



September 22, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (September 22, 2020)

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this memorandum is to record the minutes from the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men Executive Committee's meeting, which convened on September 22, 2020.
2. **WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its September 2020 meeting on September 22, 2020, via ZOOM. Vice President of Administration & Conference Affairs, Jerry Stillabower called the meeting to order at 6:35PM, as President Odell was still making preparation after work. Chris Karabinos was asked to give the opening prayer for the evening. After the prayer, Jack Williams, Director of Spiritual Development, provided the devotion. He reminded the Body that the devotion at the last meeting was about being an "Encourager". He said for this session he wanted to talk about "Unity". To channel his focus, he selected Galatians 3: 26-29 as his scripture. Further, he read verse 28 to key in on the centerpiece of "Unity"...*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* Jack then cited a mission trip in which Hannah took a group of young people and the fact that she was horrified and had much anxiety that they would be meeting so many different types of people, and she was not sure how they would make it. After they arrived, she was amazed as how well everything went and everybody got along. Differences did not matter. What matters is Christ. Know that Jesus is unity. The bottom line is that we are all God's children. Then, he ended the devotion by going to Psalm 133 to make his final point...*"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!"* Finally, he closed the devotion with prayer.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** The next order of business was the approval of the proposed agenda for the meeting. Vice President Jerry asked for the pleasure of the Body as related to the agenda. It was moved and seconded that the proposed agenda be approved as the document to guide the conduct of the meeting. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.
3. **ATTENDANCE:** The following individuals were in attendance on the call:

ALBERT LYLE

JOHN HOLLEY

JOHN HEATH

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KIN MCKINNON

HAL JONES

REUBEN SCOTT BREWER

CARY LOESING

HOWARD EVAN

FERRELL ROSS

LEON JOURLOMON

JERRY STILLABOWER

ODELL HORNE

CHRIS KARABINOS

BEN GREEN

MARQUIS RATLIFF

BISHOP SUE

JACK WILLIAMS

JEFF CARSON

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Next, Vice President Jerry called upon John Holley, reference the minutes from the previous meeting. John indicated that he had provided the minutes to the Committee Members via email but was prepared to read the minutes if the Committee desired. It was the consensus of the Body that it was not necessary for the Secretary to read the minutes. It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the August 18, 2020 be approved. The vote was unanimous for approval.

**NOTE:** It should be noted that President Odell is now present at the meeting and is presiding.

5. **RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:** Past President Cary informed the Committee that we had two special guests in attendance. The guests were Bishop Sue and Hal Jones. Cary welcomed them and thanked them for their attendance. He invited Bishop Sue to share anything she would like with the Committee. **Bishop Sue said she thought** she and the UMM had a good relationship and that she had always been supportive of the UMM. In addition, she was very complimentary of our scouting program. Recently, she said three videos on our website caught her attention and that the tone of the videos gave her some concern. Also, she said there had been some under current as a result of the videos. She said she would have hoped that the leadership would have had some conversation with her before releasing the videos if there were problems. She said she wants the organization to feel that anyone can call her, and she provided her cellphone number to the attendees. Additionally, she indicated that she wanted to be a positive influence on the organization, but stressed the importance for communications. She said that there must be discussion. She then asked President Odell what was bothering him. **President Odell responded** that he was expressing his frustration as there appeared to be a disconnect between the laity and the clergy when it comes to the United Methodist Men. In many cases, he didn't get the feeling that some clergy were all in when it came to the subject of viable fellowships at the local church. He then talked about the 2019 Annual Conference and the vote for Delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, where he did not see the inclusiveness that he would have liked. As for the 2020 Annual Conference, he said he did not see any Blacks in speaking roles. **Bishop Sue indicated** that Rev. Byron Thomas and Rev. Richard Winn were both on the schedule to speak, but Rev. Thomas had to go in for surgery at the last minute. She expressed the fact that she was the one in the Conference that is leading the discussion when we talk about diversity. There is no doubt that we need to break the current paradigm, and she wants to be a part of the discussion. She suggested the fruits of the spirit to the men and again asked that we be engaged in discussion and communication; because she wants to



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have this great partnership. She said she would be in prayer. Cary, again, thanked her for being at the meeting and acknowledged that not talking with each other brings about disharmony. He then invited her to stay for the rest of the meeting if she desired. She declined the invitation.

6. **PROCEDURE FOR SUGGESTION:** Prayer and Discernment were the items listed for discussion, but Rev. Eric Powell was not in attendance to make the presentation. President Odell said the point he would like to make reference this topic is that we are not going to do problem-solving during our executive sessions.

7. **CONFERENCE AFFAIRS:** Under this subject, Jerry Stillabower and Leon Jourolmon were tasked to report out on the Annual Conference and the subject of District Realignment. **Leon spoke first** and reported that the Annual Conference was conducted on 29 August, virtually. Given we have needed 3 to 4 days to do the business of the Conference in the past, **Leon was surprised that we were able to get it all done in one day.** Reference the District realignment, he commented that the number of districts had been **reduced from 12 to 8** and that the vote on this matter was one of the major business items accomplished at the Annual Conference. Reportedly, this action **will save the Conference \$1-\$2 Millions** in the future. Also, he said that there were some other matters, relating to the budget that needed to be reconciled. **Cary commented** on the requirement to make **some financial decisions** at the Annual Conference. Specifically, there were actions **relating to the Barnes Fund** and the movement of money out of churches that had to be adjudicated. In addition, actions such as retirements and ordinations were required to be performed at later times and in a different way. **Jerry added that** the new 8 Districts follow county lines. Although the transition to 8 Districts has already begun, it may take a year for the transition to be completed. **Jack commented** on the leadership in District 5 (Northwest) and thought there was a need to break down in Zones. **President Odell informed** the Body that the new Districts already have websites, but the old Districts are still operating their websites. He then showed a map of the new Districts and the new leadership team.

8. **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** This topic was on the agenda but was not discussed.

9. **IGNITING FAITH SUMMIT:** **President Odell took the lead** on this subject and informed the Body that the Summit would be on October 16-17, 2020 and that it would be a virtual conference. The Retreat Committee has been meeting, and all the speakers are in place. The advertisement is on the social media. The leadership team was encouraged to go ahead and register. There will be a session on Friday night from 7pm-9pm. On Saturday, the session will be 9am-12noon. The conference is free. The leadership was requested to invite others to participate.

10. **COMMUNICATIONS:** **President Odell said** he is pushing forward for us as an organization to utilize social media as a way to communicate and to do meaningful marketing. He commended Ike for what he has done in this regard and challenged the leadership to do more.

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**11. PRISON MINISTRY:** John Heath shared with the Committee that he is looking forward when it is safe to again be out doing his Ministry. He talked about the Message Board and the fact that this is a great way to get information out. He indicated that things had been going slow because of the pandemic, but he is looking forward to getting back involved with Florida. Kin McKinnon had a question as to whether our Prison Ministry had any connectivity with the Kairos Prison Ministry. John responded that he was very familiar with Kairos, but that we have no formal relationship. There may be opportunities where we may be able to dovetail. Next, John talked about the good training programs in the Georgia Prison System. There are mentoring programs, half-way houses, 2-year training programs, and opportunities for individuals to improve their educational status, starting with a GED. The whole system is focused on behavior modification. Finally, he gave kudos to Ike for all he is doing in the communication arena to get information out.

**12. 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** President Odell informed the Committee that the Committee meeting schedule for the rest of the year is as follows: October 20<sup>th</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup>, and December 15<sup>th</sup>. He said the schedule is on the website, and that you must register for the sessions.

### **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**a. Quarterly Financial/Ministry:** Cary Loesing had provided copies of the Treasurer Report he presented at our last meeting to the Committee membership, via email, but gave a summary of the organization's financial status, as of 22 September 2020. That report is as follows:

Credit Union Checking Account	\$ 3,239.81	
Credit Union MM Savings Account	\$13,626.88	<b>NOTE: Copies of the Treasurer's Report are attached.</b>
Credit Union Share Account	\$ 240.81	
PayPal	\$ 23.97	
Total Assets	\$17,131.47	

Jerry had a question for Cary about the "other restricted funds" on the Treasurer's report. Cary indicated that he needed to call Leon to get the answer. Additionally, Cary informed the Body that the rent had not been paid for the last couple of months. The rent is \$300.00 per month.

**b. District Meeting:** It was reported that District Meetings were conducted for District 1 and District 2, where Ben Green was elected as President for District 1 and Marquis Ratliff was elected President for District 2. District Meetings were also held at Districts 3 & 4, but no leadership was elected. District Meetings are scheduled for Districts 5 & 6 on September 26, at 9:00AM and 11:00AM, respectively.

**c. Redemption and Reconciliation Town Hall:** President Odell shared that the planning for the Redemption and Reconciliation Town Hall, scheduled for January 16, 2021, had already begun. The link for registration is (<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYtc-qvrD0qHNyWIkTTjKY8dZLcMFNmZ-vq>)



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**d. From the Floor:**

--**Jack mentioned that Trey Brush** was pleased with the reception he received from our group when he made a presentation at our meeting in August. He will be doing a webinar on November 9, 2020, from 11:00AM-12:00Noon. Also, Jack informed the group that another Radical Mentoring session would be kicking off on September 28, 2020. Finally, he mentioned that he is using "Strength to Love", a book written by Dr. Martin Luther King, as a resource in his walk.

--**President Odell reminded** the Committee that the Igniting Faith Summit would be done virtually. He thanked Bishop Sue for attending our meeting. He reassured the Committee that his dispute was with some of the clergy and not with Bishop Sue. He pointed out that perception is reality for some and that UMM Fellowships are more than just a meal.

--**Marquis shared that** he continues to speak to churches in his District and that his focus is on the Bible and in making disciples.

--**Chris Karabinos offered** to speak at churches. This offer is through social media or in person. He suggested that we could establish a speakers' bureau.

--**John Heath suggested that** Fellowships might consider running a 5-minute summary on Sundays to showcase what we are doing.

**13. CLOSING PRAYER:** President Odell asked for final thoughts for the evening. With there being none, he asked Jack to offer the closing prayer. Jack offered the prayer and closed the meeting. The next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2020.

The minutes are prayerfully submitted,

**John C. Holley**  
**Secretary NGCUMM**

**2 Attachments:**

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## United Methodist Men, North Georgia Conference

### Treasurer Report

07/31/2020 \*\* Revised September 22, 2020

### General Fund – July 1, 2020- July 31, 2020

#### Income

- Donations	
- Individual	\$35.00
- UMM Fellowship	
- One Man One Dollar Campaign	\$12.00
- Interest (CU MM Savings Account)	\$1.16
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 48.16</b>

#### Expenses

- Rent – UMM Office @ Wellroot	
- Merchant / CC Fees	\$168.62
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 168.62</b>

**General Fund (Net = Income – Expenses)** **-\$120.46**

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### Restricted Fund Balances

- Igniting Faith Gathering/Summit	\$360.00
- YoungER Mens Ministry Grant 2018 (Horne)	\$1,435.79
- Eric Owen – Pass Through	\$0.00
- James Smith – Pass Trough	\$0.00
- Other Restricted Funds	\$15,456.14
<b>Total Restricted Funds Balance</b>	<b>\$17,251.93</b>

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### Assets

Credit Union Checking Account	\$3,239.81
Credit Union MM Savings Account	\$13,626.88
Credit Union Share Account	\$240.81
PayPal	\$23.97
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$17,131.47</b>

Cary Loesing  
Treasurer

### Notes:

\*\* Revised September 22, 2020 – Include Other Restricted Funds

## United Methodist Men, North Georgia Conference

### Treasurer Report

Monday, August 31, 2020

### General Fund –July 1, 2020- August 31, 2020

#### Income

- Donations	
- Individual	\$300.00
- UMM Fellowship	
- One Man One Dollar Campaign	\$186.00
- EMS Income	\$56.00
- Dividend/Interest (CU Accts)	\$2.29
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 544.29</b>

#### Expenses

- Rent – UMM Office @ Wellroot	
- Merchant / CC Fees	\$372.72
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 372.72</b>

**General Fund (Net = Income – Expenses)** **\$171.57**

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#### Restricted Fund Balances

- Igniting Faith Gathering/Summit	\$ 360.00
- YoungER Mens Ministry Grant 2018 (Horne)	\$ 1,435.79
- Eric Owen – Pass Through	\$ 2,103.34
- James Smith – Pass Trough	\$ 900.00
- Other Restricted Funds	\$ 15,456.14
<b>Total Restricted Funds Balance</b>	<b>\$20,255.27</b>

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#### Assets

Credit Union Checking Account	\$ 6,336.20
Credit Union MM Savings Account	\$ 13,628.01
Credit Union Share Account	\$ 240.81
PayPal	\$ 221.82
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 20,426.84</b>

Cary Loesing  
Treasurer

Notes: