

The District Discernment Team meet on April 15 at the District Office. For the first time, the team broke into sub-teams. One sub-team is primarily focused on worship and envisioning ways to empower our District to focus on "Jesus our Solid Rock." This team is made up of Nathan Rittenhouse, LaDawn Knicely, Terry Jewel and Karen Shiflet. The second group is focused on process and creating a framework to engage congregations who may consider leaving the denomination. This team is made up of David Miller, Jonathan Brush, Hobart Harvey, Heather Driver and Carter Myers.

The worship team began its work by considering what fundamental practices and beliefs inform our spirituality as a District, and how these may be a part of our discernment over the next two years. The team identified things like communion, prayer, study of the Scriptures and anointing. Meanwhile, the process team discussed issues related to property. They once again stated that there is no intent on behalf of the Discernment Team to withhold property from a congregation that discerns a new path in ministry. The process team also began to discuss how the District can assist a congregation if there is a contingent of people who vote to stay in the CoB.

We re-gathered at 4 p.m. with a gallery of 11 guests. Our team heard reports for our two sub-teams and set our next meeting date. We adjourned a few minutes early in order to have informal conversation with our visitors. This time was appreciated and a great way to connect with our District. We anticipate keeping the last hour of our meetings open to the District unless items we plan to discuss are sensitive in nature.

Our next meeting is set for May 20 from 2-5 p.m. at the District Office with the 4-5 p.m. hour open to anyone who wishes to attend.