

**GSLC Inreach and Congregational Care Committee
Meeting Minutes of Thursday, April 2, 2020**

Via Zoom

Present: Cathy Beaty, Cathy Peercy, Pr. Sheryl Erickson, Jessica McCarty, Kimberly King, Mark Renner, Jan Grebel

Pr. Sheryl reported that Pat would not be part of the meeting, because she is awaiting confirmation of whether her mother has tested positive for the COVID-19 disease. Kathie also would not participate because she and Dave are with their granddaughters while Sarah is in hospital having her baby. Pr. Sheryl said she did not know Matt's status.

Cathy P opened the meeting with devotional readings and prayer. The minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

Metrics for February and March 2020

	FEB	MAR
▪ Monthly Home Communion	38	35 calls/cards
▪ Hospital Visits	27	Not Allowed
▪ Follow Up Contacts	33	38 Pastoral
▪ Funerals	1	1
▪ Widow/Widowers	Snow	9
▪ New Prayer Chain Prayers	12	27; 7 updates
▪ Active Stephen Ministry Relationships	13	12
▪ PrimeTimers		44
▪ Shepherds Hands		

Pr. Sheryl described changes made in response to the pandemic. Home communion will transition to telecare using phone calls twice monthly. Pr. Mark, Pr. Sheryl and current home communion servers will make those calls. Mark said the schedule may change to short weekly calls.

Pr. Sheryl said several GS congregants have been hospitalized recently. Because no one is allowed to visit inpatients, she and Pr. Mark will be keeping in touch with the patients and families via phone calls.

GS is following state guidelines for gatherings for funerals. She expects graveside services will be the norm for the near future. Under those same guidelines, wedding plans will change either by live-streaming, canceling or postponing the event.

New Member Gathering

Cathy P reported that the turnout for the gathering was small, but all appeared interested in learning more about Good Shepherd. After Pr. Sheryl and Pr. Joe made their presentation, individuals at the two tables exchanged information about themselves. GS members Ronda Beggs, Rob, Shannon, Colby and Owen Davis and

Cathy P also participated in the dialogue. Pr. Sheryl will get contact information to Cathy P, Cathy B and Mark and Judy Renner for follow-up phone calls.

Discussion Topics

Phone pals: Pr. Sheryl said there hasn't been much response to the idea of becoming a phone pal to date. Sarah Iverson is the lead person working on the proposal.

Help for those who have lost their jobs: Pr. Mark said pride often gets in the way of Lutherans to ask for help. Pastoral staff especially need to keep their ears open for contact. Mark proposed that people might be encouraged to donate their economic stimulus checks to a special fund to aid those in need. Also, although the Food Pantry is an outreach program, it is expected that some GS members will need to use that resource. Pr. Sheryl said food pantry distributions are limited to only items received from Second Harvest Food Bank. Rick Thomas, Donna Maysack and the food pantry coordinators are the main workers, because the regular volunteers are not allowed in the church building. Pr. Mark asked about funding. Pr. Sheryl said there is a fund established by an inheritance gift in the GS Foundation that is designated specifically for the food pantry. Cathy B said nextdoor.com has suggested Little Food Pantries similar to Little Libraries for donations.

Grief Support: Pr. Sheryl reported that the current group had two sessions before all church meetings were suspended. The wife of the lead couple is part of the medical community. A participant contacted the church asking if there is a way the class might resume remotely with Zoom.

Keeping the Connection: Kimberly said that because most college students are home during the pandemic, she will not distribute the planned care packages. Instead, she plans to mail an Easter card to the home address of each student.

Jessica told the committee about a website link about what a person can do. The articles include spiritual and physical exercises to help cope with the current situation. The link is gslcwi.com/together/additional-resource.

Pr. Sheryl stressed the importance of staying connected during this time apart. She encouraged the committee to reach out to Pat and Kathie, sharing in their concerns and joy. Pr. Mark said email is good communication, but a personal phone call is often more effective. Pr. Sheryl reported that Pr. Joe was transferred to the UW Rehab Center. Lynn was able to see him as he was being transferred.

The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, June 11th, at 6 pm. Cathy B volunteered to have devotions. The committee closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Peercy, Vice Chair