

# RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION: KEN KESSLER

Rev. Dr. Ken Kessler retired from the Baptist General Association of Virginia staff as Director of the Coaching Network on February 28, 2026, after eighteen years of service.

WHEREAS, Ken has faithfully answered God's call to ministry and leadership for more than four decades, dedicating his life to strengthening congregations, equipping ministers, and advancing the mission of Christ through the local church; and

WHEREAS, Ken has served with distinction as Team Leader for the Empowering Leaders Team and currently as Director of the Coaching Network for the Baptist General Association of Virginia, providing visionary leadership, cultivating meaningful relationships with pastors across the Commonwealth, coordinating interim ministry, supporting new pastors, and serving as liaison to the Religious Liberty Committee; and

WHEREAS, his prior service includes impactful leadership roles with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; Metrolina Baptist Association; Brookwood Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL; Brentwood Baptist Church in Tennessee; and numerous other congregations and associations, guiding churches through seasons of transition, discipleship growth, outreach, and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, Ken has faithfully served as an interim pastor in multiple churches in North Carolina and Virginia, offering steady leadership, pastoral care, and wisdom during times of change; and

WHEREAS, he has demonstrated exceptional gifts in strategic conversation, coaching, teaching, networking, listening, and leadership development, always marked by a spirit of encouragement, humility, and deep care for pastors and congregations; and

WHEREAS, Ken's commitment to lifelong learning is evidenced by his academic achievements, including a Bachelor of Arts degree from Gardner-Webb College (1978), a Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (1981), and a Doctor of Ministry degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1995) with a focus on Adult Learning; and

WHEREAS, his influence has extended beyond local and state boundaries through his leadership with Coaching.com and Christian Coach Network International, as well as through his professional credentials as a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) and Christian Professional Certified Coach (CPCC); and

WHEREAS, throughout his ministry journey, Ken has been supported and strengthened by his wife, Teresa, to whom he has been married for forty-two years, and by his family—children Kevin, Bryan, and Jacob, and grandchildren Finley, Callum, and Baylor—who share in the fruits of his faithful service;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the elected members of the Virginia Baptist Executive Board meeting on September 10, offer our appreciation for the life and work of Rev. Dr. Ken Kessler, and we vow to support Ken and Teresa with our prayers as they move into a new chapter of ministry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we ask the messengers of the Annual Meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia in Virginia Beach on November 10, 2026, to offer our gratitude for the ministry of Rev. Dr. Ken Kessler.