



September 12, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (September 12, 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 September 12, 2023.

2. **WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, DEVOTION, AND OPENING PRAYER:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its September 2023 meeting on September 12, 2023, via ZOOM. **President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order** at 7:07PM and thanked the attendees for joining the meeting. After the introductory remarks, President Ernest indicated that he would be leading the devotion and opening prayer for the evening. He indicated that the words for the day were, "Keep Hope Alive." President Ernest used as his backdrop the scripture from Hebrews 6:18. Here he stressed the certainty of God's promise. Knowing that God cannot lie, we can take hold of the hope offered to us and be encouraged. He suggested that we should grab hope with both hands, and keep the faith. As additional information, he talked about Norman Vincent Peale as a man of great hope, with his ideas of the power of positive thinking. Further, he shared that the survivals of the 25,000 POWs during WWII were individuals of great hope. He suggested that we should keep believing. Finally, he indicated that Paul's description was that hope is an anchor for our souls. There were no prayer request from the Committee; so President Ernest prayed a pray for the success for our organization and for our denomination.

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

JOHN HOLLEY	ERNEST PERRY	ODELL HORNE
ALBERT LYLES	BEN GREEN	CHRIS KARABINOS
JOHN HEATH		

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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 for the meeting, and Chris Karabinos seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

5. REVIEW OF THE AUGUST 2023 MEETING MINUTES: Next, **President Ernest** called upon **John Holley**, reference the minutes from the previous meeting. John had provided the minutes to the Committee Members via email. President Ernest displayed the minutes on the screen for the benefit of the Body. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved. John Heath had a question on whether the letter mentioned in the minutes concerning Fellowships providing contributions to our organization had gone out. The answer was that the letter had gone out in August. After this, the vote was unanimous for approval of the minutes.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL GUEST/S OR VISITORS: **President Ernest** asked for the acknowledgement of special guests/visitors. There were no special guests.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: The call for the Treasurer's report was the next order of business. Since the Treasurer was absent and no report had been submitted, there was no Treasurer's report.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

a. President's Report: President Ernest reported that he continues with the mission to visit charters around the Conference. He reported on his visit to an event at Ariel Bowen. In addition, he participated in the feeding at Trinity United Methodist Church, where they fed over 350. He indicated that he was encouraged by his visits and felt that he was well received.

b. Charter Activity and Visitations: He again stressed the need to increase our visitations. The fellowships need us and are appreciative when we show up. Let's make sure when we make visits that we provide feedback.

c. Dues Donation Appeal: President Ernest indicated that he is encouraged that Fellowships are indeed responding in a positive way to our request for donations. We need to let them know how much we appreciate what they are doing.

d. SEJ Meeting Report: President Ernest shared that he made his report that he was working to get the vacancies we have at the Conference and District levels filled. He reported that he working to get training and education for leadership at all levels. Other Conferences are having the same problem. He talked about going to Duke University in November. He then gave us information on what conferences make up SEJ. Finally, he talked about the lack of communication where we are missing Presidents. Where there is a gap, we have disconnects.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

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✓ Fundraising Suggestions:

1. **Dozier Apparel UMM Shirts and Hats.**

2. **UMM Branded Merchandise Items Firesign Products:** These are items such as pens, paperweights, coffee mugs, etc.

At our last meeting, it was approved that we move forward and adopt a partnership with the two vendors listed above. Since that time, there have been some problems with merchandising and the vendors providing the products. He has been working with Ike to get the shopping carts working and to get disclaimers on the site. The bottom line is that we are on a pause and have not started the ball rolling. We don't want to commit the organization to something that may not bring in a great amount of fund in the first place. John Heath asked if we should look at other vendors. The President answered in the negative. As a result, we are at a pause.

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & MINISTRY REPORTS:

(If you have No new information – Please reply, “No Report”)

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

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

c. **VP Conference Affairs & Administration:** Jeff Fuller was not in attendance, and there was no report.

d. **VP Activities & Retreats:** Albert Lyles reported that he has no update for the meeting.

e. **Scout Ministry:** Chris Karabinos reported that there was an article on our website about Bishop Dease and her support for scouting. Also, she was live on Channel 11. Things are moving for the next Bishop's Scout Luncheon. He is going to need support from the UMM for the event. He is looking for table sponsorships. His hope is to get at least 8 table sponsors.

f. **Director of Evangelism:** Marquis Ratliff was absent. There is no report.

g. **Director of Disaster Response:** Ben Green reported that he continues to look for updated charter reports so he can provide updated information on a timely basis to the charters. **He noted that there are still a large number of officers missing on the website.**

h. Hunger **Advocate:** Howard Evan was absent. There is no report

i. **Prison Ministry:** John Heath gave an update on his Ministry and indicated that he is going to get back on the road. He is looking to take some videos...maybe 5 minute pieces on site. He wants to go to the meetings to get an opportunity to speak. He wants to have something to give to the charters when he makes the visits. John suggested that he is looking for a 20 minute space. President Ernest cautioned him that he can't crash the meetings and that 20 minutes may be a large amount of space to ask for in a meeting.

j. **Director of Communications:** Odell Horne informed that he continues to put information on X and

Facebook. The website has a lot of information. He is trying to get out of the website business. If you have something you want posted, he will get it on the social media for you. President Ernest

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commented that some items that we get from others sources sometimes appear to be coming from us. We have to make sure we identify it as such.

k. Director of Missions: This position is vacant. No report.

l. Director of Prayer Advocate/Spiritual Development: Vacant. No report

11. DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS: Odell Horne gave his District President's report as a District President. He indicated that he is looking for a location to hold a District meeting. He has a date of September 30, but no site. He may have to change the date to October 21. He reported that Tom Morton wants to get involved at some leadership level.

12. NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

13. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS: There was none presented

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For the good of the order. Our next NGC UMM Executive Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th, at 7PM.

13. CLOSING REMARKS: President Ernest stressed that we should continue working to fill our vacancies, both at the Conference and District levels. Also, he shared that Ben Green was scheduled to go to Winder 1st because a gentleman, who was not the President of the fellowship, had called President Ernest to come as a speaker. Since President Ernest could not go, Ben was going instead of President Ernest. When Ben called to coordinate with the President, he had no knowledge of the invitation. President Ernest stressed that he believes in protocol and that this was an unfortunate situation that should never have happened.

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

15. CLOSING PRAYER & SENDING FORTH: With all minds and hearts clear, John Heath closed the meeting with prayer at 8:45PM.

John C. Holley
Secretary
NGCUMM