

Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network

October 2, 2025

Dublin Baptist Church

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Present

Charles Damron, Moderator, Pastor, Austinville Church
Wayne Coake, Treasurer, Member, NorthStar Pulaski Church
Linda Lively, Secretary, Member, Wytheville Church

Susan Keene, Special Projects Director, Bland Ministry Center
Chris Leeper, Director, RU BCM

Tereba Bott, Member, Dublin Church
David Clonch, Member, Dublin Church
Thomas Cundiff, Member, Belspring Church
Martha Damron, Member, Austinville Church
Bryan Gough, Pastor, Trinity Church
Gary and Dinah Hill, Members, Austinville Church
Charles Hull, Member, Trinity Church
Mark Patton, Member, Fairlawn Church
Jan Stone, Member, Wytheville Church
Danny Vaughn, Member, Calvary Church
Visitor: Brandy Page, Care Portal Representative

1. **Charles Damron opened the meeting. He welcomed Brandy Page as our guest.**
2. **Keith Crowgey** had the opening prayer.
3. **VT BCM** – Darrell Cook, Director, emailed the following report: “We have had a great start to our BCM at VA Tech with focused and caring student leaders and many interested new students. This week applications are due for Freshman/Transfer Leadership Team, a six-week experience where new students are trained in leadership and discipleship and then take over BCM for a week. Next week we release applications for spring break mission trips that involve flights, and we are also getting students to sign up for our October 24-26 retreat at Eagle Eyrie. These are exciting days, and we are so excited to have the support of WBRBN as our partner in taking the gospel to the campus. See you at annual meeting!”
4. **Radford University BCM** – Chris Leeper shared that 20-25 students are attending student-led worship. He said he had 2 stories: 1) At a recent cook-out, a student asked, “Can you can be a Christian and not go to church?” This student had been hurt by a church. They had a good discussion; 2) He is doing discipleship with a young man that has no church or Christian background. He finds that students want to cut through the fluff. He said it is an exciting time to be working with students. He expressed appreciation for the support of the Network. He said this support makes it possible to tell the students to not let finances get in the way of being involved in their activities.
5. **Care Portal Representative, Brandy Page**, shared information about the organization. Care Portal is a Care-Sharing technology that drives action for local kids and families in crisis. She shared that the Department of Social Services, Pregnancy Resource Center, a

School or School District can submit a need on the portal. She said churches can be involved in meeting the needs in their area. The needs can be requested only by those families that have children. She cautioned that the families that are helped may not and probably won't become a part of the church that has helped them. Her contact information is: brandy.page@careportal.org.

6. **Minutes** of August 7, 2025, meeting was approved.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Wayne Coake brought the Treasurer's Report for August 2025 and September 2025. The Ending Balance for August was \$28,602.73; for September \$24,369.51; and the Vanguard Emergency Fund was \$36,927.77. *See the attachments for more details.*
8. **Claytor Lake Baptist Assembly Treasurer Report** – David Clonch shared the report (*attached*). The ending balance was \$9,626.20.
9. **Venezuela Ministry** – Charles Damron shared a letter from Pastor Ramon. Charles said he emailed a letter with pictures that were recently received. In the letter, Pastor Ramon requested prayer for:
 - 1) the children and families that attend that they will be reached by the Gospel for Christ; 2) that the Lord will continue to provide the resources so they can continue the feeding program for the children; 3) for evangelization and missionary work in this sector; 4) the discipleship program; 5) the life and university studies, the finances for his son's second semester studies in psychology; 6) for his country and the economic situation. He said, "Thank you my brothers for all the support and help we receive from you; we continue to pray for each church and pastor of the Network, for all its projects and its growth."
10. **Bland Ministry:** Susan Keene shared that the Dental Program can help students with their dental problems. She shared a before and after picture of a seven-year-old that had never been to a dentist. She said they will have a Veteran's Dental Care Clinic on November 14 for those veterans that don't have dental insurance. She said they gave out 1700 food boxes in August and September. She also shared that she recently visited Bluefield University RAM program with a person from Richmond. This person brought food for the pantry, and they saw how the students are using it. She then told us about the Open House they will have on Wednesday, November 12, from noon-4 p.m. after the BGAV meeting in Abingdon. They will invite those attending the BGAV meeting to stop on their way home to see what the BCM is all about. They will have a ramp project to work on to encourage groups/individuals to be involved. They have set up a "Good Neighbor Fund Society." She invited everyone to get some of the sweet potatoes she brought.
11. **Hearts and Hammers:** Dave Clonch shared that they will prepare ramp sections for the Bland Ministry Center Open House in November. He said they worked with several school and community organizations to build ramps for families so they wouldn't lose their home insurance policies.
12. **Claytor Lake Baptist Assembly** – Thomas Cundiff said they have posted "No Trespassing Signs" and that a lot of work has been done on the grounds at the Camp. He said additional coyote decoys have been purchased and put in place to discourage the Canada Geese. *The cleaning schedule for the summer is: October – Calvary.*

13. **WMU** –Martha Damron requested that churches collect stamps and Christmas cards to meet our Network goal of 2400 stamped cards. She said these can be brought to the Annual Meeting October 19 or to the Network meeting December 4. She said they will be delivered to the Prison on Friday, December 5.
14. **Mission Rally/Conference:** Charles Damron said the Conference will be held April 26, 2026. He said so far 5 churches have signed up. He asked if any additional churches would like to be involved to please contact him.
15. **Finance Team:** Wayne explained they had to find a new method to get our contributions to Pastor Ramon in Venezuela. In October they will set up electronic transfer to a bank in Florida; then the funds will go to Venezuela. This is being accomplished through a company in Spain that does work in the US and Venezuela.
Wayne also said they had a request from the Bland Ministry Center for \$9,000 to purchase food for the Food Boxes. The BCM is no longer able to buy food from Feed America and are taking staple food from the stash, they had planned to give out at Christmas. Wayne said the Network doesn't have those funds at this time. The Team made the motion to give BCM \$750 that is earmarked for their November Open House. The motion carried. *(See the attached letter.)*
16. **ACP's:** Charles said these can be completed online on the Lifeway or BGAV site by February 28, 2026.
17. **Proposed Annual Meeting Agenda:** Charles reviewed the proposed agenda. He said Bill Lively will bring the Resolutions. Thomas Cundiff will bring the Time and Place report for the 2026 Annual Meeting. Keith Crowgey will bring the Message.
18. **Ministry Dinners:** Charles said the venue for the Ministry Dinners has been changed. Pastors and spouses will meet on October 7 at Sal Jr's Restaurant in Fairlawn at 6:30 p.m.
19. **Proposed Budget:** Wayne Coake, Finance Team, reviewed the Proposed Budget for information. It will be presented at the Annual Meeting and voted on.
20. **Announcements from Churches:**
 - **Grace Fellowship** is now SBC-V and chooses not to be a member of WBRBN. Jason Aker resigned as pastor in June.
 - **Church on Main** – Thomas McDearis has announced his retirement. A committee is being formed to fill the Senior Pastor position.
 - **Dublin** – The Search Committee will soon present a candidate to serve as Pastor.
 - **Belspring** – Homecoming is October 5. Fall Festival will be on October 25th.
 - **Fairlawn** – They continue to stock a refrigerator for the community to receive food.
 - **Cambria** – Harvest Festival will be held October 31.
 - **Wytheville** – Will participate in the community Trunk 'n Treat. The town blocks off the street in front of the churches. Usually over 1,000 kids are treated. Wytheville Church will serve soup to those adults working.
21. **Network Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 19, 2025, Austinville Church, 127 Newtown Church Rd, Austinville. *(Note the change in location.)***
22. **The next bi-monthly meeting is the first Thursday in December– December 4, 2025.**
23. Meeting was closed with prayer by Dave Clonch.