

Dear RUMC Members,

During times of uncertainty in life, we often turn to scripture for guidance and wisdom. As we prayerfully enter this discernment process, may we be inspired by the words of Paul to the Philippian church.

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it, but one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

The "prize" during this time is for us all to remember that we are still the church that should be "Sharing the Joy of Christ." While discernment is the season we find ourselves in, and some days will be better than others, we cannot take our eyes off the prize. So it is that Paul reminds us to stay focused!

Discernment and pursuing God's will for our church are at the heart of our prayers at this time. Therefore, the pastoral staff and lay leadership have thoughtfully and prayerfully gathered a team of people focused on faithful and devoted discernment for our church. This team will consist of eleven RUMC members. Each person will do this job to the best of their ability.

The members of the RUMC Discernment Team are as follows:

Terry Bagwell  
Susan Camp  
Susan Clopton  
Lynn Coffey  
Rebecca Horn  
James Jockisch  
Bruce Larson  
Jennifer Patton  
Brad Snuggs, Chair  
Craig Tolbert  
Jeff Wallace

We are grateful to each of these individuals who have committed their time and energy to serve on this vital team. Please join me in offering them prayers for insight, direction, wisdom, and guidance. The central question that will face them, and the entire church, is, "What is God's Will for RUMC?"

The team's first meeting is scheduled, which Rick Owen, our District Superintendent, will attend. The team will discuss and review the discernment process and timeline for RUMC. In addition, we plan to update our church's website to include current discernment information, which members can access anytime. Please be patient with all of us as we build this new website and as our discernment team begins their duties.

If you have questions regarding RUMC's discernment process, please email [discernment@riverchaseumc.org](mailto:discernment@riverchaseumc.org). We will do our best to answer your questions as quickly as possible.

Rev. Tony Johnson  
Senior Pastor