

February 10, 2023

Dear Messiah friends,

The following is a brief update on the work of the Discernment Committee. It may seem that we have been in the “discernment” phase for a long time! Rest assured – and thanks be to God! – the process has continued, moving us closer to understanding the best way forward for our congregation.

The Committee has met consistently over the past six months – primarily in conversation with Pastor Seth, or with members of the staff, but also to regroup as a committee and plan for next steps. Pastor Steve Krebill, a specially trained interim pastor, has also been participating in many of these meetings, offering guidance. Additionally, the Bishop’s office of the Northeast Ohio Synod has consulted with both the team and with Pastor Seth.

All of this work will allow our eventual call process to move more smoothly and with a clear understanding of the opportunities before us. The Discernment Committee is nearing the conclusion of its work and a more substantive update will be provided in the coming weeks.

Finally, at every step in the process, the Discernment Team has prayed for the Holy Spirit to guide their meetings, their conversations, and their recommendations. They pray for our pastors and staff during this time of transition. They also pray for the members of our congregation and ask that each of you pray for the team as well! God give us all wisdom, patience and peace as we continue to discern God’s will for Messiah!