

4/23/2023

Dear Church,

The Discernment Team completed the recent congregational survey. The team reviewed its objectives and is confident it accomplished what it was asked to do. The results of the surveys are as follows:

- 293 member surveys were completed for question #1
- 164 (56%) responses wanted to stop the discernment process and remain United Methodist
- 129 (44%) responses wanted to vote to disaffiliate

- 287 surveys were completed for questions #2
- 202 (70%) responses agreed with the current Book of Discipline
- 85 (30%) responses disagreed with the current Book of Discipline

Based on the responses, the team recommended to Church Council on Thursday, April 20 to stop the discernment process and remain United Methodist. The rationale for the recommendation was that the team has provided sufficient opportunities for the congregation to be in prayer and educate themselves to make an informed decision. Also, a formal vote would require a two-thirds majority to disaffiliate. Based on the survey results, it was believed a vote would not pass, which further supports the recommendation.

Based on this recommendation, a vote was put forth to Church Council. The vote to accept the Discernment Team's recommendation passed with an overwhelming majority. Therefore, at this time, First United Methodist Church Morristown, TN is stopping the discernment process and will stay United Methodist.

It's understood that no matter what the outcome of this process was going to be, some people are going to be disappointed. Please continue to pray for us all – that our faith in God and our core beliefs will continue to unite us as a church family.

In His Honor,

Wendy McGowan

Council Chair, First United Methodist Church, Morristown, TN