
136th Annual Session

And Minutes of the 135th Annual Session

August 13, 14, 15, 2025



Reverend Maurice C. Evans, Moderator

**15044 Ryland Chapel Road
Rixeyville, VA 22737**

Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association, Inc.

15044 Ryland Chapel Road | Rixeyville, VA 22737



Greetings to the officers and members of this Great Association,

I greet you all in truth and love on this 136th Annual Session! It is truly a blessing to be Moderator of this Association with such a talented group of people who willingly try to do God's will God's way.

The vision that God gave to me to announce to this body is to rebuild the infrastructure both in the spiritual sense regarding God's people and by upgrading and or replacing those items that have aged over time. God has kept us moving in the right direction as this new administration is completing its first year together.

Together we can do as Proverbs 27:23 says by paying careful attention to the flock which we oversee. Making sure to know what their needs are for this Christian Walk. Then, the New Testament says to us in Ephesians 4:12 to equip the saints for the work of the ministry for building up the body of Christ. To uphold this mandate, we are hosting classes throughout the year on various subjects. We are here to help you our fellow brothers and sisters on this Christian journey.

Let's help each other on this Kingdom Building journey. It will take patience and time to reach our desired goals, but we will get there. All things are possible through Christ. Enjoy this 136th Annual Session and let us grow and fellowship together as we rebuild our spiritual perspectives and continue to enjoy, appreciate, and maintain this great organization that God has given us to care for. There is still work to do, but we are well able to do it!

Yours in Christ and in HIS service,

Reverend Maurice C. Evans, Moderator



136th Annual Session
Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association, Inc.
Wednesday August 13, 2025

Rev. Maurice Evans, Moderator, Presiding
Pastor, Elk Run Baptist Church Rochelle, VA

Order-of-Service

8:30-9:30a.m.	Registration
Devotion 9:30-10:00a.m.	Devotional Leaders & Association Choir
Official Opening/Greetings	Rev. Maurice Evans, Moderator
Opening Selections	Association Choir
Introduction of Keynote Preacher	Rev. Dr. Willie Elder
Selection	Association Choir
<u>Keynote Message</u>	Rev. Nelson Sneed <i>Moderator, Northern VA Baptist Association</i> <i>Pastor, Little Forest B.C. Stafford, Virginia</i>
Invitation to Christian Discipleship	
Offering and Offertory Prayer	Financial Committee
<u>Business Session</u>	
Roll Call of Churches	Sister Cheryl Lightfoot
Planning for Tomorrow Session	Mary Grate-Pyos
Report of Open Vacancies	Nomination Committee
Appointment of Committee	Deacon Donald Brooks
Blessing of the Food	
Closing Hymn & Benediction	



136th Annual Session
Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association, Inc.
Thursday August 14, 2025

Rev. Willie Crenshaw, 1st Vice-Moderator
Pastor, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Orange, VA

Order-of-Service

8:30-9:30a.m.	Registration
Devotion 9:30-10:00a.m.	Devotional Leaders & Association Choir
Opening Selections	WBRBA Women's Auxiliary Choir
Greetings	Sister Gail Blaker
Response to Greetings	
Ministry of Music	Women's Auxiliary Choir

Business Session

Recognition of Women of the Year	Committee
Introduction Women's Auxiliary President	Deacon Barbara Wood <i>Vice-President of Women's Auxiliary</i>
Selection	Women's Auxiliary Choir
Women's Auxiliary President Address	Sister Angela Brooks
Recognition of Visitors	Sister Angela Brooks
Offering and Offertory Prayer	Financial Committee
Introduction of Guest Preacher	Sister Angela Brooks
Selection	Women's Auxiliary Choir

Missionary Message

Invitation to Christian Discipleship	Deaconess Teri Washington <i>Hopewell Baptist Church Rapidan, VA</i>
Grace for Lunch	
Closing Hymn and Benediction	



136th Annual Session
Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association, Inc.
Friday August 15, 2025

Rev. Dr. Willie Elder, 2nd Vice-Moderator
Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church Orange, VA

Order-of-Service

8:30-9:30a.m.	Registration
Devotion 9:30-10:00a.m.	Devotional Leaders & Association Choir
Greetings	Rev. Eugene Triplett
Opening Selection	Association Choir
Recognition of Scholarship Recipients	Scholarship Committee
Nomination Committee Report	Nomination Committee
Offering and Offertory Prayer	Financial Committee

Memorial Service

Introduction of Memorial Preacher	Memorial Committee
Ministry in Music	Rev. Maurice C. Evans
Memorial Message	Association Choir
	Rev. Clarence Mayes
	<i>Union Bell Baptist Church Safford, VA</i>

Lunch Break / Grace

Introduction of WBRBA Moderator	Rev. Willie D. Crenshaw, Jr.
Selection	Association Choir
<u>Moderator's Address</u>	Rev. Maurice Evans, <i>Moderator WBRBA</i>
Invitation to Christian Discipleship	
Offering and Offertory Prayer	Financial Committee

Business Session

Committee Reports
Final Nomination Committee Report
Closing Hymn and Benediction

Our History

The Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association (WBRBA) traces its origins to the *Northern Virginia Baptist Association (NVBA)*, which was founded in early 1877. The NVBA's first gathering took place in Culpeper, VA, where the Rev. George Horner preached the inaugural sermon. After several years this association had grown and spanned a large geographic area stretching across several counties: Alexandria, Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun, Fauquier, Stafford, Page, Warren, Greene, Rappahannock, Culpeper, Orange, Madison, and even into West Virginia. However, during the late 19th century, travel challenges caused by limited train services and reliance on horse-and-buggy transportation made it difficult for members to stay connected across such a vast region.

In response to these challenges, on July 17, 1889, a council of twenty-one churches convened at Antioch Baptist Church in Culpeper, VA. During this historic meeting, the decision was made to form a new, more regionally focused association to better serve the needs of local congregations. Therefore, a resolution was drawn up, it was accepted and approved. This led to the establishment of the WBRBA. The association held its first official session at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Culpeper, VA, in August 1889, electing Rev. R.H. Carey as its first Moderator and Rev. L.L. Marshall as the Secretary. The introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. Benjamin Gray. In attendance were the following churches: Shiloh-Rixeyville; Bethel-Mitchells; Free Union; Antioch; Olivet; Crooked Run; Cedar Grove; Mt. Olive; Ebenezer-Lignum; Beulah Baptist Church-Eggbornsville; Clarksburg; (Culpeper County); Mt. Corum (Greene County); Mt Zion-Swift Ford; Mt. Pisgah-Tanners; Chestnut Grove; Oak Grove (Madison County); Nazareth; Locust Grove (Orange County); Berean; Bethel-Amissville; Hopewell-Sperryville; Shiloh-Woodville (Rappahannock County).

This started the session church rotation construct where a member church would host the Annual Session each year. This concept worked well and stayed in place until the Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Center was built. Since August 2001 the Annual Session has been held at the Baptist Center.

The name "Wayland Blue Ridge" reflects both the association's roots and its connection to the local landscape. "Wayland" was inspired by the former Wayland Seminary, a historic institution established in 1865 and located in Washington, D.C., that helped shape many of the association's founders. In 1899 Wayland Seminary and Richmond Theological Seminary merged to form Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA. Meanwhile, the "Blue Ridge" portion of the name honors the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains that dot the region.

The Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Center: The people sought to have a permanent location for the Association. On January 15, 1972, proposed specifications and plans for a Baptist Center were approved. Then on August 16, 1974, a committee was appointed to search for a site to construct the Baptist Center. From this effort 10 acres of land in Rixeyville was located and purchased from Mrs. Ruth Nash in 1978 for \$1100.00 an acre; total cost \$11,000.00. A groundbreaking and ceremony for the Baptist Center occurred on Saturday, October 25, 1980, at 2:00pm. The site plans were approved by Culpeper County Planning Commission on August 11, 1982. Work was ready to start, so on August 17, 1984, Brother James L. Holmes was appointed Project Manager for the project.

In November 1984, construction of the Baptist Center started. Work moved along in stages, as funds allowed. After several years of planning, fund raising, and much prayer construction of the Baptist Center was finally completed. The official opening ceremony and celebration were held on August 11, 2001. This momentous event occurred during Rev. Charles Wormley's tenure as Moderator. Since August 2001 the Annual Session has been held at the Baptist Center. Committed churches and members worked tirelessly to ensure this dream became a reality.

Today the Association is headquartered at the Center located at 15044 Ryland Chapel Road Rixeyville, Virginia. The Baptist Center has proven its value. For the past 25 years, the Baptist Center has been used to host WBRBA monthly Executive Board meeting, One Day Session, Annual Session; community meetings, worship services; church anniversaries, funeral services, and a myriad of other activities. In 2024 the Baptist Center became an official voting station and a food resiliency distribution point for Culpeper County residents.

As we reflect on our marvelous past, we press with urgency toward a bright future that is ripe with ministry outreach and evangelistic opportunities for such a time as this.

WAYLAND BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MODERATORS

Rev. R. H. Cary	1889-1912	Rev. Donahue Scott	1988-1993
Rev. Willis J. Madden	1912-1949	Rev. Gordon Henderson	1993-1998
Rev. John J. Jackson	1949-1963	Rev. Charles Wormley	1998-2003
Rev. Dr. Robert Bowles	1963-1966	Rev. Dr. James L. Holmes	2003-2008
Rev. Dr. Howard Stanton	1966-1976	Rev. Frank Lewis	2008-2011
Rev. Dr. J. A. Holmes	1976-1981	Rev. Homer Jones	2011-2016
Rev. R. L. Banks	8/1981-1/1983	Rev. Ludwell Brown	2016-2020
Rev. Dr. J. A. Holmes	1981-1983	Rev. Dr. Bernardo Snipes	2020-2024
Rev. Dr. Charles Sims	1983-1988	<i>Rev. Maurice Evans</i>	<i>2024-Present</i>



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