



June 13, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (June 13, 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 June 13, 2023.
2. **WELCOME & DEVOTION:** The meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men met for its June 2023 meeting on June 13, 2023, via ZOOM. **President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order** at 7:05PM, 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 Psalm 46:10 as his main passage of scripture** for the evening devotional. He pointed out that Psalm 46 is a beloved passage in which the psalmist declared that no matter what was happening around him, God was his refuge and strength. The psalmist was safe in the assurance that God is God and that we can wait on him even amid chaos. The point is that God is still on his throne. He asked the question, **"Are you in God's waiting room?"** **"...if you are in limbo or in between jobs, or in search of health, help, a house, or a spouse.** He pointed out that while we wait, God works. For this, he referred us to John 5:17, where Jesus said, **"My Father is always at his work."** He then took us to Genesis 40 and Joseph's story where it appeared that he had stalled out. Just at the right time, God called Joseph to duty. He shared that God was working for Moses at the Red Sea experience. Next, Jacque shared that God worked for Mary, the mother of Jesus. He took us through the fact that Mary was notified by the angels that she would become pregnant, that Joseph would receive the message from God about this miracle, and that God would lead them to Bethlehem. He then used the Roman 8:28 scripture, which says: **"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."** He suggested that we will get through this waiting room season and that God will come in to keep us company while we wait. For you see, he is the Great Physician. Finally, he said that God is always working on our behalf; so **"Be Still and Know That I Am God."**

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At this point, Jacque asked for prayer requests for the devotional prayer. President Ernest asked for prayer for his friend in Alabama, Quinton Ross, Jr., who lost his father, Quinton Ross, Sr. President Ernest is going down for the funeral. Also, he asked for prayer for Cary's father-in-law, and for Cary and his wife as they travel to take care of Kim's father and as they work to reconstruct their home. Additionally, President Ernest requested prayer for German Betancourt as he travels to Latin America to be with his son on Fathers' Day. Finally, he asked for prayer of celebration for all the brothers who represented our organization at the Annual Conference. With these requests, Jacque took us to the throne of grace for prayer.

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

BEN GREEN

JOHN HOLLEY

JEFF FULLER

ERNEST PERRY

CHRIS KARABINOS

ALBERT LYLES

MARQUIS RATLIFF

JACQUE WILLIAMS

JOHN HEATH

ODELL HORNE

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 John Holley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

5. **REVIEW OF THE MAY 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. Marquis Ratliff seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

6. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL GUEST/S OR VISITORS:** President Ernest asked for the acknowledgement of special guests/visitors. There was none.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The presentation of the Treasurer's report was the next order of business. Cary Loesing was absent from the meeting; so there was no Treasurer's report. President Ernest informed the Body that he had submitted the expense report from the Annual Conference and the President's expense information to the Treasurer for his necessary actions.

8. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

a. **President's Annual Conference Report:** President Ernest thanked the men for their great work at the Annual Conference and indicated how great it was to see men in action doing God's work.

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1. **Thursday Presentation to General Body by UMM & Scouting:** This presentation to the General Body was made by President Ernest and Chris Karabinos. The new GCUMM video was shown at the Annual Conference. Chris reported that this was great exposure and that 50-60 individuals came up to him indicating they were pleased with the presentation.

2. **UMM Display Table ---Team Report John & John---What Could We Do To Improve? John Heath took the lead** on reporting on this action. He indicated that he had passed out 500-600 cards to individuals who visited the display table. He asked the individuals to take the cards back to their Men's Ministry President if they were not the President. The information on the card would drive them to our website. In the old days, all fellowships had bible studies. Our goal is to communicate with the Fellowship Presidents as often as possible. The Discipline says each church shall have a UMM ministry. To me, "shall" means "will." He pointed out to the individuals that visited the table that the Conference UMM are happy to assist the churches in their efforts. **We are the subject area experts.** Scott Parrish came by and talked about OMCOR. Some came by and didn't know what we were doing. This was somewhat disheartening. With the advent of COVID, we have been absent from the field. One way to improve this is to bring someone with you when you come to the Conference. Get their input. **John Holley gave kudos** to John Heath for his outstanding work at the table and said how honored he was to serve along with him. Our table also passed out candy to those who stopped by. **Chris shared that** they had 6 people working the Scouts display tables. He also showed us the spreadsheet they had at the table on scouting. They will share the possible feedback from the presentation. **On the subject of "What Could We Do Better,"** President **Ernest offered** the following: (1) Have a fishbowl for attendees to drop their business cards. (2) Have index cards with basic information. (3) Flyers at the display table about the Men's Breakfast.

3. **UMM Fellowship Breakfast---Attendance; What did we do right? How can we improve? Where do we go from here?** **President Ernest reported that** we had 30 individuals in attendance but had space for 40. He was pleased that we had the opportunity to fellowship and that the showing of the video from the Commission was a good way to update the attendees on the UMM's focus. It was good that we had some of our Fellowships present, and they were able to **meet with** some of our leadership team. We need to start early advertising the breakfast and talking to the Presidents at the local churches, encouraging them to be in attendance. The breakfast needs to be one of our priorities at future Annual Conferences. We need to put it on our website and keep reminding the Fellowships to participate.

b. Review District Maps to Identify Need for District Presidents: On this topic, President Ernest displayed the map of the Districts and emphasized the importance of getting presidents and leadership teams in each District that mirror our team. His goal is to meet with two District Superintendents each month to stress this matter. He then talked about the charter report and the fact that we have 159 Fellowships chartered, to date. He pointed out the great organization that Chris has with each District with his scouting program and desires to have this relationship for the rest of the organization. He will be touting this at our Annual Business Meeting.

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9. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Annual Business Meeting Agenda, June 17th: Points discussed are below:

1. The meeting will be at Columbia Drive UMC, with Albert Lyles being our host. The meeting will be from 11AM to 1PM. The tentative format for the agenda is as follows:

2. Welcome and Message from President

3. Committee Ministry Reports ---Reports should be in writing. All ministries should participate. Send your report if you will not be in attendance. Marquis mentioned that there would be a Couples Retreat at St James on that date and that he will not be in attendance.

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 September 2023: At this juncture **President Ernest** advised the Committee that we need to secure a date and location by Friday, June 16th if we are indeed going to do the proposed 1-day UMM Retreat in September. He indicated that Hard Labor Creek and John Tanner were the Parks being considered. There is a deposit of \$300.00 for Hard Labor Creek and \$125.00 for John Tanner. The proposed date is 23 September 2023. This will give us July, August, and a portion of September to plan. We need to pay the deposit, create flyers, establish the registration cost, and develop activities. His vision is to start the event at 8AM, have song and praise, have a message, fellowship, breakfast, and lunch, some one on one, and maybe a couple breakout sessions. We don't know what success looks like...maybe we will have 50-60 people. We just don't know. He said what he needs from the Committee is a motion to determine if we wanted to have the retreat in September. **Marquis Ratliff made** a motion that we move forward with the proposed 1-day retreat in September. **Ben Green seconded** the motion. During the discussion, **Jacque Williams alerted** the Body of the University of Georgia football schedule and its home games. During the month of September, September 23 is the only Saturday that the team does not have a home game. **Chris Karabinos commented that** he didn't feel this is enough **time to plan the** retreat and that we should be looking sometime next year. **John Heath suggested** that we form a committee to study the matter and come back with a recommendation. **President Ernest pointed** out that we already have a committee, with Albert Lyles as the quarterback. **President Ernest said** we have been talking about this since **September 2022;** so we need to make a decision. Marquis felt that next spring would make sense. Chris suggested March-April time frame. At this time, it was suggested that we amend the motion to say that we move forward to have the retreat during the Administrative Year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024), date to be determined. Marquis made the motion and Ben seconded. The vote for the motion was unanimous. **During the discussion,** Albert Lyles had asked for individuals to assist him in the planning. The following individuals agreed to serve: President Ernest, Chris Karabinos, John Holley, Ben Green, and Marquis Ratliff. The committee is to meet monthly (in person or via Zoom) and update the **Committee monthly.**

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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:** Chris Karabinos informed us that the only thing he wanted update the Committee on is the fact that the Bishop's Breakfast will be on March 9, 2024. **He is pushing to have Fellowships to purchase** tables. The cost is \$250.00. He will start pushing for support in September and is inviting the Committee to attend and bring others. He informed the Committee that he will not be in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting but will send his report.
- f. **Director of Evangelism:** No Report. He will send his report for the Annual Business Meeting. President Ernest congratulated Marquis' wife on her appointment and thanked them for their service.
- g. **Director of Disaster Response:** Ben Green indicated he had no update to report but did want to update Odell that he had had communications with Bob Murray in Augusta on matters concerning disaster relief.
- h. **Director of Prayer Advocacy:** The position is vacant. No Report.
- i. **Director of Spiritual Development:** **Jacque Williams shared** that he had no update and that he would be attending the Annual Business by Zoom. President Ernest then asked him if he would share with the Committee what he had discussed with President Ernest at Annual Conference. Jacque informed the Committee that he had held the position of Spiritual Development for a long time and felt that it was time for him to pass it on to someone new. However, he is willing to serve as the District President for the Northwest District if approved by the leadership.
- j. **Hunger Advocate:** No Report.
- k. **Prison Ministry:** **John Heath reported** that he had attended Annual Conference, which was discussed earlier in the meeting. He informed the Committee that he was working to have a full program when it relates to Prison Ministry. He feels that he is almost there. With his connection with Crossroads, the full program is near completion. Kiros and Jumpstart are the other programs in which he is affiliated. He is looking at mentoring for the children of the incarcerated individuals. He mentioned a program that was once in Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America program but is no longer there. They were not very receptive when he wanted to discuss it. Then, John had questions about information in UM News and Jim Patterson. There was a questions about products offered at a price and how this may affect chartering. President Ernest indicated that this was not UMM but businesses. Odell then explained the different packages that were available and the costs. Fellowships are in no way obligated or expected to purchases these products.
- l. **Director of Communications:** **Odell shared that he is posting** information sent to him. Information is being posted on our Facebook page and on Twitter. Our information is targeting for Lay ministries. **If we get complaints** from outside these ministries, it will not change the way we operate. On the question from President Ernest on whether we are transmitting to all the Fellowship Presidents, Odell replied

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that we are using our most up-to-date charter roster. **John Heath had a question about** a notice he received on Saturday for an event on Saturday. President Ernest indicated that he was aware of the lateness of the notice but didn't expect anyone to change their programs. It was just too late.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Recommendation to combine Spiritual Development & Prayer Advocacy position: President Ernest led the discussion on this item and indicated that he felt that there were common threads that would support merging the positions to make one. With the advent that the Prayer Advocacy position has not been active for a period of time, it is believed there could be some synergy from the merger. At this point, John Holley moved that the two positions be merged. John Heath seconded the motion. Odell advised the Body that since both positions are in our governing documents, this matter must be addressed at our **Annual Business Meeting**. After the Annual Business Meeting takes the action, there is a 3-month notice requirement to complete the action. After the discussion, the motion to take the recommendation to the Annual Business Meeting was unanimously approved.

b. Recommendation to reduce annual Charter fees/donations to \$50 per year: Again, President Ernest led the discussion on this recommendation. He had previously made this recommendation, reducing the amount from \$100.00. To date, less than 10 Fellowships had made contributions. **President Ernest had** received feedback complaining that the current amount was greater than the annual charter fee (\$85.00). **John Holley moved that** the requested donation be set at \$50.00. The motion was seconded by Marquis Ratliff. During the discussion, John Holley explained how the amount of \$100.00 came to be. Several years ago, when Rev. Richard Winn was our representative to the Bishop's cabinet, he suggested that \$100.00 was the amount we should ask for, and that he would shepherd the effort. Odell advised the body that this current action could be approved by the Executive Committee without going to the Annual Business. The vote was unanimous for adoption.

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For the good of the order. Our next NGC UMM Executive Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th, at 7PM.

13. CLOSING REMARKS: President Ernest wished the Committee a Happy Father's Day and showed them a video by Tony Evans in honor of Father's Day.

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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 asked Marquis Ratliff to pray us out. The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

The minutes are prayerfully submitted by,

John C. Holley

Secretary

NGCUMM