



December 12, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (December 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 December 12, 2023.

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 December 2023 meeting on December 12, 2023, via ZOOM. **President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order** at 7:03PM and thanked the attendees for joining the meeting and expressed his appreciation for those who continue to be faithful. He then thanked John Heath for accepting the invitation to lead the devotional for the evening and then turn the floor over to John Heath. At the outset, John alerted the group that he wanted to focus his devotion on Advent, since this was the season we are in. He indicated that he would be using the Upper Room as his source for the devotion and recommended it to the men if they were not already using it in their daily walk. To start his presentation, he gave us an explanation of what Advent is. His supporting scripture cited was 2 Peter 3:9-18. In his discussion, he talked about the "Day of the Lord" as the Second Coming and the 2nd Advent. His instructions suggested that we be in "harmonious responsible relationships" with each other. He warned us that Jesus would come as a theft in the night, looking for us without spot or blemish. His standard for us will be holiness and godliness. He talked about a New Heaven and a New Earth and that we should be growing in grace and knowledge. He closed his devotion, indicating that this was also his prayer. At this juncture President Ernest asked for prayer requests. John Heath wanted prayer for the group and for individuals who have lost friends during this season. He had lost two friends during the last month. Ben Green wanted prayer for Rev. Allen Steward, who had lost his 30 some year old daughter. President Ernest wanted us to prayer for our Executive Body and for Cary in his new walk. He also thanked Cary for being a great steward for so many years to this organization and for

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him staying on to help close out the finances until another Treasurer can be secured. He asked for prayer for his brother, Cornelius, who had some blood issues to his brain and had to be hospitalized. He was able to be treated with medication. Finally, he asked for prayer for Odell and John Holley who had medical issues. President Ernest then offered the prayer for the group.

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	ODELL HORNE	CARY LOESING
ALBERT LYLES	BEN GREEN	JEFF FULLER	CHRIS KARABINOS
JOHN HEATH	HOWARD EVANS	TOM MORTON	JACQUE WILLIAMS

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 proposed agenda be approved. Chris Karabinos seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

5. **REVIEW OF THE NOVEMBR 2023 MEETING MINUTES:** Next, President Ernest called upon John Holley, reference the minutes from the November 2023 meeting. John had provided the minutes to the Committee Members via email. President Ernest displayed the minutes on the screen for the benefit of the Body. After reviewing the minutes, Cary indicated that he had no corrections to the minutes but had an update on a question that Chris had had concerning a check from Peachtree Roads UMC as a donation to the NGCUMM. He indicated that he had no check from Peachtree Road but would check again. After this discussion, Cary moved that the minutes be approved. Howard Evans seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval of the minutes.

6. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL GUEST/S OR VISITORS:** President Ernest asked for the acknowledgement of special guests/visitors. There were no guests.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The call for the Treasurer's report was the next order of business. Cary provided the November report to the Committee. He had provided the reports, via email to the Committee prior to the meeting. The revenue for November 2023 was \$91.40. The expenses were \$747.01. The revenue and expenses for the period 01/01/2023 to 11/30/2023 were as follows: Revenue was \$2,574.75 and expenses were \$4,360.18. Total assets for the Conference as of November 30, 2023 were \$12,534.64 The following reflect the breakout for the assets: (a) Checking account...\$635.38; (b) Savings account... \$2,243.94; (c) Money Market...\$9,655.32. Cary also gave a report to reflect the financial situation for the fiscal year (07/01/2023 to 11/30/2023). The revenue was \$546.89, and the expenses were \$827.83. After completing his Treasurer's Report, Cary indicated that he had an action item to report on concerning transferring funds from our Money Market Account to a CD. He shared that the current rate of return for the Money Market was 0.5%. On the other hand, we could receive a 5.25% return on a 12-Month CD. We would be using our current bank for the action. The minimum

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amount on the CD has to be \$1,000.00, and there is no maximum. Currently, we have \$9,655.32 in the Money Market Account. Cary made a recommendation that we move \$5,000.00 from the Money Market Account to purchase a \$5,000.00 CD. The penalty for early withdrawal is 3-months of interest. After hearing Cary's presentation, John Heath moved that we withdraw \$5,000.00 from the Money Market Account and purchase a 12-Month, \$5,000.00 CD. Howard Evans seconded the motion. During the discussion, Chris had questions about locking in interest and the option of a 3 or 6 month CD. Cary indicated that those options were not available. Chris wanted us to make sure we considered our cash needs and that we are able to cover our short term requirements. He wanted to know how much money we had spent over what we had taken in over the past year. Cary indicated approximately \$1,700.00. He felt we needed to have \$3,000 - \$4,000 available in the Money Market Account after purchasing the CD. President Ernest had concerns that he has required travel and meeting that he needs to attend. He wants to make sure that there are funds to cover these requirements. He wanted to know how many Charters have made donations since the beginning of the Fiscal Year. Cary indicated that number is three (a total of \$150.00). John Holley commented that his church normally makes its contribution during the first part of the calendar year and that other churches may be doing likewise. President Ernest said he would put the letter out again at the first of the year, requesting donations from the local Fellowships. The letters will go out no later than the 15th of January. John Heath would like for the members of the Executive Committee to get a copy of the letter when it goes out so we can insure follow-ups on the status. Also, John Heath felt that we should be able to do something ourselves as it relates to finance on a short term basic. Odell had a question about the YoungerMen's Ministry grant. Cary indicated that it is in the totals but is a set aside. The amount is about \$1,400.00. At this point, the question was called, and the vote was unanimous to purchase the CD.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

a. **Charters & District Updates:** President Ernest reported that during last month he attended a meeting at Duke University with the other SEJ Presidents. President Ernest kicked off the meeting at Duke, leading the devotion. There was some good training during the session. There is new leadership at the General Commission, Greg Arnold has resigned, and Bishop James Swanson is now the General Secretary, effective November. He has a passion for Younger Men Ministry. He is well known and respected in the United Methodist Community. We are looking forward to his leadership. There is a new branding initiative ongoing and a push to get younger men in our churches. There is additional push on scouting, evangelism, and outreach. There is a push for more emphasis on connectivity. We are not in this by ourselves. There are common issues and common strategies; so the hope is to work together at all levels. Some churches are financially more solvent than others. With the emphasis on younger men, the Commission has appointed a Director of Younger Men's Ministry, Rev. Eaton. The focus is on the unchurched younger men, and we are to meet them where they are.

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b. Special Annual Conference Meeting: President Ernest shared that on 18 November 2023 he rode with his Pastor and Lay Leader to Athens for a special Annual Conference, called by the Bishop. The purpose of the meeting was to ratify the disaffiliation of churches from the North Georgia Annual Conference. He reported that 262 churches were ratified for disaffiliation from the Conference. Only three churches were not ratified. They were Fountain UMC in Sugarloaf, McEachern Memorial UMC in Powder Springs, and Griffin First UMC in Griffin. What this means is that we have approximately 440 churches left in the North Georgia Conference. President Ernest reminded us that even with the reduction in the number of churches, we still have much to work with. He suggested that we follow John Heath's recommendation that "each one reach one." President Ernest shared that each District Lay Leader was asked to pray with their District as the churches were being disaffiliated. Ben Green asked for clarification on the number of churches that were not disaffiliated. This was clarified by Jeff Fuller and President Ernest to be three.

c. Charter Activity and Visitations: After the first of the year, we will see how the disaffiliations will affect our number of charters. We will need to increase our efforts to fill our vacancies at the Conference and District leadership levels. President Ernest is optimistic about the situation, knowing God is still in charge. Last year, we had 159 charters. He is asking that each of us become an Ambassador. We need to be going out evangelizing to make disciples.

d. SEJ Presidents Meeting Feb 2024 in Nashville, TN: President Ernest will be attending the SEJ Presidents meeting in Nashville, TN, in February 2024. The meeting will be about growing our organizations. South Georgia Annual Conference has elected a new UMM President, Cleve White, Jr. President Ernest will be reaching out to him. Ben Green had a question about EMS legacy giving and what was the status of the program. He use to get feedback but gets nothing now. President Ernest said they are under close scrutiny. He is having a meeting on Thursday and will bring up the matter. Odell echoed the same concerns Ben Green had about EMS and asked President Ernest to invited Bishop Swanson to come and speak with our organization. President Ernest said he would do it, and noted that communication is key in our mission.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

- ✓ **Seeking New Treasurer: The efforts continue.** President Ernest shared that he had met with Nate Abrams and Dr. McQueen concerning our vacancies and will be reaching out to the other District Superintendents.

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & MINISTRY REPORTS: The reports from the leadership heads follow:

(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.

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c. VP Conference Affairs & Administration: Jeff Fuller indicated that he had no report but thanked President Ernest for reporting out on the Call Annual Conference. He indicated that there were lots of issues being worked out behind the scene at the Conference level. He will report those out to us when they come to fruition. He asked us to be prayerful for the entire Conference.

d. VP Activities & Retreats: Albert Lyles had no report but asked for an updated roster. He voiced his frustration as he moves forward trying to do his job. President Ernest suggested that he do some one-on-one calls with individual who have agreed to assist with his efforts...individuals who have participated in Rock Eagle. He mentioned himself, Chris, Cary, John Holley. He said the new list would not be available until first part of next year. He again asked him to use the list he has. Spring is the timeframe we are shooting for. President Ernest commended him for his efforts. Albert asked if we are looking to get other churches involved. The answer was in the affirmative. Albert is looking to have a Zoom meeting with individual who will assist him.

e. Scout Ministry: Chris Karabinos reported that he was continuing to push the Bishop's Luncheon, which is on March 9, 2024. During the holidays, he will be doing some additional work. To date, he has 30 people signed up. He is promoting attendance and asked Odell for his support in getting a flier out. Chris wanted the flier on the Conference website. Odell indicated that it has been on the Conference website for about two months, but it was not the tweaked one that Chris and President Ernest were discussing. There was a question about cost. Chris said that there was no cost unless you are sponsoring a table. He would like to get table sponsors. He also wanted help from Odell to get the information to the District Administrators.

f. Director of Evangelism: Marquis Ratliff was absent. There is no report.

g. Director of Disaster Response: Ben Green said he had no report but asked us to keep the people in Tennessee who went through the tornadoes in our prayers. He said that there is a link for anyone who would like to make a donation. President Ernest said that he could send the information to Ike to put on our website for a 30 days period.

h. Hunger Advocate: Howard Evans reported that he was able to get a number of baskets out during Thanksgiving and is looking to do some giveaways for Christmas. This will be food and supplies. He has received information from Suicide International. He has touched base with the Society of St. Andrews and is awaiting information back on the timeframe when food is available. President Ernest would like for us to get involved with Trinity Feed the Hungry. During January and around MLK Day is when they give out coats. President Ernest wants information to go on our website, publicizing our activities.

i. Prison Ministry: John Heath gave an update on his Ministry and shared that coming out of COVID they had two issues of concern. First was the matter of the shortage of employment at the prisons. They did not have enough correction officers for the ministry to go in the facilities. The second was the need to stir up more interest. He is not willing to accept failure. What we are doing is supported by scripture, Matt 25-35. If someone needs a speaker, he is willing to go out to churches, men's groups, or wherever. He is making himself available two week-ends each month to spread this ministry. He may

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need Odell to help with a video. He is ready to travel.

j. Director of Communications: Odell Horne reported as the Director of Communications and said he wanted to correct something he said earlier about EMS. He said he did not receive any information from EMS. This may have been because he did not renew his membership. He said once a week he goes on line, seeking information. He is getting nothing from SEJ or the General Commission. He looks on the social media and there is nothing to share. He is only getting information from the local charters. For his report as the District President for Central North, he has his next quarterly meeting planned in January or February; He is still looking to fill all officer positions.

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

l. Director of Prayer Advocate/Spiritual Development: Vacant. No report

11. DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS:

- ✓ **Jacque Williams** is the President of the Northwest District and reported that he had sent out letters to 22 churches. He based his action on churches that have chartered for the last four years or had active websites. He sent the letters out last week via snail mail, with 3 attachments. One of the attachments was the letter from President Ernest, asking for a donation to the NGCUMM. In his letter also, he offered himself as a resource. He has his District broken down in six Zones. He had a mission opportunity from a small church for some repairs. He reached out to Scott Parrish at the Conference level, but he could not provide assistance. He reached out to the other churches on his list but has not heard back. He shared that 60% of the churches in his District have disaffiliated. President Ernest suggested that Jacque's focus for 2024 should be on getting UMM fellowships at churches that do not have fellowships.
- ✓ **Tom Morton** had audio problem had audio problems and didn't have a report. He and President Ernest plan to meet next week.

12. NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business

13. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS: Odell reported that he was preparing an end of year report that will be going to the Commission of activities that occurred in 2023. Most of the reports are from the Black churches. There were very few sent in from the White churches. President Ernest commented that it is what it is. We will send in what we receive. John Heath shared that his church had a Council meeting last night, and what he saw was a diminished and aging membership. What his heart tells him is that we have work to do. If we are the hands and feet of Christ, everybody has a place at the table. If not, we don't deserve a place. President Ernest said that there is a place at the table for everybody.

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14. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For the good of the order. Our next NGC UMM Executive Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7PM.

CLOSING REMARKS: There were no closing remarks.

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

CLOSING PRAYER & SENDING FORTH: With all minds and hearts clear, Chris Karabinos closed the meeting with prayer at 8:35PM.

John C. Holley

Secretary

NGCUMM

ATTACHMENT:

1. Treasurer's Report for November 2023

United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference

General Fund Income and Expense

For Period Covering 11/01/2023 to 11/30/2023

Revenues

Income

Contributions	
Individual Contributions	\$60.00
Bank /CU	
Dividend / Interest Income	\$0.40
Campaign Income	
OneManOneDollar	\$24.00
Other Income	
EMS Income	\$7.00

Total Revenue		\$91.40
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Expenses

Expenses

Bank / Merchant Fees	
Merchant Fees	\$(17.00)
PayPal Fee	\$(2.72)
President	
Lodging	\$(362.51)
Meals	\$(58.74)
AirTravel	\$(281.09)
Taxi - Uber - Lyft	\$(24.95)

Total Expenses		\$747.01
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Net loss for Period		\$655.61
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United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference
General Fund Income and Expense - Fiscal Year (July 1)
For Period Covering 07/01/2023 to 11/30/2023

Revenues				
Income				
Contributions				
Individual Contributions	\$300.00			
Bank /CU				
Dividend / Interest Income	\$2.39			
Campaign Income				
OneManOneDollar	\$72.00			
FellowshipLetter	\$150.00			
Meeting Income				
Annual Conference Meeting	\$12.00			
Other Income				
EMS Income	\$10.50			
Total Revenue				\$546.89

Expenses				
Expenses				
Bank / Merchant Fees				
Merchant Fees	\$(85.00)			
PayPal Fee	\$(15.54)			
President				
Lodging	\$(362.51)			
Meals	\$(58.74)			
AirTravel	\$(281.09)			
Taxi - Uber - Lyft	\$(24.95)			
Total Expenses				\$827.83
Net loss for Period				\$280.94

United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference

General Fund Income and Expense

For Period Covering 01/01/2023 to 11/30/2023

Revenues

Income

Contributions

Individual Contributions \$660.00

UMM Fellowship \$100.00

Reimbursed Expenses \$319.00

Bank /CU

Dividend / Interest Income \$5.75

Campaign Income

OneManOneDollar \$120.00

FellowshipLetter \$450.00

Ministry Area Income

Disaster Response \$100.00

Meeting Income

Annual Conference Meeting \$792.00

Other Income

EMS Income \$28.00

Total Revenue

\$2,574.75

Expenses

Expenses

Office

Postage and Delivery \$(388.00)

Bank / Merchant Fees

Merchant Fees \$(187.00)

PayPal Fee \$(63.27)

Dues and Subscriptions

Jurisdiction Dues \$(300.00)

NACP \$(200.00)

Ministry Area Expense

Disaster Response \$(100.00)

Meeting Expenses

Annual Conference Meeting \$(1,720.48)

President

Mileage Reimbursement \$(103.55)

Lodging \$(679.21)

Meals \$(58.74)

AirTravel \$(281.09)

Taxi - Uber - Lyft \$(24.95)

Discretionary \$(45.56)

Miscellaneous		\$(208.33)
Total Expenses		\$4,360.18
Net loss for Period		\$1,785.43

United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference Assets 11/30/2023

Assets	
Assets	
Checking Account	\$635.38
Savings Account	\$2,243.94
Money Market	\$9,655.32
Total Assets	\$12,534.64