



March 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (March 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 March 16, 2021.
2. **WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its March meeting on March 16, 2021, via ZOOM. As normal, the members of the Committee met prior to the official opening of the meeting for sharing and fellowship. At 6:45 PM, President Odell officially called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. After which, Jack Williams provided the devotional for the evening and centered his discussion on scriptures from Luke 15: 1-32. In his presentation, he talked about the "Good and Beautiful God". At the outset, he talked about the tax collectors and "sinners" being gathering around to hear Jesus, but the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were complaining that Jesus was welcoming sinners and eating with them. In responding to this, Jesus used the Parable of the Lost Sheep and pointed out that there will be more rejoicing in heaven for one sinner repenting than for ninety-nine righteous persons who need not to repent. Further, Jack talked about love vs. evil and the fact that the only thing separating them is sin. He pointed out that some may see grace as being unfair, but the fact of the matter is that grace is always here for everyone. The point is that there are no injustices when one tries to compare work with rewards. Jack pointed out that God created us in his image, and the only thing that differentiates us from God is his righteousness. The key thing in our walk is that we can always reset. Jack then closed out his devotion with prayer.
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.
4. **ATTENDANCE:** The following individuals were in attendance on the call:

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<b>JOHN HEATH</b>	<b>JACK WILLIAMS</b>	<b>BEN GREEN</b>	<b>ODELL HORNE</b>
<b>JERRY STILLABOWER</b>	<b>CARY LOESING</b>	<b>LEON JOUROLMON</b>	<b>HOWARD EVANS</b>
<b>CHRIS KARABINOS</b>	<b>ALBERT LYLES</b>	<b>JOHN HOLLEY</b>	<b>KEN FLEMING</b>
<b>TREY BRUSH</b>	<b>TODD PIERSON</b>	<b>LOUIS JOHNSON</b>	<b>CHRIS DAY</b>
<b>ERNEST PERRY</b>	<b>TAVARES STEPHENS</b>	<b>TREY BRUSH</b>	

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Next, President Odell called upon John Holley, concerning the minutes from the 16 February 2021 Executive Committee meeting. John Holley informed the Committee that copies of the Minutes had been emailed and asked for its consideration for the disposition of the minutes. 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. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Cary Loesing gave an abbreviated Treasurer's Report and indicated that a complete report would be sent to the members. He indicated that there were no checks outstanding and that he would be using a new format for reporting at the next meeting. He is still working on the "giving statements" for 2020 and will be getting them out as soon as possible.

**8. MEN'S MINISTRY FORUM:** At this juncture, President Odell called upon our guests to speak on Men's Ministry Forums in the Conference.

- ✓ Alpharetta First & St. James UMC: Tavares Stephen had the lead on this subject, but Ken Fleming spoke first and gave some background information on the partnership that had been formed between Alpharetta First and St. James UMC. The churches are located less than one mile apart. The purpose of this partnership was to address subjects such as racial reconciliation, given that one church's congregation is predominate African American and the other is predominate Caucasian. The churches formed a joint Bible Study that went for 4 weeks, and the sessions were rotated between the two churches. There were fears as the partnerships formed, but it turned out to be a great way to fellowship and worship. Racism was addressed as one of the discussions. St James is working to do a partnership with Mt Pisgah. The entire exercise is about bridging the gap. Chris Day spoke next and indicated that the entire experience was about common ground, which was faith. They are looking to do a Summit in the Fall. Tavares Stephens then spoke and indicated that Rock Eagle paid a pivotal party in his walk. He indicated that Cary Loesing was inspirational to him, as he felt an authentic relationship. He feels God will use these authentic relationships in the mission field. He talked about the "Beloved Community" and what is happening as we develop resources. As we develop, we are standing on God's word. We are telling a real story and are building interactive workshops. There are 3-min vignettes of transparent conversations. The focus is on race, social

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Issues, and the Holy Spirit. The resources have been developed using experiences of 139 men from 13 different states. In these experiences, we are answering the question of how to build community out of pain. **Chris indicated that** they were using small breakouts and are still meeting weekly. They are looking how to expand. **Ken then talked about** authentic relationships, tension, racism, anti-racism and where to go from here. Finally, Tavares said he is looking to hear other's stories. We have to insure that the stories are relevant. This has to become a movement instead of a moment. We have to let God be God and we follow. At this time, **President Odell reminded the Body that the Black History Moments are on our website.**

- ✓ **Radical Mentoring:** Trey Brush talked on the subject of Radical Mentoring and suggested it as our heartbeat. He said it is not a class, not a course, but a process. Radical Mentoring exposes authenticity. There are 4 videos, and a website has been created. There are no changes for the churches. He complimented our Conference of what we are already doing. There is a Radical Mentoring Summit planned for 6-13 April 2021, in Callaway Gardens.
- ✓ **General and Jurisdictional Conference:** President Odell reported that the General Conference for this year has been scheduled now for August 29-September 6, 2022. At the same time the Council of Bishops has scheduled a one day virtual global meeting for May 8, 2021. The agenda includes 12 pieces of legislation to help the church function until the next full Conference and is about money. The young people are not happy with the Bishops. The link to update you on the conferences is <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>

### **9. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Retreat Committee Planning Meeting.** President Odell indicated that we need to meet on this subject. He commented that South Carolina did a virtual retreat. Jerry Stillabower added that 200 people signed up for the event.
- **Redemption and Reconciliation Town Hall.** This meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 3, 2021.
- **UMCOS Second Quarter Meeting.** Jerry indicated that this was about summer training. He also reported that the Dorman Duty to God event had been conducted, virtually, in March. The website for UMCOS is <http://www.umcos-nga.org/>
- **Lead Like Jesus Training.** Louis Johnson reported that this training was still scheduled for April 9-10, 2021. He is still trying to determine how to advertise. He is deciding whether to include women in the training. Other training will be during the September/October timeframe.
- **Leadership Council Meeting.** President Odell reminded the Body that this meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 9:00AM. You will need to register for the event. The link follows: <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/84211508212pwd=bFB6R3VnZEIENjFvNG9PZkxOWDFkUT09>

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- **Scouter's Religious Academy.** This activity is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 8:30AM. The link for registration follows:  
<https://northga-reg.brtaapp.com/SRA2021CourseRegistration727171>
- **NGCUMM Re-structuring.** President Odell and Cary shared some information on this subject and indicated that the re-structuring was driven per Discipline. This is something that we may discuss during Leadership Council Meeting. We will need to make changes to our By-Laws, but this is not pressing at this time. Jerry commented that he had been thinking about some Regional approaches to Retreats for the future. He indicated that he was hoping that we may someday go by to Rock Eagle. Cary said we may want to plan for the events in person and have virtual back-ups.
- **Finally, President Odell asked John Heath to give a quick update** on the Prison Ministry. John shared that since the last update in January, the program had had some headwinds. The initiatives with South Carolina and Florida had not yield much fruit. He is looking for a jumpstart after a meeting in South Carolina on 23 March 2021. He asked for prayer for housing associated with the Ministry. He pointed out that they are now using KAIROS' materials. The Ministry is working with the Amachi Program, which is a national program to serve children of incarcerated parents. Also, they will be partnering with Celebrate Recovery. He will be prepared to give a complete update in April.

### 10. **2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- April 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) 6:30-8:00PM
- May 18<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) 6:30-8:00PM
- June 15<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) 6:30-8:00PM

15. **CLOSING PRAYER:** With all minds clear, President Odell asked Louis Johnson to pray the group out. In preparation, Louis asked the Committee to take a deep breathe, honor God with our praises, and to thank Him for his Grace and Mercy and for always being faithful. The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 20 April 2021.

The minutes are prayerfully submitted by,

John C. Holley  
Secretary NGCUMM