

GSLC Inreach and Congregational Care Committee
Meeting Minutes of Thursday, February 11, 2021
Via Zoom

Present: Pr. Sheryl Erickson, Vern Andren, Kathie Schroedel, Cathy Beaty, Jessica McCarty, Pat Westimayer, Jan Grebel, Pr. Mark Renner, Cathy Peercy

Jessica opened the meeting with a devotional reading and prayer. The minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

Metrics for December and January

	December	January
• Monthly Home Communion Calls:	32	31
• Hospital Visits:	Not allowed	Not allowed
• Follow Up Contacts:	49	44
• Elder Phone Calls:	0	0
• Funerals:	0	2 Commend-SE
• New Prayer Chain Prayers	10 + 8 updates	13 + 5 updates
• Stephen Ministry Active Relationships:	10	10
• Keeping the Connection:		Approx. 60 cards sent
• PrimeTimers:		
• Widow/Widowers:		
• Shepherds Hands: (working on prayer shawls for church and hats and scarves for food pantry, clothes closet and homeless)		

Welcome to New Board Representative

Pr. Sheryl introduced Vern Andren as the committee's new church board representative. The committee took a few minutes to get acquainted before commenting on the zoom annual meeting which was considered very well done. Vern praised Andrew Seaborg for his leadership during this last year. Cathy B thanked everyone who contributed to the committee annual report.

Who are we missing?

Pr. Sheryl said Donna Maysack and Jared Stellmacher are leading a search of our data base to determine who has and who hasn't had contact with the church or staff over the last six to nine months. Jessica reported that approximately six hundred families have been identified as not having contact, and church staff is sharing the responsibility for making contact with them. Pr. Sheryl noted that a secondary result of the contacts is the ability to update the church rolls.

Moving forward with plans for in-person meetings and services

The committee discussed how to move forward as the Covid Committee and Dane County start to lift restrictions on in-person small group meetings and how to be involved when outdoor worship resumes. Pr. Sheryl said that all Lenten and Easter services will be virtual. Kathie told the committee about her worship experiences in Arizona, e.g., how that church handles in-person Communion. Pr. Sheryl suggested that families be asked to make signs about their faith to share with the congregation.

New Member and Baptism Classes

The committee discussed the possibility of offering a new members class in the near future. Kathie said she would let the committee know when the Hospitality Committee makes a decision about this issue. The following committee members volunteered to help with delivery of materials to

prospective members: Cathy B, Cathy P, Jan, Vern and Jessica. Jessica said she would help Donna prepare packets. Pr. Sheryl reported that she plans to lead a baptism class in which 7-8 families have shown interest. She said most of those families are not members of GS.

In-person Grief Group Sessions

Pr. Sheryl suggested consideration of resuming in-person and/or blended Grief meetings. She said she had been contacted by Cress Funeral Home to see if we are having physical, not virtual, meetings. Judy Hoard has checked with the couple who were leading the sessions until the pandemic halted the activity. As medical professionals they are still heavily involved in health care and would not be able to lead during this difficult time. Pr. Sheryl and Pr. Mark would guide a possible four-session blended program for caring and sharing in the loss of friends or relatives. Pr. Sheryl noted that isolation caused by the pandemic is hard on those who grieve. Jessica reported that there are 15 active grief packet mailings, and one family has received all four booklets.

Grant to Fund Stephen Ministry Needs

Pr. Sheryl said she has considered making a grant request to the GS Foundation Board to fund an update of Leader Curriculum for Stephen Ministry Leaders and possibly ask for funds for one Stephen Minister to receive remote leadership training from the national organization. She will research the cost of the proposals and determine whether to ask for a grant or put the item in the committee's budget proposal.

Cathy B volunteered for devotions at the next Zoom meeting scheduled on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6 pm. The committee closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Peercy, Vice Chair