

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION: TOM STOCKS

Rev. Dr. Tom Stocks retired from the Baptist General Association of Virginia staff as Field Strategist for the Southside Region/Roanoke Valley on January 31, 2026.

WHEREAS, Tom has faithfully served the churches of the Baptist General Association of Virginia and beyond for more than four decades, answering God's call to ministry with integrity, wisdom, and a shepherd's heart; and

WHEREAS, in his current role as Field Strategist and Congregational Specialist for the Southside Region of BGAV, he has trained and assisted church search committees, guided congregations through seasons of transition, strengthened church health, and provided leadership resources that have shaped and sustained local churches; and

WHEREAS, Tom has served more than 380 churches across Virginia, driven over half a million miles in faithful service, preached more than 35 revivals, completed numerous preaching interims, and led countless deacon retreats and training seminars, leaving a lasting impact on pastors, deacons, and congregations; and

WHEREAS, Tom previously has served the Church with distinction in numerous ministry roles, including Journeyman Missionary in St. Lucia (West Indies), Consultant with the Baptist Men's Department of North Carolina, Senior Pastor of Rosalind Hills Baptist Church in Roanoke and Bon Air Baptist Church in Richmond, and Field Strategist with the Baptist General Association of Virginia in both the Ridge Valley and Southside Regions; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to lifelong learning is evident through his academic achievements, including a Bachelor of Arts from Mars Hill College (1980), Master of Sociology from Appalachian State University (1982), Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (1986), Doctor of Ministry from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (2001), and through his certifications in leadership coaching, critical incident stress management, police chaplaincy, and emotionally healthy spirituality training; and

WHEREAS, he has been blessed with a devoted family, being married since 1982 to Paula Hagaman Stocks, a retired elementary school teacher, and together they have raised daughters Lindsey and Ashley, and rejoice in the gift of family, including son-in-law, David, and granddaughter Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, his ministry has been marked by compassion, encouragement, steady leadership, and a deep love for the local church, reflecting Christ in both word and deed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the elected members of the Virginia Baptist Executive Board meeting on September 10, express our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to Rev. Dr. Tom Stocks for his faithful service, sacrificial leadership, and enduring commitment to the work of Christ and His Church; and we vow to support Tom and his wife Paula with our prayers as they move into a new chapter of life and ministry.

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