**GSLC Inreach and Congregational Care Committee**

**Meeting Minutes of Thursday, December 10, 2020**

Via Zoom

Present: Pr. Sheryl Erickson, Jessica McCarty, Kimberly King, Pat Westimayer, Kathie Schroedel, Cathy Peercy, Jan Grebel

Pat opened the meeting with a devotional reading and prayer. Cathy noted that the date of the meeting was written as August 13 instead of October 8. The minutes of the October 8, 2020 meeting were approved as corrected.

Metrics for October and November 2020

 ▪ Monthly Home Communion Calls: October 30 November 30

 ▪ Hospital Visits: Not allowed

 ▪ Follow-up Contacts: October 41 November 28 (as of 11/23)

 ▪ Elder Phone Calls:

 ▪ Funerals: October 1 funeral SE; 1 graveside CE November 2 SE

 ▪ New Prayer Chain Prayers: October 16 new/7 updates November 12 new/9 updates

 ▪ Stephen Ministry Active Relations: October 12 November 10

 ▪ PrimeTimers & Widow/Widowers: Weekly zoom with 10 - 15

 ▪ Shepherds Hands: Working on prayer shawls for church and hats and scarves for food pantry, clothes closet and homeless

Sarah Iverson’s Report

Cathy B said she had included all of Sarah’s notes on the agenda because they showed her strategies for achieving connections with groups and individuals. One example is the weekly PrimeTimer zoom meeting which now includes Widows/Widowers members. Sarah is also intentional in making contact with people who are struggling in this difficult time.

Pine Ridge Knitting Project

Kathie and Pat reported that four boxes of crafted squares were shipped to the coordinator to be made into blankets for Pine Ridge Reservation. A thank you note has been received from her expressing her heartfelt gratitude for the gift of squares. It was suggested that the thank you note should be shared with the congregation.

Keeping the Connection

Kimberly said she had made and sent cards in November. Those cards were signed by all pastors and Sarah I. There are now 64 students on the mailing list compiled by Ashley, Becca and Kimberly. The next mailing will be near the end of January with either Happy New Year or Winter Greetings as the theme.

Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings

Pr. Sheryl said that GS is following higher guidelines with regard to baptisms, funerals and weddings. Jan noted that the outdoor wedding in the Devil’s Lake area went well with people scattered and all masked. Two couples are planning weddings in 2021. Pr. Sheryl said the in-person funerals are a preference because people feel more connected. Also, currently baptisms will have only parents, sponsors and siblings at the ceremony. GS is almost caught up with the 24 baptisms that had been delayed because of the virus.

Home Communion Calls and Thanksgiving Meals

Jessica reported that all calls had been completed before November 10th to make sure the recipients had information about the Thanksgiving dinner and Advent Devotional. Many requested dinners for themselves and their caregivers. Judy Hoard will mail the first quarter devotion books before December 18th. A total of 707 meals were given out in a drive-through pickup line and by individual deliveries.

Grief Packets

Jessica reported that there are nine active grief packet mailings at this time.

Baptismal Knitted Blankets

Pat and Kathie said there is a new Shepherds Hands project proposal to knit baptismal blankets. The request came from a connection of Donna Maysack’s in the RSVP of Dane County (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). This idea may need some follow-up.

Outdoor Worship 2021

Cathy B and Pr. Sheryl asked the committee to consider whether it has a role to play when outdoor worship services resume in the spring. There are welcome groups, ushers, yellow line setting, etc. Jessica suggested that attendees put their names in chalk on the pavement to show where they were seated.

The committee took a few minutes to hear how each member is doing during this difficult time. They gave Jan their Get Well wishes as she battles COVID. Jessica volunteered for devotions at the next Zoom meeting scheduled February 11, 2021 at 6 pm. The committee closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Peercy, Vice Chair