

Minutes of the Discernment Committee - FUMC West Point, MS
6p.m. Thursday, July 20, 2023

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

Dr. Darian opened the meeting with mediation and prayer.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.”

Hebrews 11:1-3 NRSV

July 13th meeting minutes are noted as approved via email. Minutes have been posted to discernment page.

Old Business

Congregational Survey

A survey postmarked July 17th was received by the church office. The discernment committee unanimously decided not to accept any survey submitted past the deadline of July 16th.

407 surveys were distributed to our congregation. 195 Surveys were returned and tallied by the committee. 189 were counted on July 16th. Six more were received by the church office via USPS on Monday, July 17th but were postmarked prior to July 16th therefore we chose to include those in the tally.

A complete report of those results will be shared in the newsletter and PDF posted to discernment page. Printed copies will also be available in the back of sanctuary. Motion to approve this process of distribution was made by Art Shirley and seconded by Jeff Hairston. Motion was unanimously approved.

New Business

Proposed Discernment Committee Recommendation to Administrative Council

A proposed draft of committee recommendation was reviewed and discussed. Art Shirley proposed amendment to opening statement. A motion to approve the recommendation as amended was made by Jeff Hairston and seconded by Norma Atkins. The motion passed by majority vote.

Next Steps

- Submit discernment committee recommendation to Administrative Council Chairman Shane Alpe.

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)