



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 6, 2020 9 AM – 10:29 AM

Attendees:

- Ceferino Epps, BWC UMM Vice President
- Benjamin Nelson, Jr., Incoming Northeastern Jurisdiction UMM President
- Bryon Gould, BWC Prayer Advocate & Balt. Metropolitan Dist. UMM Pres.
- James Gainey, BWC UMM Chartering & EMS Coordinator
- Grey Witte, WCA Lay Member Delegate & Annapolis Dist. Past Pres.
- Bill Weller, BWC UMM Past Pres.
- Curtis Brisbon, BWC UMM Past Pres.
- Morris Hawkins, BWC UMM Past Pres.
- Morgan Smith, Annapolis Dist. UMM Pres.
- Cary Montgomery, Washington East Dist. UMM Pres.
- Richard Campbell, BWC UMM Communications Servant
- Attending after 10 am:
 - Alwyn Taylor, BWC UMM Treasurer & Central MD District UMM Pres.
 - Hampton Conway, BWC UMM President & Washington East District UMM Treasurer
 - Barney Putnam, BWC UMM Secretary
 - Tony Brzezcko, Man in Mirror Regional Representative

OPENING – Ceferino Epps:

Ceferino welcomed all attending the board meeting this morning. Ceferino is pinch hitting for President Hampton Conway, Jr because Hampton is preparing for an upcoming medical procedure.

Ceferino reported that the District Superintendent of the Cumberland-Hagerstown, Rev. John Wunderlich III has replaced DS Rev. Dr. Rebecca Iannicelli of the Annapolis District as our representative to the Bishop. However, DS Wunderlich III could not attend our virtual meeting this morning because of another commitment.

OPENING PRAYER– Bryon Gould gave the morning prayer, “Trust God to hold us Safe..”

PRAYER ADVOCATE REPORT – Bryon Gould said, “Gentlemen, I say we have a big task ahead of us trying to build a foundation of Prayer Advocates. And it is going to take all of us to make it happen because we got to recognize who are active prayer advocates.” -

Bryon reported that on Saturday, June 13, 2020 from 1 to 4 pm, the Northeastern Jurisdiction UMM will

host a National Day of Prayer. The prayer advocates in our jurisdiction will be the facilitators with prayer warriors giving a presentation and prayer every half hour. The event information, including flyers, Zoom connection information is posted on our web at www.bwcumm.org/nej-umm. A web url, www.NationalDayofPrayerUMM.org has been set up for this National Day of Prayer and for the future National Day of Prayers by the other UMM Jurisdictions.

Bryon said he was committing to research the prayer advocates at the District and local church level using the Chartering and EMS report, Hampton provided.

Bryon asked the body to help him with his monthly newsletter, "The Garden of Gethsemane" [Note: see www.bwcumm.org/prayer], by providing him stories and prayers.

CHARTER/EMS REPORT

James Gainey reported that he had not received any new analytical reports from the GCUMM, so he has been unable to do any analysis for at least six months. He did receive the PDF report from Hampton in May 2020. James asked the body, "Just keep working on churches about their charters and men's leaders as well as men's EMS." He asked the leadership to send him any questions or concerns about the PDF report.

Richard added that GCUMM needs the District's President's to review and verify the local unit UMM President and Treasurer name and contact information. Likewise, the same goes for the EMS/Legacy members. Both James and Richard have discovered numerous outdated information.

James suggested that any corrections should be sent to GCUMM with a copy to him. Greg shared that Lucrecia (Cre) Ward is the new GCUMM, Charter Customer Care Coordinator. Her phone is 615-620-7269.

Ben Nelson said that as the 2nd VP of National (NACP), he has been directed by National to develop a strategy improve the chartering and EMS database. His initial review has discovered that "... there are some serious inconsistencies and deficiencies in those areas - Nationally. We will be working [on] a plan for each jurisdiction and conference or executive officers to review those in your conference that has lapsed or have concerns. A lot of churches closed or people have passed away and their names are still on ledger ... names are still out there. So, we want to look into those issues so we can improve the database – chartering and EMS."

In addition, Ben shared we need define what does not it mean to be chartered or EMS? What does it provide? Those things are not clear.

James said about a year ago he provided to all the District UMM Presidents at the time a couple of sheets, that summarizes the benefits of chartering and ems. The sheets are available from GCUMM. *[The Local UMM Self-Improvement Audit can be downloaded at <http://www.gcumm.org/files/uploads/LocalUMMSelf-ImprovementAudit2018.pdf>]* James recommended that each District President contact all the churches in their district at least annually.

Discussion continued about the lack of information regarding the benefits of chartering and the need for GCUMM to provide this information when churches are contacted. Richard asked James to provide a

letter with the information so it can be posted on the BWC UMM web page. Greg suggested we hold off on that effort until the churches are again open.

The discussion continued with remarks from Bill Weller, Ben Nelson, Bryon Gould and Ceferino Epps suggesting the need to get Pastors involved in Men's ministries by showing the Pastors how men's ministry can benefit their church, and have an executive officer at the Conference and District level be a voice about men's ministries.

Ceferino concluded the discussion committing to discuss with Hampton Conway after this meeting regarding Ben's suggestion to have "... membership on the executive level of some of the organizations might be something we need to pursue..."

[Note: On 5-19-20 Hampton Conway emailed a PDF copy of the Quarterly reports dated 5-08-20 for chartering and EMS to all current district presidents and BWC UMM Board officers. Hampton requested all to review the data.]

MAN in the MIRROR (MiM)

Tony wasn't able to attend in time for the report, so James Gainey who is also a Man in the Mirror (MiM) team member and a Men's Ministry Specialist reported that he recently retired which makes him more available to talk to churches and provide training or arrange for training for local UMM Presidents, District Presidents and Conference Presidents. Currently, the MiM team can conduct the training via Zoom.

Ben asked why it appears that the Men's Ministry Specialist are inactive in the Jurisdiction.

James said, he has been committed to the Baltimore-Washington Conference. There was a Men's Ministry Specialist from Upper New York Conference, but he has not heard from him for quite some time.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (MEETING MINUTES)

Barney reported he did not attend the last meeting, so he was unaware of any recorded note.

TREASURY'S REPORT

Ceferino gave an update on the change of the Banks for the BWC UMM from Bank of America to PNC Bank. All transfers are complete our account is now with PNC Bank. Alwyn reported that a check for \$3,783.36 was deposited from the Bank of America Account to PNC, leaving enough money in the Bank of American for any outstanding checks to clear. We did a reconciliation and closed both of the Bank of America Accounts – Checking & Savings. This included the \$500 in the savings account that was setup for Scouting. The remaining balance of \$1,067.00 was deposited to the new PNC account on February 24, 2020, so we now only have one banking account, PNC.

Withdrawal to date:\$1,028.20 *[Note: the amount below calculates to \$1, 027.99]*

- \$9.99 – Check Printing Fees
- \$200.00 NACP Annual Dues
- \$664.00 Expense reimbursement to Ceferino Epps for NACP costs.

- \$2.00 PNC Service Fee for April 2020
- \$2.00 PNC Service Fee for May 2020
- \$150.00 NEJ UMM 2020 Dues paid 5/27/2020

Currently we have no outstanding checks because we closed the Bank of American accounts. Our Current Balance is \$3,922.64 with a \$280.70 pending deposit, which will bring us to a new balance of \$4,203.42. Alwyn said, "After I make the deposit, I will send out a report today."

Greg Witte thanked Alwyn for his report and taking on this responsibility.

Hampton, who joined the call late, ask Alwyn about the \$2.00 PNC Service fees because with other non-profit accounts, PNC has not charged a service fee. Alwyn will question PNC.

Greg Witte thanked the board for the UMM Life Membership Award he received at the Annapolis District UMM Annual Meeting in Dec 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORT ON SCOUTING

Rev Ken Lyons was not able to attend so a report was deferred.

REPORT ON NACP MEETING, MARCH 2020

Ceferino attended the March 2020 National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) as an alternate for Hampton Conway who could not attend. The BWC UMM receive the Bud-the-Spud" Award (donations to the Society of St. Andrew) because of our efforts with potato projects in 2019. Ceferino said, "Speaking of feeding the hungry, we had the highest percentage increased in giving for the potato project, the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Our percentage of increase was 67% of what we had done before [in 2018]. Now we did not have the greatest amount. The amount that we provided was \$10,785. The Northern Illinois Conference contributed \$20,365."

Bill Weller remarked that maybe three to four years ago we gave \$6,500 "...so that is a tremendous increase."

Ceferino shared via Zoom the "BUD-the-Spud award plaque with the inscription reading, "2019 Bud-the Spud" Award presented to the Baltimore-Washington Conference for Excellence in Meals for Millions Growth. Dated March 6, 2020." Richard asked Ceferino to take a picture of the award so we can post on our web and share it in our eUMMnews.

Ceferino said, the men in attendance at the NACP meeting took a collection and raised \$1,500 for the tornado relief in Nashville. The attendees also poured 200 pounds of rice and 500 pounds of beans into plastic bags for students at the Tusculum Elementary School in South Nashville.

Recognition of new Northeastern Jurisdiction UMM officers effective July 2020

Ceferino introduced the new officers for the Northeastern Jurisdiction UMM:

- President – Benjamin Nelson, Jr. (New York Conference)

- 1st Vice President – Tom Leach (New England Conference)
- 2nd Vice President - Lewis Weil (Greater New Jersey Conference)
- Secretary -George Hohmann – (West Virginia Conference)
- Treasurer – John Conklin (Upper New York Conference)
- Past President – Wayne Custer (West Virginia Conference)

The Conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction are: Baltimore-Washington, Eastern Pennsylvania, New England, Greater New Jersey, Peninsula-Delaware, Susquehanna, Upper New York, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvanian.

Ceferino reported that the focus of the NACP meeting was how to reach younger men and build relationships. Ceferino reminded us that the use of the Zoom technology in this pandemic gives us new possibilities for doing creative ministries such as weekly prayer meetings that two of the Districts are doing. Also, the NACP emphasized the importance of having prayer advocates at all levels, Jurisdiction, Conference, District, and local churches. He said, It is also important to "...zero in on that fine tuning of purpose, laser focusing on your purpose as to what we're about and how do we go about it and realize that ministries differ from missions..." A more detail report for the NACP is *online* [Note could not find the link: NACP 2020 but found a link to a news article: <http://www.gcumm.org/scouting-news/conference-presidents-of-um-men-mull-future-after-2020-general-conference/>]

ROCK 2021

No news about when or whether the the 2021 event will be held. Richard reported that on April 23, 2020 at 9:25 am, Tom Price peacefully slipped into the hands of God. Tom along with his wife, Becki were the leaders of the Rock event, introducing Jesus Christ to thousands of youth at the annual ROCK event in Ocean City, MD. A video tribute to Tom from the Good News TV is posted on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGstdiiyr4o&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1smb9Kw-suTa52gbgTMzLyLiKaANovIG-ldmr7H747fO2dM3IVH8INouA> . Becki requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Compassion International (compassion.com), an organization very dear to Tom and Beck's hearts for about 30 years.

BWCUMM ANNUAL MEETING

The format, time and location for our annual meeting, tentatively scheduled for Sat., October 17, 2020 is currently undecided because of the pandemic.

DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS

Washington East District UMM Report

Cary Montgomery stepped up as President with the death of Larry Collick. The district executive board is only him and Hampton Conway. The district prayer advocate has stepped down. So the district is pretty much starting from scratch. Cary said, "I'll be reaching out to keep you guys posted." As you all know, I like to do things hands on as far as with my churches, and with the men, which was very effective for me."

Annapolis District UMM Report

Morgan reported that before the coronavirus, we had a lot of plans but they have been cancelled or are pending such as this summer's District Annual Family Day and the Baysox Tailgate events. We still are

planning to have our Annual Meeting and Potato End Hunger Project currently scheduled for December 2020.

The District started a weekly prayer meeting via zoom, which is going on for eight straight weeks. We have different prayer warriors, prayer topics and scriptures each week.

My Executive Board consists of Jim Wilcox, 2nd Vice President, Ken Brooks, Treasurer and Robert Smith as Prayer Advocate. Additionally, Richard Campbell and Greg Witte as past District Presidents help out with whatever tasks are required. We also, have Jaylen Johnson, Youth Representative, Eugene Gaither, Young Adult Representative and local President of Metropolitan UMM, local UMM President of Union Memorial, Shelby Hemphill who is also helping with meeting minutes, and Curtis Warren, past BWC UMM Prayer Advocate.

Prayers are requested for our past Treasurer and past President, Marvin Hall who is in hospice at the Baltimore Veterans hospital.

WESLEYAN COVENANT ASSOCIATION (WCA).

Greg Witte is a lay member to the BWC Annual Conference for the WCA. He said, the WCA is a "... group that has been dedicated going on five years now to supporting the traditional side of the Methodist Church. But there are a number of the churches in our conference and in our nation that are still standing for many of the traditional values that are expressed in our Book of Discipline and in the Bible itself, the statements of faith that Wesley put forth, the Nicene Creed, so many of the different things that we built this church on for hundreds of years. So, we're just an association of folks that are trying to continue to stand up for the more traditional side of things. The WCA will meet in October 2020."

Greg said, "Those of us in the WCA are not the new denomination ... We have been working for several years to create a draft book of discipline, to create draft guidelines and order for, you know, as a foundation, basically as a gift to the new denomination that will form after general conference 2021."

Greg emphasized that just because there is going to be a new denomination, it doesn't mean they are not interested in men's ministries. More information is available at <https://wesleyancovenant.org/>

CLOSING

Our next meeting is scheduled for August. Format virtual or in person will be determined at a later date. Greg Witte closed the meeting in prayer.

June 6, 2020 BWC UMM Meeting Minutes Con't

Ceferino reported our next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for August 2020. The format of the will probably be another Zoom meeting.

Greg was asked to close us out in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barney Putnam
BWC UMM Secretary