

The District Discernment Team met Sunday, May 20, at the District Office. We began our time by reviewing our April meeting, including sharing about the time we had with our guests who came to the open session. Our team was blessed by the time of interaction with friends of the District and shared many encouraging thoughts that people throughout the District have shared with various members of our team. Brother John Jantzi updated us on processes happening on the denominational level and how these are coming to this year's Annual Conference.

After a time of introduction, we broke into our sub-teams. The process team discussed two major items in its time together. First, the team established a working definition of the term "property." When it is said that churches will be able to leave with "no threat to property" what is meant by the term "property" and how does this come into play if there is a minority part of the church that does not wish to leave the denomination? The process team discussed that for the intentions of our work and ease of process that "property" means all property - buildings, land, money, etc. Second, the team began to review a first draft of a framework for congregational withdrawal. This document was developed by one of the members of the team to help move the group forward in developing the process.

The worship team met with an intentional focus on the upcoming Annual Conference in Cincinnati. The team developed ideas to call the entire District together for prayer. Originally their vision was a series of videos calling the church to prayer, but this was unobtainable due to time constraints. Instead, the team developed a series of prayer emphases based on key Scriptures to call the District to prayer for Annual Conference. We encourage all our congregations to use these in the weeks leading up to Annual Conference.

Our last hour was in open session with seven guests. We shared our team reports and answered questions from the people who joined us around the table. We also set all of our meeting dates from June until District Conference: June 24, July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 16 and Oct. 21.