



February 8, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (February 8, 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 February 8, 2022.

2. **WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its February meeting on February 8, 2022, via ZOOM. At approximately 7:00PM, President Odell called the meeting to order and asked Jacque Williams to lead the devotional for the evening. His theme for the evening was **"Imitating Jesus's Humility."** The scripture to support his theme came from Philippians 2:3-11. In the first case, he suggested that we should have self-ambition but should have the attitude of Jesus Christ. This means one should be a servant and always show humility. He suggested that brothers should be like-minded and make Jesus' joy complete... having the same love and being one in the spirit and purpose. He reminded us that we should not be selfish but should put other above self. In the end, he stressed that God gave him the name above all names, and at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow. Finally, he asked for prayer requests to close out the devotion. Prayer requests were asked for Phillip Houston, for family issues, for Cathy Stasco for back surgery, for President Odell's health, and for unspoken requests. With this, Jacque closed the devotional with prayer.

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

TODD PIERSON, CHRIS KARABINOS, ODELL HORNE, JOHN HOLLEY, NATHANUAL WILLIAMS, TIM POE, JERRY STILLABOWER, PHILLIP HOUSTON, CARY LOESING, JACQUE WILLIAMS, LOUIS JOHNSON, JOHN HEATH, JEFF FULLER, BEN GREEN, MARQUIS RATLIFF, AND WAYNE STRADLEY

4. **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. There was a request to switch the order of "Treasurer's Report" and "Nominations Committee" in their

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

February 8, 2022

Page Two

order of presentations. With that change, it was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as the outline for the meeting. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The next order of business was the approval of the Minutes from the January 2022 meeting. John Holley presented the minutes to the Committee for its consideration. It was moved and properly seconded that the minutes be approved. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

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: President Odell acknowledged the presence of Phillip Houston, from Kelly Chapel UMC, and Nathaniel Williams from Columbia Drive UMC.

7. NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Chris Karabinos reported for this Committee and shared that he currently has four people on the Committee...Chris Karabinos, Louis Johnson, Cary Loesing, and Tim Poe. The Committee will be meeting every other week. The Committee is reaching out for nominees but needs input from members of the Executive Committee.

8. LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT: At this point, President Odell gave a summary of the Leadership Council Meeting, held on January 22, 2022. He indicated that at the meeting Ministry heads updated the body on their areas of responsibility and the fact that the written report of the event was on the website under the Secretary's Report. In addition, he pointed out that the Conference calendar had been worked out and that in February there would be a small group study on "How Africa Shaped The Christian Mind", by Thomas Oden. John Holley and Louis Johnson are participating in the study. He said that General Conference is scheduled to convene in August 2022, but he had doubt. He had anticipated a celebration for Valentine's Day, but that fell apart. He wants to do something in person; so we will look to next year. In March, he had planned to do Christianity in Europe, but Billy Abraham went home to Heaven in December 2021. He is from Ireland. In April, there is planning to study the Spread of Christianity in North America. In May, it will be the Spread of Christianity in Asia. In June, it will be Pentecost. Concerning the item listed on the agenda as "Bylaws Committee", President Odell indicated that he needed to form a committee. He indicated that the proposed amendment changes to the Bylaws had already gone out. There was a question as to the number of proposed changes. President Odell asked that members email information or questions to him. Based on the 90-Day rule, we will not be able to vote on the changes at our Annual Business but will look at them next year.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT: At this juncture, President Odell indicated that he had failed to get the bank information to Cary Loesing until Monday and wondered if he had a report for the Committee. Cary said he had a report based on the 4th quarter information. He reported the following:

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

February 8, 2022

Page Three

- Income...\$120.41
- Expenses...\$22.43
- Checking Account Balance...\$2,177.54
- Savings Account Balance...\$2,241.98
- Money Market Balance...\$9,646.46
- Total Assets...\$14,180.55

He wants to expand the report and wants input from the ministries to develop a budget. He still needs to finalize the books for 2021.

10. PRISON MINISTRY: John Heath had the lead for this Ministry and reported that they were making progress. He has approved two people from KAIROS and JUMPSTART as a part of a partnership. Partnerships are necessary to share “best practices” to other organizations. They are looking for people who have recently been released from incarceration so they can assist in housing, jobs, and assist in guiding them in their new way of life. They have found a psychologist who has expertise in drug abuse. They are looking at a correspondence bible study. John talked about recruiting for donations vs. recruiting for service or involvement. He pointed out that he was impressed in a program in Oklahoma where they have shown that if parents have been incarcerated, 7 out of 10 cases of the children will also be incarcerated. He said no matter what happens with the United Methodist Church, their Ministry will keep on keeping on. At this time, he said he is looking for a global solution and asked Louis Johnson to share information about an effort to get Rick Vance involved in this matter. Louis showed a video clip, which was about the Oklahoma project. He also talked about the magnitude of the problem and the fact that they are talking about looking *at pre-release, time after release*, and not only assisting the released but him and his families. He had the question about assisting women, transitional housing, changing lives, and partnerships. Louis and John are scheduled to meet with Rick Vance on Thursday (10 February). He invited President Odell to join the meeting if he desires. Louis and John both gave kudos to Ike Moore, who is doing great work with the website. President Odell then asked a question on when the website is scheduled to be completed. John anticipates that it will be done in March. John indicated that his certification is good to 2023. John had a question about the Speakers’ Bureau. John remains enthusiastic about his ministry and wants to take it beyond the Conference.

11. OPEN FORUM: At this juncture, President Odell said he wanted to allot 15 minutes to listen to members’ concerns in preparation for General and Annual Conferences. The following are points gleaned from the forum:

- Quest Church, near Augusta, has started its disaffiliation process and established the effective date as July 1. They are looking for a vote at Annual Conference.
- Cary mentioned Frasier United Methodist in Alabama as another church that applied for disaffiliation status, 2 weeks ago.

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

February 8, 2022

Page Four

- Cary thought the cutoff for applying for disaffiliation was February 3, 2022. He thinks that is the same for 2023.

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

a. February Virtual Events

1. The Spread of Christianity in Africa
2. Identity Crisis in Black Theology <https://youtu.be/4vPDQEx6ips> (Dr. Cheryl Sanders)
3. Virtual Valentine's Day Program
3. Schools of Alexandria and Carthage
4. The Life and Music of Charles Wesley <https://youtu.be/GAGTqfYVdz8>

b. 2022 Executive Committee Meetings [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

1. March 8 @ 7:00 pm
2. April 12 @ 7:00 pm
3. May 10 @ 7:00 pm
4. June 14 @ 7:00 pm

At this time , Phillip Houston from Kelly Chapel was officially introduced to the Committee.

14. CLOSING PRAYER: Finally, as we closed the business portion of the meeting, President Odell asked Louis to close the meeting with prayer. President Odell requested prayer for Alice Westley, who has breast cancer. Prayer was requested for Phillip Houston. Louis asked that we remember Kevin Underwood, who passed away recently. He was the local President for the UMM Fellowship at Andrews Chapel. Also, prayer was requested for Kelsey Hannibal, who has prostate cancer. Continuous prayer was requested for President Odell. With all minds and hearts clear, Louis gave the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

The minutes are prayerfully submitted by,

John C. Holley
Secretary NGCUMM