

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION: CRAIG WADDELL

Rev. Craig Waddell has announced his intention to retire from the Baptist General Association of Virginia as International Missions Director on December 31, 2026, following 23 years of faithful service.

WHEREAS, after completing his studies at Washington and Lee University, Craig served as a Journeyman missionary and ministry intern for three years in Austria, came home to complete theological education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, then returned to Austria serving as a pastor and becoming a respected leader within the Austrian Baptist Union before accepting God's call to serve with the Baptist General Association of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, gifted with compassion, wisdom, and a deep passion for the advancement of God's Kingdom, Craig quickly cultivated enduring relationships with international ministry partners while inspiring and equipping volunteers from across BGAV to engage faithfully in global missions; and

WHEREAS, Craig has challenged and encouraged BGAV congregations to develop a broader understanding of God's work among all peoples, continuing a shift in missional understanding from transactional mission activities toward transformational, long-term partnerships marked by mutuality, trust, and shared ministry; and

WHEREAS, Craig faithfully shepherded countless individuals through long-term volunteer service opportunities, particularly through the Venturer program, resulting in life-changing experiences for participants while strengthening the ministries of our global partners; and

WHEREAS, through his visionary leadership, steadfast faith, and unwavering commitment to Christ's Great Commission, Craig has helped BGAV recognize God's movement among the nations and has encouraged churches to participate in meaningful Kingdom work that makes disciples and proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Baptist General Association of Virginia gives thanks to God for the faithful ministry of Craig Waddell and expresses its profound appreciation for his twenty-three years of dedicated service, leadership, and friendship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the elected members of the Virginia Baptist Executive Board, meeting on September 10, 2026, extend our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Craig Waddell and celebrate his enduring contributions to the mission and ministry of BGAV; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we request the messengers of the Annual Meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, gathering in Virginia Beach on November 10, 2026, to join in expressing appreciation for Rev. Craig Waddell's faithful ministry and to offer prayers of thanksgiving for his lasting legacy and for God's continued blessings upon him and his family in the years ahead.