



May 18, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (May 18, 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 May 18, 2021.
2. **WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its May meeting on May 18, 2021, via ZOOM. At approximately 6:30 PM, members of the Committee began to log on for a period of fellowship. During the fellowship period, the Brothers shared items of personal interest and asked for prayers of support. At 6:45 PM, President Odell officially called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Following this, he asked Jack Williams to provide the devotional for the evening. **Jack used 2nd Timothy, Chapter 3, Verses 16 and 17 as a point of reference for his devotional. At the outset, he pointed out that the Bible was not a human book but a book written from inspiration from God. In this regard, he shared that verse 16 of his scripture: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." In other words, this is what God wanted the authors to write. He suggested that we should read and apply and that we should read the word often. By reading, he said we would safeguard ourselves against false teaching. Finally, he asked that we read Chapter 3 in its entirety because it is instructive about how to do Christ's work and about doing good. He then closed his devotional with prayer and asked that we love God, love one another, and do everything in love.**
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 **(with the word April replacing March in item 2 of the 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:

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

18 May 2021

Page Two

TODD PIERSON

JACK WILLIAMS

ODELL HORNE

JERRY STILLABOWER

CARY LOESING

CHRIS KARABINOS

JOHN HOLLEY

MARQUIS RATLIFF

BRUCE SHAVER

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Next, President Odell called upon John Holley, concerning the minutes from the April 20, 2021, meeting. John pointed out that he was absent from the meeting and that the minutes were not available.

6. PROCEDURE FOR SUGGESTIONS: President Odell shared that items had been sent out to “The Parking Lot” and wanted members to pray over them and that we discuss at a future meeting.

7. SPECIAL GUEST/S: It should be noted that we had no special guest for the meeting. However, President Odell said he wanted to apologize that there was some misunderstanding concerning emails he had sent to the Committee on matters at Mt. Bethel (and Jody Ray) and at Grace (concerning Candice Dugas). He said that some thought he was taking sides, but he indicated that he was just providing information and not making any judgement in either case.

8. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: President Odell gave his report and keyed in on the **Annual Conference Report**, which had already been sent to the Conference. A copy of the report was provided to the members of the Executive Committee and is available on our website. Also, he shared that he was still looking to convene another Igniting Faith Retreat. Several churches were mentioned as possibilities to host the event. Discussions continue on this matter.

9. SECRETARY’S REPORT: John Holley provided a copy of his report to the Committee. Points emphasized were as follows:

- The insightful and thought-provoking devotionals given by Jack Williams at each of our monthly meetings.
- The status of the chartered units in the Conference
- Jerry Stillabower’s efforts on Vision, Values, Mission and developing SMART Goals.
- Kudos to Chris Karabinos as he continues to be a “standout” leading out Scouting Ministry
- The success of the Men’s Ministry Forum, formed between St. James and Alpharetta First.
- The interest developed in the Conference for Radical Mentoring
- The President’s priority to push for transparency in the Conference.
- Communications and marketing are key if we are going to be a successful organization.

10. 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), on April 24, 2021, it was totally virtual. There were 310 people, from 40 states and 6 countries. As there is an effort to expand, you can make

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

18 May 2021

Page Three

donations. Reference the Annual Conference Planning, Chris reported that his report for the Annual Conference Handbook had already been provided. He provided a copy of his report to the members of the Executive Committee. Again, he was pushing participation in the Philmont experience, scheduled for 11-17 July. This will be the 100th Anniversary of the event. So far, 35 people have signed up. Also, he updated the Committee on the litigations against the Boy Scouts of America and indicated that the numbers relating to the UMC were low. Finally, he informed the Body that the Bishop's Scout Lunch will be on October 2.

11. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT: Jack Williams shared in his report that there were two priority areas that he wanted to report on. These were Radical Mentoring and the Walk to Emmaus. He is working to educate and to get people interested in these endeavors. He is looking forward to have a Radical Mentoring session at Hickory Flat in the Fall. There are other churches that have shown some interest.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT: Cary Loesing reported that he is still working on what our financial report will look like, as a document, going forward. He reported that our total revenue for April 2021 was \$98.12. Our total assets on April 30, 2021 were \$17,751.65. That breakout was as follows: (1) Checking Account.... \$1,398.51. (2) Savings Account...\$2,241.14. (3) Money Market...\$13,637.09. (4) PayPal...\$474.91

11. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **President Odell led off** talking on the possibility of another Rock Eagle. There had been some preliminary investigation on the matter, and Cary gave an overview of what the needs are in terms of the break-even numbers. The thought is that we would want to have at least 350 people in attendance. The discussion includes (1) What are we going to do differently? (2) We need a headliner. (3) We need to build a Team. (4) The desire is to have a week-end with nature. The discussion continues.
- **"Such Were Some of You"** will be on Saturday, May 22, 2021 (<https://youtu.be/XYxuwn1p7E0>)
- North Georgia Annual Conference – June 3-5, 2021.
- Retreat Committee Planning Meeting. TBA
- Annual Business Meeting—June 26, 2021
- President Odell informed the body that he was interviewed by the Atlanta Journal Constitution concerning an AD that is critical of the Conference's "Welcome Table." He commented on the AD but was not a member of the team that financed the AD.

12. 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- June 15th (Tuesday) 6:30-8:00PM
- July 20th (Tuesday) 6:30-8:00PM

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

18 May 2021

Page Four

13. CLOSING PRAYER: With all minds clear, President Odell asked Cary Loesing to offer the closing prayer. Cary prayed for direction and guidance for the organization and that all our focus be on doing Gods will and making disciples for Jesus Christ. The meeting adjourned at 8:07PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 15 May 2021.

The minutes are prayerfully submitted by,

John C. Holley

Secretary NGCUMM