



February 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (February 16, 2021)

- 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 February 16, 2021.
- 2. WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its February meeting on February 16, 2021, via ZOOM. At approximately 6:30 PM, members of the Committee began to log on for a period of fellowship, where the men were able to have time for sharing. At 6:45 PM, President Odell officially called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. As is customary, Jack Williams gave a prayer for reflection and then led the devotional for the evening. At the outset, Jack acknowledged that we should be mindful of the challenges facing our nation and the world as we are faced with a global pandemic and much unrest. He suggested that some of these things may keep us from sleeping at night or may cause wheels to start turning in our minds. **As a point of departure, he wanted us to look at the big picture and asked the question, "What in the World is God Doing?" He then directed us to 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 as the scripture for the devotional. He saw this scripture as a launching point for what he suggested as a "ministry of reconciliation." In the 18th verse, he keyed in on the fact that God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. At the same time, in verse 19, he said that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. Further in his presentation, he stressed worship, a strong and harmonious relationship with God, and the fact that we are called to reconcile. His final message was that we are Ambassadors of Jesus Christ and that we should be "Spreading The Good News."**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** The next order of business was the approval of the proposed agenda for the meeting. John Holley asked the Body for its consideration as it related to the proposed agenda. It was moved that the proposed agenda be adopted to direct our actions for the evening. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

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4. **ATTENDANCE:** The following individuals were in attendance on the call:

JOHN HEATH	JACK WILLIAMS	BEN GREEN	ODELL HORNE	ERNEST PERRY
JERRY STILLABOWER	CARY LOESING	LEON JOUROLMON	HOWARD EVANS	
CHRIS KARABINOS	FERRELL MOSS	JOHN HOLLEY	ERIC POWELL	

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Next, President Odell called upon John Holley, concerning the minutes from the 19 January 2021 Executive Committee meeting. John Holley advised the Committee that copies of the Minutes from the previous meeting had been provided the Committee via email and that they would be displayed on the Conference's website. It was the consensus of the Committee that it was not necessary for the Secretary to read the minutes to the Body. It was moved and properly seconded that the minutes be approved. The vote was unanimous for approval of the minutes.

6. **PROCEDURE FOR SUGGESTIONS:** There was no input from the Body on this topic.

7. **COMMUNICATIONS:** President Odell took the lead on this topic and thanked Ike Moore for his dedication in updating the website. He also pointed out the fact that you don't need an account to log-in to our Social Media accounts. Our Social Media accounts include [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#). He pointed out that the Instagram account is not updated often. He informed the Committee that the items on Facebook are the same items that are on Twitter. Additionally, President Odell reminded the Body of the Black History Programs on PBS. He then discussed the subject of Nonviolent Communication and the [Six Principles of Nonviolence](#). Finally, he alerted the Committee that he is looking at a Virtual Igniting Faith Retreat in the September/October timeframe.

8. **SCOUTING MINISTRY:** Chris Karabinos gave the Committee an update on the status of scouting in the Conference and indicated that the pandemic had driven a lot of scouting activities to be conducted virtually. In this regard, the Scouters Religious Academy (SRA), scheduled for April 24, 2021 is planned to be a hybrid event but could be totally virtual. Last year this was a great event, where we had 20 States and Austria participating. 12% of the participation was girls. Already, we have 84 people registered for the event. Chris shared that he continues to establish relationships as the organization grows scouting. Partnerships are so important. He pointed out that we have our website as does the General Conference. In addition, he pitched the Philmont Methodist Scout Week, during the period 11-17 July 2021, in Cimarron, NM. He is encouraging some of our leadership to participate. There is already a website established for the event.

9. **CONFERENCE AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION:** Jerry Stillabower took the lead and talked about the ongoing project of developing Vision, Mission, and Goals for the Conference. He indicated that he had sent out a Mission Statement. He had rearranged the format and had made some corrections in the text. He moved that we adopt the document. John Heath seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for adoption. He then talked about developing a calendar and whether it should be from

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January-January or June -June. Since officers are elected for a two year term, maybe, as a minimum, we probably need to review our policies and procedures every two years. Reference the Annual Conference Planning, Jerry reported that the 2021 North Georgia Annual Conference would be held during the period 3-5 June 2021. Registration will be from May 16 to May 31. The majority of the activity will be on line, but there will be a live streamed session on June 5. There may be a requirement for some volunteers on the 5th. There is a 12 April 2021 deadline for reports.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT: Cary Loesing reported that we will start paying rent again and that the finances are in pretty good shape. It was reported that expenses for the year have been sent to Cary, so the books can be reconciled. There is also a need to finalize the 2021 Budget.

11. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **President Odell led off** for this portion of the meeting and asked John Holley for the status of the Nomination Committee. John indicated that he was still forming the Committee and that no actions to report.
- **It was announced that Girl Scout Sunday** is scheduled for Sunday, March 7, 2021, and Boy Scout Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, March 14, 2021.
- **Understanding Men's Ministry training** is scheduled for March 12-13, 2021. A flyer will be coming on this.
- **The Dorman Duty to God Award's Breakfast** is scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2021, at 8:30AM.
- **On the subject of Retreat Committee Planning**, it was reported that the Retreat would probably be virtual. The planning would start during the month of March. They will be looking for a theme.
- **President Odell reported** that there had been **no requests for our Speakers' Bureau**. Things have been silent with the advent of COVID-19.
- **Concerning Goals**, to date, we only have input from Chris. Maybe, input from John Heath, Louis Johnson, and Jack Williams are possibilities.
- **Finally, President Odell talked about the General Conference** and the fact that it had been delayed until 2022. There is an issue about money, and they asking Bishops to cut their salaries. The matter concerning possible splits in the denomination is still front and center. Two Progressive churches have already formed. The bottom line is that things are not looking good. Bishops may have to convene two Annual Conferences. 13 Bishops are of retirement age. If new Bishops are selected, they may not be brought on until next General Conference.
- **There is a 20 February 2021 meeting to discuss** matters concerning the General Conference.

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- **There was a discussion that the issue of unity should be** in the forefront at General Conference, but what will happen at General Conference is an unknown. Yet, we teach brotherly love.
- Jack Williams suggested that we view some of the videos that feature Robert George and Cornel West.

12. CLOSING PRAYER: With all minds clear, President Odell asked Rev Powell to offer closing prayer. Prior to offering the prayer, Rev Powell asked us to consider the following in our thoughts: (1) Be proud of who you are. (2) Do it the way Christ did it. (3) Be as bold as the world. (4) Think about understood vs. understand. Rev. Powell prayed the closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 8:03PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 16 March 2021.

The minutes are prayerfully submitted by,

**John C. Holley
Secretary NGCUMM**