

Affiliation Discernment Committee meeting minutes-November 7, 2022

Members present: Chris Frohn, Lisa Birch, Linda Lynes, Nancy Howell, Kathi Madison, Kay Higby, Gary Schopfer, Joe Wells, Dan Huffer, Steve Ummel, Ken Haynes, Bettie Newley, Max Baldwin, Joe LeBlanc, Herb McKenzie, Phyllis Albertsons, Julie Burkhardt, Larry Cook, Latne' McMakin, Beth Majeroni, Jerramy McGee, Brett Femster

5PM meeting called to order, Lisa Birch opened in prayer. Chris Frohn, chaired the meeting and first introduced Gary Schopfer, who prepared and read "Message of Unification to Our Church Family". Chris thanked the committee's research, travel, attending speakers and hours of hard work in getting their research prepared for their Executive summaries, for print in a timely matter.

UPDATES- we are now moving into the second phase of the Affiliation Discernment.

~ Chris spoke to DS David Thompson:

Bishop Graves elected through September 21, 2024

*There will be a "Special Annual Conference" May 21, 2023 for the soul purpose to ratify churches of disaffiliation

* moratorium during Advent, he will not be able to come to our church until January 2023

* 30-40% of the church's in the South Georgia conference with a super majority vote are Disaffiliated

* His opinion is the SGC will become so small that "new boundary lines" will be drawn which will look more like state lines

* White Bluff UMC's straw poll was 82% to disaffiliate, they are voting in November

* IOH UMC is behind us in their discernment but he feels they are "in line" with our church

Linda Lynes reported Tybee Island UMC, last week, with a 95 out of 99 members voted YES to disaffiliate
Bettie Negley requested to have speakers expressing both sides, Chris agreed and will bring up at the Admin Board meeting Wednesday (November 9)

****Refer to hand out****

Chris asked we refer to the handout, and discussed the November and December timelines.

The church will continue with weekly emails, add a section of FAQ's and will keep the website updated as new information becomes available.

It is now time for enhanced membership involvement. Chris wants our committee members to foster unification and take conversations to our members. He challenged everyone to host a members briefing. How? Emails, town hall meeting this Sunday, sign up sheets, "be proactive in engaging the congregants". Brett Femster mentioned the young families of the church. We need to find ways to better engage them?

EXPECTATIONS:

Chris expressed that whenever a meeting is held, please take minutes and any notes of any gatherings. Gather FAQ's so we can answer them promptly.

Michelle Johnson expressed concern that The Marshes needed more attention in helping the residents understand what is going on.

Gary Schopfer asked about any questions for the sub committee leads prior to this Sunday's town hall meeting. Chris suggested coming up with 6 topics, 2 from each sub committee and it should be collaborative.

We will take a break during the week of Thanksgiving and use the remaining 3 weeks before December 19th to schedule meetings, presentations, anything needed to help our members get an understanding of all of the issues and answer any questions. December 19 through New Years, we will take a break and be prepared to hit January hard to finalize and get ready for a vote soon afterwards.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Birch

Lay Leader