



## Welcome to Troy Methodist Church!

### New to TMC?

We invite you on a journey with Jesus...

**Connect** to God and our faith community.

**Grow** into a wholehearted follower of Jesus.

**Serve** with your God-given gifts and passions.

**Share** God's love regionally and globally.

Worship God in everything you say and do.

*Stop by the Welcome Center after service to pick up a gift!*



*Point your phone camera at the QR code to connect!*

### Upcoming Events

*1/15 Troy Methodist Students- High School/ Middle School Mission Day*

*1/16 1<sup>st</sup> Step Learning Center Open House*

*1/20 Spiritual Leadership Generator Kickoff*

*1/21 Connect Lunch*

*1/23 Joy Seekers Chili Cookoff*

## Message Notes

January 14, 2024

### **Acts Part 4 - The Way: Discernment**

Acts 15:1-35

#### **Background to *The Council at Jerusalem in Acts 15*:**

- 33 AD - Acts 2 - the church is born with Jewish believers
- 40 AD - Acts 10/11 - Peter baptizes Cornelius and the first Gentile believers
- 46 AD - Acts 13 - Paul and Barnabas sent out from Antioch on Paul's first missionary journey - many Gentiles came to faith
- 49 AD - Acts 15 - Some people taught in Antioch that Gentile believers had to be circumcised to be saved

#### ***The Council at Jerusalem was important for 2 reasons:***

1. The decision that was made: Gentiles who came to faith in Christ were not required to observe the Old Testament Law as a requirement of salvation!
2. The way they made the decision: A process of discernment

#### **Key Elements to Discernment in Acts:**

- Bathed in prayer and fasting (ch. 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 14)
- Not done alone (15:6)
- Consider the activity of God (15:7-12)
- Consult the Word of God (15:13-18)
- A willingness to debate all sides (15:5-12)
- Leadership and Community provide final approval (15:19, 22)

#### **Reflection questions for your discernment:**

- Are you bathing your decisions in prayer and fasting?
- Are you involving godly counsel in your discernment?
- What is God doing?
- How does it all align with Scripture, or does it?
- Have you listened and really wrestled with all sides, all options?
- Can the group, the family, the church – come behind and support the decision?