

## **DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT – JUNE 11, 2023**

The ten-person Discernment Committee is tasked to prayerfully discern if the Congregation of CUMC has sufficient interest to consider the process of disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church.

An important component of the discernment process is educating the Congregation about the issues. To help with this process, Educational Materials and Frequently Asked Questions have been provided on the Church's Website at [www.centralunitedmethodistchurch.org/home](http://www.centralunitedmethodistchurch.org/home). Once on the Central Homepage, you will see a tab at the top in the center that is labeled "Discernment". Clicking on that link will allow you to access and scroll through educational materials (videos and articles) and by hovering over "Discernment" you can access the FAQ's through the drop-down menu.

For those who do not have internet access or just prefer to be able to hold onto paper, there will be copies of these educational materials and Frequently Asked Questions available to view at the receptionist's desk at the entrance to the church office.

On Thursday June 8, 2023, the Discernment Committee initiated a non-binding straw poll of the Congregation through the polling service SurveyMonkey via email. This poll consists of ten questions, and your participation will be anonymous. Each member should respond to the poll only once. You will be able to participate in the poll either by accessing it through the link provided in the email or by requesting a link through the discernment email at [centralumcdiscernment@gmail.com](mailto:centralumcdiscernment@gmail.com). A written straw-poll will also be available in the church office, during normal working hours, for those who do not have internet access or just prefer to fill out a hard copy. The polling will end on Monday June 26, 2023.

All members of CUMC are encouraged to participate in this straw poll. Hopefully, the results of this poll will give us a clear sense of the direction in which the congregation would like to proceed.

After the results of the straw poll have been compiled, the Discernment Committee will determine if there is sufficient interest in furthering this discussion. If so, the committee will be providing additional information through a series of informational meetings in July and August.

The Discernment Committee will then need to make a recommendation to the Administrative Council about the next steps in the process.

Please continue to pray for Central in this season of discernment.

In Christ,

The Discernment Committee

*Jon Byrd, Co-Chair*

*Tim Allred*

*John David Barr*

*Brandon Pratt*

*Philip Busbee*

*Ronnie Walton, Co-Chair*

*Susan Ledbetter*

*Kim Beck*

*Kendrick Prewitt*

*Diane Reynolds*