

Minutes of the Discernment Committee - FUMC West Point, MS
6p.m. Thursday, June 22, 2023

Present were Norma Atkins, Tommy Bryan, Chuck Carson, Jeff Hairston, LaDonna Helveston, Tracey Holcombe, Art Shirley, Brooks Tinsley, Shannon Wallace, Dr. Darian Duckworth.

Dr. Darian opened the meeting with mediation and prayer.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8 (New Revised Standard Version)

June 15th meeting minutes are noted as approved via email. Minutes have been posted to discernment page.

Old Business

Question & Answer Information for Discernment Page

Many relevant samples of Q&As used in United Methodist Churches during discernment process were reviewed and researched to confirm accuracy and legitimacy of informational sources. Sample questions which contained inaccurate or misleading information were excluded from consideration. Due to the extensiveness of the remaining list, we decided to use congregational questions (submitted prior to tonight's meeting) to determine topics that needed immediate attention. The agreed upon list of Q&A for this week's release will be drafted and shared via email for final committee approval. Upon approval, Q&A will be added to discernment site.

The committee also agreed where we had not yet addressed specific questions from congregation, we would continue work toward covering those topics, to the extent we are able, as we move through the remainder of this process.

Congregational Survey

Questions for West Point FUMC survey were reviewed and finalized by the committee without objection. The survey will open as soon as possible with printed copies sent out via mail.

New Business

Guest Speakers

Steve West will speak to West Point FUMC congregation June 28th at 5:30p.m.

Vaughn Stafford will speak to West Point FUMC congregation July 9th at 4:30p.m.

Both speaker sessions will be recorded and shared via the discernment page.

Rob Renfroe and Adam Hamilton videos will also be posted to the discernment page this week.

Next Steps

The discernment committee will continue to gather and share information with the congregation during upcoming weeks. The consensus of the discernment committee is congregational questions and survey responses play a vital role in shaping our research and discussions.

The meeting closed with Benediction.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

Meeting adjourned 8:23 p.m.

Next meeting will be held 6p.m. June 29, 2023