

# The Voice of Virginia Baptist

Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc.

## 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Session

### "The Church Re-imagined"

I Chronicles 12:32a

## May 9-12, 2021



Dr. Kevin R. White

Dr. Waddell G. Jones

Rev. Matthew L. Brown

Dr. D. Tyrone Brandon

Dr. Charles R. Whitfield, President VBSC



Virtual Experience

March 2021

# *Message from President Charles R. Whitfield*



It has been exactly one year that we have experienced this crippling pandemic called COVID-19 coronavirus. This has changed and shaped not only our world, but it has reshaped the church culture and how we effectively navigate through the work of the ministry. This year's annual session will be virtual. We will host our services on a digital platform. This will allow those who are able, to join in as we experience and encounter our 2021 theme "The Church Re-imagined". This pandemic has caused the church to restructure, reshape and reform the way we carry out our missional mandate. This is not a time to continue business as usual, but this is actually high time for the church to take her rightful place in this world. This year our convention will intentionally strive to prove that although change is inevitable, with the proper tools we can survive and thrive. If we are going to survive as individual local congregations, we must change our methods while maintaining the message of Christ.

I would further like to say that it has been my singular honor to share and serve at the helm of the greatest Baptist Convention in this country. The Virginia Baptist State Convention is an amazing group of believers, knitted together by the hand of God, to display the love of Christ to this world. I came to this convention at the ripe age of 23. Having attended the convention in previous years (while my finances would not allow me to register) my desire was to be a part of the Baptist church experience. You will never know the excitement I felt to be able to properly register for the convention, and then later be asked to become the leader of the Young Pastors' and Ministers' Department.

This has been a journey of a lifetime and I appreciate each of my predecessors for allowing me to serve with them over the past two decades. These four years have truly been a blessing and I would not have been able to share these wonderful experiences if it were not for the support of pastors, moderators, churches, other leaders in the convention, and my VBSC staff and volunteers. Thanks to each of you for your amazing support and encouragement of this; the youngest President of the 154-year-old Virginia Baptist State Convention.





THE VIRGINIA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION, INC.

# THE CHURCH



Dr. Charles R. Whitfield  
President VBSC

## 154th ANNUAL SESSION

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

### 2021 Convention Guest



Dr. Liz  
CLAYBORNE, M.D.  
Highland, MD



Dr. John  
ADOLPH  
Antioch Baptist  
Church  
Beaumont, TX



Dr. Melvin  
BLACKWELL  
Little Zion  
Baptist Church  
Smithfield, VA



Min. Tamika  
HAIRSTON  
First Baptist  
Church East  
Martinsville, VA



Dr. Jewel  
LONDON  
Church Without  
Walls  
Houston, TX



Rev. Johnteris  
TATE  
Mt. Moriah  
Baptist Church  
Los Angeles, CA



Bishop John  
GUNS  
St. Paul  
Church  
Jacksonville, FL



Dr. Calvin  
GRAY  
New Jerusalem  
Baptist Church  
Appomattox, VA



Dr. Derrick  
PERKINS  
Shalom  
Baptist Church  
Newport News, VA

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MAY 09-12, 2021

I Chronicles 12:32a

■ Health: Covid & the African American Church

■ Re-thinking Church Life POST-COVID

■ How to start an iChurch

■ The PREACHER RE-IMAGINED

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Virtual Host Church  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Richmond, VA

PASTOR

Dr. A. Lincoln James, Jr.



# 2021 VBSC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SEMINARS

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## "REACTIVATING THE VISION: EXPERIMENTING AND EXPANDING IN THE COVID-19 ERA"

Panelists will present methods and strategies to re-engage and reactivate ministry activities that were impacted by COVID-19 protocols. They will also share practical adjustments that facilitate the process of resuming ministry during the pandemic. Participants will explore resources, practices and adjustments that will permit reactivation of the vision given for the local congregation.

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Virtual Host & Moderator

Dr. Luther S. Allen III  
VBSC SDCE  
Assistant Director



Virtual Panelist  
TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Marcus Jones  
Altha Grove Baptist  
Church  
Forest, VA



Virtual Panelist  
COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH

Dr. Willard Maxwell  
New Beech Grove  
Baptist Church  
Newport News, VA



Virtual Panelist  
MUSIC MINISTRY

Rev. Nicole Guns  
Second Calvary  
Baptist Church  
Norfolk, VA



Virtual Panelist  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
AND CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Geoffrey V. Guns  
Second Calvary  
Baptist Church  
Norfolk, VA





# "Reassured and Reconnected"

## 2021 VBSC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SEMINARS

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### GENERAL SEMINAR

#### "BEING THE CHURCH: DISCOVERING METHODS FOR STRONGER MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP"

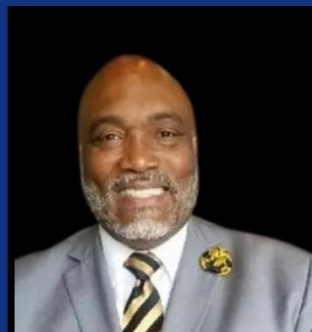
From a biblical perspective, the panelists will present methods and strategies for participants to capitalize on the shifting COVID-19 environment, and enhance ministry and fellowship. Discussion will target prioritizing and organizing for greater effectiveness. Participants will be equipped to plan and execute ministry and fellowship in virtual and alternative formats (pull-up, drop off, drive-thru).



Virtual Host & Moderator  
**Rev. Jocelyn Blount**  
BTU Congress Dean



Virtual Panelist  
**Dr. Nate Brooks**  
Greater St. John  
Baptist Church  
Birmingham, AL



Virtual Panelist  
**Dr. Howard Heard**  
Emmanuel Baptist  
Church  
Newport News, VA



Virtual Panelist  
**Deaconess**  
**Valeria Edward**  
Christian View Baptist  
Church  
Spencer, VA



# Virginia Baptist State Convention Inc.

## Vice Presidents Discuss

### *Challenges During the Pandemic*

#### Lessons Learned from the Covid-19 Pandemic

#### Advice to Other Church Leaders



"These are challenging times therefore the church must make a shift." -Dr. Waddell G. Jones

Dr. Waddell G. Jones  
1st Vice President  
Pastor, New Free Spring Baptist Church

Covid-19 has taught me that we, as the church, have the ability to do way more than what we thought. We are still able to meet beyond the church walls because of digital tools and channels such as facebook, radio transmitters, youtube, free conference call, email, zoom and givelify, just to name a few. These tools were once considered optional but now they are rapidly becoming essential. These are challenging times therefore the church must make a shift. My advice to other church leaders is to invest in technology and take advantage of the resources that are available to you because these resources will allow you to remain resilient.





# Challenges During the Pandemic



"The church has been able to make progress even during the pandemic."

Rev. Matthew L. Brown  
3rd Vice-President



"I had to immediately adapt to what I call the 'now moment.'"

Dr. Kevin R. White  
2nd Vice-President



## Pastor, Covenant Fellowship Church

The major takeaway for me during this Pandemic has been the thought of adaptability. All of us are experiencing a reality that none of us anticipated. Even after the discovery of this Virus, no one ever that it would last for this duration. Even now, with the rollout of the vaccine we still don't have a date for when we might return to some normalcy. so, we are now forced into a new reality causing us to reassess how we live our everyday lives. In being a pastor for some 41 years, I have lived a very routine driven life with everything leading up to Sunday morning worship service. Following each Sunday worship experience, I would start my routine all over again. The onset of the Pandemic totally destroyed that routine and ushered me into a life of adaptability. Everything changed so abruptly that I could not plan nor strategize, I had to immediately adapt to what I call the "now moment". It is through adaptability that I have been able to maintain and sustain. My routine of 41 years is gone but I choose to live in the "now".

## Pastor, St. Paul High Street Church

Although leading a church through the pandemic has been difficult at times, it has also been a blessing because it has challenged and pushed the church into a new arena of doing things differently. Many churches are operating and doing things now that they never would have imagined. In fact, in regards to leading the church, I have started to look at this season as a blessing rather than a burden because the church has been able to make progress even during the pandemic. I would advise other leaders to stay connected to their congregations in faith, fellowship, and finances, and to keep pressing forward because better days are ahead. We cannot use the pandemic as an excuse or wait until it is out of the way because the harvest is still plenteous, but the laborers are few.

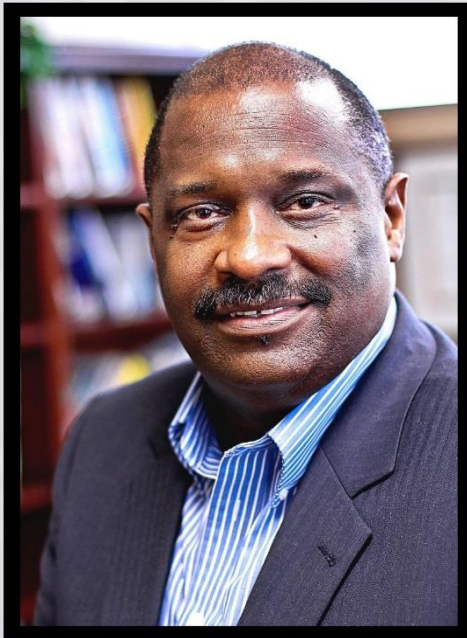
Let's keep working!



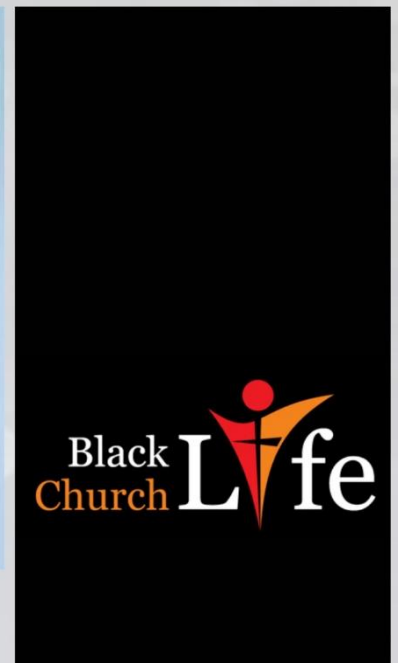
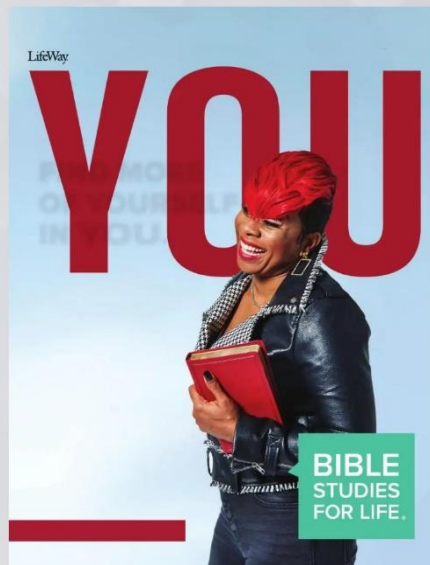


APPRECIATION

**Thank You Dr. Mark Croston for your  
continued support to the  
Virginia Baptist State Convention!**



**Dr. Mark Croston, Sr.  
National Director,  
Black Church Ministries  
Lifeway Christian Resources**



Visit Lifeway Bible Studies online at  
<https://www.christianbook.com/page/lifeway>



05.09.2021

CONCERT | 7PM

# JOIN US FOR *A Mother's Day Concert*

of  
**HOPE**

FEATURING

jarell  
**SMALLS  
& COMPANY**

SPONSORED BY:  
VBSC  
STATE DEPARTMENT  
OF MUSIC



Dr. Dwight O. Steele, Sr.  
VBSC State Director  
Music Dept.



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# The Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc.



## *Why Do We Exist?* **TO PROMOTE & SUPPORT**



Children's Home of Virginia  
Baptist, Inc.



Virginia University of Lynchburg



Christian Education



Home & Foreign Missions



To fellowship with Christian  
Baptists



Ministerial Relief



Social Justice

*To promote the Kingdom of God!*



MAY  
12  
2021

7:00pm

JOIN US FOR

*President Charles R. Whitfield's*

FINAL ADDRESS

&

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



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# CHILDREN'S HOME OF VIRGINIA BAPTIST, INC.

## *Meet the New Executive Director*

Meet the Executive Director of Children's Home of Virginia Baptists, Inc., Erna Gilliam- Robinson. A native of Chesterfield County, VA and graduate of Virginia State College. She received Contract Certificatins through John Tyler Community College (NIGP), Virginia Commonwealth University and University of North Carolina at Chapel and earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religious Studies from Slidell Baptist Theological Seminary. Erna is a lifetime member of the Union Branch Baptist Church in Chesterfield where she is a member of City of Hope Mass Choir, the Women's Fellowship, Special Events and Missionary Ministries. She also serves as the Church Historian. One of her many motto's that she live by is, "The one who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."



*Erna Gilliam-Robinson*

## *Love Offering* FOR THE PRESIDENT



President Charles R. Whitfield has served our convention faithfully. He has given extraordinary leadership in his fourth year as our President. We can show expressions of our appreciation on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. Let us do our very best with a special offering for President Whitfield.

With this in mind, we are asking:

All Churches to give a minimum of \$200.00

All Convention and Auxiliary Leaders to give a minimum of \$100.00

All Pastors, Ministers and Moderators to give a minimum of \$100.00

All others to give at least \$50.00

Let's send our LOVE OFFERING for presentation to our President on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. For those who inquired about a love gift for the President during our Covid year 2020, this would be a great time to show your appreciation.

(You may give by mail, Givelify or CashApp - Charles Whitfield \$charisofva)

Blessings,  
*Dr. D. Tyrone Brandon*  
Vice President At-Large





# ELECTION INFORMATION

**Because this is our very first virtual annual session and it is a voting year, all registrations must be received on or before April 30, 2021.**

- **Each registered church will be allowed up to 10-voting delegates.**
- **(4) eligible delegates are included with church registration**
- **For each additional voting delegate please include \$25 for a total of 10 delegates per church.**
- **For each registered delegate who provides an accurate email, an email link will be sent prior to election in order to cast their ballot at the designated election time. Only one person will be able to vote per email address.**
- **Persons who register as an "individual" will not have voting privilege. You must be a registered delegate with your church.**

A 3rd party company will manage the election registration process and results.

**The election will be held Tuesday, May 11, 2021.**







No life is beyond God's reach. Just as God forgives our sins and offers us a second chance, the Bible shows us that we can offer a second chance to those who have paid their debt to society.

If you share our passion for breaking down barriers and believe in second chances, we invite you and your church to join us and download the complimentary Second Chance Sunday Toolkit today.

Visit [Second Chance Sunday Toolkit](http://prisonfellowship.org)  
([prisonfellowship.org](http://prisonfellowship.org))

# SECOND CHANCE SUNDAY



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD

## MISSIONAL GIVING THROUGH THE VBSC

Churches typically give annually towards VBSC Home & Foreign Missions. At this time we desire to provide financial support to those in Texas affected by the winter storm. Our efforts will give direct support to affected Baptists in Houston.



## MISSIONS

Please mail checks to:

VBSC Inc.

22 E. Church St., Suite 208 | Martinsville, VA 24112

Make checks payable to :

The Church Without Walls

Memo: Disaster Recovery

# Advertising Opportunity

This year's Virtual Session will present our member churches with the opportunity to support in the form of a virtual advertisement. You may submit your church ad or congratulatory to support the convention. You may download the formal form from our website:

**SUPPORT**

[www.thevbsc.org](http://www.thevbsc.org)



**The Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc.**

**154th Annual Session**

**May 9 - 12, 2021**

**"The Church Re-imagined"**

I CHRONICLES 12:32a

## Advertising Form

Name/Organization:	
Contact Person:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
<b>AD PRICE \$100.00</b>	

### Instructions:

- All advertisements should be camera-ready and may include computer graphics and logos. **Ads should be submitted in color and will be displayed as submitted.**
- All camera-ready electronic copies of ads should be emailed to [thevbsc1867@gmail.com](mailto:thevbsc1867@gmail.com) and must be received by **April 15, 2021**.
- Payment should be received **no later than April 15, 2021**.

### Flyer & Digital ad submission instructions:

- Flyer: Full page, full color, camera ready in landscape format, PDF
- Digital video: Video ad (words & pictures, no talking, music or vocals). MP4, .MOV, AVI, in landscape. (Please email in dropbox).

Payments for ads should be sent to:

**The Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc.**  
22 East Church Street, Suite 208  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**OR**

**ONLINE AT [WWW.THEVBSC.ORG](http://WWW.THEVBSC.ORG)**

Checks should be made payable to **The Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc.**  
For additional information, please contact [thevbsc1867@gmail.com](mailto:thevbsc1867@gmail.com) or call (276)403-4210.



# Join us Virtually

FELLOWSHIP

## May 9-12, 2021



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650

### Connected Churches

Impacting, growing and developing churches across the Commonwealth of Virginia

2

### Yearly Sessions

Each year, we hold sessions for our members to learn and grow in ministry.

45

### Influential Leaders

The number of Pastors and Ministers serving on our leadership staff

1

### Living Savior

We serve one, true and living God through Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Office of the President

Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc.

22 E. Church St., Suite 208

Martinsville, VA 24112

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