

**First Baptist Church  
The Discernment Team  
December 5, 2018**

Members present: Paul Chotlos (Board of Trustees), Carolyn Cross (Board of Education), Carla Eakins (Church Clerk), Nancy Emmert (Pastoral Relations Committee), Bill Fiore (Moderator), Wynn Davies (Board of Outreach), Tom Kersten (Vice Moderator), Katy Marty (Board of Deacons), Brooke Siddell (Pastoral Relations Committee), and Jill Thomas (Public Member)  
Absent: Richard Bishop (Public Member) and, Beth Gunshor (Public Member)  
Guest: Jason Mack (Minister of Community)

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by Moderator Bill Fiore.

**1. Prayer**

Bill opened the meeting with a prayer.

**2. Discussion**

Bill indicated that the purpose of this meeting is to follow up on the conversations that were held in November and to disband the Discernment Team. Wynn reviewed the conversation which was held on November 25 where the group was divided into five tables and each group was invited to discuss one of the following five challenges:

- a) Our membership is declining and aging. What ideas can you identify that would help us reverse that trend?
- b) Our recent survey shows that we need to develop more fellowship opportunities and that this might be a way to attract people to First Baptist. What ideas do you have for providing more fellowship opportunities?
- c) Some have suggested that we may need to move forward with only one pastor. What changes will we have to make if there is only one pastor? Do we need to consider how we will organize ourselves and the rest of our paid staff?
- d) Describe in some detail the characteristics of the pastor we will seek. How should we select the pastoral search committee?
- e) What ideas can you identify that will help us develop a worship service that all who attend will find meaningful?

He reported that it was a good session which was attended by about 30 adults and youth.

Comments from each group were compiled by Wynn and provided to Team members by email.

Jill reviewed the results of the first conversation which was held on November 4 and focused on the first two sections of the survey: a) Tasks of the Church and b) Organizational Characteristics. She commented that over 90% of the respondents feel that congregational members take good care of each other. Many people commented on the need for more fellowship. Concerns were expressed about the lack of excitement about the future of FBC and the low morale of the congregation. There were many comments about worship. Jill commented that the mood of the

congregation needs to change, with members finding joy in seeing joy in others instead of focusing on themselves.

Wynn indicated that he will prepare a final summary report of the conversations which will be shared with Rev. Newheart as well as the congregation. Mary Michaud is also putting together a final report of her observations of the conversations.

Team members briefly discussed the discernment process going forward, and it was decided that the Discernment Team should be disbanded at the end of the year, and the discernment process will continue with the Leadership Council and Rev. Newheart. Wynn introduced a motion to disband the current Discernment Team at the end of 2018. The motion was seconded by Nancy and passed by unanimous vote.

### **3. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carla Eakins, Church Clerk