

PURPOSE STATEMENT FOR THE DISCERNMENT TEAM

This committee was formed as an exploratory team because of the possible splitting of our United Methodist Church (UMC) denomination.

Our purpose is to **objectively gather as much information as possible** about the relevant issues and to **disseminate that information** to the congregation, so that (if called upon) the congregation can be equipped to make an informed decision about whether to remain a member of the UMC denomination. We will also carefully discern what alternatives may be available for Wesley Memorial in the future.

We anticipate that our work will be thorough and ongoing. Any vote taken about the future of our church will be from the congregation and not this team. We encourage our Wesley Memorial family to do their own research on these issues. We welcome and encourage open dialogue with team members.

COVENANT AGREEMENT FOR THE DISCERNMENT TEAM

Commit to pray for discernment and understanding about God's will for our church.

Grant each other *charity* (defined as ascribing the best possible motive to each other's comments or actions).

Speak **to** each other with kindness and respect in meetings and speak **about** each other with kindness and respect outside of meetings.

Recognize that everyone's time is valuable and be succinct with our comments in our meetings so that we can keep our meetings as short as possible.

Keep an open mind about the issues.

Commit to dedicate an adequate amount of time to read and research the important information about the issues.