**GSLC Inreach and Congregational Care Committee**

**Meeting Minutes of Thursday, August 13, 2020**

Via Zoom

Present: Cathy Beaty, Pr. Sheryl Erickson, Jessica McCarty, Kimberly King, Pat Westimayer, Kathie Schroedel, Cathy Peercy, Mark Renner

Pat opened the meeting with a devotional reading and prayer. The minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

Metrics for June and July 2020

 ⁃ Monthly Home Communion Calls: June: 34x2 July:34x2

 ⁃ Hospital Visits: Not allowed

 ⁃ Follow Up Contacts: June: 47 July: 50

 ⁃ Elder Phone Calls: 0

 ⁃ Funerals: June: 1 SE, 1 MR Graveside July: 1 CE, 2 SE Graveside, 1 SE Outdoor funeral

 ⁃ Widow/Widowers: 0

 ⁃ New Prayer Chain Prayers: June: 14 + 6 follow up July: 14 + 5 follow up

 ⁃ Stephen Ministry Active Relationships: June: 11 July: 11

 ⁃ PrimeTimers: no events but a special e-mail goes out each Friday with links to all of Eric’s videos for the week. First zoom meeting with 9 participants took place last week

 ⁃ Shepherds Hands: (working on prayer shawls for church and hats and scarves for food pantry, clothes closet and homeless)

 ⁃ Alter Flowers Delivered: 0

Pr. Mark said those people he’s contacted are getting what they need but the isolation is wearing on them. Pr. Sheryl said that the only in-person visitations are at Agrace when someone is at the end of life. Pr. Sheryl noted that her funeral in Blanchardville was large and held outdoors. Pr. Sheryl said that more programs are using online communication, such as Vicki Ruff sending an email invitation to join the Prayer Chain. Jessica said she had participated in the PrimeTimers Zoom meeting at the invitation of Sarah I. There were nine participants.

Shepherds Hands

The committee discussed the logistics for getting Shepherds Hands items (hats, scarves, mitten, prayer shawls, etc.) to church for distribution. Pat said she is working with Rick Thomas to determine when and how to collect the goods. She said there is an area in Sarah’s office that can be the collection and distribution point with a probable September timeline.

Pat also reported that Lucille Copas has been knitting prayer squares, usually one per day. One suggestion is to include a prayer square in the grief mailings. Jessica said she would check with Judy on how the squares would impact mailing costs.

Kathie suggested Shepherds Hands participate in knitting or crocheting squares for Pine Ridge blankets. She said she is willing to collect and ship the squares.

Zoom New Member Gathering

Pastor Dara is working with the Hospitality Committee on the possibility of having a New Member Gathering via Zoom. Kathie said she was joining the Hospitality Committee meeting tonight at the conclusion of the ICC meeting. Jessica suggested that information packets be delivered to attendees before the meeting. Donna would assemble the packets, and ICC members would be willing to deliver them.

Grief Mailing Update

Jessica reported that two mailings of the grief booklets have been sent. Another person will receive the first booklet. The mailings include a letter from Pr. Sheryl.

Reopening Committee Update

Cathy B participated in the latest Reopening Committee meeting. That group is planning how to move from Phase 1 to Phase 2 and hopefully move quickly to Phase 3. Cathy B said it was a good informational meeting explaining why the church is still in Phase 1. Pat noted that small groups like Shepherds Hands could maintain social distancing in the narthex, but many in the group are in the at-risk category. Pr. Sheryl said there is a good deal of vulnerability involved in moving to in-person events, but planting the seed of moving forward toward normalcy is important.

Pr. Sheryl said 13 households are waiting to schedule baptisms. One proposal is to have a private baptismal service in the church with specific one way in and one way out, assigned bathrooms, etc. Pr. Sheryl said it is important to involve the congregation in the ceremony. The event would be filmed and shown at an online Sunday service. Pr. Mark suggested the possibility of providing liturgy to families so they could baptize their child at home.

Pr. Sheryl said two people have requested home communion. Pr. Mark said they could use the prepackaged elements.

Jessica asked where Stephen Ministries contacts had been meeting pre-COVID. Kathie said about half of the contacts were made at church and half elsewhere. Kathie said one suggestion is to meet in the chapel of the Verona campus, but plans are to meet elsewhere and use the chapel as a last resort. Pr. Sheryl commented that the custodial staff could easily be overwhelmed with sanitizing areas used for meetings.

The committee discussed whether to have the October meeting in person or via Zoom or a combination of the two. Most members said they were comfortable with the convenience of the Zoom meeting. The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, October 8th, at 6 pm. Cathy P volunteered to have devotions. The committee closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Peercy, Vice Chair