



January 11, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (January 11, 2022)

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 January 11, 2022.

2. **WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its January meeting on January 11, 2022, via ZOOM. As usual, Jacque Williams did the devotional for the evening. His subject for the evening was, "**You're Unique In Every Way.**" He started his presentation by saying that, when you know how unique you are, you'll take pride in your uniqueness and will not wish you were someone else. The point is that God has only one of "you". As he developed his discussion, he offered for further study, Psalm 139:13-14, Matthew 10:29-31, and Ephesians 2:10. Finally, he suggested that we be ourselves, and celebrate our uniqueness. He closed his devotional with a prayer, thanking God for fashioning us in such a beautiful and awesome way and that we are made for God's glory and dedicated for His use.

3. **ATTENDENCE:** The following individuals were in attendance on the Zoom.

|                 |                   |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ODELL HORNE     | JOHN HOLLEY       | JACQUE WILLIAMS   |
| JOHN HEATH      | BEN GREEN         | CARY LOESING      |
| CHRIS KARABINOS | ERIC POWELL       | JERRY STILLABOWER |
| LEON JOUROLMON  | WAYNE STRADLEY    | TIM POE           |
| JEFF FULLER     | ARMAND BETENCOURT |                   |

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** The next order of business was the approval of the proposed agenda for the meeting. John Holley presented the proposed agenda to the Committee for its consideration. It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as the roadmap for the meeting. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

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**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** When it was time to consider the minutes from the December 2021 meeting, Secretary John indicated that he had the minutes in draft and was prepared to read to the Committee for its consideration. It was the consensus of the Committee that the minutes be put on the website and that the Minutes from the December 2021 meeting be approved at the February meeting.

**5. PROCEDURE FOR SUGGESTIONS:** President Odell asked if anyone had any input concerning this subject, and pointed out that this is where we put items for prayer and discernment. President Odell suggested that we hold any request for prayer to be included in our closing prayer.

**6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL GUESTS:** There were no special guests at the meeting.

**7. TREASURER'S REPORT:** At this juncture, Cary Loesing was asked to provide the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial report. He gave the following as a summary of the Conference's Finances as of 12/31/2021: (1) General Funds Income and Expense for the month of December: **Total Revenues...\$666.69; Total Expenses: \$36.37.** (2) **General Fund Income and Expense** (1 January – 31 December 2021): **Total Revenues...\$2,127.32; Total Expenses...\$3,844.98** (3) **Assets as of 31 December 2021:** \$14,082.57. He reported that that there was no established plan for raising funds, but there is a need for a plan. There is currently no approved budget for the year.

**8. SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Next on the agenda was the Secretary providing the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Ministry update. John Holley indicated that a copy of his report had been submitted for inclusion on our website but provided the following summary:

- Jacque Williams continues his great work by providing inspirational monthly devotional at our Executive Meetings.
- Chris Karabinos has kept the Committee updated on the BSA bankruptcy and the current lawsuit.
- The leadership continues to encourage the local fellowships to charter their units and become fully connected with the General Commission.
- The Treasurer provides a written monthly report on the financial status of the Conference.
- The Conference attended the annual meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction on 5-6 November 2021.
- President Odell submitted an article for publication to the United Methodist News Service.
- John Heath continues with his enthusiastic work with Prison Ministry.
- In Spiritual Development, Jacque Williams keeps the Committee informed on Radical Mentoring, Walks to Emmaus, and Small Group Sessions.
- Greg Arnold, the new General Secretary addressed the Committee in December.
- The Committee has already begun its planning for Annual Conference.

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- **Joel Devisser, Rock This World Productions, gave the Committee an overview of the movie, "Game Changer," and his hope is to get 1,000 churches involved in support of his organization's mission.**
- **President Odell continues to keep the Committee informed through emails, our website, and social media.**
- **Members are encouraged to visit our website often.**

**9. SCOUTING MINISTRY:** **Chris Karabinos** gave the Committee an update on the Boy Scouts of America's lawsuit. He pointed out that the situation steamed- up during July-August timeframe last year. There had been some misinformation by the lawyers. Last year, Chris and Bishop Sue put out two letters, in August and October, providing updates and guidance. In December 2021, there was an agreement reached with the BSA. Churches have been advised that there is no need to take any action until after March 31, 2022, as it relates to chartering. February 23 is the scheduled court date for the Judge to make a decision. Updated information is on the Scouting Ministry's website. Chris feels that his relationship with the BSA has strengthened. There may be 2 to 3 more communications before the final decision. Chris is available to answer questions on the matter if required.

**10. CONFERENCE AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION:** During this time, there was a discussion on the nomination of individuals to fill positions of leadership on the Committee. A slate needs to be ready for our Annual Meeting, scheduled, tentatively, for 23 April 2022. It was pointed out that all positions are open. President Odell surveyed the individuals who are currently occupying positions to see if they are amenable to serving another term. The following was the result of the survey:

- |                                               |                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| ▪ Jacque Williams, Spiritual Development      | (Yes)                                              |
| ▪ John Heath, Prison Ministry                 | (Yes)                                              |
| ▪ Eric Powell, Prayer Advocate                | (Yes)                                              |
| ▪ Chris Karabinos, Scouting Ministry          | (No)                                               |
| ▪ Cary Loesing, Treasurer                     | (Willing to Serve)                                 |
| ▪ Odell Horne, President                      | (Not Seeking)                                      |
| ▪ John Holley                                 | (Willing to Serve if can't find another candidate) |
| ▪ Jerry Stillabower, VP, Conf. Affairs/Admin. | (Needs a replacement)                              |

**President Odell is to email the positions and the opening** to the Nominating Committee. Also, he is going to provide the list of the District Presidents. There was some discussion about the **term of office for District Presidents** and about proposed changes for our Constitution. **Reference the NACP meeting in March**, President Odell wants to make sure Chris Karabinos is in attendance. President Odell asked the Committee to **consider changing our monthly meetings** from third Tuesdays to second Tuesdays and to change the start time to 7PM. The vote was four for and one against. The change will be effective for the February meeting.

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11. MINISTRY CALENDAR: The Ministry calendar from January to June 2022 is listed below.

- (a) January - I See You, Bible Translation
- (b) February - The Spread of Christianity in Africa, Valentine's Day
- (c) March - The Spread of Christianity in Europe
- (d) April - The Spread of Christianity in North America
- (e) May - The Spread of Christianity in Asia
- (f) June - Pentecost, preparation for General Conference

Questions/comments: There were no questions or comments.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Resources and activities that may be of interest to members are provided below.

- a. Game Changer - Movie
- b. January Virtual Events
  - 1. [I See You -- Working Class Rage](#) – January 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am
  - 2. [Leadership Council Meeting January 22<sup>nd</sup>](#) @ 9:00 am
  - 3. [Biblical Literature](#) January 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:00 am
  - 4. [The Bible Translation Process](#) - January 29<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am
- c. 2022 General Conference
  - 1. [Different Schools of Biblical Interpretation article](#)
  - 2. [Stony the Road article](#)
  - 3. [Biblical Interpretation and Human Sexuality](#)
  - 4. [Transforming Congregations](#)
  - 5. [Black History Month 2021](#)
  - 6. [John Wesley](#)
  - 7. [Trinity Series](#)
  - 8. [General Conference and Global Christianity](#)
  - 9. [Gentile Christians and the Holiness Code article](#)
  - 10. [Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes](#)
- d. 2022 Executive Committee Meetings [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
  - 1. February 8 @ 7:00 pm
  - 2. March 8 @ 7:00 pm
  - 3. April 12 @ 7:00 pm
  - 4. May 10 @ 7:00 pm
  - 5. June 14 @ 7:00 pm

13. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: John Heath gave some reflections on the recent apartment fire in New York and wanted us to keep the victims and their families in our prayers. Cary commented on the turmoil in United Methodism and thinks the only thing we can do is to focus on Christ. What will

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happen at General Conference is still an unknown. Also, there was a discussion on COVID-19 and how we navigate through these turbulent times. Our faith will be tested in both cases.

**14. CLOSING PRAYER:** Finally, as the Committee completed its business, Eric asked for prayer requests. Prayers were requested for our Conference, for Lin Baker on the passing of his wife, for John Holley's family for the death of his cousin and the murder of two of his cousins, for Chris' sister as she recoups from brain tumor surgery, and finally for President Odell as he undergoes cancer treatment. With all hearts and minds centered on God, Eric closed the meeting with prayer.

The minutes are prayerfully submitted by,

**John C. Holley**

**Secretary NGCUMM**