

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

²⁶And in a similar way, the Holy Spirit takes hold of us in our human frailty to empower us in our weakness. For example, at times we don't even know how to pray, or know the best things to ask for. But the Holy Spirit rises up within us to super-intercede on our behalf, pleading to God with emotional sighs too deep for words. ²⁷God, the searcher of the heart, knows fully our longings, yet he also understands the desires of the Spirit, because the Holy Spirit passionately pleads before God for us, his holy ones, in perfect harmony with God's plan and our destiny. ²⁸So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God's perfect plan of bringing good into our lives...
Romans 8:26-28 (Passion Translation)

June 29th meeting minutes are noted as approved via email. Minutes have been posted to discernment page.

Old Business

Congregational Survey

Tommy Bryan placed a survey drop box outside the sanctuary. Surveys are also being returned by mail and dropped off at church office. Notice of survey has been posted to discernment site main page. The discernment committee will meet following July 16th worship service to compile results. Total number of surveys mailed and returned will be posted to site as well as percentages for each answer.

New Business

Guest Speaker

Vaughn Stafford will speak to West Point FUMC congregation July 9th at 4:30p.m. A current biography for Rev. Dr. Vaughn Stafford has been posted to discernment site. Following his presentation, a recording will also be posted to discernment site.

Q&A

The discernment committee will continue to review congregational questions and feedback as we research additional topics for Q&A section of discernment page. Emails received as of this meeting were reviewed and noted as answered (either via email or by discernment page informational posts) or pending response or further action. Questions around next steps and church conference votes will be addressed after spiritual discernment process is completed, but within the timeline laid out by the discernment committee during June 15th meeting.

Other Business

Dr. Darian will issue a Congregational Call to Daily Prayer beginning July 12th. Information will be shared via newsletters and website. Intentional Time of Quiet Reflection and Scriptural Study set by discernment committee will commence July 20th. The church sanctuary will be open to the congregation daily July 20-27th. In consideration of CDC security, there will be set times. Those times are not yet determined, but will be announced to the congregation as soon as confirmed.

During the July 27th discernment committee meeting, a recommendation to the administrative council will be prepared. The committee decided Chairman Shane Alpe will be notified of this timeline in order to allow preparations for an administrative council meeting following receipt of discernment committee's recommendation.

Next Steps

- Continued collection of surveys [via drop box and/or by church office].
- Continued research around next steps and congregational questions.

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)

Next meeting will be held 6p.m. July 13, 2023.