



September 10, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (September 2024)

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 10, 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 Sept. 2024 meeting on September 10, 2024, via ZOOM. **President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order** at 7:03PM. He then turned the floor over to Tom Morton for him to lead the devotion and prayer. Tom brought us to the LORD and His "Good Book" to discuss the theme, "The Purpose of Our Trials," and highlighted 1 Peter 4:12-13 – Firey Ordeals and referenced the Barrow County Apalachee High School shooting. The three "take-aways" were: 1.) Our LORD uses hardship to cleanse us; 2.) The LORD uses hardship to test us; and 3.) The LORD uses hardship to demonstrate His power to sustain us. The LORD's provincial hand will guide of through any storms of life. There were prayer requests for Reggie Shine who lost his mother, Charlie Craven, stage 4 lung cancer, the church of John Heath and the new and present UMM NGC board members. Tom led us in prayer.

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

ERNEST PERRY	CHRIS KARABINOS	BEN GREEN	JOHN HEATH
TOM MORTON	WARREN HEAD	HOWARD EVANS	JOHN HOLLEY
IKE MOORE	JAMES E. WASHINGTON III		

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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. Warren Head moved that the agenda be approved. Howard Evans seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

5. REVIEW OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 MEETING MINUTES: Next, **President Ernest** displayed the minutes from the 10 September 2024 meeting for the benefit of the Body. Ernest thanked Brother Washington efforts and encouraged him to grow into the giant shoes of Brother Holley. James Washington III had provided the minutes to Ernest Perry who in turn distributed the minutes to the Committee Members via email. After reviewing the minutes, the following corrections were made: page 1 – June to August, page 2 - 13 August to June, and page 6 – John Holley to James E. Washington III. Warren Head moved that the minutes be approved. Tom Morton seconded the motion. 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. None Present

7. TREASURER’S REPORT: **President Ernest** called upon **John Holley** who then shared the financial report. The information reported is as of 10 September 2024. Current balances are reflected below:

(1) Regular Share	Current Balance: \$2,244.78
(2) Checking Account	Current Balance: \$2,013.99
(3) Money Market Savings	Current Balance: \$4,657.26
TOTAL	Current Balance: \$8,916.03
(4) Certificate of Deposit (Rate: 5.25%)	Current Balance: \$5,180.45
TOTAL	Current Balance: \$14,096.48

Brother Holley did provide a statement of activities and a verbal narrative highlighting the material transactions for a 30-day period from the 10th to the 10th (Gateway-\$17.00, PO Box-\$200.00, and Billy Harrington-\$38.00). For the said period total expenditures were \$255.11 and total income was \$50.00.

(A copy of the Treasurer’s Report is attached.)

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8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

a. Charter Member Update: Brother Perry discussed his attendance at Ariel Bowen's Men's Day where the featured speaker was the Reverend Donald Reed. He stated that he was invited to Men's Day at Warren Memorial which will take place on September 15, 2024 but that he won't be able to attend as he will be attending his grandson's baptismal. Brother Perry called for anyone to attend in his place and if so, to communicate that the UMM's Board is actively seeking candidates for participation. He then read Warren's letter of invitation announcing Dr. Lawrence Drake at the program's speaker. He further went on to discuss his meeting with Desmond Johnson of Wesley Chapel and their three-day Men's Retreat taking place October 25-27, 2024. Perry cited that through our participation in and support of various church's programs we can draw men in to the UMM and populate our vacancies. As Brother Perry shared the program's flyer, Brother Warren Head stated that he will attend the program on behalf of the Executive Board.

b. United Women in Faith Invite: They have invited us to attend the 52nd Annual Meeting of the North Georgia United Women in Faith – "Fostering Faith, Hope, Resilience & Love Amidst Change", featuring Bishop Dease as the speaker, taking place October 5, 2024 at Wesley Chapel UMC. Brother Perry will be attending a conference in Valdosta and won't be in attendance. There was a brief discussion of the "One Georgia" theme and speculation about a merger of Georgia's two Conferences. Bethel UMC did participate in feeding the hungry at Trinity UMC. James inquired as to the number of Conferences nationwide and it was suggested that there were around 54.

c. Update from the Annual Conference: Nothing reported

d. UMM SEJ 2024 Fall Presidents Meeting: Brother Perry noted a meeting scheduled for November 7-9 at Duke University School of Divinity where the Annual Meeting and Retreat will be held. Ben Green asked about the Conference merger and will the number of districts increase.

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9. OLD BUSINESS:

a. **Nominations Committee Report:** Odell did send in a report which Ernest shared with the committee. Chris said that the committee met about four times over a period of seven weeks. He discussed potentially collaborating subsequent to a Conference merger. Reggie Shine, Michael Black, Jasper Russell, Jr, and Desmond Johnson have yet to be formally placed. Tom Morton (Barrow Community Church), Warren Head (Ariel Bowen-Atlanta), and James E. Washington III (Bethel UMC-Atlanta) have accepted their nominations and have been placed. Chris informed the Executive Committee that the Nominations Committee's work had been concluded. However, the administrative task of interacting with future expressions of interest will remain ongoing. Brother Perry thanked the committee and stated that he will follow up with the other four individuals upon receipt of their contact information. Chris made a motion to accept the positioning of Tom, Warren and James and Warren offered his second. It was accepted by unanimous consent.

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & MINISTRY REPORTS:

a. **Vice President Conference Affairs:** Not present

b. **Vice President Activities & Retreats:** Not present

c. **Scouting Coordinator:** Chris Karabinos reported that it's recharter season and that brings questions and he's spoken with several Pastors who've reached out on behalf of their local churches. There is a Christmas lunch in Brookhaven scheduled for December 7, 2024. He said they will be manning a table at the Atlanta Area Council event scheduled for the coming Saturday. Perry encouraged all to refer any expressions of interest to Chris and he extolled the virtues of the Scouting Program and the role it plays in filling the demographic hole currently exhibited in the church-wide membership.

d. **Director of Disaster Response:** No report

e. **Hunger Advocate:** No report – however, it was noted that on the local scene, Red Oak provides 'hot and fresh' food every Sunday. Ernest encouraged the taking of activity pictures for submission, write up, and posting to our website.

f. **Prison Ministry:** John Heath discussed the standard seasonal routine. Summer is characterized by a lack of overall activity although there was some 'discombobulated' Kairos activity. The outlook for new activities is looking good. There is a new Deputy Warden which bodes well for an active ministry- there is positive movement. Perry asked about an increase of activities with the approaching holidays.

g. **Director of Communications:** Not present

h. **Prayer Advocate/Spiritual Development:** No report per se, but there was some discussion about Neal and Tom’s August meeting with him and the occurrence of a weekly Zoom meeting.

i. **Director of Missions:** Warren told the committee that was good to be back. He spoke with Bonnie Selneck at Trinity – she’s excited and eager to work with us. The UMM received a list of needed winter items (jackets, blankets, underwear, socks, various other articles of men’s clothing, nonperishable goods, serving volunteers). On October 6, 2024, 25 volunteers will be needed. There is an ongoing need for volunteers due to the massive homeless population. Trinity is located downtown across from Atlanta City Hall. He’s anticipating reaching out to additional local churches.

j. **Vice President Membership, Organization, Chartering:** **Vacant**

k. **Leadership Development Chairman:** **Vacant**

l. **Treasurer:** **John Holley**

m. **Secretary:** **James E. Washington III**

n. **Director of Evangelism:** Ike generally stated that the website is updated and functioning. He’s actively looking to update various sections of the website as is appropriate. He noted that content is required. Ernest mentioned a quarterly spot-light update featuring the charters and their impactful activities – the feature is to debut in January.

o. **Hispanic Liaison** **Vacant**

Note – There was a general discussion about disaffiliation and the impact it’s had on the function of the church.

11. **DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS:** No report

12. **New Business:**

None

13. **Our next NGC UMM Meeting October 8th**

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14. Announcements, Questions or Concerns For the good of the order: Warren noted that for many charitable organizations the close of their fiscal year is approaching. Thus, now is the time to solicit donations for the upcoming year prior to the finalization of their budgets. We should formally send out letters of solicitation. Furthermore, we need events which “meet guys where they are”, essentially, where their interests lie. Additionally, we need the Bishop’s endorsement of our outreach – perhaps a letter from her to every local church. We need to generate more funds in excess of what is generated by means of dues.

15. CLOSING REMARKS: None

16. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: At this point, at 8:25pm, President Ernest entertained a motion for adjournment. James moved that the meeting be adjourned. Warren seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote for adjournment.

17. CLOSING PRAYER & SENDING FORTH: With all minds and hearts clear, President Ernest closed the meeting with prayer.

James E. Washington III

Secretary
NGC UMM

1 Attachment

Treasurer’s Report & Bank Statement