



January 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (January 2026)

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 January 13, 2026.

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 Jan. 2026 meeting on January 13, 2026, via ZOOM. President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order at 7:09PM. He then turned the floor over to Tom Morton for him to lead the devotion, prayer, and to solicit prayer requests. Bro. Tom drew inspiration from James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Tom's commentary came from an Arizona woman who discussed her resentments and bitterness. Upon meditation she began to pray for and bless those who wronged her. God cleansed her heart. Her care for others blossomed and became sincere. Ben commented about the importance of forgiveness. Tom thanked for the wisdom of the book of James. Tom prayed. There were prayer requests for: Family of Warren Head (lost his father); Tom M. for the family of Ernest P. for the loss of his sister; Ernest P. mentioned his brother-in-law, Bobby Hunter; Chris K. requested intercession for Sean Langa and his skin cancer (currently enduring chemo); Melving noted prayer for UMM's need for wisdom, guidance and unity; Swain W. asked for prayer as he prepared to bring the message this upcoming Sunday (Human Relations Sunday); Tom M. asked for prayer for Donald Varner (loss of daughter). Note – Ernest P. and James W. expressed commitment to attend Bro. Water's message.

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

**ERNEST PERRY    BEN GREEN    TOM MORTON    JAMES E. WASHINGTON III**  
**SWAIN WATTERS    CHRIS KARABINOS    JOHN HOLLEY**

4. **MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chris K. motioned that the agenda be accepted as written and it was seconded by Bro James W. The agenda was unanimously approved.

5. **REVIEW OF THE DECEMBER 2025, MEETING MINUTES:** Next, President Ernest displayed the minutes from the December 2025 meeting for the benefit of the Body. James W. III provided the minutes to Ernest P. who in turn distributed the minutes to the Committee Members via email. Bro. Tom M. moved for acceptance and Ben G. seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for the approval of the minutes.

6. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL GUESTS OR VISITORS:** President Ernest asked for special guest or visitors. In attendance were: Bro. Cleve White (President of South GA UMM) and Bro. Melvin Blackwell Vice President of South GA UMM and President of St. Mary's Road UMM).

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**7. TREASURER’S REPORT:** President Ernest called upon John Holley who then shared the financial report. The General Fund Income and Expenses Summary for 12/01/2025-12/31/2025 is reflected below (for an itemized tally please see the Treasurer’s Report:

Opening Balance	\$2,944.66
SEJ Expenses	\$ <1,848.60>
Deposit Income Total	\$ 0.00
Operating Expenses Total	\$<57.00>
Dividend Income	\$00.05
Closing Balance	\$1,039.11

Current balances as of 12 January 2026 are reflected below:

(1) Savings Account	Current Balance: \$ 7,111.18
(2) Checking Account	Current Balance: \$ 1,096.11
(3) Money Market Savings	Current Balance: \$ 4,660.88

**TOTAL** **Current Balance: \$12,868.17**

As of January 12, 2025, there are 18 Charters which have paid Conference Dues for this year. Board Members’ churches, especially, should be current. A current list will be sent to Bro. Ike M. for website posting. Certificates will be distributed to all financial charters. All money from SEJ has been reconciled.

**8. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

**a. One Georgia’s Next Steps – Report:** There was a Zoom meeting with Bishop Dease on December 18<sup>th</sup> in which she talked about our overall ministries. Ernest shared with her the organizational chart for the N. GA Conference as well as our constitution and bylaws and the various committees serving. There was discussion regarding Georgia’s current district structure. Bishop Dease stated that subsequent to the merger there will not be 11 districts. In fact, there will be a move to consolidate districts. Ernest discussed the President’s role where we are lacking district presidents and that he’s attempting to generate candidates to fill the district presidency vacancies. With respect to conference charters, only 20% of the general commission charters that are financial are financial on the conference level (18 of 86). Ernest shared the general commission’s conference church UMM quarterly report. There was additional conversation regarding the general commission collecting dues and passing them through to the conferences. The conference level is where the true support of the local charters live, not the national level. Kris questioned whether or not the local charters are even aware of the role the national level plays. Bro. Cleve echoed the sentiments expressed by Kris. Moreover, he stated that he believes there is a strategic way to address this issue. In south Georgia there are 167 entities of which 18 are financial. Ben mentioned that many of the men at the local charters are experiencing a lack of connectivity.

**b. Conference BOL Meeting:**

**c. Charter Certificates Ready for Mailing for 2025:**

**d. Post Certificate and Names of UMM Charters on Website:**

**e. General Commission UMM Charter Reprot Jan. 2026:**

**f. NACP Spring Meeting – Registration Due by Feb.10:**

**9. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **Nominations Activity Paused:** per recommendation only

**10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & MINISTRY REPORTS:**

a. **Director of Missions:** No report per se but Trinity is still experiencing difficulties raising funds to support that ministry. They're in danger of terminating their program. Ernest will reach out to Bonnie Selic.

b. **Scouting Coordinator:** Met with the CEO of the Girl Scouts of the Atlanta Area Council and toured the camp; relationship-building continues. Plans to attend multiple Scout Sundays (Feb–Mar) with UMCOS members presenting awards. John Dorman Duty to God Eagle Scout Breakfast scheduled for March 14 at Johns Creek UMC (19th annual). Nominations open through mid-February. UMCOS plans to attend the South Georgia Annual Conference with a scouting display to recruit members statewide; Chris will request to be located next to the UMM booth. Quarterly UMCOS meetings planned in-person at scout huts around the conference.

c. **Hunger Advocate:** Not present

d. **Director of Disaster Response:** Disaster Response Academy at Watkinsville UMC on February 7 (registration open). SEJ Disaster Academy in Nashville, February 25–28 (registration available). Leonard Scarborough's disaster recovery work in Augusta continues; there is a need for more local volunteers. Ben received permission to connect volunteers directly with Leonard Scarborough (including phone/email). Ben requested that future reports be sent as clean emails (not replies) directly to Ernest Perry and James Washington.

e. **Vice President Conference Affairs:** No report

f. **Prison Ministry:** Not present

g. **Prayer Advocate/Spiritual Development:** Ernest distributed the daily prayer guide.

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

i. **Website & Creative Design:** Not present

**11. SOUTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE REPORTS:**

- a. Cleve White – President  
b. Melvin Blackwell – Vice President  
c. Committee Reports – Donald Rhodes

**12. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Suggestions for New Ideas:

**13. OUR NEXT NGC UMM MEETING:** February 10<sup>th</sup> – North Georgia & South Georgia UMM

**14. ANNOUNCEMENTS, QUESTIONS or CONCERNS for the GOOD of the ORDER:**

- 1.) Birthdays, Anniversary, etc...
- John Holley (birthday recognized)
  - Ernest Perry & James E. Washington III (birthday recognized; January 18)

**15. CLOSING REMARKS:**

**16. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:** At this point, at 8:35pm, President Ernest entertained a motion for adjournment. Bro. Tom moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bro. Chris seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote for adjournment.

**17. CLOSING PRAYER & SENDING FORTH:** With all minds and hearts clear, Bro. Melvin B. closed the meeting with prayer.

James E. Washington III  
Secretary  
NGC UMM