

GSLC Inreach and Congregational Care Committee
Meeting Minutes of Thursday, August 11, 2022
 Via Zoom and In Person

Present: Pr. Sheryl Erickson, Kimberly King, Cathy Peercy, Cathy Beaty, Kathie Schroedel, Jessica McCarty, Judy Liliensiek, Mark Renner and via Zoom, Pat Westimayer and Jan Grebel

Brian opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer. The minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

Committee Leadership Update:

July Liliensiek, vice-chair

Kimberly King, secretary

Metrics for June and July

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
• Home Communion	27 visits, 4 cards	29 visits, 5 cards
One new server (Ronda Beggs) bringing the total up to 22 (possibly 23). Volunteers serve monthly, every other or every three months. When pastors are included, there are 11-13 servers each month. Many hands make light (and meaningful) work.		
• Hospital Visits	1	0
• Follow-up Contacts	26	22
• Grief Packets	36 active, 29 completed	
• Funerals	3 memorials SE	0
• Prayer Chain Prayers	6 new, 3 updates	9 new, 2 updates
• Stephen Ministry Active Relationships	8	7
• PrimeTimers (See Sarah I's report)		
• Keeping the Connection: Collecting new college freshmen contact info		
• Card Ministry: January through June 2022: 259 Thank You, 14 Milestone Anniversary, 35 Keeping the Connection (KTC) Valentines, 38 KTC Easter, 36 KTC Summer, 10 Baby Cards, 42 Easter Thank You, 18 Staff Sympathy, 18 Sympathy, 37 Valentines, 23 Get Well, 46 Confirmation, 25 Easter for Homebound, 30 Baptism, 41 First Communion, 10 Praying for You, 10 Graduation, 44 Thanks for Worshipping. Card TOTAL - 736		
• Shepherd's Hands: Working on baptismal blankets, yarn available at Madison campus, and regular items such as prayer shawls		
• Altar Flower Delivery	1	4

Board Representative Report - Vern reported on the newly elected board members - Bob Beggs, president; David Vogt, vice president; and Betsy Johnson, secretary.

Reviewed highlights from Pr. Sheryl's and Sarah Iverson's committee reports. Pastors Sheryl, Dara, Joe, and Mark had the opportunity to meet for coffee with residents of Oakwood and All Saints. It was nice for the residents to make connections with one another. Some had never met one another as fellow members of GS.

Pastor Sheryl thanked everyone for celebrating her 35 year ordination anniversary.

Showcase a Committee Ministry - Shepherd's Hands - Kathie

The group began at Verona campus and was led by MaryJo Manke (who did not know how to knit!) They meet from 1:30 - 3:00pm every 3rd Thursday, even months at Verona and odd months at Madison. Projects include prayer shawls, prayer squares, 6" squares that are sent to Pine Ridge, and hats and scarves for the food pantry (are there any other places that are in need of these items? Kimberly can ask Social Action Committee for ideas and inquire if they are needed for the Shoeboxes). The newest project is making Baptismal Blankets. Approximately 14 have already been made to be given out at Baptisms. The yarn for these blankets was purchased through the 2021 budget, totaling approximately \$160. Kits were made available to knitters/crocheters. When a blanket is finished it is turned in at the church to Jessica or Judy. Quite a bit of yarn is donated for hats and scarves. Some members purchase their own yarn. Pat emails about 40 members to remind them of meetings and projects; usually 5-15 members attend meetings while others continue to knit/crochet at home. Pat, Kathie or Barb Friberg are contacts for questions about this ministry.

Name Tag Sunday, September 11th - Judy volunteered to help at Madison.

June 23rd New Member Gathering Feedback

There was a good turnout of new members. The box lunches were appreciated. It was nice to have committee members (Inreach and Hospitality) sitting at the tables with new members. Several households are already deeply involved in the life of the congregation. Pr. Sheryl and Pr. Dara had a couple ideas of improvements to make for future new member gatherings. Pat, Judy L and Judy Renner will make follow up phone calls in September (3 new members each)

Strategic Plan pp 22-24: Internal: Membership/Belonging

Began discussion of Strategic Plan. Specifically Membership/Belonging.

Pr. Mark shared an article about cultivating community to spark/guide our conversation.

The committee hopes to get an update from Sarah about discussions she has been having with congregation members.

Pr. Sheryl lifted up intergenerational opportunities and stated that worship is one of the few, if not only places where we gather together with different age groups.

For all to consider: How do we talk about Christianity?

Our discussion will continue at the next committee meeting.

Keeping the Connection - current addresses are being gathered/updated. It was suggested that a post card could be mailed to this year's high school graduates. Kimberly will pursue with Eric and the communications team. It was also suggested that a prayer square could be mailed to the college students. Pastor Mark wondered if the prayers of the day on Sunday could include college students and also lift up the card makers and knitters and others involved in providing the mailings. A slide could be included (during announcements or during worship?)

Pat volunteered to do devotions for the next committee meeting to be held on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 6 pm in the Good Shepherd room at Madison campus. A zoom link will be provided

for those unable to attend in person. The committee closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly King, Secretary