministry Platforms (Zoom, Facebook Live, Conference Calls, etc.) to win lost souls for Christ.

Saturday Morning (February 20, 2021)

Ministry Training Track Discussion:

“Changing Communities”

A continuation of Friday's two sessions on *Bringing People Together* and *Growing Churches*, Saturday morning's session will be a discussion on principles of Transformational Leadership, Changing Others by First Changing Ourselves. Communities are changed by the examples we live and the witnesses we give. Others need to see us as living examples of what we are encouraging them to become. 30 minutes of structured discussion time will be included on ways to “Change Communities”.

“Bringing People Together”

Godly Relationships

Misunderstanding of “Coming Together”

Coming together in a church is not what God desires nor is simply coming together as a group what God desires. God's desire is that we come together for the specific purpose of honoring Him, to encourage each other to grow closer to Him, and to live in such a way that others would want to follow Him.

Never assume that “coming together” will naturally result in coming together to worship and please the Lord.

“Bringing People Together” Begins with the Relationships You Have with Others

Think of the most strained, tense relationship you have in your church/ministry right now. Type in “one-word descriptions” that best describe the spirit and character of the relationship you have with that person/group of people.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NIV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NLT)

“Bringing People Together” is more than just a gathering of a group of people. To best understand the thematic focus of Bringing People Together, we must first understand the difference between...

A Group vs. the Body of Christ

GROUP: Pronunciation: [groōp]

group (noun) · **groups** (plural noun)

What is a Group/Gathering of People

“A number of people or things that are located close together or are considered or classed together.” *The Oxford Dictionary*

According to the Oxford definition, what do the people have in common that makes them a “group”? Does this definition clearly describe what makes the church the Body of Christ?

GROUP: "A number of individuals assembled together or having some unifying relationship a study group." www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/group

According to the Merriam-Webster definition, what do the people have in common that makes them a "group"? Does this definition clearly describe what makes the church the Body of Christ?

Put a Check By Each Activity that Has the Power to Transform a "Group" Into the Body of Christ?

The "Group" being willing to...

- Pay Tithes and Give Money to the Church?
- Convert and Accept Visitors as New Church Members?
- The Creation of a "New Members Class" and Requiring All New Members to Attend?
- Nepotism (the favoring/appointment of family, relatives, or friends into positions of authority within the church)?
- Baptizing Believers Who Accept Christ?
- Holding Weekly Bible Study?
- Having Weekly Sunday Morning Worship?

The "Group" being willing to celebrate...

- Church Anniversary
- Christmas
- Easter/Resurrection Sunday
- Pastor's Anniversary
- Homecoming/Family & Friends Day
- Youth Lock-Ins

The "Group" having a(n)...

- Educated Pastor
- Associate Ministers with Seminary Degrees
- Strong Deacon Board
- Powerful Music Ministry
- Trustee Board Knowledgeable of Church Finances
- Thriving Deaconess Board
- Easter/Resurrection Sunday
- Pastor's Anniversary
- Homecoming/Family & Friends Day
- Youth Lock-Ins
- Multi-Million Dollar Facility
- \$10,000,000 Budget

The "Group" Committed to...

- Being Led by the Spirit of God
- Receiving the Lord, Jesus Christ as the Savior of All In the Group
- Being Baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- Sharing and Abiding as One Body of Christ

A Group vs. the Body of Christ

We are called by God to “Bring People Together” as the Body of Christ and not just a group/gathering of people. Too many churches have the name of the Body of Christ, but internally, are functioning under a “group” dynamic rather than the Body of Christ guided and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Evidence of the Body of Christ

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering
- Gentleness
- Goodness
- Faith (in God)
- Meekness
- Temperance

Bringing People Together, Growing Churches,
& Changing Communities

“Bringing People Together” Begins with You

Now, imagine every other relationship in your church being just like the ones we have with the person/group of people with whom we are strained. What type of church would our church be?