

April 4, 2023

Re: Discernment Process

Dear Central Members,

By now you have probably been hearing people discuss the topic of some Methodist churches disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church (UMC), and you may be wondering what this means. That information will be forthcoming soon, but first we wanted to provide a letter to the membership to explain our process of deliberation.

In its open meeting on Feb. 27, the Administrative Council of Central United Methodist Church voted to create a Discernment Committee to look into the current trends and developments of the UMC. The committee is tasked with conducting research into the question of disaffiliation and will convey its findings to the members of the congregation. Second, the committee is asked to answer any questions generated by the membership. Third, the committee is asked to make a recommendation to the Administrative Council on whether to pursue further the question of disaffiliating or remaining within the UMC.

It is also important to know that the Discernment Committee is lay-led. The ultimate decision of staying in the UMC or disaffiliating from the UMC is a decision for the members of Central.

In the next couple of weeks, the Discernment Committee will get this additional information to each member of the congregation so that you can educate yourselves on the issues at hand. Until then, we would ask that everyone be in prayer for our church during this extremely important process.

Yours in Christ,

Discernment Committee members:

Jon Byrd (Co-Chair), Ronnie Walton (Co-Chair), Tim Allred, J.D. Barr, Philip Busbee, Susan Ledbetter, Raymond Moore, Brandon Pratt, Kendrick Prewitt, and Diane Reynolds