



March 8, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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

2. **WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its March meeting on March 8, 2022, via ZOOM. Jacque Williams did the devotional for the evening. His focus for the evening was **"How God Grows Our Faith."** At the outset, he took us to Colossians 2:7, as his point of departure, and suggested that there were two ways that God grows our faith. He said the easy way is through his word, where we read, study, and memorize the word. By doing so, we become free from human regulations through life with Christ. For additional emphasis, he read Romans 10:17, a familiar scripture, **"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** To him, God's word is food for our soul. The second way that Gods grows our faith is what he referred to as the hard way. This is where God grows our faith through circumstances. He wanted us to think on a circumstance where we had to compare muscles versus faith. In these cases our faith is being tested. He ended his devotional with Jeremiah 29:11, **"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not evil, to give you an expected end."** Finally, he closed with prayer.

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

ODELL HORNE	JOHN HOLLEY	JACQUE WILLIAMS
JOHN HEATH	BEN GREEN	MARQUIS RATLIFF
CHRIS KARABINOS	JAMES WESLEY	TODD PIERSON
LOUIS JOHNSON	PHILLIP HOUSTON	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

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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.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The next order of business was the consideration for the minutes from the February 2022 meeting, Secretary John indicated that the minutes had been provided to the Committee via email and that they were on our website. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved. 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. TREASURER'S REPORT: There was no Treasurer's Report

7. NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Chris Karabinos reported that the Nomination Committee had met twice. He shared that another meeting was scheduled for the 10th of March and that nominations should be in no later than March 31, 2022. If you have input, you should email Chris.

8. 2022 GENERAL CONFERENCE: The following bullets are a summary of the reports and discussion of the 2022 General Conference:

- President Odell reported that the General Conference has officially been postponed, and the elected delegates will remain the same unless the General Conference is officially canceled.
- Resource UMC is linked to our website.
- The Global Methodist Church is being launched on May 1, 2022. Many churches will be moving and will disaffiliating themselves from the North Georgia Conference.
- The reason some are leaving has to do with same-sex marriages and other matters relating to homosexuality.
- The United Methodist Women are now United Women in Faith. A decision concerning the United Methodist Men will be coming on April 5, 2022.
- At this point, there was a general discussion by the men concerning items such as 501(c) (3) status of activities in the church.

9. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT: Jacque Williams reported that his report is basically the same as his report from our last meeting. There were plans to Walk to Emmaus, but those plans had to be cancelled. The limit on the number of individuals to participate had to be changed from 36 to 24. The current schedule includes the following dates: 17-20 March, 21-24 April, and 3-6 November. The link for info is on our website. Concerning Radical Mentoring, we are continuing to push this across the Conference. President Odell voiced his strong support. Chris Karabinos commented on their efforts at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church on this subject.

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9. SCOUTING MINISTRY: Chris Karabinos gave the Committee an update on the Boy Scouts of America's lawsuit. The North Georgia Conference website has the update back to August 2021. It should be noted that our churches provide 25% of BSA's business. Also, we wrote most of the documents involved in the matter. Charter agreements have been extended from March 31 to June 30. Some units have already signed agreements. New agreements are coming in the April-May timeframe concerning matters other than the charters. They had a Zoom meeting with over 1,000 people on the meeting. There is nothing anyone needs to do at this time. Reference the lawsuit, there are small groups that are looking for more money and want to destroy the BSA. Chris reported that during the first quarter they had a meeting where about 20 attendees were present. Bishop Sue's Luncheon is tentatively scheduled for October 3

10. CONFERENCE AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION: During this time, there was a discussion about the National Association of Conference Presidents' Meeting, which convened during the period 3-5 March 2022. President Odell took the lead and Louis Johnson providing input. On Thursday, the Foundation met Greg Arnold. We have to wait and see what is forthcoming with the change in leadership. There is an anticipation that there will be major changes as to how we operate. Louis mentioned that the SMART Goals were discussed. The Prayer Advocate session was also discussed. There was mention about Rick Vance's Healing Circle and sharing in small groups. Louis talked about clergy relationships and engaging pastors more. He pointed out that we should not put more on the pastors. Finally, President Odell talked about setting the agenda for the rest of the year and that our reports are on our website.

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

A. March Virtual Events

1. The Spread of Christianity in Europe, Lent, Saint Patrick's Day

a. Greek Culture in the Bible, March 5th – https://youtu.be/Em4ObVSS_nI

b. Ancient Theology, March 12th - <https://youtu.be/9VKv9OnRSs>

c. The Life and Music of Charles Wesley, March 26th – <https://youtu.be/GAGTqfYVdz8>

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

1. April 12 @ 7:00 pm

2. May 10 @ 7:00 pm

3. June 14 @ 7:00 pm

12. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: At this point, members were allowed to ask question or provide after-thoughts. President Odell again shared that he was pushing for fellowships to get involved in Radical Mentoring and that it is his hope for more activities in the area of Bridging The Gap. At this point Marquis gave a short summary of the genesis of the Bridging The Gap initiative that started

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between St James and Alpharetta First. There is an activity planned at Mt. Pisgah on April 9th. Armand commented that this was a great opportunity for others to get involved. Marquis asked a question if there were plans in Augusta with Todd. President Odell responded that there was nothing, but his wife may be moving. John Heath gave Ike Moore kudos for his outstanding work with keeping our website updated and his responsiveness when he is asked to assist. Additionally, John Heath commented that he was encouraged about moving forward with his Ministry and is looking for clarity on how to fold this in for our future needs. The bottom line is that he is moving forward. President Odell reminded the Committee of our Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for April 23. He will keep us posted.

13. **CLOSING PRAYER:** With all business completed, President Odell asked Louis Johnson to pray us out and send us forward. Louis asked that we think on Romans 8:36 as we prepared for our departure. The passage centers on the fact that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. Prayer requests were asked for Todd's mother in hospice care, for James Wesley's wife who is undergoing radiation treatments, and for President Odell who is undergoing treatments for cancer. After prayer, the meeting adjourned at 8:17PM.

The minutes are prayerfully submitted by,

John C. Holley
Secretary
NGCUMM