

December 8, 2022

The Discernment Team had its organizational meeting on Tuesday, November 29th, to review materials that have been provided to our congregation by our District Superintendent. It is our task not to make this decision for the congregation, but to provide as many opportunities for everyone to gather all information available about the direction you and God will choose for FUMC. The Team plans to meet weekly and will keep you informed of all activity and plans for future events.

The Discernment process, as established by Holston Conference, can be no shorter than 90 days, but it can last longer if we need. Listed below are the completed required actions and dates of those:

- Notification to the District Superintendent that we intended to enter a period of discernment on **October 20th**.
- Pastors Jason and Asa, Church Council Chair Mike Fishman, and Trustee Chair Mike Preston met with the District Superintendent and other area churches on **October 28th**.
- Church Council selected a Discernment Team on **November 15th**.
- The Discernment Team was commissioned in all 3 services on Sunday, **November 20th**.
- Drew Leach has agreed to lead the Discernment Team.
- Notification was sent to all newly elected church leadership and employees of the Discernment process on **December 6**.

Looking ahead, we will be providing opportunities for you to learn about the financial implications of disaffiliating, the history of the Global Methodist Church, changes in our church if we do or do not disaffiliate, etc.

Now we are inviting every member of the congregation to participate, **and foremost, to be in prayer with us as we proceed in this discernment process.**

Pastor Jason McIntosh
Pastor Asa Majors
Mike Fishman, *Church Council Chairman*
Drew Leach, *Discernment Team Leader*