

June 2016 Newsletter Update

Discipleship & Discernment Corner

On March 18, several members of our Discipleship & Discernment (D&D) Team met with other local church members of the Fellowship Community at Vienna Presbyterian Church. At this meeting Dr. Jim Singleton, Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Evangelism at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, shared his insights and observations regarding the Fellowship Community, the decline of denominationalism in America, the experiences of churches in the discernment process, and the growth of ECO and the EPC (the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church).

On April 21, the Session met with a delegation from National Capital Presbytery to discuss the Session's request to begin the discernment process. The Presbytery delegation asked many questions of the Session and agreed to recommend that a Discernment Team be assembled. This Discernment Team would work with our church and guide this process. They noted that two other churches in our Presbytery are going through the process ahead of us, and they would work to assemble a team for us as soon as possible. Good News - On May 11, the chair of presbytery's Leadership Council informed Session that she is confident that they will have a team for Neelsville in place by the beginning of September.

Our D&D team will give an oral update at the next congregational meeting which is scheduled for June 5. The D&D Team is planning to develop a page on the church website which all can reference for updates and more information. Please stay informed, participate, and pray for guidance during this process. Questions? See any member of the Discipleship and Discernment Team: Craig Arold—Chair, Connie Barnes, Sue Farrell, Michele Kelly, Lynn Kroah, Chad Porter, Bob Velthuis, Merilee Worsey, or Pastor Pete.