



January 10, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (January 10, 2023)

- 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 10, 2023.
- WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its January 2023 meeting on January 10, 2023 via ZOOM. President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order at 7:06PM, welcomed the attendees, and thanked them for joining the meeting. Jacque Williams, Director of Spiritual Development, who normally does the devotional for our meeting was recovering from surgery and was not in attendance. Given this fact, President Ernest gave the devotional for the evening. He used the Upper Room Daily Devotional for January 10, 2023, to present his message. The title for the devotional was, "Willing to Learn." As his scripture, he read Leviticus 19:1-15. In the essay, the author honed in on verse 14, which said, "Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind." President Ernest suggested that one of the messages of the devotional was that **"you should be my eyes and not my brain."** President Ernest shared that the author had said that until several people who were visually impaired joined her church, she had never given Leviticus 19:14 much thought. But, when these people joined the fellowship, they suggested ways to make the church more accessible. They helped the membership realize that while they had never intentionally put an object in a blind person's way, they were not sensitive to the needs of the blind. The questioned he posed was, **"How am I a stumbling block in the body of Christ?"** Finally, he encouraged us to always be aware of other's needs. To close out the devotional, President Ernest asked for prayer request from the Body. Prayer requests were sort for Bishop Dease and the North Georgia Annual Conference, for Jacque Williams' recovery from surgery, for traveling mercies for Marquis Ratliff as he traveled to the Holy Land, and for the unspoken

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prayer requests. With these prayer requests, President Ernest closed the devotional with prayer.

3. **ROLL CALL:** The next order of business was the Roll Call by the Secretary. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| BEN GREEN | JOHN HOLLEY | ALBERT LYLES |
| ERNEST PERRY | JEFF FULLER | CARY LOESING |
| CHRIS KARABINOS | JOHN HEATH | ODELL HORNE |

4. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** At this time, President Ernest asked for consideration for the approval of the proposed agenda for the meeting. It was moved and seconded that the proposed agenda be approved with the change on item 15, "Closing Prayer & Sending Forth," being given by Jeff Fuller vice Rev. Eric Powell. With the change, the vote was unanimous for the approval of the agenda.

5. **REVIEW OF THE DECEMBER 2022 MEETING MINUTES:** Next, President Ernest called upon John Holley to present the minutes from the previous meeting. John had provided the minutes to the Committee Members via email. However, when President Ernest displayed the minutes on the screen for the benefit of the Body, it was determined that pages were missing from the minutes. John Holley apologized for the error and indicated that he would resend the minutes when the meeting was concluded. John Holley asked that the minutes be approved subjected to any changes once the minutes had been read by the Committee. John Heath said he did not feel comfortable voting on this without the benefit of reading the minutes.

6. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL GUEST/S OR VISITORS:** There were no guests in attendance at the meeting.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The presentation of the Treasurer's Report was the next order of business. Cary Loesing indicated that he had not completed the end of year financial report but should have it for the next meeting. He gave some preliminary figures and informed the group that there had been some additional Fellowships making contributions. He shared that the total assets were around \$14,000.00. There was a question about the 2023 Budget Review. President Ernest stressed the importance of having a budget for a good functioning organization.

8. **OLD BUSINESS:**

a. **Proposed ministry events and activities from Executive Committee:** President Ernest indicated that he received no input from the Committee to be passed on to the Districts. Jeff Fuller made comments about a health initiative that he was working on with Don Wright, which will occur in March. He needs a turnout from the UMM with as much manpower as we can to show our support.

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b. Fundraising ideas: President Ernest stressed the need for fundraising ideas and the fact that they should be in our budget development.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

a. President Ernest reported that he is still seeking nominations to fill our three vacancies on the Board. He wants us to talk it up. We need to post these needs on the website.

b. Also, he is seeking nominations for District Presidents. All of us need to be on this mission together.

c. Again, we will send out dues request letters to Charters, requesting \$100.00 in support of our mission. Cary Loesing indicated that the letter should go out to all churches. The letter is already prepared. The goal is to have the letter out by the 15th of January.

d. President Ernest is asking our leadership team to submit a plan for our 1st Quarter activities.

e. Update on the installation of Bishop Dease: President Ernest started the discussion and indicated that he thought the event went very well. He thought he saw four members of our Board in attendance.

Chris Karabinos thought the event had wonderful music and thought the Bishop had a lot of energy.

John Heath wanted to know about the procedures to get in touch with the Bishop. He would like to

have some open discussion with her, being she is new. **President Ernest talked about layering** as it

relates to contact with the Bishop. Cary Loesing suggested email as a way of communicating with the

Bishop. Jeff Fuller said he is an active conduit. Additionally, he commented on the issue of disaffiliation

being on hold, that some were misled, that there was misinformation, and there were questions about the delay.

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & MINISTRY REPORTS: (Highlights only - Written reports must be submitted to the President and Secretary prior to meeting)

a. Vice President Membership, Organization, Chartering: No report. The position is now vacant.

b. Leadership Development: The position is vacant. No report.

c. VP Conference Affairs & Administration: Jeff Fuller reported on this ministry, and, at the outset, he asked us to pray for our Prayer Advocate, Rev. Eric Powell, who was undergoing some medical challenges. He informed the Body about a health forum he is involved in with Emory. He indicated that there were some outstanding leaders involved in the event, and will be addressing some real issues. He is excited about his job and is pleased to be here. Sometimes he may not have the answers, but he will be faithful to seeking answers.

d. VP Activities & Retreats: Albert Lyles reported that he had no update from his previous report.

e. Scout Coordinator: Chris Karabinos reported that the bankruptcy issue is now behind us. In 4-6 weeks we will see if the Council approves the process. 95% of our units have already chartered,

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and 5% are getting other organizations. He was pleased to report that recruiting is outstanding, especially with the Cubs. There will be a major service project in May.

f. Director of Evangelism: There was no report. Marquis Ratliff was on a Mission trip.

g. Director of Disaster Response: Ben Green submitted a written report and highlighted the following points:

- > He had made contact with Scott Parrish and talked disaster response for about 32 minutes.
- > Also, he received a reply to email he sent out before Thanksgiving.
- > He shared that Scott Parrish is in the catch-up mode but updated him on the situation in Florida and disaster response in general.
- > He indicated that the Emergency Response Team (ERT) phase of the Disaster Response is over and the Recovery Phase has started.
- > He stressed that the need for donations is greater.
- > He pointed out that once the recovery phase starts the teams go directly to the Florida Conference to coordinate.
- > The Florida Conference has a website; so this gives him a start with his planning. Local churches need to be on our staff.

h. Director of Prayer Advocacy: There was no report provided.

i. Director of Spiritual Development: There was no report. Jacque Williams is recovering from surgery.

j. Hunger Advocate: No report.

k.

Prison Ministry: John Heath voiced his frustration about some local issues in his church and the lack of activities with the ministry. He is hoping to get something going in the spring. His focus will be on the local churches. He is getting good feedback. He knows things will come. Jumpstart is good. There are photos and write-ups that he will be using to enhance the ministry. President Ernest gave him kudos for his work.

l. Director of Communications: Odell Horne submitted a written report. A summary of his report is below:

- > **Chris Karabinos was interviewed** on the various aspects of the scouting ministry in the North Georgia Conference.
- > **Marquis Ratliff was interviewed** on becoming a Contagious Christian.
- > **Both interviews are available on our website.**
- > **An online bible study**, titled, "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes," is available, starting on

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February 23, 2023 and ending on April 6, 2023. The study will be every Thursday at 7 pm. **You must register to participate.**

m. Director of Missions: This position is vacant. There was no report.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. District meeting report: Odell Horne, District President for the North Central District, reported on meetings that have been conducted and plans for some future meetings in his District.

b. Need for Health Initiatives Ministry Coordinator added to Board: President Ernest stressed the need for this staff position. Vice President for Conference Affairs & Administration Jeff will spearhead this action.

c. The next scheduled meeting is for Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00 pm.

d. Outreach or Advocacy Needs Around the Conference? There was none brought to the attention of the Body.

e. Questions, comments, or concerns. There were no questions, comments or concerns voiced.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For the good of the order.

a. Cary Loesing shared that the Commission office is moving and will have a new mailing address.

b. Odell talked about the General Conference as to whether it will convene before 2027.

13. CLOSING REMARKS: President Ernest had no closing remarks

14. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: At this point, President Ernest entertained a motion for adjournment. It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn. The vote was unanimous for adjournment.

15. CLOSING PRAYER & SENDING FORTH: With all minds and hearts clear, President Ernest asked Jeff Fuller to give the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

The minutes are prayerfully submitted by,

John C. Holley

Secretary

NGCUMM