



# 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Session Program Book

*Theme: "Shout It Again!"*  
*Isaiah 58:1-3 & Acts 13:42-48*

Hosted  
By

Dr. Wayne Thompson: ABCOTS President  
Dr. James M. Harrison: ABCOTS Executive Minister  
Host Area: Area II Moderator: Rev. Denise Wynn

**Tuesday April 30th – Thursday May 2nd, 2024**



Rev. Dr. Heber Brown, III  
Executive Director  
Black Church Food Security Network



Rev. Dr. Kenneth Cooper  
Spring Creek Baptist Church,



Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain  
ABC-USA General Secretary



Rev. Dr. Patricia Gould Champ  
Faith Community Baptist Church,  
Richmond, VA



The Rev. Dr. Kimberly A. Ridley  
The Light Community Church,



The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray  
Executive Director, ABHMS,

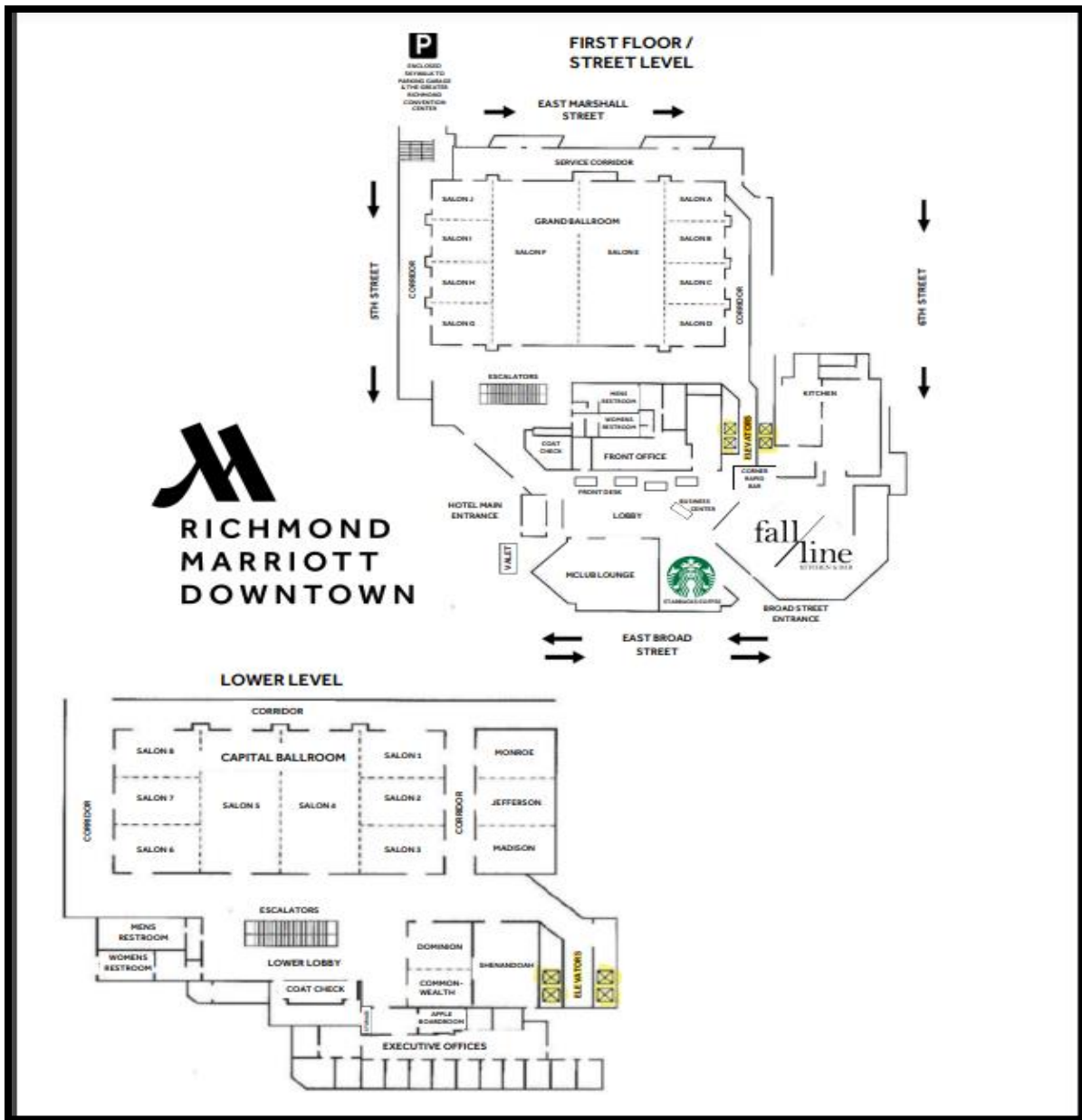
**Richmond Marriott Downtown, 500 Broad Street, Richmond VA**

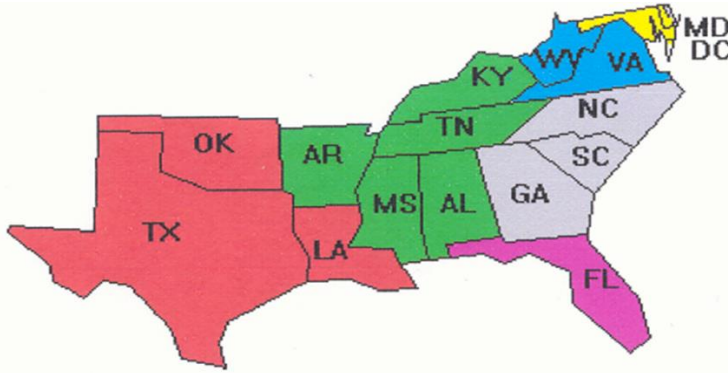
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# Richmond Downtown Marriott Floor Plan





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 Phone: 443.551.3045 Website: [www.abcots.org](http://www.abcots.org)

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**Vice Moderator**                      **Vacant**

### AREA II

**Moderator**                      **Rev. Denise Wynn**  
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**Vice Moderator**                      **Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven**  
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**Vice Moderator**                      **Rev. Zachary Royal**                      (305) 300-1050 - Cell  
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[Antiochshreveport1866@gmail.com](mailto:Antiochshreveport1866@gmail.com)                      [www.antioch1866church.org](http://www.antioch1866church.org)

### AREA VI

**Moderator**                      **Vacant**

**Vice Moderator**                      **Vacant**

ABCOTS 54th Annual Session April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, "Shout It Again"

## AREA VII

<b>Area Representative (Moderator)</b>	<b>Rev. Priscilla V. Ousley</b> <i>Mt. Carmel Baptist Church</i> <a href="mailto:revpvousley@gmail.com">revpvousley@gmail.com</a>	
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<b>Bookkeeper</b>	<b>Mr. Paul White</b> <a href="mailto:pwhite@abcots.org">pwhite@abcots.org</a>	

## ABC-USA OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

<b>General Secretary</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain</b> <b>ABC-USA</b> <b>P.O. Box 851</b> <b>Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851</b>	<b>(800) 222-3872 ext. 2274</b>
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# SCRIPTURE

## Shout It Again - Isaiah 58:1-3 & Acts 13:42-48

Isaiah 58:1-3

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back, Raise your voice like a trumpet.

Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.

2 For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God.

They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.

3 ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it?’

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’

Acts 13:42-48

42 As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue,  
the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath.

43 When the congregation was dismissed,  
many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with  
them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

45 When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy.  
They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly:

“We had to speak the word of God to you first.

Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life,  
we now turn to the Gentiles. 47

For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“ ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles,  
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord;  
and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.



## ABCOTS Executive Minister's Address



Greetings and thank you to the Family of ABCOTS Churches

Welcome home to Richmond, Virginia, the historic host in 1971, of the first annual gathering of American Baptist Churches of the South. We are celebrating our 54th year as one of 34 regions making up the national denomination, American Baptist Churches in the United States of America, witnessing the power, presence, and many provisions of our Lord. It is what flows from our hearts and minds like memories of the past, validations of the present, and expectations of the future that become proclamation and praise on our lips today. Soren Kierkegaard suggests, "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." Thank you for joining us as we must "Shout It Again!"

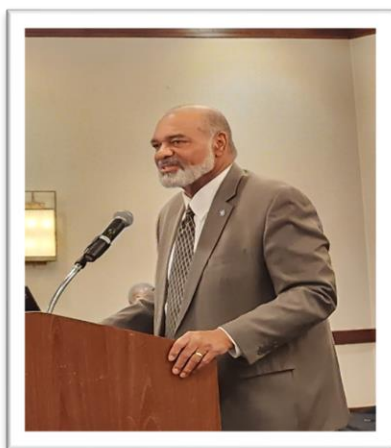
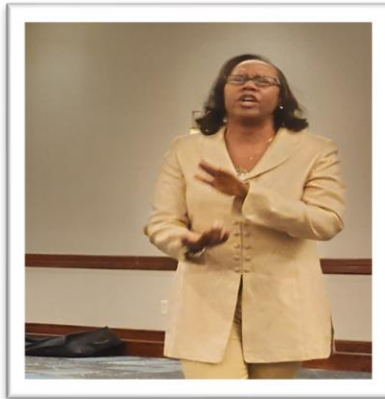
Paul and Barnabas found themselves having to "Shout It Again," in Acts 13:44, that is the message, forgiveness of sins through Jesus the Christ. When it seemed they had failed, and their words of truth had fallen on stiff ears, they are compelled to say it again, and this time, the whole city came out to hear this truth about forgiveness of sins through Jesus the Christ.

Thank you to the Moderator, Reverend Denise Shears Wynn, Vice Moderator, Reverend Michael Shannon, and the many Volunteers in Area II, (Virginia Churches). We are grateful to the Marriott Hotel's staff Ms. Tiffany Nguyen and Ms. Cheryl Knight; the ABCOTS staff Ms. Gloria Dairsow, Mrs. Karan Charles-Barclay, and Mr. Paul White; other lay and clergy volunteers, presenters and preachers, and member churches gathered to accept leadership from our God.

In Christian Service, I remain

  
*Dr. James M. Harrison*  
Executive Minister

# 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session Photos





ABCOTS 54th Annual Session April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, "Shout It Again"



ABCOTS 54th Annual Session April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, "Shout It Again"



ABCOTS 54th Annual Session April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, "Shout It Again"

# American Baptist Churches of the South

## 54th Annual Session Program

Theme: “*SHOUT IT AGAIN!*” Isaiah 58:1-3 Acts 13:42-48

Theme Hymn: “Jesus Saves!” (We Have Heard the Joyful Sound) Priscilla Jane Ownes

### Tuesday April 30th, 2024

#### Auxiliary Empowerment

ABMOTS	General Session	8:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Dominion & Commonwealth
ABWOTS	General Session	9:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Salons G & H
ABMCOTS	General Session	9:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Salons 6, 7, 8

#### Luncheon 12:30 p.m.

The Reverend Heber Brown, III, Speaker, Black Church Food Security Network

#### Auxiliary Business and Planning Sessions

ABMOTS	General Session	2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Dominion & Commonwealth
ABWOTS	General Session	2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Salons G & H
ABMCOTS	General Session	2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Shenandoah

#### Dinner Break

ABCOTS Board of Directors	Executive Committee	4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
ABCOTS Board of Directors	Annual Meeting	5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
President’s Address		Dr. Wayne G. Thompson

#### Worship at the Close of Day 8:00 p.m.

The Reverend Kenneth Cooper, Spring Creek Baptist Church, Mosley, VA

### Wednesday, May 1st, 2024

#### Religious Discussions/Bible Study

Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven, Friendship Baptist Church Atl., GA

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

#### ABCOTS Business and Reporting Session

Dr. Wayne Thompson, ABCOTS President, Presiding

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

#### Denominational Luncheon 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

The Reverend Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, ABC/USA, General Secretary

#### Empowering Conversations

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ABCOTS 54th Annual Session April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, “Shout It Again”

- A. Green The Church, (The Rev. Emily Carroll)
- B. African American Alzheimer's Disease Study, (Dr. Goldie Smith Byrd)  
Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, Wake Forest University
- C. Perspectives in Community Development, (Branden Isaac) JLL Global Real Estate Services

**Churches Appreciation/Missions Dinner 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

The Reverend Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ, Pastor-Emeritus, Faith Community Church, Richmond, VA

**Worship at The Close Of Day 7:30 p.m.**

The Reverend Kimberly A. Ridley, Pastor, The Light Community Church, Richmond, VA  
Dr. Kevin L. Sykes, St. James Baptist Church, Varina, VA

**Thursday May 2nd, 2024**

**Religious Discussions/Bible Study 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

Dr. Yung Suk Kim, Prof. New Testament and Early Christianity, Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology

**Empowering Conversation Panels 10:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.**

**The ABC/USA Partners in Conversation:** Office of the General Secretary; International Ministries; American Baptist Home Missions Societies; Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board; Regional Ministries; American Baptist Extension Corporation; Chaplaincy Ministries; American Baptist Foundation

**Family Reunion Luncheon 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

**Colloquy of Local Churches in Missions 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

1. Spring Creek Baptist Church, Mosley, VA - Rev. Kenneth Cooper
2. New Zion Baptist Church, Williamsburg, VA - Dr. Robert Whitehead
3. Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Rockville, MD - Dr. Brian O. Bellamy, & Mrs. Felicia Williams-Palmer
4. Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville, NC - Dr. Stephen G. Howard
5. First Baptist Church Bute Street, Norfolk, VA - Rev. Jerry L. Holmes
6. Church Without Walls of Greenville, SC - Rev. Alfred Johnson
7. First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, VA - Dr. Reginald Davis & Mrs. Connie Harshaw

**Area Caucus Meetings 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

Area I, Area II, Area III, Area IV, Area V, Area VI, Area VII

**Worship at the Close of Day 7:30 p.m.**

The Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, *Executive Director ABHMS*  
*Communion of the Lord's Supper*  
Ushers, Shiloh Baptist Church, Norfolk, VA

**Late Evening Worship**

Dr. Joshua Mitchell, 31<sup>st</sup> Street Baptist Church Richmond, VA



**American Baptist**  
Women of the South

**April 30, 2024**

# ABWOTS Women's

# Conference

HOSTED BY  
**ABWOTS**

DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 am



**Dr. Deborah Parham Hopson**  
Health and Wellness Speaker



**Dr. Kristian Kelley**  
Physical Therapist

**JOIN  
US  
NOW** By  
Registering

**To Register**

[WWW.ABCOTS.ORG](http://WWW.ABCOTS.ORG)

Richmond Marriott  
500 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA  
Dr. James Harrison, Executive Director

ABCOTS  
54TH Annual Session





**American Baptist Women of the South  
Leadership Seminar**

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 - 9:00 AM

Presiding Mrs. Cynthia Bentley, President Ministry

Ministry Focus: "Be Strong, Be Courageous"

Mission Focus: "Welcoming the Stranger" Scripture: Joshua 1:9, NIV

Call to Order

*“Be Strong, Be Courageous: Building Your Body, Mind and Spirit.”*

Opening Song:

Scripture:

Prayer:

Greetings/Purpose:

I Corinthians 6:19-2

“Blessed Assurance”

Sister Kathia Miles

Chaplain Linda Woodson

President Cynthia Bentley

**Greetings from the American Baptist Leadership**

Rev. Dr. James M. Harrison, ABCOTS Executive Minister

Rev. Dr. Wayne G. Thompson, ABCOTS President

Rev. Dr. LaThelma Yenn Batah, ABWM Interim Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Christine Smith, ABWM President

Introduction of the Speaker:

Speaker with Q & A:

Introduction of ABWOTS Officers:

Sister Adranna Grant

Dr. Deborah Parham Hopson

Sister Georgianna Jones

Cynthia Bentley

Claretha Harris

Kathia Miles

Angelia Mumford

Georgianna Jones

Linda Woodson

Adranna Grant

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Events Coordinator

Area VII President

Chaplain

Spiritual Advisor

**Break**

Litany:

Song:

Introduction of the Speaker:

Wellness Activity Facilitator

Mission Outreach:

Comments

Closing Prayer:

“Be Strong in The Lord”

"Housing Families First"

Sister Claretha Harris

Sister Denise Ruffin

Sister Kathia Miles

Dr. Kristen Kelley

Sister Jasmine Snead

President Cynthia Bentley

Chaplain, Sister Linda Woodson





**American Baptist Men of the South**  
**April 30, 2024**  
**8:00 AM –12:30 PM**  
**Agenda**



**John Lewis Leadership Breakfast**  
**BROTHERHOOD + LEADERSHIP = FAITH-IN-ACTION**  
**SCRIPTURE: JOHN 13:35 MATTHEW 20:26-28 (NLT)**

Call to Order

Scripture & Opening Prayer

Introductions of Officers

Overview

Brother Vernon A. Clement, President

Deacon Earle D. Clowney, Chaplain

Deacon Andrew Ladd, Immediate Past President

President

Breakfast

**Introductions of Facilitators**

Deacon Andrew Williams, Vice President

**Leadership Workshops: 9:00 AM –12:30 PM**

**Workshop #1 Let's Rap: Man to Man – Part IV: “Connecting with the Next Generation”**

Reverend Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Interim Pastor Bethlehem Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

Description: Empowering, Encouraging, and Equipping Men to Talk to Male Youths and Young Men in Christian Brotherhood for Disciple-Building, Manhood Preparation, Leadership-Development

**Workshop #2 Christian Values ~ Social Justice ~ Voting**

Mr. Gary Flowers - Community Activist, Radio Host, Blogger, Social Justice Advocate, Political Analyst

Description: Empowering, Encouraging, and Equipping Men to 'Be Active in their Community'; 'Do Something When Things Aren't Right'; 'Participate in the Political System by Voting'

**Workshop #3 Generational Legacy**

Dr. Kenneth L. Morris, Senior Pastor, Calvary Grove Baptist Church, Scottdale, GA

Description: Informing, Encouraging, and Equipping Men to Take Proactive Measures in Preserving Families Legacies

**Workshop Evaluations**

Deacon Andrew Ladd, Immediate Past President

**Closing Comments**

ABMOTS President

**Closing Prayer**

Chaplain



**ABCOTS Ministers Council Auxiliary Meeting**  
*April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024*  
*9:30 am – 12:20 pm*

**Rev. Dr. Price London Davis, Presiding**  
**Mosby Memorial Baptist Church, Richmond, VA**  
*ABCOTS Ministers Council President*

**AGENDA**

Call to Order & Welcome	Minsters Council President
Scripture	The Reverend Bruce C. Carroll, Sr. <i>Antioch Baptist Church, Shreveport, LA</i>
Prayer	The Reverend Priscilla Ousley <i>Mt. Carmel Freewill Baptist Church, Luray, VA</i>
Introduction of Presenter	Ministers Council President
Lecture Presentation	Rev. Dr. John W. Kinney 10:30 am – 11:30 am – Lecture
Question & Answer Session	Dr. Kinney and Participants 11: 35 am – 12:10 pm
Remarks from Executive Minister	Rev. Dr. James Harrison
Closing Remarks and Prayer	

Adjournment

# Welcome Back Luncheon

Salon 4, 5 (Lower)

The Reverend Dr. Heber Brown, III

Executive Director, Black Church Food Security Network

12:30 P.M. - 2 P.M.

## VENDOR EXHIBITS

CAPITAL BALLROOM

Authors

Rev. Dr. James H. Harris, Second Baptist Church

Mrs. Mary Jackson, Rev. Dr. Glenn Porter, Queen Street BC





## ABWOTS Business Meeting

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 - 2:00 PM

Presiding Mrs. Cynthia Bentley, President  
Ministry Focus: "Be Strong, Be Courageous"  
Mission Focus: "Welcoming the Stranger"  
Scripture: Joshua 1:9, NIV

*"Be Strong, Be Courageous: Building Your Body, Mind and Spirit"*

Call to Order

Opening Song:

Welcome/Greetings:

Scripture:

I Corinthians 6:19-20

Prayer:

Adoption of Agenda:

Minutes from April 25, 2023:

Love Gift Appeal:

One way of expressing our faith is by giving (see next page for explanation of Love Gifts).

"Blessed Assurance"

President Cynthia Bentley

Sister Kathia Miles

Sister Linda Woodson

Sister Georgianna Jones

Sister Claretha Harris

Sister Kathia Miles

Send your individual and/or church Love Gift contributions to:

American Baptist Churches of the South

c/o American Baptist Women of the South

P. O. Box 47277

Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0277

ABWOTS Silver+ Recognition

Recognition of Past Presidents

Wellness Break

President Cynthia Bentley and Sister Angelia Mumford

President Cynthia Bentley

Sister Georgianna Jones

### Old Business

Treasurer's Report 2023 & Proposed 2024 Budget

ABWOTS Regional Structure & 2024 Officer Positions

Sister Kathia Miles

Sister Claretha Harris

### New Business

Nominating Committee's Report

Announcements/Closing Prayer/ Adjournment

Sister Claretha Harris and Sister Kathia Miles

President Cynthia Bentley





You can serve as  
the hands and  
feet of Christ  
through  
**Love  
Gift**

## Love Gifts

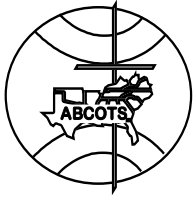
The Love Gift is an over-and-above offering that supports American Baptist missions and ministries. Begun during the Great Depression, the denomination faced a deficit, and the women challenged one another to raise enough funds to cover that deficit. They rose to meet that challenge and then some! It is given out of a sense of LOVE, FAITH, and GRATITUDE to God for all God's blessings and in recognition of our need to share these blessings with others.

Today, the Love Gift is an extra gift to the United Mission support of the American Baptist family. Through the Love Gift, missions and ministries in the United States and Puerto Rico and around the world can reach out to millions of God's people.

### Love Gift funding ...

- Helps create educational opportunities in churches, colleges, at conferences and special events
- Provides evangelism resources and training
- Builds cross-cultural bridges and understanding
- Inspires action for justice
- Plants new churches, to grow Jesus' servants and send them into the world to serve
- Touches the lives of countless numbers of people world-wide





**ABMOTS Business Session**  
**April 30, 2024**  
**2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**



## **Agenda**

### **BROTHERHOOD + LEADERSHIP = FAITH-IN-ACTION**

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*  
*Galatians 6:9 NIV*

Call to Order	Vernon A. Clement	President
Scripture & Opening Prayer		Deacon Earle D. Clowney, Chaplain
Minutes of the April 2023 Meeting		Deacon Andrew Ladd, Immediate Past President
Executive Committee Report	Deacon Andrew Williams	Vice President
Treasurer’s Report and Proposed Budget 2024		Deacon Robert Bozeman, Treasurer

### **Discussion & Vote**

#### **Business Items:**

1) ABMOTS Report	President
Nomination/Election Report	Deacon Charles N. Hawk, Jr.
Disaster Assistance/Relief Ministry	Vice President
ABMOTS Report	President
ABCOTS Report	Executive Minister
Community Presentation	President

### **Question and Answer Period**

Closing Remarks	President
Closing Prayer	Chaplain



**ABCOTS Ministers Council Business Meeting**  
**April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**2:30 pm – 4:30 pm**  
**Rev. Dr. Price London Davis, Presiding**  
**ABCOTS Ministers Council President**

Call to Order & Welcome

President Davis

Adoption of the Agenda

Devotional Moment

Rev. Bruce C. Carroll, Sr.

Presentation of the 2023 Minutes

Rev. Priscilla Ousley

Treasurer's Report

Rev. Kevin Calhoun

Executive Committee Report

Motion to recognize New Ordained Ministers

Charge and Hand of Fellowship  
Rev. Dr. Wayne Thompson

A Moment from the Executive Minister  
Rev. Dr. James Harrison

New Business

Old Business

**Lecture Presentation**  
***Jessica Young Brown, PhD***  
**Making SPACE at the Well:**  
**Mental Health and the Church:**

Q & A Period

Prayer Requests

Closing Remarks and Prayer

Adjournment



ABCOTS Board Meetings  
Executive Board Meeting & Program Board Meeting

**Opening Worship**

Call to  
Worship

**Leader:** Who shall rule the earth? And who shall we worship?

**People:** The earth belongs to the Lord. He alone is worthy to rule the earth! And He alone is worthy to be worshiped!

**Leader:** And who shall be with the Lord in His Holy dwelling place?

**People:** They whose hands are clean, and whose hearts are pure.

**All:** Look up, Rise up! The Majestic King shall enter. Shout aloud !

**Invocation**

**Thème Hymn :** “Jésus Saves !” – Priscilla Jane Owens

**Scripture Lesson:** Isaiah 58:1-3 & Acts 13:42-48

**Offertory Appeal/Offering/Prayer and Dedication to the Lord**

Presentation of Conference Preacher

Music

**Conference Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Kenneth Cooper**

Spring Creek Baptist Church, Moseley, VA

**Call to Discipleship and Believer’s Commitment**

Music

Announcements & conference concerns



# ABCOTS

54th Annual Session  
Richmond Marriott  
500 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA  
Rev. Dr. James Harrison  
Executive Director

*"Shout It Again"*

**1st**  
May

**9:30 pm**

Each Night

**2nd**  
May

Rev. Dr. Kevin L. Sykes  
St. James Baptist Church  
Richmond, VA 23231

Rev. Dr. Joshua L. Mitchell  
31st Street Baptist Church  
Richmond, VA 23223



*"Two Services,  
Two Dynamic  
Preachers"*



PURE WORD, PURE PRAYER, PURE WORSHIP

ABCOTS 54th Annual Session April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, "Shout It Again"

# **Wednesday 1 May 2024**

**Bible Study/Religious Discussions**

8:30 – 10:am

Salon 4 & 5 (Lower)

**Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven**

**Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA**

## **ABCOTS 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Session Business Session**

American Baptist Churches of The South (A Maryland Non-Profit Corporation)

Annual Meeting ABCOTS Corporation (MD Non-Profit)

Dr. Wayne Thompson Presiding

### **REPORTS**

**Region Board of Directors**

Deacon Delphine Reese

**Treasurer's Financial Report**

Mr. Paul White

**Executive Minister's Report**

Dr. James M. Harrison

**Selection**

## **A Litany of Remembrance (Remembering the deceased of 2023 - 2024)**

**Leader:** We remember the deceased in our community, in our states, in our country, and in our world.

**ABCOTS Leaders:** Remember us when I am gone away,

**Church Members:** Gone far away in the Silent Land.

**Leader:** Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.

**ABCOTS Leaders:** Remember us when no more, day by day, You tell us of our future that you planned: Our lives snuffed out unplanned,

**Church Members:** Do remember us in that Far Away Land, where there is no need for counsel or prayer. Yet if you should forget us for a while, and afterwards remember, do not grieve:

**Leader:** For if the darkness and corruption leave a vestige of the thoughts that once I had, better by far you should forget and smile than that you should remember and be sad.

**Church Members:** We remember the deceased in our community, in our states, in our country, and in our world.

**ABCOTS Leaders:** We own our responsibility to protect and keep safe the people of our land. Help us not to be overcome by selfish ambitions to the neglect of the people's safety.

**Leader:** The prophets of the land must sound the alarm of social injustices.

**Church Members:** Lead us into safety in our land. We place our worldly accomplishments in your hands.

**All:** We must remember, we must never forget, remind us over and over that many have gone away; far away into the Silent land. Amen!

# Denominational Luncheon

12:30 – 1:45pm Salon F (Upper)

The Reverend Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, ABC-USA General Secretary

Welcome/Greetings

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Music

Prayer and Blessing of Meal

The Speaker - The Reverend Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain

## Empowering Conversations 2 P.M. – 4 P.M.

### Empowering Conversation A

Dominion & Commonwealth (Lower)

African American Alzheimer's Disease Study

Dr. Goldie Smith Byrd, Professor of Public Health Sciences

Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, Wake Forest University

### Empowering Conversation B

Shenandoah (Lower)

Green The Church

Reverend Emily Carroll

### Empowering Conversation C

Salons 6,7,8 (Lower)

Community Developing – JLL Americas, Inc.

Branden Isaac, Senior Vice President, Brokerage

Nashunda Williams, Head of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

# Churches Appreciation and Missions Dinner

Salon F (Upper)

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Gould Champ

## Wednesday Evening Worship

Salon 4 & 5 (Lower)

### Call to Worship

Worship Leader

Prelude Music – Conference Musicians

Leader: Who shall rule the earth? And who shall we worship?

People: The earth belongs to the Lord. He alone is worthy to rule the earth! And He alone is worthy to be worshiped!

Leader: And who shall be with the Lord in His Holy dwelling place?

People: They whose hands are clean, and whose hearts are pure.

All: Look up, Rise up! The Majestic King shall enter. Shout aloud!

**Invocation** – Worship Leader

**Theme Hymn** “Jésus Saves!” – Priscilla Jane Owens

**Scripture Lesson** – Isaiah 58:1-3 & Acts 13:42-48

**Offertory Appeal/Offering/Prayer and Dedication to the Lord**

**Presentation of Conference Preacher**

**Music**

**Preacher:** The Reverend Dr. Kimberly A. Ridley

The Light Community Church, Richmond, VA

**Call to Discipleship and Believer’s Commitment**

**Music**

**Late Evening Worship Leader:**

The Reverend Dr. Kevin L. Sykes

ABCOTS 54th Annual Session April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, “Shout It Again”

St. James Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

# **Thursday 2 May 2024**

## **Bible Study/Religious Discussions**

8:30 – 10:am Salon 4 & 5 (Lower)

Yung Suk Kim, Ph.D.

Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity  
Samuel DeWitt proctor School of Theology

## **ABC-USA Partners Panel Discussion**

**Salon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (Lower)**

ABC - USA Office of General Secretary

International Ministries

ABEC

Judson Press

Regional Ministries

AB Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent

MMBB

# **Family Reunion Luncheon Buffet**

Salon E & F (Upper) 12:30 - 1:45pm

## **Colloquy of Local Churches in Missions**

Salon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

1. Spring Creek Baptist Church, Mosley, VA - Rev. Kenneth Cooper
2. New Zion Baptist Church, Williamsburg, VA - Dr. Robert Whitehead
3. Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Rockville, MD - Dr. Brian O. Bellamy, & Mrs. Felicia Williams-Palmer
4. Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville, NC - Dr. Stephen G. Howard
5. First Baptist Church Bute Street, Norfolk, VA - Rev. Jerry L. Holmes
6. Church Without Walls of Greenville, SC - Rev. Alfred Johnson
7. First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, VA - Dr. Reginald Davis & Mrs. Connie Harshaw

### **Individual Areas**

#### **Business & Planning Meetings**

Salon 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

- 1) Maryland; Washington DC
- 2) Virginia
- 3) N Carolina; S Carolina; Georgia
- 4) Florida
- 5) Louisiana; Texas; Oklahoma
- 6) Tennessee; Alabama; Mississippi
- 7) Brackett-Morrell Baptist Association: Eastern West Virginia;  
Western Virginia



# Thursday Evening Worship

Salon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (Lower)

Worship Leader

Prelude Music – Conference Musicians

## Call to Worship

**Leader:** Who shall rule the earth? And who shall we worship?

**People:** The earth belongs to the Lord. He alone is worthy to rule the earth! And He alone is worthy to be worshiped!

**Leader:** And who shall be with the Lord in His Holy dwelling place?

**People:** They whose hands are clean, and whose hearts are pure.

**All:** Look up, Rise up! The Majestic King shall enter. Shout aloud!

Invocation – Worship Leader

Theme Hymn “Jesus Saves !” – Priscilla Jane Owens

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-3 & Acts 13:42-48

Offertory Appeal/Offering/Prayer and Dedication to the Lord

Presentation of Conference Preacher

Music

### Preacher

The Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Haggray  
Executive Director, ABHMS, King of Prussia, PA

Call to Discipleship and Believer’s Commitment

Music

Communion of the Lord’s Supper

### Late Evening Worship Leader

The Reverend Dr. Joshua L. Mitchell  
31st Street Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE SOUTH

# AREA III

NORTH CAROLINA | SOUTH CAROLINA | GEORGIA

ROOTED IN GRACE.

UNITED IN

*Faith.*

*Email*

[service@abcotsarea3.org](mailto:service@abcotsarea3.org)



AREA III MODERATOR

**REV. DR. STEPHEN GREENE HOWARD**

**CALLING ALL AREA III PASTORS!**

# Pastor Conference 2024

**NEXT AREA III  
MEETING**

**OCTOBER 18-19  
2024**

**Friendship Baptist Church  
80 Walnut Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30314**

**Rev. Dr. Kelly Miller Smith  
HOST PASTOR**

[www.abcotsarea3.org](http://www.abcotsarea3.org)



**JUNE 16  
10:00 a.m.**

**Union Baptist Church  
904 N. Roxboro Road  
Durham, NC**

**Rev. Dr. Prince R. Rivers  
Senior Pastor/Host**



**JULY 25  
11:00 a.m.**

**Greenville Church  
Without Walls  
3018 Augusta Street  
Greenville, SC 29605**

**Rev. Alfred Johnson  
Senior Pastor/Host**



**JULY 26  
11:00 a.m.**

**Hill First  
Baptist Church  
205 N. Pope Street  
Athens, GA 30601**

**Rev. Dr. Allison M.  
Henderson-Brooks  
Senior Pastor/Host**

**The Pastors Conference meetings are for ABC Pastors  
in the State and other pastors who are interested in  
becoming a part of ABC. Lunch will be provided.**

# Welcome New ABCOTS Churches



Rev. Dr. Allison M. Henderson-Brooks

## **Hill First Baptist Church**

205 North Pope Street, Athens GA 30605

<https://www.hillfirstbaptist.org>



Rev. Alfred Johnson

## **Greenville Church Without Walls**

Greenville, SC 29611-4607

[alfred.johnson66@yahoo.com](mailto:alfred.johnson66@yahoo.com)

<https://cww.tada-ms.com>



Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Newbill, Sr.

## **First Timothy Baptist Church North**

12103 Biscayne Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32218

<https://firsttimothy.org>

# Convention Speakers and Presenters

## ABMOTS John Lewis Breakfast Seminar Speakers



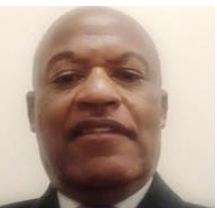
**Rev. Dr. J. Elisha Burke**, Interim Pastor Bethlehem Baptist Church, Richmond, VA  
Director, Health & Wellness, Men and Social Justice

J. Elisha “Eli” Burke grew up in rural northeastern North Carolina in an area with little local access to medical care and prevention. Dr. Burke is a Richmond resident has been involved in health promotion initiatives to improve the health of underserved populations, particularly African Americans since 1994. As an active board member for several health organizations, he is often the non-scientist helping health agencies understand the perspectives of the poor and marginalized as an essential part of their efforts to improve health outcomes for all citizens. As an ordained minister, former pastor and currently a nonprofit director and Interim Ministry Specialist he is focused on Christian Education as the foundation for taking care of ourselves – body, mind and spirit. He is the author of *Faith Beyond the Pews: An Experience in Christian Education*.



**Mr. Gary Flowers**, Community Activist, Radio Host, Blogger  
Radio Talk Show Host at The Gary Flowers Show.

Gary L. Flowers is the current Executive Director & CEO of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc., an alliance of national African American civil rights and service organizations in the United States of America, founded in 1977. Mr. Flowers has served on the front lines of American civil rights formation and public policy analysis since 1989, having been trained at the historic law firm of Hill, Tucker & Marsh in Richmond, VA. Prior to the Black Leadership Forum, Mr. Flowers served as vice president and national field director for Reverend Jesse L. Jackson’s Rainbow PUSH Coalition from 1997 to 2007 in Chicago, IL; a Teaching Fellow of a course on Coalition Politics at the Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, MA; a public policy analyst at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, DC; a special assistant to Virginia Governor Lawrence Douglas Wilder; and executive director of the Old Dominion Bar Association in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As an analyst, academic, and activist, and author he has helped to define the critical issues of his time on television and radio—both domestically and internationally. Gary Flowers is a native of Richmond, VA and fiercely committed to family, friends, and faith. Gary has a passion for social justice and an obsession for improving the human condition through understanding and information.



**Dr. Kenneth L. Morris**, Senior Pastor, Calvary Grove Baptist Church, Scottdale, GA  
Pastor Morris holds an Associate’s Degree in Business Administration from Delta Community College, a Bachelor of Science in History & Economics from Southern University, a Master of Divinity in Psychology & Pastoral Care from Morehouse School of Religion at the ITC, and a Doctor of Ministry in Organizational Psychology from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary. Pastor Morris is an Honorably Discharged Veteran of the United States Navy. He is a Clinic Member of the Association Clinical Pastoral Education, the Fifth District

Baptist Association, the General Missionary Baptist Convention, and the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.

### **ABWOTS Leadership Seminar Speakers**



**Dr. Deborah Parham Hopson,**

President, Parham Hopson & Associates, LLC

Deborah Parham Hopson is the Senior Public Health Scientist and Director, Center for Public Health Systems Innovation at The MayaTech Corporation. MayaTech is a small business consulting and technical services firm with a focus on supporting the improvement of public health delivery systems to local, national, and international populations in high need. Prior to joining MayaTech in 2018, Dr. Hopson served as the Senior Health Advisor for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). As Senior Health Advisor, she provided expert guidance on national and global public health issues, programs, policies and initiatives with a particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS in the U.S., Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. She also served as the director of HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau for many years during which she was responsible for managing the \$2.4 billion Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program which provided funds for medical care, treatment and support services for over ½ million uninsured and underinsured people living with HIV (PLWH) disease in the United States and U.S. Territories. In addition, as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief or PEPFAR, she directed global HIV/AIDS programs in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Deborah serves on the board of directors for Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties (Maryland) Hospice and is the immediate past president of the board of directors for the Patient Advocate Foundation. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and Rear Admiral (retired) from the U.S. Public Health Service. Dr. Parham Hopson earned her undergraduate degree in nursing and health from the University of Cincinnati and her master's and doctoral degrees in health policy and management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health. Looking forward to her next career, Dr. Hopson recently formed Parham Hopson & Associates, LLC with the goal of providing public health consulting services.



**Dr. Kristin Kelley,** Director of Clinic Operations - Virginia

Kristin has been practicing Physical Therapy for 20 years and joined Phoenix in 2019. She utilizes a combination of manual techniques and functional exercises that allow her to help patients obtain their maximal functional mobility and return to the activities they enjoy. She has advanced post-doctorate training in manual therapy and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists. She has also earned credentials as a Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist. Her advanced training allows her to guide her patients to achieve higher than average outcomes in a shorter period. Kristin consistently treats all body regions but takes a special interest in sports specific retraining for both runners and throwers and all weekend warriors! She also has a passion for working with challenging patients with cervical and lumbar spine disorders. Kristin serves as an instructor at the Physical Therapy residency program, the Virginial Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy Institute, and is passionate about teaching and mentoring PT's looking to advance their skills and knowledge. Outside of work she enjoys traveling, running and spending time outdoors with her kids.

## **ABCOTS Ministers Council Speakers**

### **John W. Kinney, Ph.D.**

Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Beaverdam, VA



Dr. John W. Kinney has devoted himself to the pursuit of excellence in theological training and ministerial preparation and has distinguished himself as a systematic theologian, academician and administrator in a career that spans over 35 years. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia and Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia respectively. He was awarded the Ph.D. from Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary in New York. He has also shared in instruction at Chicago Theology Seminary, Chicago, Illinois; Randolph Macon College, Ashland, Virginia; Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia; and the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. He is recognized for his theological constructions addressing the designed harmony in creation and the subsequent fragmentation and separation with particular attention to racism, sexism and materialism. His thoughts are included in several publications and crystallized in Baptists against Racism in an article entitled The Theology of Fallenness: The Roots of Racism.

Dr. Kinney's commitment to the needs of the community at large is apparent by his avid participation in several professional societies and organizations. Dr. Kinney has served as a consultant to the American Baptist Convention, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Virginia and both the United States Air Force, Army and Navy Chaplain Corps. He has been a member of the American Society of Church History, the American Academy of Religion and the Society for the Study of Black Religion. He has served the larger community of theological educators through multiple leadership roles in the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. Dr. Kinney chaired the committee on Race and Ethnicity from 1998 to 2000. He served as a member on the Commission on Accrediting for the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada from 2000 to 2006 and actively continued as Commission Chair (2004-2006), Vice President (2006-2008), President (2008-2010) and Personnel Committee Chair (2010-2012). His service to academia is complimented by his service to the parish. Dr. Kinney has served as the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Beaverdam, Virginia for more than 35 years.

### **Dr. Jessica Young Brown**



Dr. Jessica Young Brown is a licensed clinical psychologist who works as clinician, educator, consultant, and speaker. She is Assistant Professor of Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University. There she teaches in applied psychology and coordinates undergraduate internship experiences. Her research and clinical work focus on making mental health accessible and equitable for people in marginalized communities and equipping mental health professionals to better serve these communities. Dr. Brown's areas of consultation include the impact of racism and race-related stress on mental health, transgenerational and cultural trauma, and the intersection of faith and mental health. In addition to various peer reviewed and popular media articles, Dr. Brown is the author of Making Space at the Well: Mental Health and the Church.

## **Welcome Back Luncheon Speaker**

## **Rev. Dr. Heber Brown, III**



Rev. Dr. Heber Brown, III has been a catalyst for personal and social change for more than twenty years. From 2008 - 2022, he served as Senior Pastor of Pleasant Hope Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. In 2015 he launched the Black Church Food Security Network a national alliance of more than 200 congregations that work together to co-create Black food ecosystems anchored by Black churches in partnership with Black farmers and producers. Dr. Brown's dedication to service has been widely recognized. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Ella Baker Freedom Fighter Award and The Afro American Newspaper's "25 Under 40 Emerging Black History Leaders" award. In 2011, Urbanite Magazine identified him as one of the "Change Makers of Baltimore City." In 2018, Baltimore Magazine named him a Visionary of the City and the Baltimore City Office of Civil Rights presented him with their Food Justice Award. In 2019, he received the coveted Emerging Leaders Award from the Claneil Foundation which brought with it a \$250,000 investment in the work of the Black Church Food Security Network. In 2021, Rev. Dr. Brown was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College. In 2022, he was chosen to become an Ashoka Fellow - which places him among some of the most influential social entrepreneurs around the world. In 2023, he received Humanitarian Awards from both the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference and the Morgan State University Baltimore Alumni Chapter. That year, he also received the Community Service Award from the Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. In 2024, he received the Locke Innovative Leader Award and the Invested Faith Fellowship which identifies faith-rooted individuals who are working to change unjust systems. He earned his B.S. degree in Psychology from Morgan State University, a Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Union University and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary. (Washington, D.C.). He serves on the board of many impactful organizations such as Bread for The World and is the author of the forthcoming book, Nothing More Sacred: Radical Stories of Black Church Faith, Food and Freedom.

## **Opening Worship Preacher**

**The Rev. Dr. Kenneth D. Cooper**, Spring Creek Baptist Church in Moseley, VA



Rev. Dr. Kenneth D. Cooper is an ordained minister and preacher of the Gospel of his Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. He has preached to God's children from the United States to Africa and South America. Dr. Kenneth D. Cooper transitioned to full-time ministry in 2006, as the Minister to Missions at Fountain Baptist Church in New Jersey in Summit, New Jersey. In that role, Dr. Cooper offered leadership to Fountain Baptist's ministries in South Africa and the United States. He was also responsible for partnering with Lott Carey Foreign Missions Convention to develop, implement and manage the church's one-million dollars Hurricane Katrina recovery project. Dr. Cooper served as the Senior Pastor of Christian Faith Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. Under his leadership, the men of Christian Faith raised twenty-thousand dollars for an African American male student at the Historical Black College and University of North Carolina Central University. In January 2019, Dr. Cooper was called to serve and proudly serves as the Senior Pastor of Spring Creek Baptist Church in Moseley, Virginia. Reverend Dr. Kenneth D. Cooper holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he was awarded a full academic scholarship by the Black Engineers Technology Alumni Association. He also has a Master of Divinity degree from Drew

University School of Theology. With a keen understanding of pastoral work, Dr. Cooper attended Monmouth University School of Social Work where he earned his Master of Social Work degree. In addition to providing pastoral leadership, Dr. Cooper enrolled in the Global Leadership program at Virginia Union University Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology where he received his Doctor of Ministry degree. His concentration was Twenty-first Century Global Missional Leadership.

Dr. Cooper was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey. He is married to the former Reverend LaKeeyna S. Sims, they have two children, D'Shaun C. Cooper, and Kennedy A. Cooper. Dr. Cooper's lifetime mantra is "Healthy Body, Healthy Mind and Healthy Spirit."

## **Bible Study Leader**

### **Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven**



Dr. Harold Van Broekhoven is an Emeritus Professor of Religion at Denison University in Ohio. He and his wife, Deborah (Emeritus Director of the American Baptist Historical Society) are members of Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, where he serves as midweek Bible Teacher and one of the church's ministers. Dr. Van Broekhoven graduated from Wheaton College (Ill.) and earned seminary degrees from Trinity Divinity School (Ill.) and Calvin Theological Seminary (Mich) before receiving the Ph. D. in Religion (New Testament and Christian Origins) from Boston University. He has published several essays on Israelite Wisdom and the Letter to the Colossians. An ordained minister, he has served as pastor in Mill town and rural American Baptist churches in Rhode Island and Ohio. He served as instructor and Dean of the ABC of Ohio Leadership Academy from 1998 to 2016. He is currently serving as Vice Moderator of ABCOTS, Area 3.

## **Denominational Luncheon Speaker**

### **Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain**, General Secretary American Baptist Churches USA



Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain was called as General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA by the Board of General Ministries on November 4, 2023, and her service in this role began on February 1, 2024.

Dr. Jacobs-Strain's devotion to the Lord began in her elementary school years when she committed her life to Christ. She served as Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) for six years. Under her guidance, ABWM introduced the AB GIRLS program, "Building Bridges and Gateways to Girl's Future/Hie-STEAM," an initiative connecting AB GIRLS Christian Curriculum with local STEAM providers, empowering girls to recognize God's creative potential within them. ABWM has also broadened its Beloved Community and Domestic Violence ministries and now offers seminars and webinars tailored for young adult women nationwide. Dr. Jacobs-Strain has held various pastoral roles including Transitional Pastor at First Baptist Church of New Market in Piscataway, N.J., Interim Pastor at St. Paul Baptist Church in Atlantic Highlands, N.J., Associate Regional Pastor for Women in Ministry for American Baptist Churches of New Jersey (ABC-NJ), and serves as an Associate Minister of Christian Education at St. Paul Baptist Church in Montclair, N.J. Rev. Jacobs-Strain has served as a guest speaker, preacher, workshop leader and Bible study leader for ABWM regions, ABC regions and ABCUSA. She has also been a guest preacher/lecturer at institutions such as Drew University Theological School, New

ABCOTS 54th Annual Session April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, "Shout It Again"



Brunswick Theological Seminary, and ABC-NJ Academy. She contributed to the “Testify: ABC-NJ Devotional” book, co-launched the Christian Education Workshop Series, “Leading Interactive and Engaging Bible Studies (L.I.B.S. TM)” at the ABC-NJ annual Church Officers and Leaders Conference (COAL) and initiated a conversation series for clergy, “The Intersection of Leadership and Healing.” Rev. Dr. Jacobs-Strain earned a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Rutgers University and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Master of Divinity degree from Drew University’s Theological School. She was also honored with the Old Testament Studies Scholar Award from the Biblical Studies Department. She received a Certificate of Excellence from Palmer Theological Seminary & ABC-NJ Academy, and successfully completed the Nehemiah-Leadership Program. In May 2020, she attained a Doctor of Ministry from Duke University. She is married to Clifton Strain, and together they have three sons.

## **Empowering Conversations Leaders/Presenters**

### **Goldie Smith Byrd, Ph.D.**



A Magnolia, North Carolina native, Dr. Goldie S. Byrd is the founder of the Center for Outreach in Alzheimer’s, Aging and Community Health (COAACH) at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (NCAT). Dr. Byrd finished NCAT for her undergraduate studies, where she earned not one but two bachelor’s degrees. She went on to Meharry Medical College to earn her Ph.D. in microbiology after she was encouraged to do so by her mentors. Dr. Byrd became a professor of biology at NCAT in 2003. She eventually became the university’s first female chair of the Department of Biology, as well as the first permanent female dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. During her time as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at NCAT, Dr. Byrd founded the Center for Outreach in Alzheimer’s Aging and Community Health (COAACH) to complement her genetics of Alzheimer’s in African Americans research. COAACH is a cross-disciplinary community engaged center funded by the university and corporate partnerships. Dr. Byrd’s research is published in esteemed, peer-reviewed journals and has been recognized by the Alzheimer’s Association. Dr. Byrd was particular about COAACH catering to the African American community because African Americans have an increased risk of being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Disease. Dr. Byrd stepped down from her position as COAACH’s executive director in 2019, but still stands as COAACH’s honorable founder. Dr. Byrd now works as the director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, which is located at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Dr. Goldie S Byrd is Professor of Public Health Sciences and Director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity at Wake Forest School of Medicine. She is the former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Chair of Biology, and the Nathan F Simms Endowed Distinguished Professor of Biology at North Carolina A&T State University. Dr. Byrd has received numerous awards for her leadership, research and service, including the Leadership-North Carolina Stanley Frank Leadership Award, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) which was received at a White House ceremony, and most recently she was recognized by Governor Roy Cooper as a Health Equity Champion for the State. Dr. Byrd has served on panels, ad hoc groups and advisory boards. Appointed by the NC Secretary of Health and Human Services, she recently co-chaired the state’s COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee.

### **Rev. Emily L. Carroll, Pastor Green the Church National**



Rev. Emily Carroll, currently serves as the Pastor of the Shady Grove United Methodist Church, Mansfield, Louisiana; she has often found herself situated in the warmth of other suns. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the California State University East Bay in Hayward, CA. and actively pursued a career in Banking and Finance. However, God had destined her for work that was greater. While under the Pastorate of Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. of the Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, CA, she accepted her call to ministry and migrated to Atlanta, Georgia. In 2008 she attained her M.Div. Theta Phi (Religious Honors Society) from the Morehouse School of Religion at The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). Rev. Carroll volunteered as the Children/Youth Minister at the Leland Qwest United Methodist Church of Mableton, Georgia, a rethink cross racial congregation, and later served in the Children's Chapel of the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, under the pastorate of The Honorable Senator, Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock. In 2014, she gained full-time employment as the first female Children and Youth Minister at the First Calvary Baptist Church of Durham, NC, Pastor Fredrick A. Davis. Prior to her current appointment she served as Pastor of the St. James United Methodist Church of Shreveport. In addition to her pastoral responsibilities within the UMC, she has served on the Mission and Mercy Ministry Team, Anti-Racism Task Force, the Design Team for the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and currently contributes to the United Methodist South-Central Jurisdiction Creation Justice Ministry. As an advocate for environmental justice, she serves as the Northern Field Director for Green the Church; a national initiative whose purpose is to explore and expand the role of African American churches as centers for environmental and economic resilience. To further advance her skill set, Rev. Carroll has studied at McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, in the area of Environmental Ministry and Leadership. She has gained certification with Climate Reality Leadership Corp on Advocacy in Action, served on the United States Forest Service Advisory Board, and currently gives time as the Policy and Legal Node Leader for Cancer Free Economy Network. In 2023 she served as part of the UMC General Board of Church and Society COP28 Delegation and ventured to Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) to take part in the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Rev. Carroll has presented at several environmental workshops, conferences, and rallies throughout the nation. Her faith in God destines her to fear not the warmth of other suns, to be a living witness to the marginalized, an advocate for social change and a preacher and teacher of God's word to the masses.

### **Branden Isaac, Senior Vice President with JLL**



Branden Isaac is a Senior Vice President with JLL in Washington, DC where he specializes in tenant representation. Branden provides expertise in strategic planning, office lease negotiations, acquisitions, and dispositions. For ten 10 years, Branden has provided real estate brokerage and advisory services to nonprofits, businesses, municipalities, and educational institutions throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. A native Washingtonian, Branden is passionate about working with mission-driven organizations and connecting clients who are intentional about improving the lives of DC residents.

Branden received his B.A. from The University of Maryland – College Park and an M.A. in Real Estate Finance at Georgetown University. His professional affiliations include the following:

- DCBIA (District of Columbia Building Industry Association) – Young Leader's Board

- AAREP (African American Real Estate Professionals) – Board Member.

## **Church Appreciation Dinner Speaker**

### **Dr. Patricia A Gould-Champ Pastor, Faith Community Baptist Church**



Dr. Patricia A. Gould-Champ has served faithfully as the Pastor and Founding Visionary of Faith Community Baptist Church for the past seventeen years. She holds an earned doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and received her Master of Divinity degree summa cum laude from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. Her senior sermon, entitled “An Unfinished Agenda,” is published in Ella Mitchell’s book, *Those Preaching Women*, Volume II. She has served as an Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at the Samuel

DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University for nineteen years where she has been honored twice as Professor of the Year.

Dr. Gould-Champ was elected the 35th and first female president of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia (July 2, 2003) at the 104th Annual Session of the Convention. She is a former Moderator of the Shiloh Baptist Association of Virginia; YWCA Woman of the Year in the area of Religion; designated as a Virginia Hero; and she was selected to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia at the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors Conference in New Orleans for her outstanding work in the area of HIV/AIDS Prevention Education. In addition to her many community activities, she recently completed her first book: *Pamela Goes to Church*, a worship resource for children and hopes to complete her second book, *By Faith and Not By Sight: Reflections for Women with Cancer* by the Spring of 2013.

## **Wednesday Evening Worship Preacher**

### **The Reverend Dr. Kimberly A. Ridley, The Light Community Church**



Dr. Kimberly Anderson Ridley is a beacon of faith and leadership in the Richmond community. Born and raised in Portsmouth, Virginia, her life is rooted in Christian beliefs as she was baptized at a young age. A proud alumna of Hampton University, Dr. Ridley graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting before she was called to ministry. After her calling, she later achieved her Master of Divinity, graduating Magna Cum Laude from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. Her insatiable thirst for knowledge and her zeal for ecclesiastical service propelled Dr. Ridley to attain her Doctor

of Ministry from United Theological Seminary, where her dissertation and final project focused on her passion for leadership development within the church's ministries, aiming to forge sustainable and impactful congregational work. Honored in her vocation, she has served in full-time in ministry at Saint Paul's Baptist Church in Richmond, VA. She was distinguished as an Engle fellow of preaching at the Princeton School of Theology and is a published author, bringing her wisdom and insights to a broader audience with her *Ridley Revelations*.

In her crowning role as the founding pastor of The Light Community Church, she shepherds a dedicated flock committed to impacting lives with the love and light of Christ. Outside of the pulpit, she is a curator of sacred spaces. Her vision and leadership extend to spearheading the Association of African American Clergy Women (AAACW) and the birth of the Sistah's Keeper Clergy Conference. Both ventures stand as pillars that uplift and

invigorate the voices and roles of women in ministry. Her dedication to community service shines through as she is the Executive Director of the Light Community Resource Center and shapes future leaders as an adjunct professor at Virginia Union University's School of Theology. Furthermore, her commitment to her alma mater endures as she serves as the chaplain for the Richmond chapter of the National Hampton Alumni Association. Dr. Ridley channels her passion and fervor into every aspect of life. She faithfully and consistently dedicates herself to being an encourager, through word and deeds. Being the mother of two young adult children, a son, and a daughter, is among her greatest joys.

## **Late Evening Worship Preacher**

### **Dr. Kevin Sykes**

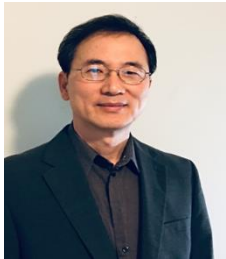


Dr. Kevin Sykes, a native of Virginia Beach, Virginia, is the youngest of four children born to Mrs. Jean Sykes in Salon, France. After relocating to the Richmond area at the age of nineteen he was employed in several management positions which helped to further develop his leadership skills. With his interest in Marketing and Business, he enrolled and attended Virginia State University. After about two years on this academic track, God intervened and redirected his path. Acknowledging God's call to the ministry, Dr. Sykes returned to Virginia Beach, and under the leadership of his Pastor, the late Bishop William D. Scott, Sr. of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church was licensed to preach the gospel in June 1990. In December 2003, Dr. Sykes accepted the call to become the Senior Pastor and 15th Administration of the St. James Baptist Church (Varina). He served as the former Pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church (Supply, Virginia) for seven years. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy of Religion from Virginia Union University and a Master of Divinity Degree from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. While pursuing his Masters, he was also employed in the corporate arena. In May 2021, he received an earned Doctor of Ministry Degree, focusing on Preaching and Leadership in the Black Church, from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. In 2009, Dr. Sykes was acknowledged by the Supreme Court of Virginia and served as Magistrate for the 13th District of the Sixth Magisterial Region. He is affiliated with the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Richmond and Vicinity, Henrico Ministers' Conference, Area Ministers' Fellowship (Varina), and Virginia Union University's Chapel Advisory Board. He has also served on the Board of "Home Again," an organization that provides emergency shelter and transitional housing for Richmond's men, women, children, and veterans without a place to live. In October 2015, Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed him to serve on the State Board of Corrections, and in 2018 under the new administration of Governor Ralph Northam, he was reappointed and served until June 2021. A true and dedicated servant of the Word, Dr. Sykes is deeply committed to his calling with a passion and love for people and ministry and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Under his leadership at St. James, through the divine leading of the Holy Spirit, he introduced and revitalized several ministries of the church. One of the most remarkable accomplishments occurred in 2012 when the church became a debt-free congregation after \$650,000 in capital debt was eliminated. As he leads the people to a higher dimension in ministry, God has favored him and his ministry to also continue growing the church with committed and devoted leaders and disciples. In 2018, God gave Pastor Sykes the vision for a multi-million-dollar administrative wing and renovation of the existing sanctuary expansion plan that was presented and approved by the congregation. With goals of working on other Boards and Committees that assist the community, his vision is to expand the ministry to include the further development of disciples for ministry and to embrace the community. A

dedicated, family man, Dr. Sykes is grateful for the support and encouragement of his lovely wife and helpmate, Gwanetta V. Flanagan-Sykes, along with their twin daughters, Korryn Jolié and Kaelyn Jombré, who are the joy of their lives. One of his prevalent scriptures that he lives by is 1 Corinthians 2:9 which reminds us that, “. . . Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

## **Thursday Bible Study Teacher**

### **Yung Suk Kim, Ph.D.**



Prof. of New Testament & Early Christianity, Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology  
Yung Suk Kim is Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University. Dr. Kim is committed to transformative teaching, indomitable scholarship, and effective public service. He has a passion for human transformation, rooted in self-knowledge and self-criticism. Traveling to many Latin American countries during his business career, he learned a great deal about cultural diversity and the need for human solidarity. What does it mean to live in this world with each other (i.e., the meaning of the Other, which resonates with Emmanuel Levinas' "the face of the other," Paul Ricoeur's "inter-subjective narrative identity," and Jacques Derrida's "relationless relation")? How can we do theology in our thoughts and deeds, while moving pointedly away from individualism? And how can we read biblical stories with each other when we differ? Dr. Kim received a PhD in New Testament study from Vanderbilt University and an M. Div from McCormick Theological Seminary. He was a recipient of the Lilly Theological Scholars Grant for research on John's Gospel in the context of pluralism. He also received a research fellowship from Wabash Center for research on the Bible and transformation. Dr. Kim received a presidential citation for outstanding service and unselfish commitment from the VUU. In 2019, he received the Scott & Stringfellow Outstanding Professor Award from the VUU. Dr. Kim is the author of more than 16 books, including *Christ's Body in Corinth: The Politics of a Metaphor* (Fortress, 2008) and *Toward Decentering the New Testament* (Cascade, 2018, co-authored with Mitzi J. Smith). This is the first introductory text to the New Testament written by an African American woman biblical scholar (Mitzi J. Smith) and an Asian-American male biblical scholar. He also edited *1-2 Corinthians: Texts @ Contexts Series* (Fortress, 2013). His most recent book is *How to Read Paul: A Brief Introduction to his Theology, Writings, and World* (Fortress, 2021).

## **Thursday Late Worship Preacher**

### **Rev. Dr. Joshua L. Mitchell Pastor, 31<sup>st</sup> Street Baptist Church**



Rev. Dr. Joshua L. Mitchell is the seventh Senior Pastor of the historic 31st Street Baptist Church in Richmond, VA. A native of Baltimore, MD, Dr. Mitchell has been dedicated to educational advancement and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Howard University and earned his Master of Divinity degree from The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology. Dr. Mitchell graduated with his Doctor of Ministry degree at Virginia Union University where his research focused on Black Millennials and Discipleship. His research findings are the foundation for his 2018 Judson Press release entitled *Black Millennials and the Church: Meet Me Where I Am*. Dr. Mitchell is a frequent lecturer and

consultant on effective ministry to youth and young adults and is the founder and CEO of Digital Discipleship LLC- a consulting firm committed to serving leaders and congregations in the area of Millennial Engagement. As a licensed and ordained minister, Dr. Mitchell has dedicated his life to serving in the ministry and currently serves as the Senior Pastor of the 31st Street Baptist Church in Richmond, VA. Rev. Mitchell also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Houston, Payne University and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. Rev. Mitchell is a proud member of several organizations including the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and Alpha Nu Omega Fraternity Inc. Rev. Mitchell considers himself blessed to be married to Dr. Lori K. Mitchell and they are the proud parents of two handsome sons, Jordan and Jayden.

# ABCOTS

## 2024-2025 Calendar

<b>Every Tuesday</b> 11:00 a.m. (EST)	“Connecting ABCOTS Pastors” A Virtual Conversation Zoom Meeting ID 929 6541 9729 Passcode 6Qi4WF
<b>April-May</b>	One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) (Disaster Relief)
<b>April 30 - May 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	54th Annual Session of ABCOTS
<b>May - June</b>	One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) (Disaster Relief)
<b>July 14</b>	ABCOTS DAY Region Offering - (Support ABCOTS administration)
<b>Aug 23-25</b>	Area 7 Annual Meeting
<b>September - October</b>	World Mission Offering (WMO) (International Ministries)
<b>September 20-21</b>	Area VI Annual Gathering
<b>September 27-28</b>	Area V Annual Gathering
<b>October 5</b>	Area I Annual Gathering
<b>October 11 - 12</b>	Area II Annual Gathering
<b>October 18 - 19</b>	Area III Annual Gathering
<b>October 25 - 26</b>	Area IV Annual Gathering
<b>November 6 - 8</b>	ABCOTS Board of Directors Meeting
<b>November 27 - 29</b>	ABCOTS Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
<b>November - December</b>	Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) - (Thank You Gifts to MMBB Retirees)
<b>December 23</b>	ABCOTS Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
<b>2025</b>	
<b>January 6</b>	ABCOTS Office Re-Opens
<b>March 22</b>	Region Event America For Christ (all virtual)
<b>April 21-25</b>	55th Annual Session of ABCOTS
<b>July 13</b>	ABCOTS Day in our Churches

On behalf of ABCOTS Executive Minister Dr. James M. Harrison and staff, we would like to thank you, for your continued support, ministry, community work, and resilience especially during this very trying time, in keeping ABCOTS going strong. Thank you for all your outpouring of giving, donations and contributions.

Thank you for participating in our 54th ABCOTS Annual Session.

We would like to thank and acknowledge everyone's hard work and contribution to making our virtual Annual Session a success. Thank you to our convention preachers, speakers, our presenters, and moderators.

*Thank  
you*

