



North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men

President's Report – September 2020

Website/Social Media – Joshua Washington and I have posted new videos to the social media accounts dealing with ministry to men and Annual Conference. A couple of the videos on Annual Conference caused a stir. I received several emails in support of and against these videos. We began to promote the upcoming P.R.A.Y. program that is scheduled for October 7, 2020 across our social media platforms and on our website. Several updates have been made to our website and social media platforms concerning programming. I had an article published entitled “Scripture Holds Key to Today’s Racial Unrest” in UM Insight. Ongoing promotion of the upcoming Igniting Faith Virtual Conference continues across our social media platforms.

Conference/Jurisdiction/District – Jerry Stillabower and I attended a virtual meeting on how to develop effective Mission, Vision, Values and Goals sponsored by the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMM. We will begin to formalize this process after the Igniting Faith Virtual Conference is over.

Jeff Carson and I led six (6) District Meetings during the month of September for the purposes of electing new officers in the consolidated districts. Congratulations goes out to our new District Presidents: Ben Green (Central West), Marquis Ratliff (Central North) and Todd Piesron (South East).

I began a discussion on the upcoming General Conference with some former members of past General Conference delegations. A further conversation needs to be had.

Had a conversation with Hank Dozier, of the SEJ UMM, concerning the future of the YoungER Men's Ministry.

I sent an email to the local church UMM presidents explaining why the Annual Conference videos were made and that I will be moving on to our "regularly scheduled programming."

Several clergy and laity reached out to me in support of these videos and to express words of caution. Bishop Sue expressed her concern for the lack of communication between the UMM and the Conference over these videos.

I communicated with several District leaders on UMM related issues over the month. This included the Conference Lay Leader, District Lay Leaders, District Lay Servant Directors and the Conference Communications Office via email, to inform them of the latest information concerning UMM.

Social Issues – I continued the conversation with Transforming Congregations about human sexuality and the scripture for the purposes of having an informed, holistic understanding of the topic. A date has been set to discuss this topic with the UMM.

Progress has been made in securing two participants for the "Redemption and Reconciliation" panel that is scheduled for January 16, 2021. A third recommended participant had a health crisis and is currently in recovery.

I attended a virtual prayer meeting with the leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal and United Methodist men's ministry leaders.

I have had several conversations with pastors in the Conference on race issues this month.

Retreat – The Retreat Committee met three times this month and has made significant progress towards planning the Virtual Conference. Several speakers have provided the requested videos to be included in the conference. Additionally, I contacted several people to be understudies for the virtual conference. Some of them have already provided videos to be used in case anyone cancels unexpectedly. We continue to communicate with the confirmed participants of the conference, to inform them of any updates that they should be aware of. Secured a video license to upwards of 13 videos during the virtual conference.

Men's Ministry – I followed up on a conversation that I began last year, thanks to a new lead, with the United Methodist related seminaries in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. I was introduced to the leaders of the Men's Spiritual Formation group at Asbury Seminary. I will follow up with them. Jacque Williams has been working to solidify introducing this concept to Hickory Flat UMC. A firm date has been set to host a Radical Mentoring video conference call for the UMM.

Facebook page management interface for United Methodist Men of the North Georgia Conference. The page shows insights for a post from Saturday, October 10, 2020, with 118 people reached and 6 engagements. The insights section shows 849 people reached (42% increase), 111 post engagements (80% decrease), and 2 page likes (50% decrease). The about section includes the vision: "To be Inviting and Encouraging men to be Engaged in Service and Fellowship with the Purpose of Developing Disciples of Jesus Christ."

Odell Horne – October 6, 2020