



Centenary United Methodist Church
300 North Ellis Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
573-334-2869
CentenaryNow@mycentenary.org
www.CentenaryNow.org

March 06, 2023

Dear Centenary Family,

The Discernment Team continues to meet every Sunday afternoon to pray and discuss how to help move Centenary forward in the most unified way given our upcoming decision whether to remain part of the United Methodist Church or disaffiliate and become independent or join another denomination. We all feel heartache and anxiety over the effect this decision is having on our congregation, pastors and staff. We ask each of you to continue praying for Centenary and our path forward.

On Sunday, March 5, a straw poll was conducted at the 9:00am and 11:00am service to help the Discernment Team and Administrative Council get a better feel of where our congregation is landing on this decision. Our team, along with Ron Hahs, Administrative Council Chair, tallied the responses. The results were as follows:

- 46 ready to disaffiliate
- 18 leaning to disaffiliate

- 49 ready to remain UMC
- 20 leaning to remain UMC

As you can see, those who participated in the straw poll were split down the middle. We will continue to ask God for more clarity, direction and unification for Centenary.

To assist those who would like more information, we will hold three round table discussions at the church to answer questions you might have. These will be smaller in size in order to give more people an opportunity to ask questions. Below are the days/times for each round table discussion:

- Monday, March 13 at 10:00am (FLC Lobby)
- Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30pm (FLC Lobby)
- Thursday, March 16 at 4:00pm (Church Office)

We ask that you sign-up for only one session by filling out the google form:

<https://forms.gle/Gd63tn8WZoeoCUT99>

If you need assistance in signing up you may also call the church office at (573)334-2869 or email centenarynow@mycentenary.org.

Our goal will be to answer questions as factually as we can. Our goal is not to persuade you one way or the other but to give you the information you seek as unbiasedly as we possibly can so you can decide for yourself how you would like to vote regarding the future of Centenary.

To see previous discernment team updates or to ask a question you can go to our website www.centenarynow.org and click on the discernment tab.

As always, we seek to hear God's voice above all others, especially our own. Remember that we all have our own perspectives and how we approach one another, share our opinions, and talk about others matters. Please choose words and attitudes that build one another up, not tear one another down. We lay this at God's feet and ask His will be done regarding the future of Centenary.

In Christ's Love,

Gary Brookover

Sherry Brookover

Frances Gould

Cherie Henson

Kristi Howard

Scott McClanahan

Nathan Meece

Bob Williamson