

**First Baptist Church
The Discernment Team
July 11, 2018**

Members present: Carolyn Cross (Board of Education), Wynn Davies (Board of Outreach), Carla Eakins (Church Clerk), Bill Fiore (Moderator), and Brooke Siddell (Pastoral Relations Committee)
Absent: Paul Chotlos (Board of Trustees), Nancy Emmert (Pastoral Relations Committee), Tom Kersten (Vice Moderator) and Rhiannon Tibbetts (Board of Deacons)

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Moderator Bill Fiore.

1. Prayer

Carolyn Cross opened the meeting with prayer.

2. How Does the Committee Want to Function?

Bill commented that we have issued an open invitation for congregational members to contact us with their questions and concerns. He suggested that all communications with the congregation be responded to if the committee has already agreed on the answer. However, if the question or comments do not have a committee agreed-to answer, then thank them for sharing and offer to bring it to the committee. He provided the following examples:

AN EXAMPLE OF A QUESTION THAT IS OKAY TO ANSWER: "IS THE COMMITTEE INTERVIEWING CONSULTANTS?" An honest answer that I would consider an agreed-to-answer would be "yes, but we have not selected one nor will we without congregational approval."

AN EXAMPLE FOR ONE TO BRING TO THE COMMITTEE WITH JUST A "THANK YOU FOR SHARING": "I HOPE THE COMMITTEE WILL ONLY BE WORKING WITH AMERICAN BAPTISTS". A good answer would be "thanks for sharing your concern which I will share with the committee."

Wynn Davies suggested changing the name of the committee to "The Discernment Team," which more accurately describes the role of the group. Committee members agreed, so from now on, the group will be referred to as The Discernment Team.

3. Discussion of the Listening Session on July 8

Committee members briefly reviewed and shared their impressions of the listening session held on Sunday, July 8, immediately after the service.

4. Continue our Process Discussion

Wynn distributed a handout listing some suggestions for getting started with the discernment process. Bill reported that both Marie Onwubuariri and Patricia Hernandez (Director of American Baptist Interim Ministry Service) believe that our proposed process is a good one. Committee members discussed the importance of hiring a consultant to help guide us in the process. Wynn reported that he has contacted four potential candidates who might fill that role. He indicated that Marie Onwubuariri recommended Mark Vincent, who has considerable experience working with Wisconsin Baptist churches. He also mentioned three other possible candidates, and committee members agreed that he should contact Mark Vincent and ask him to meet with the Team. After a consultant is chosen, a congregational meeting will be called to seek approval to hire him/her.

5. Discussion of Congregational Survey

Wynn commented that we need to determine the questions we want the discernment process to address and answer and suggested that we ask the congregation to submit questions. He reported that he would like to proceed with soliciting questions from the congregation. Brooke distributed copies of the questionnaire she has developed and committee members reviewed it. It was decided to change questionnaire to survey and include a place for respondents to list their names if they so choose. She will also include a reference noting that the questionnaire has been adapted from one developed by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research. Committee members decided that the questionnaire developed by Brooke and Wynn's survey should be sent to congregational members at the same time.

6. Next Meeting

Committee members decided that Wednesdays and Fridays are the best days for meetings, and the next meeting will be scheduled when Mark Vincent is able to meet with us.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Eakins, Church Clerk