



May 14, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (May2024)

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 May 14, 2024.

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 May 2024 meeting on May 14, 2024, via ZOOM. **President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order** at 7:10PM and thanked the Committee for its presence and for its commitment to service and dedication. He then led the devotion and opening prayer for the evening. As the devotion, he used his daily devotional for May 14thth. The main topic for his devotional was **"My Strength Is Made Perfect In Weakness."** The scripture supporting this devotional was 2 Corinthians 12:9. The Title for the devotional was **"When You Feel Inadequate."** The author suggested that, when you feel inadequate, acknowledge your inadequacy to God. When you deny your weaknesses, you will not realize God's strength in you. As God told Paul, "My Grace is sufficient...for my strength is made perfect in weakness." So, President Ernest's first point was, **"Acknowledge your inadequacy to God."** The second point was, **"Stop Putting Yourself Down."** On this point, he emphasized that leaning on God is a plus and not a minus. Don't complain that you are not qualified for a job or position. Know that God does not call the qualified; he qualifies the called. He does this by filling you with the Holy Spirit. The bible says in Joel 2: 28-29 that God said, "I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh..." God does not limit by

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

14 May 2024

Page Two

age, race, gender, or academic status. There is no limit put on you by God. You put on the limitations or allow others to limit you. Point three was, **“Don’t Buy It.”** Much money has been spent trying to convince you that you are inadequate or incomplete. Don’t believe this. Begin to say I will praise your name at all time and that I am wonderfully made. The fourth and final point was, **“View the Excellence of Superior Performance.”** In his discussion, President Ernest shared that we should not lose sight of our giftedness. We should, however, unlock our gifts and unlock our talents. At this pointed, he ended the devotional and asked for prayer concerns. **Chris Karabinos gave an update on his brother-in-law, Charlie Craven**, who has lung cancer, which has metastasized. He asked for prayer. **John Holley had previously asked for prayer** for his wife’s first cousin, **Scoville Walker**, who was suffering from dementia and was missing from a facility in Los Angeles. He reported that he was found dead in the complex after a four days search. Prayer was asked for the Walker family. **John Heath asked for prayer** for the United Methodist Church. **President Ernest asked for prayer** for the United Methodist Men at all levels.

With this, President Ernest gave the prayer to open our meeting.

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	CHRIS KARABINOS	
ALBERT LYLES	BEN GREEN	JOHN HEATH	TOM MORTON
WARREN HEAD	JEFF KEATING	NATE TUCKER	OTIS MCDANIEL
DAVID CHAPMAN	OVID DOANES		

4. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** At this time, President Ernest asked for consideration for the approval of the proposed agenda for the meeting. There was an administrative correction made on “Item #5” of the agenda. **“Review Feb. 2024 meeting minutes” was changed to read “Review April 2024 meeting minutes.”** With this change, it was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

5. **REVIEW OF THE APRIL 9, 2024 MEETING MINUTES:** Next, President Ernest called upon John Holley, reference the minutes from the 9 April 2024 meeting. John had provided the minutes to the Committee Members via email. President Ernest displayed the minutes on the screen for the benefit of

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

14 May 2024

Page Three

the Body. After reviewing the minutes, it was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved. The vote was unanimous for the approval of the minutes.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL GUEST/S OR VISITORS: President Ernest asked for special guest or visitors. The following guests/visitors were in attendance and were welcomed by President Ernest: (1) **Warren Head** from Ariel Bowen. (2) **Jeff Keating** from Grovetown (912) 445-1835. (3) **Tom Morton**, District President(404) 216-0924. (4) **Nate Tucker** from Popular Springs. (5) **Otis McDaniel** from Newnan Chapel (404) 428-2959; email: otismcdaniel@yahoo.com (6) **Ovid Doanes** from Popular Springs (6) **David Chapman** from Gleen Haven. At this time, President Ernest invited the guests to make comments if they desired. He said he was pleased that they were in attendance and that if they had desires to fill any of the vacancies at the Conference level to please let it be known.

- ✓ **David Chapman spoke and indicated** that he was 30years old and was active in his church's music ministry. He is the President of the Men's Ministry. He considered himself as a doer of the Word. He provides leadership for the youth basketball team. He shared that he has a 2-year old (who was on the Zoom call). He said he was honored to be in attendance. **President Ernest expressed his joy**, hearing the baby cry and to know that we have some young men working in the Conference...kudos for our younger men. President Ernest said he would be praying for him.
- ✓ **Otis McDaniel shared that** he had been at Newnan Chapel for 42 years and that he is the Chair of the UMM and for SPRC. He said his plate is full, but he is working hard to get more youth involved. Currently, he is working with the planning for the Church's Men's Day celebration, on 18 June 2024. They will be having a fish fry the week before. Unfortunately, he will be on a cruise for the Men's Day. He will have the men to take pictures to share. An invitation was extended to the Executive Committee.
- ✓ **Warren Head said he was here to offer his support** where there are vacancies. He is prepared to serve where he is needed. He indicated that he had been away for some years but was regrouping. Right now, he has about 5-6 active men at Ariel Bowen. The church is 141 years old. He is 64 years old and has been at Ariel Bowen since he was a child. He said it is a pleasure to be back to attack some of the challenges facing us.
- ✓ **Ovid Doanes, from Popular Springs, reported** that they had had their Men's Day in March and that Odell Horne was in attendance. President Ernest was out of town at the Presidents' meeting and could not attend. He too is trying to recruit younger men into his organization. They are losing their older men; so their numbers are low. As far as activities, they are working with the Trustees around the church. In the past, they did a joint project with Bethel UMC. Also, they worked with the Women of Faith at a Nursing Home. **President Ernest said he was proud** of Popular Springs and the fact that they partnered with Bethel. He encouraged churches to seek out churches near them to do shared activities.

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

14 May 2024

Page Four

- ✓ **Jeff Keating, from Grovetown** said he had attended our meeting before and was glad to be in attendance. He wanted to add his joy, hearing David's baby girl at the meeting.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: **President Ernest** shared the financial status of the organization, given that the Treasurer's position is vacant at the present time. The information reported was as of May 14, 2024. There were four items to report on:

(1) Regular Share	Current Balance: \$2,244.50
(2) Checking Account	Current Balance: \$3,206.32
(3) Money Market Savings	Current Balance: \$4,656.47
TOTAL	Current Balance: \$10,107.29
(4) Certificate of Deposit (Rate: 5.25%)	Current Balance: \$5,089.79

He talked about an anonymous giver who had made a gift of \$2,000.00 during the month. He would like to find out who this is so we could send a thank you letter. He then displayed the financial statements on the screen for the benefit of the attendees. In addition, he talked about the 2024 Membership update and the fact that we have 16 churches paid. He emphasized the fact that our Administrative Year is from July 1st – June 30th. **(A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached.)**

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

a. President's 2nd Quarter Report: President Ernest reported that our charter numbers remain low. Last year we had 159 charters. To date, we have 41, with 42 past due. There are 90 lapsed memberships. We have to realize that we had 740+ churches last year and only have 440 this year. We need to determine the churches that don't have fellowships. We are still tracking the churches that have made contributions from our letter. The fact that we went from an "ask" of \$100.00 last year to \$50.00 this year will, hopefully, make a difference in term of the number of churches giving. As was reported in the Treasurer's Report, we have 16 churches that have paid. He then showed the churches who have given. He and Ike have designed a certificate which will be presented to the churches after they have made contributions. The certificates are ready for framing. The certificates will go out in June.

b. General Conference Observations and Update: President Ernest had anticipated that Odell (who attended the General Conference) would share comments about General Conference, but he was not in attendance. He referred us to the Conference website for updates.

c. Annual Conference: He pointed out that our Annual Conference would be during the period 13-15 June 2024, Father's Day week-end. He will be there for a portion of the Conference. A

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

14 May 2024

Page Five

display table has been reserved. There will be materials **from the Commission available**. John Heath and John Holley will be manning the table. We will be located next to the Scouting Table. The UMM presentation will be Saturday afternoon. **There will be a video** presented concerning the United Methodist Men. He shared that he had already provided a statement for the Conference. Chris Karabinos wanted to know if he had received information, agenda, etc. President Ernest answered in the affirmative. Chris had received nothing. President Ernest said he would send the agenda to Chris Karabinos, John Heath and John Holley. The Women of Faith's Breakfast will be on Friday morning, and they have invited us. The cost is \$25.00, and you need to go on-line to register for the breakfast. Again, go to the Conference website to get feedback on the General Conference.

d. Re-Districting from 8 to 5 Districts: This will cause some major changes. We will be going from 8 to 5 District Superintendents. There will probably be some consolidation of churches. In terms of District Presidents, he stated that he has 3; so, he still needs 2. **At his point, John Heath had a suggestion** about the letter going out to the churches concerning our request for \$50.00. He thinks we should indicate that this is the floor and that larger amounts would be appreciated. President Ernest pointed out that we are open to sponsorships, grants, and individual contributions.

e. SEJ 2024 Meeting in Atlanta: The SEJ Annual meeting will be in Atlanta, at ITC, on 7, 8, & 9 November 2024. Last year, it was at Duke Divinity School. Both North and South Georgia Conferences will be a part of the Planning Committee and are the hosts. We need to be intentional and plan to attend, if you have not attended a SEJ meeting before. We need to work for maximum participation. **We will be discussing** ways to improve on how we do business. There will be strategizing, prayer, workshops, etc.

f. Retreat plans, date, and location: This will be discussed during the VP of Activities & Retreats' report.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

Fundraising ideas? We are still looking for ways to bring money to the organization. Warren Head asked if a Car Show would be something we may consider. President Ernest said we are looking for anything to bring in funds...Fish Fries, Retreats, Car Shows, Golf Tournaments, etc. We need help.

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & MINISTRY REPORTS:

- a. **Vice President Membership, Organization, Chartering:** No report. The position is vacant.
- b. **Leadership Development:** No report. Position is vacant.

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

14 May 2024

Page Six

c. **Treasurer:** Position is vacant (Report was given earlier by the President)

d. **Director of Missions:** Vacant. No Report.

e. **Prayer Advocate/Spiritual Development:** Vacant. No Report

f. **VP Conference Affairs & Administration:** **Jeff Fuller was absent**, but he has provided a written report. (A copy is attached).

g. VP Activities & Retreats: **Albert Lyles reported that** the retreat is planned for August 17, at Hard Labor Creek State Park. The cost to rent the venue is \$195.00. This will give us the space from 10:00AM to 9:45 PM. President Ernest commented that we have been talking about a retreat for over a year. This is something we need. It will give us the opportunity to reconnect and refocus. The space will accommodate about 185 people! The space will accommodate 8-9 tents. President Ernest's idea is to have men come together to fellowship, pray, evangelize, cook on the grill, have guest speakers. Albert Lyles moved that we go ahead and lock in the space. John Heath seconded the motion. During the discussion, Chris thought the time frame to plan this was too short, if we have not gotten guest speakers already. Warren Head thought we could do it but would require all hands on deck. When the question was called, the motion was carried. President Ernest shared that he has five possible themes for the retreat that he would like for the men to consider. He promised to email them out and asked that we pick one of the 5 themes and email our vote back to him. We have **90 days to put this together. Finally, July 17 is the date established as decision day to whether we will continue our planning for the retreat.**

h. Scouting Coordinator: **Chris Karabinos gave feedback** on the Father-Child campout that his church, Peachtree Road, had last month at Camp Glisson. There were 55 Dads and children in attendance. It was a great time had by all. The weather was great. This is a great way to get the 30-40 year old dads involved. He was not in attendance last month at our meeting; so he gave feedback from the Bishop's Luncheon on 9 March and thought it was a great success. There were 50 churches represented from the North Georgia Conference and one from the South Georgia Conference. There were guests from three other states. The speakers were outstanding. Bishops Dease, Bishop, Steve Scheid (From the General Commission) and Scott Pickering (A pastor and an Eagle Scout was one of the speakers) were in attendance. There were 6-7 churches that wanted to start packs or troops. Reference the Annual Conference, he and 6-7 people from scouting ministry will be at Annual Conference. They will have a table next to the UMM's table. Chris will be a delegate; so he will not be able to man the table on a

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

14 May 2024

Page Seven

continuous basis but will stop by from time to time. Last week, BSA announced that it would be renaming BSA. Chris thought it was a lot of hot air about nothing. Since 1998, girls have been Eagles in the Venturing program, and five years ago, girls were allowed to join Boy Scout. They are just catching up on all the changes. They made a mistake of using the word inclusive, which set off half of the country. He wanted to assure us that Boy Scouts have not gone "woke." President Ernest commented that he had received lots of calls on the matter.

i. **Director of Evangelism**: There is no report. The position is now vacant.

j. **Director of Disaster Response**: Ben Green said that he had no formal report but that he continues to try to make contact with some of churches in the Conference. President Ernest asked Ben if he had seen the solar display that Disaster Response had at General Conference. Ben had not seen it. President Ernest suggested that he go to the NG Conference website and click on the General Conference update. He said maybe we could have it as a display at our retreat.

k. **Hunger Advocate**: Howard Evans was not in attendance. There was no report.

l. **Prison Ministry**: John Heath reported that we now have an opportunity to get more active in Prison Ministry. He will be in attendance at Annual Conference and will be manning the UMM Display table along with John Holley. He introduced himself to the guests on the call and offered himself as a resource. He is available to provide his expertise where needed. He continues to update the website.

m. **Director of Communications**: No report.

11. **DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS:**

- ✓ **Tom Morton** indicated that he had nothing to report as District President but was still interesting in the vacancy as the Prayer Advocate. He shared that he is engaging, is good at facilitating, and is a leader. President Ernest asked him to lead the devotional and prayer for the June meeting.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

Nomination Committee: President Ernest indicated that, Odell is the Chair of the Nominations Committee. He gave the current vacancies and indicated that we will discuss the matter at the meeting on June 11th. In addition, he will be sending out the themes for our consideration and input. Warren Head said he would like to put his name in to be the **Director of Missions**. President Ernest thanked him for submitting his name

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

Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting

14 May 2024

Page Eight

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For the good of the order, our next NGC UMM Executive Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11 June, 2024 at 7PM.

CLOSING REMARKS: There were no additional closing remarks.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: At this point, President Ernest entertained a motion for adjournment. John Heath moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ben Green seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote for adjournment.

CLOSING PRAYER & SENDING FORTH: With all minds and hearts clear, Tom Morton closed the meeting with prayer at 8:50PM.

John C. Holley

Secretary

NGCUMM

2 Attachments:

1. Treasurer's Report

2. Report from VP for Administration & Conference Affairs

United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference
Balance Sheet 5/14/2024

Assets

Assets

Current Assets

Checking Account	\$3,206.32
Savings Account	\$2,244.50
Money Market	\$4,656.47
Certificate of Deposit	\$5,089.79

Total Assets

\$15,197.08

Liabilities

Total Liabilities

\$0.00

Equity

Funds

Unrestricted Funds

Reserve General Operating Fund \$(13,907.14)

Temporary Retriected Funds

EMS Districts Funds \$(236.83)

Grants

YoungER Men Grant \$(1,053.11)

Total Equity

\$15,197.08

Total Liabilities & Equity

\$15,197.08

ATTACHMENT 1

TREASURER'S REPORT

UMM VP of Conference Affairs Report 5/14/24

Greetings Men:

I would like to share the following in Report:

- Please consider signing up to attend the United Women in Faith Breakfast at Annual Conference. The cost is \$25. You must register online. The United Women in Faith will only book their limit of attendees. See attached flyer for registration. If you have never attended this breakfast, you will appreciate this experience and see the possibilities of generativeness.
- My experience of General Conference was to facilitate Intercultural Competency workshops. This experience will prove helpful among our Executive Team. May I schedule a date to share this workshop with you? This is a 2 hour workshop.
- Please look for invitations to prayer as men. Locations and dates being set.
- Men's Health Initiative - Emotional Wellness May 25, 2025 - 5 pm to 6:30 pm at Clifftondale UMC.

I am having to attend a Charge Conference Meeting with one of the churches in my District this evening at our precise meeting time.

Jeff Fuller, Home Missioner & Health Minister

ATTACHMENT 2
UMM VP CONFERENCE AFFAIRS' REPORT