



February 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (February 15, 2023)

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 15, 2023.
2. **WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its February 2023 meeting on February 15, 2023, via ZOOM. President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order at 7:05PM, and thanked all who had come out for the meeting. He assured the Committee that he respected its time and wanted to get right into the meeting. He then called on Jacque Williams, Director of Spiritual Development, to provide the devotion and prayer to start the meeting for the evening. Jacque indicated that he had chosen the Upper Room Daily Devotional for 15 February 2023 as the focus for the evening. Although the topic for the devotional was "Falling Leaves," the central theme for the scripture, Matthew 6: 25-34 was "Do Not Worry." The author talked about moving from an apartment into a house and about the daily task of sweeping leaves in front of the house and the back patio. To him, it seemed to be a never-ending task. At first, he wanted to deal with the problem in one fell swoop, but each day brought its own set of worries. The reality that each day there would be leaves led the author to depend more on the Lord. As a result, he now seeks joy in the spiritual practice of discernment, and his worry is minimized. Jacque then took his final thought from Matthew 6:34, which admonishes us..." not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Jacque then asked for prayer concerns and praises. President Ernest asked that we keep John and Harriett Holley in our prayers in that Harriett had a stent put in to combat a blockage. Also, he asked for prayer for his family for the loss of his Aunt Laura Colson. Finally, he wanted us to continue to be in prayer for Eric Powell' family, as they are still searching for solace with the recent passing of Eric. German Betencourt asked that we be in prayer for individuals who have experience the loss of someone

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close recently. President Ernest shared that during the SEJ meeting he learned that Rick Vance's brother, Eddie Vance, was diagnosed with cancer and that Rick would be spending time caring for him. He is asking for prayer. Cary then gave a praise report about spiritual awakenings at Asbury University in Kentucky and Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. With these prayer concerns, Jacque gave the prayer to close the devotion for the evening.

3. **ROLL CALL:** With the absence of the Secretary, President Ernest reported the individuals who were in attendance at the meeting. The following individuals were in attendance:

BEN GREEN	CARY LOESING	ODELL HORNE	CHRIS KARABINOS
JACQUE WILLIAMS	ERNEST PERRY	ALBERT LYLES	JOHN HEATH
MARQUIS RATLIFF	GERMAN BETENCOURT	JEFF FULLER	

4. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** At this time, President Ernest asked for consideration for the approval of the proposed agenda for the meeting. John Heath moved that the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded by Cary Loesing. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

5. **REVIEW OF THE JANUARY 2023 MEETING MINUTES:** Next, President Ernest called for consideration for the minutes from the previous meeting. The Secretary had provided the minutes to the Committee Members via email. President Ernest also displayed the minutes on the screen for the benefit of the Body. Cary Loesing moved that the minutes from the 10 January 2023 meeting be approved. Albert Lyles seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

6. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL GUEST/S OR VISITORS:** There were no guests or visitors in attendance.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The presentation of the Treasurer's Report was the next order of business. Cary Loesing, the Conference Treasurer, provided the Executive Committee an overview of the status of the finances for the Conference. His report included income & expenses for December 2022, total income & expenses for 2022, and assets on hand on December 31, 2022. Revenue for December 2022 was \$472.00. The expenses for December 2022 were \$19.72. Revenues and expenses for 2022 follow: Revenues...\$2,184.81; Expenses...\$1,597.50. Assets in the Conference on 12/31/2022 were \$14,723.88. Also, he reported that the revenues for January 2023 were \$272.00. The expenses for that period were \$728.05. The total assets at the Conference as of 01/31/2023 were \$14,267.83. Cary reported that he had not closed out the books for 2022 but would provide a report to the Committee when this has been accomplished. The Treasurer's Report was received as information.

8. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

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a. **Moment of Silence – Rev. Eric Powell – Reflections from his Celebration of Life.** President Ernest said he was overjoyed with the outpour of support shown by the Executive Committee at the Celebration of Life Services for Rev. Powell. He pointed out that the following members of the Committee were in attendance: Ernest Perry, Cary Loesing, John Heath, Chris Karabinos, Ben Green, Marquis Ratliff, John Holley, Jeff Fuller, Albert Lyles, and Odell Horne. He pointed out that this was the largest in person gathering of the Committee since COVID. He also pointed out that Past-Conference President, Louis Johnson was in attendance. **Cary Loesing commented** that he was overwhelmed with the love shown for Eric. His involvement with the church and the community was very impressive. He had no idea of the magnitude of his role. It was moving to see the Committee come out to express its appreciation for Eric contributions. **Ben Green said** he was touch by the eulogy. **Jeff Fuller said he had walked** the journey with Eric. There was a deep love shown on February 14th. In December, he had had a conversation with Eric about merging churches to do a food distribution on February 14. The event went off. There were cars upon cars. There was a mobile health activity at the event. Mrs. Powell was there, and God was moving. It was, indeed, a powerful day. Jeff thanked all who showed they cared. **Odell shared that** Eric had prayed for him while he was undergoing his cancer treatments. He now wants to pray for somebody. It was pointed out that we missed the opportunity to take a picture of the Committee. Someone pointed that Bishop Dease had offered the grace over the meal at the repass. That was special. At the end of the moment of silence, the Committee declared that Eric should Rest in Peace.

b. **President Ernest said he is still seeking nominations to fill our vacancies on the Board:** He is asking that the entire Board be working toward this end.

c. **Updates from around the Districts:** Cary informed the Committee that Leon Jourolmon and his wife Bonnie have moved into a special living facilities. The display items that Leon had have been passed on to John Heath. **John has developed** an updated display. **John indicated that he had used it** the Sunday before our 15 February meeting, at his church. **There was a discussion about** an upcoming Men's day event at Popular Springs UMC, on March 18 & 19. **Odell asked** that Jeff Fuller be on standby. **Odell is still requesting** that the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men be informed of men's ministry activities at local churches.

d. **Sent out dues letters to Charters:** It was pointed out that letter had been sent out, and some churches have responded with donations. Make sure your churches are aware.

e. **Planning meeting for UMC Annual Conference:** We need to be making plans for our display space and for a possible lunch. Chris indicated that he wanted a scout table for a couple of days. Jeff Fuller is on the Planning Committee.

f. **SEJ dues and NACP Meeting Jan 12th – National Day of Prayer:**

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President Ernest reported on the NACP meeting, which convened on January 12th. He shared that the Annual National Day of Prayer will be on March 18. He pointed out that Odell and Hank Dozier are Co-Chairs for the event. We will be praying for peace, but we will also be praying to reduce gun violence, end police brutality, and to stop the shootings across our nation on college campuses, etc. Odell added that the event will be virtual.

g. NACP meeting in March: The next NACP will be at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. The event will be March 9, 10, and 11, 2023. President Ernest is finalizing his President's Report that has to be submitted. He thanked all for their contributions.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

Fundraising Ideas:

- Some churches have already responded to our request.
- Encourage Charters that we are in contact with.
- Reach out to churches. We are the subject matter experts on leadership.
- Odell pointed out that we should use our website as a mean to fundraise. As an example, companies like Amazon will partner with organizations and give them a portion of sales produced by the organization.

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & MINISTRY REPORTS:

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

b. Leadership Development: No report. **Position is vacant.**

c. VP Conference Affairs & Administration: **Jeff Fuller indicated that he had no report.**

However, President Ernest asked him to talk a bit about some things he is involved. He shared that he is working some health initiatives across the Conference. He is working with some new church starts. He is involved with an organization called Abundant Health. He is conducting workshops. He is involved in 1-day retreats on health issues. At the one day retreat, it would be an excellent opportunity for Presidents to share ideas

d. VP Activities & Retreats: **Albert Lyles said he will report at our next meeting...**

e. Scout Ministry: Chris Karabinos reported that last Sunday was Boy Scout Sunday, and he was at Hickory Flats. The Boy Scout Annual Meeting will be May 30th, 31st, and June 1st. This year the meeting will be in Atlanta. On May 30th, there will be a breakfast, and Bishop Dease will be the keynote speaker. This is a high profile event. The Atlanta Area Council will have a table, and Chris has a chair at the table. Reference the traditional Bishop's Scout lunch, it will probably be 2024 before we have the next one.

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f. **Director of Evangelism:** **Marquis Ratliff informed the Committee** that he had no report but is thinking about training sessions in the Districts. He will be working with Odell and will invite leaders, possibly starting in the summer. He is planning to attend the Poplar Spring UMC event on March 18 & 19, 2023.

g. **Director of Disaster Response:** **Ben Green said he had no report**, but a discussion ensued. He has visited 5 districts. The development of a Handbook is ongoing. Cary had comments about the flood buckets and about the contents. The size of items has to be specific. The warehouse is at the Impact Church. A visit to assist is referred to as an assemble/verification visit. The women have done much of the assembling of the buckets. Cary mentioned that a visit he was on probably saved the ladies about 3 months, through the verification process. Prayer was requested for the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria.

h. **Director of Prayer Advocacy:** **There was no report.** Position is vacant.

i. **Director of Spiritual Development:** **Jacque Williams shared** with the Committee that he continues his focus on the Walk to Emmaus and Radical Mentoring. There are Walks on the calendar for March 16-19; April 13-16; and April 27-29. These are reflected on our website. The old school is back in shape, allowing the walks to go on.

j. Hunger **Advocate:** No report.

k. **Prison Ministry:** **John Heath reported on the great teamwork he and Ike Moore have developed.** He referred to them as "The Smash-up Team." Although there are 81 videos available, they were not adequate for their purpose. He and Ike have developed a video which is great for Jumpstart. They have received the local approval and are getting ready to seek approval at the next level. He gave thanks to Cary for his support with Mobility Worldwide on Celebration Day.

l. **Director of Communications:** **Odell Horne shared information to the Committee of the Roman Army Day**, at the Bible History Center in LaGrange, Georgia. The event will be on May 6, 2023. **The event is normally coordinated by Roswell UMC;** so we can partner with them or meet them there. The time is 10am. **Odell indicated** that he would love to have some pictures from Scout Sunday. Fort Street UMC Men's Day will be on March 12, and Odell will be in attendance. A Bridging the Gap session will be at St James UMC on 18 February. Odell had already sent out information. Again, he encouraged churches to email information about men's ministry activities.

m.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Need a Committee for NGC UMM Annual Board Meeting in April.** Provide input to President Ernest.

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b. Annual Conference UMM Lunch & Display. President Ernest is to work with Jeff to come up with someone to coordinate these matters.

c. Proposed 1 Day UMM Retreat in August 2023: President Ernest visualizes starting at 8am and ending around 3pm. This is a way to reconnect with the local charters.

d. Next Meeting Date Tuesday, March 14th.

e. Outreach or Advocacy Needs Around the Conference: None suggested

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For the good of the order.

-- Odell reminded the Body that we need to move forward to secure a venue for the Annual Business meeting. He indicated that Madison 1st had said yes last year. We need to follow-up.

--Chris recommended that the Scouts and the UMM have their dinners together at Annual Conference. He would be providing 6-8 for the event. Planning would be made for 35-40. We need to go ahead and get a venue, as they will be taken early.

13. CLOSING REMARKS: There were no closing remarks

14. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: At this point, President Ernest entertained a motion for adjournment. Cary Loesing moved that the meeting be adjourned. German Betencourt seconded the motion. The vote was carried by unanimous vote for adjournment.

15. CLOSING PRAYER & SENDING FORTH: With all minds and hearts clear, Marquis Ratliff prayed a prayer that God would guide us through these times of train wrecks, times of earthquakes, times of school shooting, and times of turmoil. He asked for guidance for the men of the North Georgia Conference as we provide leadership in the Conference. For the Eric Powell Family, he asked for covering and special blessings as they go through these dark moments. Finally, he asked special blessings and guidance for the United Methodist Church and that we continue our mission of saving souls for his kingdom.

The minutes are prayerfully submitted by,

John C. Holley
Secretary
NGCUMM