



May 23, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (May 23, 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 May 23, 2023.
2. **WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its May 2023 meeting on May 23, 2023, via ZOOM. **President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order** at 7:12PM, greeted the attendees, and thanked them for joining the meeting. He then called on **Jacque Williams**, Director of Spiritual Development, to provide the devotion for the evening. **Jacque used two passages of scripture** for the evening devotional. His first scripture was Psalm 18:30-36. At the outset, he talked about God's way being perfect and that the word of the Lord is flawless. He pointed out that, if we obey the Lord and follow his word, our way will also become perfect. He stressed the fact that God arms us with strength and trains our hands for battle and gives us his shield of victory and stoops down and makes us great. In the second scripture, John 8:12, he shared that Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have light of life." **Jacque** suggested that we turn to scripture as we find ourselves faced with fear and worry, as we watch the events of the day on TV. He indicated that as our faith tank starts to get low, we should be spending more time studying the bible. Putting your hands in God's hand will prepare us as we make disciples for the transformation of the world. At this time, **Jacque** asked for prayer requests from the Body as he prepared to pray. **President Ernest** asked for travelling mercy for those who would be traveling for the holiday and for a turnaround for all the gun violence in the Nation. Further, he invited the Committee to join in praying the Lord's Prayer everyday at noon (Monday-Saturday). Finally, he wanted us to pray for our Leadership Team. **German Betancourt** wanted prayer for his friend, Robert Grant. **John Heath** asked for prayer for the United Methodist denomination. With these requests, **Jacque gave the devotional prayer.**

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

BEN GREEN JOHN HOLLEY CARY LOESING ERNEST PERRY
GERMAN BETANCOURT (guest) WARREN HEAD (guest)
JOHN HEATH ODELL HORNE HOWARD EVANS

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

5. **REVIEW OF THE APRIL 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 also displayed the minutes on the screen for the benefit of the Body. John Heath moved that the minutes be approved. John Holley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

6. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL GUEST/S OR VISITORS:** President Ernest acknowledged the attendance of German Betancourt and Warren Head and thanked them for their support to the Conference. German thanked the Conference for allowing him to attend the meetings and gave us a sample of some of the activities his fellowship was engaged. As examples, they helped a family paint its house, and they are feeding the hungry at Park Place (over 500 meals). Warren indicated that he was at Ariel Bowen and was pleased to be in attendance. He voiced his need for support from the Conference and that his fellowship is out in the community feeding showing their presence. He wants to support the Conference where he may be needed. President Ernest asked them to take pictures of activities that their fellowships are participating and send them to Odell.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The presentation of the Treasurer's report was the next order of business. Cary Loesing gave the Committee the status of our finances, as of 04/30/2023. His report included income & expenses for April 2023, income & expenses, Year to Date for 2023, and assets on hand as of 30 April 2023. Income for April 2023 was \$641.68. The expenses reported for April 2023 were \$(74.12). Income and expenses year to date are as follows: Income...\$1,267.34; Expenses...\$1,087.53. Assets in the Conference as of 30 April, 2023 were \$14,904.56. Also, Cary displayed individuals who had signed up for the UMM Breakfast at the Annual Conference and reported that 18 churches out of 211 charters had made contributions to the NGCUMM. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes.

8. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

a. President Ernest reported that he and Chris would be making Reports for the United Methodist Men and Scouting at the Annual Conference. The new GCUMM AC video will be shown at the Annual Conference.

b. The link to the video follows: <https://vimeo.com/824093835/a1de9fcc.38?share=copy>

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c. **Updates from around the Districts (Men's Day, Events, Request):** President Ernest and Odell have been doing some traveling, visiting Fellowships. Jeff Fuller has done some activities for John Heath. There was a group of men from Haiti at Bethel who desired information on Mobility International. President Ernest referred them to Cary.

d. **Annual Conference (Who is planning to go?)** There was an indication that a good representation of the Committee would be attending the Conference.

1. **Hotel accommodations...**Individuals were making their own reservations. Chris Karabinos has a room that he will not be using, if someone has a need. Contact Chris before 23 May.

2. **UMM Fellowship Breakfast logistics and head count...**The plan is for this to be on Saturday morning, and we have 40 spaces. Headcount was not yet final. Payments should be made through our website. There is no formal program planned. President Ernest will make remarks and plans to show the new Commission video.

3. **Exhibit Table...**We need help to set-up and man the table. Our table will be next to the Scouting Table. John Heath has all the materials from our old office and will have the lead and will coordinate with President Ernest on operating the table.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

a. **Annual Business Meeting- tentative date June 17th:** Points for discussion are below:

1. Time and location up for discussion

2. Message from President

3. Update from Annual Conference

4. **Committee Ministry Reports** ---Reports should be in writing. All ministries should participate.

5. **Nominations to fill open positions on board**

6. **Nominations for District Presidents**---Identify open District President positions.

b. **Proposed 1 Day UMM Retreat in August 2023:**

--This is going to need everybody's support and input.

--We need a report in writing by the June meeting; **Date, location, cost, activities, etc.**

--Breakout sessions; Hard Labor Creek Park as a possibility; Need spreadsheet to show tasks, etc.

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:** No Report.

d. **VP Activities & Retreats:** No Report.

e. **Scout Ministry:** No Report.

f. **Director of Evangelism:** No Report.

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g. **Director of Disaster Response:** Ben Green gave an update on his ministry. **A copy of his report is attached to the minutes.**

h. **Director of Prayer Advocacy:** The position is vacant. No Report.

i. **Director of Spiritual Development:** **Jacque Williams shared** with the Committee that there are two Walks to Emmaus scheduled in the Fall: The dates are 12-15 October and 26-29 October

j. **Hunger Advocate:** No Report.

k. **Prison Ministry:** **John Heath reported** the importance of getting information out to churches. He has about 2,000 cards with information that he will get to churches. On one side of the card is about the Prison Ministry being a "Journey of Faith and the Path Forward. He said Matthew 25:36 is the motivation for his ministry, where Jesus says "...I was in prison and you came to visit me." On the other side of the card is information about the UMM mission and the link for its website. He thinks that website to website connectivity is going to be the way of the future for agencies to communicate. Activity in both Kiros and Jumpstart is showing movement. Finally, he informed the Committee that he has two Mobility carts in his basement and would like to get permission to have one at Annual Conference.

l. **Director of Communications:** **Odell talked about** the importance of Fellowships and Agencies sending in information on ongoing activities. He pointed out that there are 700+ churches in the Conference but only one of him; so, he needs our help. **Ernest mentioned** a Catfish Rodeo and the fact that 300 fishing poles were given away, as a possible item to put on the website. **A mention was made** of an event Jeff had had participated during the previous week-end.

Pictures were requested of an event German had mentioned. **President Ernest also reported** on an email Bishop Dease had sent out on 23 May concerning a Special Session scheduled for November 18, 2023 to discuss available solutions disaffiliations. **Additional information** is to follow on disaffiliations. **Our Facebook and Twitter pages** are still active, and news and information received are put on these platforms.

m. **Director of Missions:** This position is vacant. No report.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Open discussion (Please add to agenda as needed).** None.

12. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS. There was none presented

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For the good of the order.

a. **President Ernest thanked** Warren and German for joining us on the call.

b. **President Ernest said** he had a video of Bishop Dease and asked if the Body would like to view it. It was the consensus of the Body to look at the video.

c. **Warren informed the Committee** that his Fellowship was conducting a car show on 22 July and would like to have support from the Conference. Additionally, he would like the

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Conference to support their Men's Day and Annual Christmas parade. Additional information is forthcoming.

d. German informed the Body that he would be attending Annual Conference and would be arriving on Friday. He will not be attending the breakfast. Also, he will not be available for the Annual Meeting, in that he will be in South America.

13. CLOSING REMARKS: There were no closing remarks

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

15. CLOSING PRAYER & SENDING FORTH: With all minds and hearts clear, President Ernest gave the closing prayer for the evening. The meeting adjourned at 8:53PM.

The minutes are prayerfully submitted by,

John C. Holley

Secretary

NGCUMM

2 Attachments:

--Treasurer's Report for April 2023

--Director of Disaster Response's Report

United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference

General Fund Income and Expense

For Period Covering 04/01/2023 to 04/30/2023

Revenues

Income

Contributions

Individual Contributions \$60.00

Reimbursed Expenses \$319.00

Bank /CU

Dividend / Interest Income \$0.68

Campaign Income

OneManOneDollar \$12.00

Ministry Area Income

Disaster Response \$100.00

Meeting Income

Annual Conference Meeting \$150.00

Total Revenue

\$641.68

Expenses

Expenses

Bank / Merchant Fees

Merchant Fees \$(17.00)

PayPal Fee \$(8.88)

Ministry Area Expense

Disaster Response \$100.00

Total Expenses

\$(74.12)

Net income for Period

\$715.80

United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference

General Fund Income and Expense

For Period Covering 01/01/2023 to 04/30/2023

Revenues

Income

Contributions

Individual Contributions \$240.00

Reimbursed Expenses \$319.00

Bank /CU

Dividend / Interest Income \$2.34

Campaign Income

OneManOneDollar \$36.00

FellowshipLetter \$300.00

Ministry Area Income

Disaster Response \$100.00

Meeting Income

Annual Conference Meeting \$270.00

Total Revenue

\$1,267.34

Expenses

Expenses

Office

Postage and Delivery \$(388.00)

Bank / Merchant Fees

Merchant Fees \$(68.00)

PayPal Fee \$(23.20)

Dues and Subscriptions

Jurisdiction Dues \$(300.00)

NACP \$(200.00)

Ministry Area Expense

Disaster Response \$100.00

Miscellaneous

\$(208.33)

Total Expenses

\$1,087.53

Net income for Period

\$179.81

United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference Assets 04/30/2023

Assets	
Assets	
Checking Account	\$2,837.30
Savings Account	\$2,243.66
Money Market	\$9,652.48
PayPal	\$171.12
Total Assets	\$14,904.56



North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men
Disaster Response Ministry Area Update – Ben Green
May 23rd, 2023 Combined Business/Exec Meeting

I had telephone conversations with the following NGC UMC ERT leadership recently.

Clyde Almy – Was at Mt Bethel UMC but now is now at a Presbyterian Church.

Clyde is the coordinator or the “Alliance” of churches consisting of 25-27 churches in the Metro Atlanta area that have an organization committed to disaster response during the early response phase. This is a local initiative of UM Churches and the leadership coordinates with NGC-DR when deploying to disaster areas but the communication and maintenance of the Alliance is independent from NGC-DR.

He does not lead or participate on actual ERT teams because of family health issues keep him close to home but he is still coordinating the Alliance and working on DART – Damage Assessment Response Teams.

Mark Brown – Northside UMC in Buckhead

Mark is the leader/coordinator and one of the team leaders for the ERT group at Northside. His story is that he started going on ERTs with Clyde and it grew from there. Sounds like a “mustard seed.” They are fully funded and have 66 ERT trained members within their church. Even with that many it is still difficult to find the necessary 5-10 needed to go on a given date. Their teams are primarily tarp roofs (high winds) and muck-out houses (flooding); however, they can make up a chainsaw team. Mark has taken Train-the Trainer training and is also going through the qualification process to become an ERT trainer like Thom Shores.

Mike Derrick – Alpharetta First UMC

Mike, like Mark, is leader/coordinator of the ERT group and primary team leader on ERT team deployments. They have 25 to 30 team members at Alpharetta 1st and two trailers and can send out two teams. They have a smaller alliance of say 8-9



churches they draw trained ERT members from outside their church: 50 teams have gone out in four years. They are well-funded also.

This is only *the tip of the iceberg* and I will have more to share later after I go through my notes about how they started, how they operate, and the challenges they faced and still face to respond quickly to a disaster and fulfill the mission of an ERT: ***The Mission of an Early Response Team is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster.*** — UMCOR ERT Student Manual

The pieces of the puzzle are falling into place as I try to gain traction on how UMM can lead in disaster response.

1. The critical mass for churches that can deploy ERT teams is in the Metro Atlanta Area. By deploy, I mean they have the resources, equipment, leadership, and core ERT trained membership to deploy a self-sufficient team.
2. Most of the churches that have ERT groups that can supply team members to other churches sending out teams are mostly in the Metro area although Mike Derrick did mention churches in Lagrange and Blairsville.
3. This leaves an opening for the Disaster Response Ministry to locate churches with potential for ERT, promote training, and connect them with churches that send teams. I know of two churches even in the Metro area, Tucker and Oak Grove UMC that have trained ERT, but I do not think are connected.
4. ERT teams do not go out as recovery teams; totally different. The recovery phase is UMVIM and as far as I know this is an opportunity for the UMM Disaster Response Ministry to fill a crucial role: helping people recover and get their homes repaired that cannot afford it. Much lower degree of difficulty because they are not as time-sensitive in planning, physically rigorous, does not require special training (like ERT), and draws from skills that many people have like building construction, plumbing, electrical, masonry skills that many people have that would not go on an ERT team.



5. Then there is fundraising for UMCOR and promoting training
6. For small churches that lack the confidence, energy, or health to deploy with an ERT team they can make Cleaning (flood buckets) and Health Kits.
7. Communications will be through local UMMen Presidents, Pastors, and Mission Leaders, District and Conference Newsletters, etc.

That is all that I have for now. I am going to have to rewrite the job description, but nothing is wasted because this first year from July 2022 to 23 is the planning phase and I still expect to have a plan of operation by July.

I had my ERT training (refresher) in Feb and received my badge I want to plan to deploy on more than one ERT team with the Alliance,

Ben Green

“United Methodist Men shall be a creative supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually and to seek daily his will.”





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