



The Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc.
Dr. Charles R. Whitfield, President

Executive Board Meeting

Virginia University Lynchburg

August 20, 2019

President Whitfield called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Opening prayer was given by Rev. Dr. Carl Hutcherson.

Condolences are extended to GBC member Dr. Joseph Goode and family, his spouse, Sis. Marva Goode has transition to be with the Lord.

We appreciate Dr. Kathy Franklin, president of VUL, for allowing us to gather at the college.

Our moderator Chair, Dr. Jones retired from his church, and has served us in a great way. Dr. Peter Evans has been reassigned to oversee our moderator's department. We were asked to continue giving him our support.

The minutes of our last meeting were not available due to some technical issues. So, we continued with the other agenda items.

Children's Home:

- Many questions have been asked concerning it and where it stands. **No new appointments to the children's home board** have been made because they are looking at some transitions in terms of appointments. There are presently 10 representatives from each convention who are on the board at the children's home. We are striving to reduce the number of appointments down to six per convention. Therefore, I didn't want to make those appointments and they will be left in the



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care of Dr. Brandon as he transitions to the office of President. If the constitution is done before President Whitfield's tenure as president ends, then he will collaborate with Dr. Brandon on those appointments.

- **The Children's Home sold five acres of land to Chesterfield County to build a fire station.** Because of the challenges the Children's home had in paying its bills, the bank called the board into meetings to ensure the right things are being done with the money from the transaction. President Whitfield recommended that once the land for the fire station is sold, and because we are current on the mortgage as of today, we should take a good portion of the money to the bank and reconstruction the loan at a better payment structure.

- **Solar Farm (Alliance Group)** - President Whitfield stated that we have a contract with them, but doesn't see how this fit into our mission. However, he does see how it can help for the next forty years to help protect VBSC from future financial woes. The bank felt we were being robbed so we went back to the Group. Instead of them paying around \$4000, it went to \$6000 towards the electrical bill for the home. We discover there are others who are interested in the putting a solar farm on the land, therefore it is possible to get better deals and more money for the home which has made the bank more amenable. We will be leasing the land to the solar company for 20 years, with some lease options. (***They will pay approximately \$3 million over the course of 20 years.***) We haven't received any monies yet, but our ultimate goal is to pay off the mortgage. A team will handle that level of fiscal responsibility.

- **The Children's Home doesn't have a septic tank or sewer lines.** They have a cesspool, falling trees, and a deer clogging it up. Also, The EPA could have fined us \$13,500 a day until we fixed the problem, but decided to work with the home instead of issuing a fine.

Vice Presidents:



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- **Dr. Brandon** - Sis. Marva Goode's Homegoing services will either be on Saturday (8/24) or Monday (8/26) at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Suffolk, Virginia. She was part of Bethany Association and was a faithful worker who suffered a stroke and never recovered. He visited a couple of the association's meetings: Baptist General Convention in June along with the president in Norfolk, VA; The BTU, held at the Virginia Baptist State Convention in July; and Auxiliary meetings to push forward the president's agenda. He will be attending the Annual Session of the National Baptist Convention, New Orleans in September.

- **Dr. Waddell Jones** - He had the opportunity to share along with the president in the 50th anniversary of Dr. Henry Allen Henderson. He also shared in several of our local associations meetings.

- **Dr. White** - On 7/17th, he was blessed to attend the Tidewater Baptist Association with Dr. Peter Evans as Moderator on Moderator's night, who did a marvelous job presenting his address. On 7/27, he represented the VBSC at the retirement banquet for Dr. Robert E. Rodgers, who served as treasurer of the Sharon Missionary Baptist Association for thirty years. On July 23-25, he attended the Sharon Missionary Association for their annual session held in Chesapeake, VA.

- **Rev. Matthew Brown** - He stated that he was blessed to have attended the Congress of Christian Education in Baltimore along with the president and vice president Brandon. He also attended several of our local associations meetings, such as The BTU Congress, and will be attending the NBC in New Orleans.

Mid-Year Session

- Information is within the packets. The president encouraged attendance and for churches to register instead of individual registration. He also reminded us that **"if your church isn't registered, you can't lead in this convention."**



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- We will be focused again on Transformational Discipleship in Charlottesville.
- **Bro. Mervin Brown** - On November 12th and 13th, we will be in Charlottesville, VA for the Mid-year session, and they are eagerly looking forward to our arrival. A shopping center is right in the vicinity of the hotel.
- The annual session has changed in 2020. The President went to the Blue Ridge Hotel, along with staff, and discovered it was for sale, and the owner does not plan any upkeep to it. The Double Tree Hotel was not conducive either.
- Therefore, the Convention location was changed to Williamsburg's Double Tree Hotel. We have negotiated a \$124 per night room rate. You can book your rooms as early as the end of the week, and are all encouraged to stay at the convention hotel and **not** at our time shares, or etc.

Dr. Brandon on Retirements: Dr. Robert Rodgers will be celebrating his 50th Pastoral Anniversary, September 29th at the Pulaski Baptist Church, 6431 Carrsville Hwy, Carrsville, VA 23315. Bishop Cutler and Dr. Echols will also be retiring before the end of the year.

- The president announced and congratulated Dr. Brandon on becoming the Senior Pastor of First Calvary in Norfolk, Virginia this fall.

President's Meditational Thought: He stated: We have a challenge ahead of us in ministry. Let me share with you why I say this. In the last two weeks, I have met with two pastors who were on the verge of giving up on ministry. They were hurt and depressed in and from ministry. The trouble of ministry has pressed them so much that they wanted to give up. I just want to share this thought in case there is anyone else who is struggling with the pressures of ministry. [John 5:7] ***"I Can't***



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Get No Help” We must remember **“it’s always the grace of God that will lift us up.”**

Richard Keller, the representative from **Thrivent Financial** gave a report and provided information on their services (Identity Protection, Retirement planning, financial planning for churches, support church stewardship, and etc.).

Prison Family Ministry - we have partnered with The Angel Tree Ministry which serves the children of the incarcerated. They have partnered with churches in various locations. President Whitfield agreed to VBSC adopting/supporting five children for Christmas. The WMEA was given the responsibility of taking care of this. Rev. Sam Moore was unable to attend the meeting but his report is in the packet.

Reports:

- **Sunday School and BTU Congress** - Rev. Kevin Northam - held their event at VA State University, July 22-26, 2019. We have increased our membership from the previous year by 8%. We housed the delegates plus 17 commutes. We were honored to have our president serve not only as a lecturer, and he also attended the banquet. Dr. Brandon, our Vice president at large, gave an opening message. Sis. Goode, Rev. Brown and several state officers were also in attendance. We also decreased the cost of attending the event. There were 171 attendees. We went back to offering the CLS courses for credit and certification.

The President would like for the Congress to consider moving away from the HBCU to DoubleTree in order to help with funding students instead of institutions.



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- **Moderator's Division - Dr. Peter Evans** - It is his desire to come to every region and area to be supportive. In addition, he was thankful for the position to the president as well as intends to encourage the moderators to do their best.

The president shared that Dr. Brandon works with the moderators on the national level and would be a good resource for assistance and guidance within the moderator's division.

- **Women-In-Ministry - Rev. Beatrice Williams** - Expressed thanks to the president and staff for their support for the ministry. It was shared that the Women-In-Ministry met in South Hill to work on objectives and continued organization of the ministry. It is their desire to reach out to the association to invite women ministers to join the ministry. As of this date, 30 ministers have now registered in our data base.

- **Young Pastor Minister's Division - Dr. Leroy Mitchell** - Expressed the need for young pastors to continue to be identified and register with this ministry. They would also like to have a panel discussion at the convention, as well as a time they can meet and become a viable part of the future of our convention.

- **Deacon & Deaconess -Deacon Danny H. Miller** - He stated how supportive the president and vice presidents are to the ministry. At Otter River Association, they had representation on March 9th and at their Spring Session at the Children's Home on April 13th. They were successful at both of their sessions. They donated \$250 to the Children's Home. During their annual session, the Deacons & Deaconess started the sessions with devotions. They participated in the annual work with the Laymen at the Children's Home (cutting trees, grass, etc.), and will repeat the work again in October. The Deacons and Deaconess's from Smith River Association were in attendance as well. They will be having their fall session, October 18-19, at Pilgrim Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA. This will be election time. Registration and flyer are in your packet as well as on website. They would also like to have a statewide training session for our deacons, in which



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he has been discussing with Dr. Guns. At their fall session, they will be having a black and white banquet with Rev. Steele as the guest speaker.

- **Laymen Auxiliary - Deacon Ben Myrick** - extended his thanks to the president and all the staff of the VBSC for the support they have given the laymen. They are very supportive and asked for their continued prayers. In October, they will be having their 23rd Annual Walter Cade Workshop, in Chesapeake, VA, at Delta Hotel. They continually ask for our support and help with ads. He thanked the women and the apparent body for what they have done thus far, and expressed thanks to those who attended her sister's funeral at Good Shepherd Baptist Church. He, Bro. Gray, and Bro. Moore went to The Congress of Christian Education in Baltimore. She attended the Laymen's Luncheon at the Tidewater Baptist Association. He made us aware that Bro. Gray will be given the Living Legend's Award at the National Baptist Convention on Laymen's night. Tickets are \$50. This will be on Thursday night at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans.

President asked that we would join him in sending men to the Walter Cade Workshop. Last year it was in Myrtle Beach and was very enjoyable with great sessions.

- **President of Virginia University at Lynchburg - Dr. Cathy Franklin** - greeted the Executive Board and shared the progress and state of the concerns the university is dealing with. They are kicking off their campaign for the health and wellness center. They are recruiting students but the problem is they don't stay to complete their education.

President Whitfield shared that Dr. Franklin and the university provided the meals for us today and we are most appreciative.

- **Ushers Auxiliary - Mrs. Hester Bruce** - The Ushers will be having their 36th Annual Session, hosted at Moral Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Thurman Echols, Pastor, Hester, VA. Flyers were sent to moderators. The convention will be held 10/31-Nov. 2nd. Attended Smith River Association Ushers conference.



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200 flyers were sent out to Appomattox, Lynchburg, Bedford, Salem, Roanoke and Madison Heights to decrease mailing postage because of the vast mailing lists. Bro. Mervin is doing a wonderful job of providing support. Finally, she did attend Dr. Echols celebration at Moral Hill Baptist Church.

- **Dr. Frankie Jones** - we are extremely blessed to have a president with the capabilities and wisdom that he possesses. First of all, he brought a gift of \$3500.⁰⁰ to Virginia Baptist of Lynchburg this morning. He attended the World Baptist Alliance, in Switzerland, where he serves as Commissioner. In 2020, the alliance will be held in Rio de Janeiro for the World Human Rights Commission looking at slave trade, which is not an easy undertaking because of the danger that goes along with it. Secondly, working with the World Baptist Alliance, we are working with John Deere and Caterpillar to get a tractor to go into South Africa on some agricultural initiatives in working with **Howard** and Fort Valley State University. He just returned from Atlanta on behalf of PNBC, where he serves on the executive board where they are working on disasters. The organization just returned from Kentucky where they did regional training, which ties right into economic development. There is federal, state and local money tied into disaster. He stated that “what we need to do at our local level is put 501(c)(3)s together, and get some contracts. That is economic development. That’s money we can get.” Thirdly, regarding federal grants - Virginia State University and Virginia Tech are schools through which we can get some agriculture federal grants. Finally, the briefing we just receive on finances - He stated that “The Thrivent institution is an all-inclusive institution. This is a great opportunity the president has brought to us.”

- **WMEA - President Linda Goode** - Report in packet. Highlights: She began by telling President Whitfield “Everyone who stepped up to the podium has given you praise which includes your staff and officers. We are also thankful and appreciative with how you work with the WMEA.” She further stated: (1) after the annual convention, Sis. Marva Goode did her job. She was the chairperson of our scholarship committee in which we gave two scholarships, \$1000 each; (2) We



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attended the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education in June at Baltimore, MD, but will not attend the National Baptist Convention this year, but will attend next year; (3) we attended The Founder's Day Celebration at the children's home and presented them another mortgage contribution of \$11,800.⁰⁰. During that time, The WMEA was recognized with a presentation of their Trailblazer Award for Outstanding Community Service and Commitment; (4) several of The WMEA members went to the Tidewater Baptist Association to their Women's Prayer Breakfast. In July, they also went to the Baptist Sunday School and BTU Congress of Virginia as well as the Sharon Association meeting. We were represented at the Hasadiah Baptist and Bethany Baptist Associations at their annual session; (5) Sister Goode also attended the Lott Carey Convention, Grand Rapids, Michigan where she made a contribution of \$5000.⁰⁰ and also contributed \$3000.⁰⁰ to the women in service. They will have their fall meeting for all of the women on Saturday, 9/21, 2019. The following question was asked of the President - Will the women be able to have a session during the annual session? The president responded by saying: "The way the formation is, a meeting can be held on Tuesday anywhere between 2 and 6 pm and Thursday between 1 and 3 pm. These are the constraints for the parent body, if the women want to meet, they will need to meet within the confines of that time." The meeting will be held Saturday, 9/21st for all women of the auxiliary at the Baptist Children's Home at 11 AM

- **Bro. Mervin shared on Dr. Echols post anniversary & retirement services:** We started a kickoff for that celebration of 43 years with a retirement reception on last weekend. We had a retirement cookout. Each auxiliary of the church was tasked with doing something each month in celebration of his retirement. The Retirement Banquet will be December 21st at 6 PM, at the New College Institute. Rev. Dr. A. Lincoln James of Trinity Baptist Church in Richmond will be the retirement gala speaker. Tickets are \$40. We have a breakfast September 14th, an evening with the men in November, and a musical in October. September 15th is our Missionary Day and Rev. Matthew Brown will be our guest, which ties in to what we are doing as we bring back those who grew up



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in the church on that weekend. We will be an email blast on the site with all the dates.

President Whitfield introduced the two new moderators attending the meeting today, Dr. Baker (Peaks of Otter) and Dr. Pannell (Otter River).

A break was provided in order for the board to talk with Richard Keller of Thrivent Financial services.

Social Justice Commission Chair, Dr. James Coleman - For my report to be one that is robust with action and activity, I need a working committee. So, I am asking that you use your presidential authority to help me to get a working committee. The Commonwealth is prime. We have an outstanding president who wants to do. In November the balance of power in the General Assembly is up for grabs. If certain people were to get in control, it could change the field for education, criminal justice, and economy in Virginia. November is quickly before but the agenda will go on past November to make change.

- **The President's Response:** Your committee can be our general vice presidents and moderators. So, let's talk and flesh this thought out.
- As we prepare for our financial report, we thank God for the staff and all the work they do...Mervin, Donna, Linda, and Tamara whose birthday is today.

Finance Report: Sis. Tamara McBride

Checking Account.....\$7,119.56 (effective after deposit of \$6,250.00 to the Double Tree Hotel in Williamsburg)

Savings Account\$10,000

Monthly Expenses and Incomes from January - July of 2019

Website\$300.00 mo.



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Headquarters (<i>Rental Property</i>).....	\$246.93
Stipends for the Staff	\$1100.00
Office Assistant/Headquarters	\$75.00
Power church Software	\$39.95 (for recording/check writing)
Powerchurch.org	\$203.88
February Board Meeting	\$805.96
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TOTAL.....	\$13,225.11

Miscellaneous Expenses from January - July of 2019

National Baptist Registration.....	\$4,000.00 (x 2-January and July)
Delta Hotel Laymen/ WaterCade	\$3,000.00
Tidewater Foreign Mission Board	\$5,000.00)
President's National Congress Room	\$820.48
2020 Convention/Hotel.....	\$6,250.00 (Williamsburg)
State Cooperation Fees	\$115.00
President's Retreat	\$947.84
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Misc. TOTAL.....	\$20,133.32

Deposits from January-March

\$3722.75 (January-March)



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Deposits from March -May.....	\$639.61
Savings/Moderators March.....	\$16020.00
TOTAL	\$132,332.36

Average monthly income.....\$936.00

Deposits/Checking from January-February.....	\$3722.75
Deposits/Checking from March -May	\$112,639.61
Savings Deposits/Moderators' March	\$16,020.00
TOTAL	\$132,382.36

Average Monthly Income.....\$950.00

Annual Session Expenses

Chesapeake Conference Center	\$41,705.26
Delta Hotel Rooms.....	\$2,521.76
Videography.....	\$5,000.00
Honorariums (Guest, Music, Instructors)	\$12,650.00
Honorariums (Officers).....	\$8,450.00



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Trophies/Plaques, etc.	\$1,006.97
Other Boards	\$111.00
Vistaprint Printing.....	\$265.90
Video Equipment/Burwell.....	\$2, 835.00
Budget Printing/Program Books.....	\$3,122.44
OfficeMax (Signage)	\$464.23
24-hour wristbands	\$439.87
Merco Signs	\$312.12
Name badges, Ribbons/Cardstock	\$186.66
Imprint/bags, pens, notepad, etc.	\$5,911.77
Supplies.....	\$1,440.39
Flights/guest.....	\$1,325.79
Mailings	\$930.00
Exhibits, Inc.	\$1569.60
Printing/First Baptist.....	\$2,329.10
Music Equipment.....	\$500.00
VUL Offering.....	\$2001.00
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Annual Session Expenses/Total	\$95,078.77



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Miscellaneous Expenses\$20,133.32

Monthly Expenses.....\$32,225.11

GRAND TOTAL.....\$128,437.27

Bro. Mervin expanded on the expenses. It costs \$41,000.00 just to go to the Chesapeake convention center. He stated that next year we need to spend at least \$25,000 at the hotel in order to get some perks. In addition, Optima Health, who sponsored the convention, paid for the program books last year which costed the convention this time \$3,100. They paid for the awards for the Peoples Banquet that we had to spend \$1000 on this year. Optima Health paid for the President's Reception that we paid \$2,200 on this year. Also, Optima Health paid for the People's Award Luncheon that we spent \$5,000 on. So, it is important to reach out to corporate sponsors and Macedonian churches. It is important to have money coming in monthly.

President Whitaker made a motion to receive the report coming from the Treasurer. It was second and so moved. He reminded the board that we have an election coming up in May of 2020, and we need it to go smoothly under our new constitution.



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Dr. Carl B. Hutchinson shared the following on elections:

- All officers will be elected to serve no more than three consecutive years in office and shall not succeed themselves.
- ..All offices will expire at the end of the third year. At the end of the three year term there will be an election of all officers.
- The nominating committee shall prepare a ballot and/or the slate of nominations. Each candidate will be allowed to run for only one office.
- ..Each person running as a candidate for an office in VBSC shall announce their candidacy no later than the February executive meeting prior to annual session.
- ...Nominations from the floor always permitted.
- ..We will be having offices moving up, so the vacant office will be the third vice president.
- ... Your parliamentarian will be the arbiter of your questions to ensure things are decent and in order.
- ... **A question was asked** - What if a vice president decline moving up?
Answer - The fair process for running for an office is to make it known at February's Executive Meeting. Because we are an open body, a person can be nominated from the floor.
- **Any person can run for any office.**
- When an office is vacated before completion. The language in the constitution is **“three one-year terms.”** This helps alleviate any need for someone to complete someone else's term whether they leave by transition or by choice.
- ... Clarify on this process will be placed in the newsletter.

President Whitfield stated that Rev. Alvin Edwards and his choir are looking forward to our arrival.



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- He also said - “We would like to duplicate the Monday Night Session at the Annual Session. I have talked to Jessica Freeman about drawing from the area to repeat the service. Monday, I would like to have pizza with the president for the children. I have a suggestion for Dr. Mitchell for late night using Rev. John Terrace Tate for late night preaching. I also, possibly would like to do a coffee, cookie and chat with our young adults on the last night.”
- Our convention preacher, I am waiting on his response. He pastors Lily Grove Baptist Church in Houston - Dr. Terry K. Anderson.

Dr. Brandon gave closing prayer and blessing of food.

The meeting was adjourned.