

Dover Executive Committee Minutes

Tuesday, July 21, 2026 via Dover Office and Zoom

Moderator Vance Shearin (Hunton) called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the opening prayer was given by one of our new pastors, Pastor Michael Sanders (Northside).

Moderator recognized and welcomed new Executive Committee members and our new Pastors for Northside and Ridge Baptist Churches respectively, Pastor Michael Sanders and Pastor Greg Hetherington.

Staff Reports:

Claire McAuliffe thanked everyone for prayers during her cut-back hours during pregnancy. She stated that communications have hit a “groove” where we have systems in place to maintain contacts in our database so we won’t overwhelm inboxes with various emails. All media, social, website and calendar are updated regularly to supplement the emails. Operations report can be summed up in the list of review of committee, team and officer descriptions and grant guidelines associated in our agenda today. If you need more or additional information (like descriptions, roles or possible grants), please email Claire (claire.mcauliffe@doverbaptist.org). She will also provide any other material from the Operations Manual to facilitate any changes (needed changes, duplicates or conflicting efforts. This helps our organization provide useful information for new or potential volunteers, clearer grant guidelines for compliance and renewed grant purposes to allow us to engage in actual missions beyond our churches. She thanked those that have already started their reviews.

If you are a group with a grant associated, she will likely work with you initially to discuss any updates you want, but also recommend a final review from our Treasurer, Sabrina. Sabrina has also helped with ensuring we are considering appropriate language (e.g., Grant v. Scholarship) and continuity.

Executive Director of Missions Win Davis shared his report stating, as in his July Blog, “the irony was almost breathtaking” in that he was a guest of Chickahominy Indian Tribe chief, BGAV President and Dover Baptist Association Leader, Chief Stephen Adkins, who served as the keynote speaker at Historic St. John’s Church and was featured in a recent PBS Special as to America’s 250th Anniversary celebration. He also mentioned at Dover’s 240th Anniversary celebration Dover was recognized as the first association of the South to advocate for the abolition of slaves. More history is taking place this year, as well. The working theme of this year’s Annual meeting is “Historic,” as, among other things, at least 5 of our Dover churches will celebrate 250 or more years since their founding. Tsena Commocko will celebrate 100 years next year and have the first All-Native American WMU. Tonight, he hopes to formally recognize all Dover church Native American members and those serving as missionaries to Native Americans, including Standing Rock Indian

Reservation in North and South Dakota. Missionaries Pete and Angela Adkins (Tipi Wakan) hail from Samaria, who will host our Annual Meeting and Missions Fair. They have also recently planted Darkness to Light Community Church on the Standing Rock Reservation. This church is receiving national support from the North American Mission Board; Dover has supported Standing Rock for over a decade.

Win also shared new Dover ministry initiatives to support our churches and church leaders:

- Win leaves Friday for a mission trip to Nicaragua which will be a beta test to help our smaller churches who may not be able to send their own mission team, but could send one or more people who want to go on mission
- Last year we launched a child-safety workshop and initiative to assist churches with policies and procedures; we recently hosted a presentation for an all-church safety initiative, including active shooter training and other potential threats to congregations.
- Sabrina will touch base on some of our funding for pastor support which will include emergency relief, counseling support, retreat planning, sabbatical policies and more – last year, we used some of these funds to help establish Arabic Baptist's (housed in Ridge Baptist) new pastor from Egypt.
- We've increased funding for international mission trips and helped churches go to: Japan, Singapore, Uganda, Liberia, Nicaragua, with Honduras and other trips pending.
- We are also helping churches establish their own 501c(3) status as well as incorporation for additional legal protection.
- Pastor Jeff Mills and I have served as student teachers every Thursday via Zoom with 25 pastors from Uganda, Kenya and South Africa as part of our ongoing support for the African pastors and Uganda Campus of the Appalachian School of Theology. Dover pastors have contributed as adjunct professors, students and advisors. To date, Dover Baptist Association has contributed over \$15,000 in grants and scholarships to all AST campuses combined.
- We continue to support Pastor Joe Reeves at the Famaden School in Liberia in a predominately Muslim community whose parents allow them to attend because of the education they receive.

Sabrina will later address our efforts to maximize our churches' investment in Dover, as well as greater investments, as "doing Kingdom work."

Administrative Services Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Short presentation by Sabrina Haynes, Treasurer (handouts given)

Sabrina Haynes presented these findings, after much discussion, regarding the Investment Income from 2024-2025:

- DBA should tithe – 10% to the Watkins Associational Offering
- There is money set aside for Disaster Response for churches to go serve; to cover deploying people with resources makes it easier for people to go.
- Pastor Support – Sabbaticals (possibly add to Fairmount Scholarship for Pastors – already have guidelines for this)
- Emergency Fund – Medical bills, counseling, etc., managed by the Executive Director of DBA
- BCM – Baptist Collegiate Ministry for college students (Kairos Initiative through BGAV) – Most Collegiate Ministers must fundraise for their salaries and expenses; we can designate funds for these ministers so they can serve (11 ministers). Pastor Richard warned about going statewide – we'd like Dover funds to go to colleges closer in the Dover Association area. Ed Baber chimed in that our churches' students are not limited to those local to us, but farther reaching to universities state-wide and beyond. Consensus was unclear if we should move forward with local-only or examine state-wide, needs-based prioritization of college ministries. Sabrina stated we want to build something to help these ministers. Operation Budget Overview: our fiscal year starts in February so we can include funds that are given in January into the budget; we're putting money into operations (see handout).

Church Collaboration Team: Pastor Richard Sandberg: Child Safety – still working on this, as well as safety teams, active shooter; ministry and spouse retreat planning begun; applying guidelines for grants will be in motion later in meeting.

Partnership Missions Team: Pastor Richard Sandberg reported in absence of chair Jim Goebel: The team is leaving this week for Nicaragua; more opportunities for mission trips in future such as a medical trip to Honduras, which there is still time to register before mid-August; Nicaragua: bringing back information to plant churches there; \$150 a month would cover a parsonage and meeting space; He's getting more information for us.

Watson Mission Offering Team: Beth Watson Ward, Chair: Beth stated if she can help your church know more about her parents and their story, who are the namesakes of the offering, she'd be happy to do so, just let her know, as well as information about Watson Missions and how to apply.

Auxiliary Group Reports:

Dover Woman's Missionary Union: Darlene Herod, Director: Darlene reported the next event is a Spiritual Enrichment event on September 26 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. The speaker is Amber Kidd, who will share an impactful story regarding missions.

CVBM Leadership Conference: Win Davis reported that this conference is being postponed until next year.

Central Virginia Raceway Ministries: Charles Ward, Volunteer Coordinator: Beth Ward reported that the NASCAR races are August 14-15 this year and are evening races. They've purchased two tents (10x10 and 10x20) and are now officially a part of National Raceway Ministries. The team is thankful for all the new volunteers this year. They can always use Matchbox race cars for the children. Homemade cookies are due in Dover's office by August 12. Thanks to Don Clark for repairing the trailer. Please pray as we reach out to the fans and work with Joe Gibbs Ministry. Charles Ward is handing over volunteer coordination to Tim and Kari Smith (Shalom).

Business Agenda

Quorum of Executive Committee Members: There were 29 messengers representing 19 churches in person and via Zoom. A quorum of 15 churches represented to conduct business was met.

Minutes of April 14, 2026, Executive Meeting were approved 100%. Motion by Chief Stephen Adkins (Samaria) and seconded by Robert Mills (Northside). Any typographical errors can be reported to Claire.

Unfinished Business

Pastor Richard Sandberg presented a motion regarding the revised description and grant guidelines for the Church Collaboration Team as chairman; Approved 100%.

New Business

Volunteers for Vacant Positions: Nominations Committee, presented by Moderator in Abstentia of Nominations Chair Mark Mantiply, Greg Soult (Antioch) for member of Church Collaboration Team; Approved 100%.

Motion: Proposed Revision to Personnel Manual presented by Caleb Bittler, Chairman of Personnel Committee; Approved 100%.

Motion: Proposed by Win Davis regarding Revision to Bylaws re: Semi-Annual Meeting elimination; Seconded and Approved 100%.

Announcements were read by Moderator. Chief Stephen Adkins invited all to the Chickahominy Pow Wow and Fall Festival September 25-27th.

Pastor Greg Heatherington (Ridge) closed in prayer.

Moderator Vance Shearin adjourned meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.

These Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Molly Roland, substituting for Clerk
Juanita Deck.