

# NOMINATIONS TO THE VIRGINIA BAPTIST EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Virginia Baptist Executive Board nominates the following persons to serve on the Virginia Baptist Executive Board:

## TERMS TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 2025

### **Roberta Anderson (Minister), to serve a first term**

Roberta Anderson currently serves as Associate Minister for Bethlehem Baptist Church, Richmond VA. She is an active member of the Women's Missionary Union, (WMU) of Virginia, where she was instrumental in helping others who had undergone and experienced struggles and setbacks in life. Roberta along with eight other members of "Sisters Who Care" partnered with The Women's Missionary Union of Michigan, provided help and assistance to areas affected by the water crisis in Flint Michigan. This missionary journey was instrumental in bringing lost souls to God and dealing with ongoing crises.



She is committed to the church and its ministries. Roberta serves on the Benevolent Outreach Ministry of Bethlehem Baptist Church. The mission and purpose of this ministry is to serve and minister to members within the church, those in need both spiritually and financially and assist families in unfortunate and emergency circumstances. She serves as a teacher and minister within the Bethlehem Church family. Roberta's services extended outside the church as she along with other individuals within the church were instrumental in providing support and relief to Sandy Grove Baptist Church, located in Lumberton NC from Hurricane Mathews in 2017.

Roberta is a graduate of Virginia Union University's Samuel DeWitt School of Theology, where she earned a Master of Divinity degree with an emphasis in Christian Education in 2010. She earned a Master of Arts Degree in Education and Human Resource Development from The George Washington University and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Saint Paul's College.

She is a Certified Purchasing Manager, certified by The Institute of Supply Management and is currently employed by the United States Government as a Contract Specialist.

### **Brooke Blake (Minister), to serve a second term**

Brooke Blake 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.



### **Allen Jessee (Minister), to serve a second term**

Allen Jessee, the lead pastor of Highlands Fellowship, has served in ministry for over 30 years. He has lived in Southwest Virginia his entire life and graduated from Lebanon (VA) High School. Following graduation, he attended Emory and Henry College and received a degree in Chemistry. Allen continued his education at Liberty University, receiving his master's degree in Biblical Studies, graduated from Luther Rice Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree, and returned to Liberty University for his Doctor of Ministry.



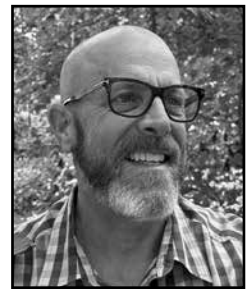
Allen and his wife, Brenda, have five children; two are “homemade” (Martha and Joseph) and three are “heart-made” (Bella and Timmy from Ethiopia), and their son, Chris.

Allen started Community Heights Church in Claypool Hill, VA, and continued to pastor that congregation for 25 years. He then joined the staff of Highlands Fellowship as Maturity Pastor before becoming Lead Pastor in 2012.

He is a passionate communicator, teacher, and leader convinced that the best way to share the gospel is to do so plainly and simply. Allen is passionate about investing in the next generation. He believes that equipping others with leadership skills will prepare them to be game changers in their own communities.

### **John Sawyer (Minister), to serve a first term**

In mid-career John Sawyer sensed God’s calling to vocational ministry in 2006. His current role is with Bon Air Baptist Church, where he serves as the James River Campus Pastor. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Averett University and a Masters in Ministry Leadership from Portland Seminary at George Fox University.



John’s recent involvement with the BGAV involved chairing the Committee on Christian Life.

John’s desire to reach people with the life changing good news of Jesus has gone beyond the traditional church paradigm. In 2009, John began working with Dr. Peter Scazzero from Emotionally Healthy Discipleship. This has led to John training and equipping pastors from all around the world to implement the Emotionally Healthy Discipleship Courses in a number of denominations and cultures.

In 2014, John founded Bridging RVA, a nonprofit with a mission to connect individuals, groups and causes to advance common good in local communities. The work of Bridging RVA has significantly impacted the lives of thousands of people in the Richmond Area.

### **Pete Wills (Layperson), to serve a second term**

Pete Wills 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.

## **ELECTION OF VIRGINIA BAPTIST EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIR**

**Brooke Blake (M)**, Associate Pastor of Youth and Mission at Memorial Baptist Church, currently serving on the Executive Board, term to expire 2022.

