



BROAD STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Re: A Discernment Process Update

August 5, 2024

I'm giving you information about this year's discernment process. This morning, the Trustees of the Annual Conference released a statement saying that this is the last year churches would be able to separate. This decision came from their meeting on July 26th where they "updated" the process, which can be found on our website. This process may be affected due to a pending a Judicial Council ruling, which is expected to happen in the fall. For the complete statement, I will include the link below.

What does this mean for Broad Street UMC going forward and what are we doing? As you know, the church council voted to enter into discernment on July 23rd. This vote does not mean a vote to separate but an official way to engage in conversations and gather more information. I have assembled the 8 lay servants to help plan ways for the whole church to engage in conversations. Plans are in place for a congregation town hall on Sunday, August 18th at 5 PM. More information will be coming.

The Trustees of Broad Street UMC are scheduled to meet on August 13th to discuss the plans outlined in the 2025 checklist. That includes hiring a lawyer, setting up an appraisal of the assets of the church and parsonage (land, building, and furnishings), reviewing insurance policies, securing deeds for all property, and gathering financial information. All these things are due by December 2nd and will give us an estimated cost to separate.

What can you do? I urge you all to be in prayer over this process. I ask us all to prayerfully listen to what God is calling Broad Street to do. How is God calling Broad Street to minister in Clinton, now and in the future? How can we effectively be the church in Clinton?

Many of you have reached out to me for information and I am thankful for your questions. As you pastor, I want you to ask me questions. I am here to help you with whatever you need. Please continue to reach out if you need more guidance!

I leave us with this prayer: *Holy and Loving God, we bring our fears and anxieties to you, acknowledging that we cannot make inspired choices on our own. We ask that you help us open our hearts to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and fill us with truth and wisdom. May we be strengthened to follow your will and grant us the Peace that surpasses all human understanding. Help us bear with each other with patience, love, and respect, always remembering we are all your beloved children. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

<https://www.umcsc.org/umcsc-trustees-one-more-round-for-discernment-process/>

<http://www.broadstreet-umc.org/umc-happenings.html>

Blessings and Peace,
Rev. Justin Ritter