



***Michael James Clingenpeel***  
*Interim Senior Pastor*

Michael James Clingenpeel was born in Ocala, Florida, September 1, 1950, second son of Robert D. and Lillian H. Clingenpeel. He grew up in Roanoke, Virginia and was ordained (August, 1975) at Grandin Court Baptist Church in Roanoke.

Mike graduated from University of Richmond (B.A. with major in Sociology in 1972; Phi Beta Kappa) and from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky (M.Div. in 1975; Ph.D. in 1979 in Church and Community). He did additional doctoral study in Sociology at University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. In 1993 he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree (honorary) by his alma mater, University of Richmond. On July 22, 1972 he married Vivian Stephenson who was admitted to the practice of law in Kentucky, Michigan and Virginia. The Clingenpeels have two sons, Matthew Stephen Clingenpeel (deceased in 1979) and Timothy James Clingenpeel and three grandchildren.

For more than 50 years Clingenpeel has had ministerial employment. He was a youth revival team preacher for the Virginia Baptist General Board, (summer of 1969) and a youth minister, North Roanoke Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia (summers of 1970 and 1971). While in seminary he was Minister to New Members, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky (1972-1975). He has held pastorates at Bear Creek Baptist Church, Scipio, Indiana

(1975-1979), Packard Road Baptist Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan (1979-1983), Franklin Baptist Church, Franklin, Virginia (1983-1992) and River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, Virginia (2004-2015), which named him Pastor Emeritus when he retired in 2015. His interim pastorates include Franklin Baptist Church (2016-2017) and Hampton Baptist Church (2019-2020). He also served as Editor and Business Manager of the *Religious Herald*, news journal of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (1992-2004).

Clingenpeel's denominational involvements include serving as Trustee, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee (1980-1983), First Vice-President, Baptist General Association of Virginia (1987-1988), Chair, President's Task Force on the Denominational Crisis (1987-1988), Chair, BGAV Divinity School Study Committee (1987-1988), Trustee, *Religious Herald* (1985-1992), Director, *Associated Baptist Press* (1996-2004), Trustee, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (2015-2018), and Director, *Baptist News Global* (2016-present).

His teaching assignments include the following: Garrett Fellow, Department of Church and Community (1975-1979) and Visiting Professor, Department of Church and Community at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (summer J-terms in 1985 and 1988); Adjunct Professor, New Testament Theology, Seminary studies program in Detroit, Michigan (1982-1983) and Field Supervisor, Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry programs at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

Clingenpeel has written and published over 500 editorials in the *Religious Herald* and has written numerous articles in denominational publications, including *The Virginia Baptist Register*, *The Baptist Program*, *Church Administration*, *Deacon*, *Baptist Standard*, *Word and Way*, *Biblical Recorder*, and Baylor University's *Christian Reflection*. He has also written numerous chapters in books, including *Shooting the Rapids: Effective Ministry for a Changing World* (Broadman Press), *Choices for Churches in Changing Communities* (Home Mission Board, SBC), *BGAV: The Right Choice* (Virginia Baptist General Board), and *Talk Right* (Baptist Center for Ethics).

Since 2016 he has worked with congregations as a Congregational Consultant/Coach through the Center for Healthy Churches.