

First United Methodist Church of West Monroe
Discernment Process

1. Congregational Meetings

February 11 (Saturday)	10:00 am – noon
February 16 (Thursday)	6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
February 19 (Sunday)	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

These meetings will allow for the congregation to meet and have an open, respectful conversation about the questions the congregation should consider in the discernment process, the information packets, and other appropriate topics. The purpose is to learn from each other and not debate any issue.

The meetings will be facilitated by members of the Discernment Team.

2. Conversational Groups

Smaller groups to meet and have open, respectful conversations about information packets provided to the congregation. The purpose is to learn from each other and not debate any issue. This may be a Sunday School class or other small group of 12 – 25 people. May meet during Sunday School time or schedule another time.

These conversation groups will be moderated by members of the Discernment Team.

3. Prayer and Fasting

The church's parlor will be open on Wednesday nights from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm to allow for members of the congregation to come and pray.

The congregation will be encouraged to pray and fast (for those who are able) on each Friday in February.

If you would like to pray with the pastor, please contact him to schedule a time. He leads a Bible study during this Wednesday time slot.

4. Website

We will utilize our website and/or Realm, as well as printed materials to share information. This information will be informative but balanced, multi-perspective, minimally biased, and factual.

5. Congregational Essays

Members of the congregation may write a one-page essay or other form of communication concerning their point of view on the questions that should be considered during the discernment process, the information in the distributed packets, or another appropriate topic. These essays will be shared on the website.

The essay may only include positive information. It cannot contain negative language about others, any denominations, or other people's points of view. This does not limit people from communicating their beliefs, but it does limit that communication to what is positive and their supported denomination or perspective.

6. Informational Packet

An informational packet will be compiled to share information with the congregation. The goal of this packet is to answer questions by providing factual, non-biased information. It will not be meant to lead a person towards a decision. It will be approved by the District Superintendent before distribution.