



February 13, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from NGCUMM Executive Committee Meeting (February 2024)

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 February 13, 2024.

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 February, 2024 meeting on February 13, 2024, via ZOOM. **President Ernest Perry called the meeting to order** at 7:05PM and thanked the Committee for its presence and for its commitment to service and dedication. He then asked Tom Morton to lead the devotion and opening prayer. As the devotion, Tom gave a quick tutorial on Shrove Tuesday. This was a great presentation in that most had little or no knowledge of this event. On the other hand, everyone was familiar with Fat Tuesday, which is celebrated at the same time. This event is a British tradition, which is not in the bible, but is the day before Ash Wednesday. Participants confess their sins and clean their souls before the start of Lent. The event is celebrated by eating pancakes. It is said that it is the last chance for indulgence before 40 Days of fasting and an opportunity to use up food that couldn't be eaten during Lent. The prayer for the evening was one for celebration of God in Christ and that our hearts and spirit be focus on preparation for the resurrection and peace and for the forgiveness of sin. Thanks, Tom, for a great devotion.

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 TOM MORTON**

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ALBERT LYLES BEN GREEN CHRIS KARABINOS JOHN HEATH NATE TUCKER (Guest)

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 as presented. Tom Morton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for the adoption of the agenda.

5. REVIEW OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES: Next, President Ernest called upon John Holley, reference the minutes from the 9 January 2024 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, Tom Morton moved that the minutes be approved. John Heath 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. Nate Tucker, from Popular Spring UMC, was our guest for the evening. It indicated that it was an honor to be in attendance and extended an invitation to the Committee for his church's Men's Day on March 17th. President Ernest thanked him for attending.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: President Ernest reported that with the advent of Cary Loesing's departure, we are in a transition situation as it relates to our Treasurer's position. We are still reaching out for someone to fill the position. In the meantime, he has been in contact with the bank and has changed the authorized signatures to two individuals...the President and the Secretary. There has been minimal activity with our account since the last report from Cary. Our Regular Share account has a balance of \$2,244.22; the Money Market account is at \$4,655.32. We have a Certificate of Deposit for \$5,000.00. It appears that we have \$350.00 from our churches for 2024, to date. The President has some concerns when it comes to our financial status. We have to continue to push our churches for their contributions.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

a. President's 1st Quarter Report: President Ernest reported on this subject to keep us informed on actions in which he is involved. There are great challenges as we have suffered the great number of churches disaffiliating. Although we still have vacancies on our Committee, we still have to continue to reach out and provide assistance to the churches as needed. We need to continue to visit the churches and use the bible with stories like Paul and Silas with ways of reaching out. The number of churches has gone from 702 to 440. The number of charters has gone from 159 to 36, to date. The Bishop is looking to reduce the number of Districts. President Ernest said he would continue to follow up on the charter letters and wants us to do the same. Currently, we only have three District Presidents in place.

b. Charter Service Opportunities: President Ernest reemphasized the areas he discussed in our last meeting, where we can be of assistance in the Districts and at the churches. Each Charter should be involved in bible study. We need to be talking and communicating with the

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churches about getting younger men involved.

c. SEJ Presidents Meeting & Election, Feb 2024 in Nashville, TN: President Ernest will be attending this meeting. He has already made his arrangements.

d. All Officers and Vacancies were posted on the Conference Bulletin.

e. Feedback on Dues Letter Sent Out on January 15th: Members of the Committee were asked to make sure that their church had received the letter and to determine what action has been taken. It is hopeful that each Committee member's church makes a contribution.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

Fundraising ideas? Members are asked to send in ideas and make donations.

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & MINISTRY REPORTS:

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: Albert Lyles reported that he is working with Jeff Fuller to develop plans for a retreat this year. He will be checking with the Committee to see if it is feasible, given the money shortage. There are churches that are willing to be the host. He reported that his church has made its contribution of \$50.00 to the Conference, via PayPal, in response to the President's letter. President Ernest commented that he sent Albert pictures of cottages for a possible retreat.

e. Scout Ministry: Chris Karabinos reported that he had three events to report on: (1) The Bishop's Luncheon is scheduled for 9 March. He has great speakers for the event. To date, 60 people have registered for the event. (2) On 16 March, John Creeks UMC will be conducting its Eagle Scout Breakfast. (3) On 26 March, he will be conducting a Webinar on Prayer Program on 4 levels. He is recruiting people. He is expecting 75-80 people.

f. Director of Evangelism: There is no report. Marquis Ratliff is no longer with the UMC. Position is now vacant.

g. Director of Disaster Response: Ben Green said that things have been fairly quiet since the activity in Spaulding and Troup counties. The actions performed were basically recovery work. Information was sent to Ike. Ben said he continues to increase his knowledge on the ministry.

h. Hunger Advocate: No Report.

i. Prison Ministry: To start his report, John Heath wanted to know if anyone knew Bishop Swanson

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and the fact he would like to speak with him. Given the fact that Bishop Swanson is now the Interim General Secretary, he would like to get him with some of our men's groups. He gave some accomplishments from 2023 and talked about the website development. He mentioned that 4 women had contacted him and want KIROS prison training. He reported on his setup and presentation at Annual Conference and the fact that he is ready to get on the road. He has a 30-minute presentation that he is ready to get in with the men's groups. He said we have got to fix the prison problem, given the fact that we have 70% recidivism. Most of these have no working relationship with their fathers. He will be coordinating with Odell to get items out as necessary.

j. Director of Communications: Odell Horne reported as the Director of Communications and said he is still seeking more information about events occurring in the Conference. He put the year ending information on the website. There was information about Scout Sunday. There is an article on the website about Bishop Swanson. The information on the General Conference, scheduled for April 23, 2024 is on the website. Finally, he asked us to keep the information coming.

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

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

11. DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS:

- ✓ **Tom Morton** shared that he is working on "building bridges." He is interested in the Prayer Advocate position on the Executive Committee. President Ernest commented that the nomination notice has been sent out for the position, and two individuals have expressed interest... Tom Morton and Warren Head. He plans to have both to attend our meeting in March.

12. NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business

13. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS: President Ernest shared that Jeff Fuller and 4 other individuals are our Nomination Committee.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS: For the good of the order, our next NGC UMM Executive Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 19 March, 2024 at 7PM.

CLOSING REMARKS: There were no closing remarks.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: At this point, President Ernest entertained a motion for adjournment. John Heath moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Tom Morton seconded the motion. 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 8:45PM.

John C. Holley
Secretary
NGCUMM