

# **CBF Virginia Strategic Plan 2009-2010**

## **Introduction**

Throughout the history of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia (“CBFV”), we have sought to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in formulating ministry plans that enable us to be “good stewards of God’s varied grace.” We realize that the body of Christ is bigger than our fellowship, but we have a significant role to play in God’s mission in the world. We are called to engage in important ministries that are consistent with our corporate gifts and assets and to approach them with excellence.

## **Theology of Vision**

As a network of Christians and churches, we seek to be the presence of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus announces that the Reign of God is at hand in his own person and ministry (e.g. Mark 1:1-15; “The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news.”). The task of CBF Virginia is to testify to Christ’s presence among us to heed his call to participate in the Reign of God through the power of his Spirit. God’s future is already working among us. It calls us to pull this perfect future into the imperfect present.

## **Re-visioning 2006 & “Top Ten” Initiatives**

Our ministry plans are based on the “building blocks” of shared identity, mission, principles and values, which were reaffirmed during our re-visioning process in 2005-2006. The re-visioning process, adopted in 2006, led us to sharpen the focus of our fellowship on four “directional points:” 1) Advance CBF, 2) Advocate volunteer missions, 3) Facilitate placement of ministers in churches, and, 4) Cultivate fellowship. The 2009-2010 Strategic Plan (“Plan”) builds upon this re-visioning and previous planning efforts and includes two important additions: a “Ministry Plan” for the current fiscal year (April 2009-March 2010) and some longer term initiatives entitled, “Top Ten for CBF Virginia,” adopted in 2009. These ten initiatives will inform the Plan, and will require more specific thinking and planning as we move into the future.

## **The Process**

The process for developing this Plan developed during a time of “rebuilding” for CBF Virginia. First, Rob Fox was hired as “Field Coordinator.” In early 2009, Rob traveled throughout Virginia with Ben McDade, of CBF National, asking pastors and associate ministers these questions: “what value does CBF and CBF Virginia offer you and your church, and what value *should* CBF and CBF Virginia offer you and your church?” Feedback from these pastors served as the foundation for the Plan.

## **Our Identity**

We are a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches that share a passion for the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia is a network of churches and individuals being the presence of Christ as we:

- Advance CBF
- Advocate volunteer missions
- Facilitate placement of ministers in churches
- Cultivate fellowship

## **Our Mission**

Connecting free and faithful Baptists in Virginia as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.

## **Our Vision**

Our vision is being the presence of Christ in the world.

## **Our Core Values**

### **1. Baptist Principles**

- **Soul Freedom** – We believe in the priesthood of all believers. We affirm the freedom and responsibility of every person to relate directly to God without the imposition of creed or the control of clergy or government.
- **Bible Freedom** – We believe in the authority of Scripture. We believe the Bible, under the Lordship of Christ, is central to the life of the individual and the church. We affirm the freedom and right of every Christian to interpret and apply scripture under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- **Church Freedom** – We believe in the autonomy of every local church. We believe Baptist churches are free, under the Lordship of Christ, to determine their membership and leadership, to order their worship and work, to ordain whomever they perceive as gifted for ministry, and to participate as they deem appropriate in the larger Body of Christ.
- **Religious Freedom** – We believe in freedom of religion, freedom for religion, and freedom from religion. We support the separation of church and state.

### **2. Biblically-based Global Missions**

*All of us are called to be co-laborers in the task of fulfilling our Lord's Great Commission. We believe the Bible teaches that...*

- God is the one triune God, Creator of all people in God's own image.
- All people are separated from God by sin.
- Christ is the Savior and Redeemer for all peoples.
- The Holy Spirit convicts and converts all who believe in Christ, teaches the church in the voice of the Living Christ, and empowers the church and all believers for the mission of Christ in the world.
- Christ calls us to minister redemptively to the spiritual, physical, and social needs of individuals and communities.
- Every believer and every church is responsible for sharing the Gospel with all people.

We want to enable believers and churches to work cooperatively with other Great Commission Christians to activate this global missions calling in their communities and throughout the world.

### **3. Resource Model**

We are committed to discovering and providing resources that will empower churches to fulfill their mission in their particular contexts and will equip individuals to fulfill their calling under the Lordship of Christ. We prefer to cooperate in mutually beneficial ways with other organizations rather than to establish, own, and control our own institutions.

### **4. Justice and reconciliation**

We are committed to a biblical vision of justice and mercy. We believe the call of Christ extends to every area and relationship of life.

### **5. Lifelong learning and ministry**

We believe in lifelong learning for laity and clergy for the ministry of the church. We are committed to Baptist theological education that affords intellectual and spiritual freedom to both students and professors in an atmosphere of reverence for biblical authority and respect for open inquiry and responsible scholarship.

### **6. Trustworthiness**

We will organize, make decisions, and carry out our mission in ways that earn trust. United in our mission and our shared commitments, we will celebrate God's gift of diversity among the individuals and churches of the Fellowship.

### **7. Effectiveness**

We will organize in ways that encourage flexibility, responsiveness, and accountability. We will monitor our processes and organizational structures in light of our stated mission.

**O V E R**

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## Ten Initiatives to Three Teams

Using the “Top Ten” as touchstones for CBF Virginia, the initiatives have been divided among the three ministry council teams. As a reference for the teams, initiatives from CBF National and other partnership priorities are also listed below. Each team will provide leadership, goals, a timeline, and milestone metrics that will help focus the accomplishment of each.

### Top Ten for CBF Virginia

- 1) Becoming Younger
- 2) Increasing Diversity
- 3) Becoming Greener
- 4) Promoting Women Pastors
- 5) Supporting BTSR
- 6) Embracing Technology
- 7) Encouraging Intergenerational Involvement in Mission
- 8) Connecting Big & Small Churches
- 9) Fostering Leadership in Congregations
- 10) Voicing the Progressive and Prophetic

### Top Seven from CBF National

- 1) Interacting with the world community
- 2) Honoring race, gender, and generations
- 3) Missional engagement
- 4) Training and development
- 5) Spiritual formation
- 6) Resource utilization
- 7) Broadening the CBF community

### Other Partnerships/Priorities

- 1) Latino Network
- 2) Current
- 3) PASSPORT, Inc.
- 4) Coaching/Mentoring

Three Ministry Councils	CBFV Priorities	CBF National Priorities	Other Partners/Priorities
<b>Mission Ministry Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becoming Younger</li> <li>• Connecting Big &amp; Small Churches</li> <li>• Encouraging Intergenerational Involvement in Mission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interacting with the world community</li> <li>• Missional engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latino Network</li> <li>• PASSPORT</li> </ul>
<b>Formation Ministry Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fostering Leadership in Congregations</li> <li>• Supporting BTSR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and development</li> <li>• Spiritual formation</li> <li>• Resource utilization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaching</li> <li>• Mentoring</li> </ul>
<b>Innovation Ministry Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing Diversity</li> <li>• Promoting Women Pastors</li> <li>• Embracing Technology</li> <li>• Becoming Greener</li> <li>• Voicing the Progressive and Prophetic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honoring race, gender, and generations</li> <li>• Broadening the CBF community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current</li> </ul>

## Our Ministry Areas

- Mission**  
 Help Christians and Churches share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by engaging in holistic missions and ministries in their local communities, in Virginia and around the world.
- Formation**  
 Provide resources for discovering, nurturing and sustaining current and future ministerial staff leaders; and assist churches with resources and events for spiritual formation, discipleship development and Christian fellowship.
- Innovation**  
 Strengthen the bonds that tie us together in fellowship and ministry through communications, technology, gatherings, partner relationships, personnel, finances and other resources; and employ our prophetic voice by increasing the diversity of our CBFV leadership and promoting women pastors within the fellowship movement.

## Coordinating Council Ministry Councils

Mission Ministry Council	Formation Ministry Council	Innovation Ministry Council
Scott Ford*(facilitator) Natalie Kline (moderator) Paige Green Nancy Stanton McDaniel Joshua Pittman Dennis Sacrey Tom Siddle	Valerie Burton** (facilitator) Bert Browning (moderator-elect) Bill Booth Bland Campbell Miriam Dakin Matthew Hensley Dave Roberts	Vickie Traynum*** (facilitator) Jack Mercer (past moderator) Walt Cummings Paul Dakin Justin Joplin Michelle Kimlick Habacuc Lopez Abby Thornton

\***Scott Ford** is the Business Coordinator for PASSPORT, Inc. Before coming to PASSPORT, Scott worked as the Associate Coordinator for Missions for CBF of Georgia. Scott has successfully organized dozens of “March Missions Madness” events for CBF Georgia, and will serve as a consultant and coach for our Missions Ministry Council as we implement the first “Missions Madness” event in Virginia. Scott lives in Macon, Georgia.

\*\***Valerie Burton** is the Ministry Residency Coordinator for CBF’s Initiative for Ministerial Excellence, and serves as Minister of Preschoolers, Children at Youth at Baptist Church of the Covenant in Birmingham, Alabama. Valerie is a M.Div. graduate of BTSR, and has worked with CBF national establish networks between seminary graduates and churches.

\*\*\***Vickie Traynum** is the owner of 720 Designs in Charlotte, North Carolina. She served as the marketing consultant for CBF North Carolina, and she currently serves as project manager for Missions Educations, OGM, and Missional Resources for CBF National. She has extensive knowledge of marketing with Fellowship Baptists.

# Ministry Council Goals and Plans 2009-2010

## Mission Ministry Council

Promote and support the following:

CHILDREN	1) Passport Kids 2010 at Eagle Eryie 2) Family Mission Day (tentative – January 2010 or General Assembly in March 2010)
YOUTH	3) Virginia Mission Madness 2010. April 9-11, 2010. Hosted by Central Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia
YOUNG ADULTS	4) Current’s “Eleven-on-11” Goal of 11 mission sites in Virginia in 2010
ADULTS	5) Improve Missions on Website/Communication. 6) Local Missional Involvement 7) Other Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage church leaders to lead their churches in the “It’s Time” Missional Church study</li> <li>- Use communication platforms and media to encourage individuals to become involved in missional living practices</li> <li>- Network and encourage participation with communities of missional practice</li> <li>- Share and highlight stories of people who are living missionally in their day to day lives (in addition to the already highly discussed missional church activity)</li> <li>- Give input and submit content for future website and newsletter or blog or whatever new media methods are developed</li> </ul>

## Formation Ministry Council

- 1) Develop Interactive Web Resources
- 2) Initiate Key Leader Meeting with CBF Virginia, CBF National, and BGAV
- 3) Establish Four (4) Regional Networks/Peer Groups For Church Staff
- 4) Establish annual “BTSR Day” in regional churches

## Innovation Ministry Council

- 1) Branding: Develop purpose statement, slogan, and new CBFV logo
- 2) Website: Improve, make more robust and interactive
- 3) Identity Items: Meaningful items that tell the story, and are “green”
- 4) Revel New Brand: “Splash Party” at BGAV November 2009 to show new look and message

**THE FOLLOWING TEN VISION PRIORITIES WERE ADOPTED BY  
CBF VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MARCH 2009.**

**“Top Ten” for CBF Virginia**

*Picture this. In ten years, imagine CBF Virginia is...*

- 1) **Becoming Younger.** Increase the leadership and overall population of CBF Virginia family who are 40 years and younger by 2019. We will do this by honoring and seeking wisdom from the generation who has built and strengthened this movement.
- 2) **Increasing Diversity.** Increase the diversity of leadership and overall population of CBF Virginia family by 2019.
- 3) **Becoming Greener.** From the Blue Ridge Mountains to Chesapeake Bay, we in Virginia have been entrusted with beautiful “green spaces.” By 2019, let’s become known as the Baptists who champion stewardship of the earth.
- 4) **Promoting Women Pastors.** Not only should CBF Virginia distribute the resumes of female ministers, we should promote and exhort church search committees to consider a woman as their next pastor. By 2019, let’s encourage women pastors as an active part of our Fellowship movement in Virginia.
- 5) **Supporting BTSR.** By 2019, let’s increase the overall number of churches who give annually to BTSR. Encourage leadership and participation from BTSR students in CBF Virginia.
- 6) **Embracing Technology.** By 2019, CBF Virginia becomes recognized nationally for our increased connection and service to churches, missionaries, and theological education via technology.
- 7) **Encouraging Intergenerational Involvement in Mission.** In partnership with PASSPORT, Inc. and other hands-on mission partners, CBF Virginia will encourage and promote new initiatives for children, youth, and adults to connect with missions and missionaries in Virginia and around the globe.
- 8) **Connecting Big & Small Churches.** By 2019, CBF Virginia will foster new partnerships and resource sharing between “big and small steeple” churches. Both groups will find their Baptist home and identity within this Fellowship.
- 9) **Fostering Leadership in Congregations.** In partnership with BTSR, CBF Virginia will increase the overall number of students who consider the call to ministry and enter a CBF-related seminary. CBF Virginia will actively partner with the BTSR to encourage greater training of laity within Virginia congregations.
- 10) **Voicing the Progressive and Prophetic.** By 2019, CBF Virginia will be known as a progressive and prophetic voice for Baptists in Virginia who balance historic Baptist principles with new, creative partnerships for the promotion of the gospel and the establishment of God’s kingdom in Virginia and beyond.