

MINUTES FOR DISCERNMENT TEAM MEETING 8/24/22

Members Present: Jennifer Ayers, Steve Bouldin, Barbara Coughlin, Trip Dixon, Wray Hodgins, Jim Holcomb, Ken McAllister, David McCoy, Jessica Nelson, Mary Sansing, Dan Smoak, Clark Chilton, Jeff Patterson, Lisa Tanico.

1. Opening Devotion and Prayer: Dan
2. Review of our Purpose and Covenant Statements to remind ourselves of both: Mary
3. Many of us are nearing completion of our papers. We discussed how to review/critique/revise papers. We agreed to email our drafts to all committee members for review & comments. We will critique and revise before publishing on the website. Drafts of papers are due by Labor Day.

Suggested criteria for review of papers:

- Was the question/subject assignment adequately answered/covered?
- Is the paper easily readable by the average member of our congregation?
- Is the subject covered in just one page and is it adequately annotated on a second page?
- Is the paper as free as possible of bias and personal opinion?

Also discussed Rotary Club Guiding Principles:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

4. As we have been researching the UMC controversy, we have read articles that indicate a more pressing need to decide if disaffiliation is appropriate for our church. We are reading that disaffiliation from the UMC most likely will become more difficult and more costly if it is put off past the December 31, 2023 deadline given in ¶ 2553 of the Book of Discipline. If we voted for disaffiliation, we would need to do so well before the Western NC Annual Conference meeting in June of 2023, so that we could submit our request to them for approval.

We have heard the UMC stance from Amy Coles. Given this revised timeline, we decided to host an additional speaker. Dr. Terry Moore will speak on August 28.

We also would like to present our congregation with an opportunity to hear from our Pastors. September is very busy for WMUMC, so their talks could happen in early October.

We discussed the possibility of holding a straw poll to gauge the interest or lack of interest of the congregation in pursuing disaffiliation from the UMC.

5. An additional Question to research was suggested: "What is the benefit of staying with the UMC denomination?" New member, Jennifer will research that subject.

6. New members on the DT were introduced. Jennifer Ayers and Ken McAllister are joining the Team. Michael Amos has dropped off the Team due to health concerns.

7. Closing remarks and closing prayer: Jeff.

Submitted by Mary Sansing on 9/9/22