



November 14, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (November, 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 November 14, 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 November 2023 meeting on November 14, 2023, via ZOOM. **President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order** at 7:08PM and thanked the attendees for joining the meeting and for their dedication and commitment. After the introductory remarks, he thanked Albert Lyles for agreeing to provide the devotional and prayer for the evening. He commented on the great celebration that Albert's church had had for its Men's Day. Albert shared that he was pleased to present the devotional and indicated that it was about love and that we should use Jesus as our role model when talking about love. It is not about the love that we witness in our pop culture today but is about self- giving actions. He gave some examples, such as opening up ones home to individuals in need and, finally, that there is no greater love than one laying down his life for a friend. His scripture for the devotion was John 15: 12-14. After his devotion, he asked the Brothers for prayer requests. Cary asked that we pray for his brother-in-law, Curt, who was suffering from a herniated cyst. President Ernest wanted prayer for the upcoming Call Annual Conference in Athens, where the Bishop and District Superintendents would deal with the matters concerning the disaffiliation of churches. He indicated that he, Chris, and Jeff had seats to represent the UMM. At this point, Albert prayed the pray on behalf of the Conference of the UMM.
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	JASPER RUSSELL, JR.

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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. Albert Lyles moved that the proposed agenda be approved. John Heath seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

5. REVIEW OF THE OCTOBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES: Next, President Ernest called upon John Holley, reference the minutes from the October 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. Tom Morton asked that on page two of the minutes, under item 6," Acknowledgement of Special Guests/or Visitors, where it referred to him going to Cumming First, that should read Winder First. With this correction, John Holley moved that the minutes be approved, and Albert Lyles 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. Jasper Russell, Jr., who was invited by Albert Lyles, was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for attending. He is a member of Columbia Drive UMC.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: The call for the Treasurer's report was the next order of business. Cary provided the October report to the Committee. He had provided the reports, via email to the Committee prior to the meeting. The revenue for October 2023 was \$122.41. The expenses were \$21.66. The revenue and expenses for the period 01/01/2023 to 10/31/2023 were as follows: Revenue was \$2,483.35 and expenses were \$3,613.17. Total assets for the Conference as of October, 2023 were \$13,183.25 The following reflect the breakout for the assets: (a) Checking account...\$1,179.05; (b) Savings account... \$2,243.94; (c) Money Market...\$9,654.92. Cary also gave a report to reflect the financial situation for the fiscal year (07/01/2023 to 10/31/2023). The revenue was \$455.49, and the expenses were \$80.82. Cary informed the Body that there were actions that needed to take place in December concerning the Go Daddy account. He has been paying this account over the last seven years from his personal funds. Ike Moore has been covering the hosting fees. The amount has been about \$50.00 per year. John Heath said he would pick up the Go Daddy account. There were comments from Chris and President indicating that we need to have these accounts for the NGCUMM and not for individuals. If individuals desire to make a donation to cover a cost, they are permitted to do so. Also, there is an account for about six domain names. Finally, Cary requested that he move funds from the money market account to some other vehicle, such as CD's or other vehicles. He has not checked with our Credit Union to see what is available. The current return on the money market is about .5%. Chris asked about how much he had in mind to move. He indicated about \$5,000. He is to do the research and come back to the Body with his recommendation. At this point, Chris asked if he had received a check from Peachtree Road UMC for their chartering. Cary indicated that he had a check from Peachtree Roads for a donation, since re-chartering does not come through the Conference. Cary will let him know what the check was for. Chris shared that this was the first time his church has re-chartered in many years.

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8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

a. New Charter Numbers & District Updates: President Ernest reported that he has new numbers as it relates to re-chartering. In the past, he had reported 159 chartered units. Since that report, we have lost 26 churches to disaffiliation. This leaves the current number at 133. With the advent of the upcoming Call Annual Conference, he anticipates that number will go down. On the issue of district presidents, he reported that he has 3 of 8. He is making contacts with District Superintendents to try and rectify the matter. He pointed out the need for Districts to mirror the Conference when it comes to the leadership make up. Presidents need to know that they can't do it by themselves. He is communicating with the District Superintendents and providing letters of introduction. He said it is time for Presidents to spread their wings. He has provided informational packets to Tom Morton, as the newest District President. He mentioned that Albert Lyles has reported that they don't have a District President. It was recommended that we may want to go to our District Lay Leaders to provide input. He asked Albert for recommendations.

b. Charter Activity and Visitations: On this subject, President Ernest reported that he was the keynote speaker at Cedar Grove UMC. Odell had gone to the church on Saturday. He talked about the Men's Day at Columbia Drive and asked Albert to provide input. Albert shared that there were 30-40 men in attendance. There were presentations on finance, fitness, and good fellowshiping. Eric Smith did the workshop on finance, and Larry Johnson was the speaker on Sunday, Albert called it a success and indicated that he was the President of the local fellowship and also represented the Conference. Odell was in attendance.

c. SEJ Meeting Report: President Ernest gave an after action report on the SEJ Presidents' Meeting at Duke University Divinity School. There were representatives from Virginia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina and Georgia. Sterling Eaton and Steven Scheid were in attendance. The event was two days...started on Thursday and ended on Saturday at noon. President Ernest did the devotional and the opening prayer. SEJ President Bill Huggins presided over the meeting. Students from Duke Divinity School gave presentations. There was a tour of the Duke campus. There was a session on discipleship. There was information on brining younger men into our organization. We are looking for diversity. We need to go where they are. We are all struggling. Our organizations have become "old men clubs." All Presidents gave their reports from their Conferences, which show similar problems. He shared that the NC Conference had received a sizable piece of property as a donation. He reported on the upcoming Call Annual Conference in Athens, during his presentation.

d. Special Annual Conference Meeting: The meeting will be a one day event in Athens on November 18th. President Ernest and Nat Abrams will be attending. Chris indicated he will not be attending

9. OLD BUSINESS:

- ✓ **Fundraising Suggestions: No additional information.**

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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.
- c. **VP Conference Affairs & Administration:** Jeff Fuller indicated that he had no report.
- d. **VP Activities & Retreats:** Albert Lyles had no report.
- e. **Scout Ministry:** Chris Karabinos shared that the Committee on Scouting could do a better job. They are having a meeting on Tuesday. The planning for the Bishop’s Luncheon in March is going well. They are receiving lots of calls. They had a good recruiting year for scouting. They don’t expect a great loss.
- f. **Director of Evangelism:** Marquis Ratliff was absent. There is no report.
- g. **Director of Disaster Response:** Ben Green provided a written report. During Ben’s report, there was a comment about Winder’s status as a chartered organization. Tom Morton confirmed that Winder is the longest continuous chartered fellowship in United Methodism. The charter dates back to 1944. NOTE: A copy of Ben’s written report is attached to these minutes.
- h. **Hunger Advocate:** Howard Evans reported that each year Red Oak, in concert with the City of Stockbridge, gives out food baskets to the homeless. They will be doing this on Saturday. They will do this until the baskets are depleted. President Ernest would like for Howard to give this to Odell to put on our website. Howard indicated he would do this.
- i. **Prison Ministry:** John Heath gave an update on his Ministry and shared that they have a product on teaching people about our website, and he is ready to push it out the door. The testing is completed. He has one partner that he is ready to bring on board. Let him know if you have people wanting to know about the ministry. He is now ready to catch a couple of churches. In addition, he wanted to recommend we do something for the Israeli refugees under UMCOR. He is suggesting something in the neighbor of \$500.00. President Ernest said he would check the Conference on this matter, but didn’t think we should get involved in individual organizational giving. If individuals give and designate an amount to go to a cause, we would be obligated to give it to the cause. He will report back to the body on the suggestion.
- j. **Director of Communications:** Odell Horne said he was reporting as the Director of Communications. He reported that as he sends out communication to the website, there are complaints about articles that come from the United Methodist News Services. He pointed out that this is the official news of the United Methodist Church. The complaint came concerning the 18 parts series put out by Scott Jones. He informed us that this series is now over. He said that he is now doing only local church news, where he is doing copy and pasting. President Ernest asked about young men’s ministry and about the success. Odell shared that it had not been very successful. In the last session, he only had one person. President Ernest informed us that something will be pushed out around the first of the year. The approach will be to meet the young men where they. The approach is that we should go to the streets.

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

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

11. DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS:

- ✓ President Ernest shared that Tom Morton has just taken on the task as a new District President and asked that we provide support. Also, he said he had been told that there are 6 District Presidents. He said he needs a copy of the list.
- ✓ There were no District Presidents making reports.

12. NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business

13. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS: None

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For the good of the order. Our next NGC UMM Executive Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 7PM.

13. CLOSING REMARKS: President Ernest thanked Tom Morton and Jasper Russell for being in attendance and wished the Committee a Happy Thanksgiving.

14. 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.

15. CLOSING PRAYER & SENDING FORTH: With all minds and hearts clear, Tom Morton closed the meeting with prayer at 8:45PM.

John C. Holley
Secretary
NGCUMM

2 ATTACHMENTS:

1. Treasurer's Report for October 2023
2. Director of Disaster Response's Report

United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference

General Fund Income and Expense

For Period Covering 10/01/2023 to 10/31/2023

Revenues

Income

Contributions	
Individual Contributions	\$60.00
Bank /CU	
Dividend / Interest Income	\$0.41
Campaign Income	
OneManOneDollar	\$12.00
FellowshipLetter	\$50.00

Total Revenue		\$122.41
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Expenses

Expenses

Bank / Merchant Fees	
Merchant Fees	\$(17.00)
PayPal Fee	\$(4.66)

Total Expenses		\$21.66
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Net income for Period		\$100.75
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United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference

General Fund Income and Expense

For Period Covering 01/01/2023 to 10/31/2023

Revenues

Income

Contributions

Individual Contributions \$600.00

UMM Fellowship \$100.00

Reimbursed Expenses \$319.00

Bank /CU

Dividend / Interest Income \$5.35

Campaign Income

OneManOneDollar \$96.00

FellowshipLetter \$450.00

Ministry Area Income

Disaster Response \$100.00

Meeting Income

Annual Conference Meeting \$792.00

Other Income

EMS Income \$21.00

Total Revenue

\$2,483.35

Expenses

Expenses

Office

Postage and Delivery \$(388.00)

Bank / Merchant Fees

Merchant Fees \$(170.00)

PayPal Fee \$(60.55)

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 \$(316.70)

Discretionary \$(45.56)

Miscellaneous

\$(208.33)

Total Expenses

\$3,613.17

Net Loss for Period

\$1,129.82

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United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference Assets 10/31/2023

Assets

Assets

Checking Account	\$1,179.05
Savings Account	\$2,243.94
Money Market	\$9,654.92
PayPal	\$105.34

Total Assets **\$13,183.25**

United Methodist Men North Georgia Conference
General Fund Income and Expense - Fiscal Year (July 1)
For Period Covering 07/01/2023 to 10/31/2023

Revenues

Income	
Contributions	
Individual Contributions	\$240.00
Bank /CU	
Dividend / Interest Income	\$1.99
Campaign Income	
OneManOneDollar	\$48.00
FellowshipLetter	\$150.00
Meeting Income	
Annual Conference Meeting	\$12.00
Other Income	
EMS Income	\$3.50
Total Revenue	\$455.49

Expenses

Expenses	
Bank / Merchant Fees	
Merchant Fees	\$(68.00)
PayPal Fee	\$(12.82)
Total Expenses	\$80.82
Net income for Period	\$374.67



North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men

Disaster Response Ministry Area Update – Ben Green

Nov 14th, 2023 Exec Meeting

I received the local church chartered UMM list from Ernest. I need to get into a spreadsheet so I can use the data and verify they will still be continuing in the UMC.

The NGC Weekly Update contained a link to a website containing the disaffiliation status of each church in the NGC. I do not have a comprehensive list of Churches active in disaster response at my disposal, but I checked on the ones that came to mind when I created my database and from my conversations with Scott Parrish NGC DR Coordinator and Mark Brown at Northside UMC and Mike Derrick at Alpharetta First UMC, as well as my own personal experience.

From what I heard; the alliance will continue regardless to answer the call working together as teams regardless of status. As to training and certification, UMCOR, I don't know how this will be handled going forward. I will call Scott Parish.

Noteworthy: Losing Alpharetta First, Mt Pisgah, and Due West UMC.

Acworth UMC **Continuing United Methodist Church**

Roswell UMC **Continuing United Methodist Church**

Tucker First UMC - Held a Church Conference on Disaffiliation 350 ballots – 26% in favor of disaffiliation **Continuing United Methodist Church**

Oak Grove UMC Decatur **Continuing United Methodist Church**

Midway UMC Alpharetta - Held a Church Conference on 179 ballots, 35% in favor of disaffiliation **Continuing United Methodist Church**

Newnan First UMC **Continuing United Methodist Church**

Northside UMC Atlanta **Continuing United Methodist Church**

Mt Pisgah UMC Johns Creek Held a Church Conference on Disaffiliation 557 ballots, **92% in favor of disaffiliation**

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Alpharetta First UMC Held a Church Conference on Disaffiliation 890 ballots, **81% in favor of disaffiliation**

Due West UMC Marietta Held a Church Conference on Disaffiliation 509 ballots, **81% in favor of disaffiliation**

I visited Winder First UMC on the evening of October 23rd for their monthly UMMen dinner meeting to speak on NGC UMMen and Disaster Response.

Originally, the meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 28th but Earnest learned that Tom Morton was no longer president **and the new president, Robert Stansell**, said they would not be ready to host a speaker. I was not free in Sept so we rescheduled for October meeting.

It was scouting night and the scouts (large contingent), presented the colors but other than that, the leaders had a short presentation and I had ample time to present, at least 30 minutes, and I used all of that time and more because I was wearing two hats: Exec Committee and Disaster Response Ministry.

I had a 30-slide presentation and covered everything Ernest asked me to cover and more including Disaster Response Ministry. Overall, the presentation went well and I received some positive feedback on how to improve it in the future. I am attaching an Email to Robert that I sent him after he called me with his feedback based on what I heard.

There were maybe 10 UMMen in addition to those cooking and with the scouts there were at least 30 in attendance (my estimate). I spoke to as many of the men and scout leaders as I could.

Ben Green

“United Methodist Men shall be a creative supportive fellowship of men who

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seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually and to seek daily his will.”



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Robert

Thank you for having me as guest speaker and presenting NGC UMM Executive Board and ministries to you charter.

I have a request. If you have any pictures you can share with me I would appreciate it. Just a few if you have then but don't go out of your way.

Perhaps you have a picture of the scouts presenting the colors, you at the podium, a picture of me speaking shot from back of room showing guest seated and screens visible, or a shot toward the back of the hall from the front showing those seated at the tables looking at the camera.

Having the Scouts there was special for because I have not seen Scouts assembled since all of the changes were made. It was encouraging for me to see them co-ed now but still looking like the boy scouts I was a part of.

I also see that there are people and even Methodist Men that do not know what North Georgia Conference Disaster Response is and how they can be a part of it.

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I was wearing two or 3 hats on Monday: NGC UMM and Disaster Response Ministry and Scouting Ministry (as best I could). I felt duty bound since in a way I was taking Pres Ernest Perry's place to talk about the NCG-UMM Exec Board, UMM Scouting Ministry since the Scouts were present, and of course the UMM Disaster Response Ministry.

I hope in the future I will be invited to concentrate solely on Disaster Response when I speak to local church UMM charters.

Thank You and God Bless You All!

Ben Green

UMM Disaster Response Ministry

PS: Before I sent this email you called. I did not change any written above.

Summary of your feedback (in my own words) and my clarification in response.

(1) Overall the presentation went well (men understood that this was my first time speaking in this capacity for NGC UMM Exec Board)

(2) As to the primary goal or purpose of motivating men to get involved by showing them what disaster response is and what they would be doing (boots on the ground). I gave them more a "birds eye view." I sinned or "missed the mark" by spending too much time on UMM Org-Charts, etc. and not going into more detail on actual ERT training and the actual work.

(3) I then explained to you, because you had recently in August, taken over for Tom that Pres. Ernest Perry was going to speak but had a conflict for the Sept meeting and I was taking his place. I needed to cover UMM Exec Board business also (and Scouts) but Ernest cautioned me to "keep it simple and concise" but I have a hard time doing this.

(4) One of the reasons for all the detail was to leave your men and scout leaders with a document they could use as a reference after I left, but if I did not peak their interest, especially with disaster response because the coverage was not focused on their hearts as well as their minds, they would not want to go back to the document to start with. That defeats the purpose.

I am writing all of this down so I will have a record of it for future presentations.