



HAYWOOD T. GRAY

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

The Reverend Dr. Haywood T. Gray is Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. The Convention represents more than one half million African-American Baptists in more than fourteen hundred congregations across North Carolina. He has held this position since November 15, 2004.

Reverend Gray comes to the General Baptist State Convention after a long and distinguished career as a pastor. For seventeen years, he was Pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church in Pelham, NC. For seven years following his service in Pelham, he was Pastor of Temple Memorial Baptist Church in High Point, NC. He retired after twenty-four years as a pastor in 2004 in order to assume his current position with the Convention.

As the chief executive officer of his denomination in North Carolina, Reverend Gray is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Convention and the coordination of financial support for its missions objectives. In his tenure as Executive Secretary-Treasurer, he has been responsible for raising in excess of seventeen million dollars for missions. Saddled with almost three million dollars of debt when he assumed the office, he was able to pay off the Convention's debt in three years and the organization has operated debt free since August 2008.

Reverend Gray's interests and avenues of service have been varied. As an elected official, he served two terms on the Caswell County Board of Education as well as a term as a Director of the North Carolina School Boards Association. As a denominational leader, he has served as Fourth Vice President of his state convention and as Moderator of Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association. As a writer, he published his first work in 1992 and it became the official manual for ushers in General Baptist Churches in North Carolina. His most recent book (a ministry autobiography) was published in November 2016 to coincide with his fortieth anniversary in preaching. The book is entitled *"Guided by an Unseen Hand: The Ministry Autobiography of Haywood T. Gray."*

He is a former Trustee of Shaw University Divinity School. Presently, he sits on both the Board of Trustees of Shaw University and the Board of Directors of Central Children's Home in Oxford. He is a member of the Executive Board of Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention. Shaw University awarded the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to him in 2006.

He has preached the Gospel from childhood. He has preached the Founder's Day Convocation for Livingstone College, twice been Baccalaureate Preacher for Shaw University and preached in Butler Chapel on the campus of Campbell University. He has established himself a much sought speaker in Baptist circles across the country. After forty-one years in preaching and more than 4,400 sermons preached, he considers himself to be clay in the Potter's hands – ever shaping, ever changing, ever growing.

The joy of his life is his four sons (by adoption), his four daughters-in-law, and ten grandchildren. He has mentored young ministers who have become his sons-in-ministry and who give him great joy to watch their growth as ministers of note and men of character. His sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and sons-in-ministry, in many ways, are his life's greatest work.

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