

GSLC Inreach and Congregational Care Committee

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, April 8, 2021

Via Zoom

Present: Cathy Beaty, Jessica McCarty, Kimberly King, Cathy Peercy, Pat Westimayer, Vern Andren, Sarah Iverson

Cathy B opened the meeting with a devotional reading and prayer. The minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

<u>Metrics for February and March</u>	February	March
• Monthly Home Communion Calls	29 calls	31
calls		
• Hospital Visits	Not Allowed	Not
Allowed		
• Follow Up Contacts	52	45
• Elder Phone Calls	- 0 -	-0-
• Grief Group		6
Attendees		
• Funerals	1 (DSH)	1
(SE)		
• New Prayer Chain Prayers	12 + 10 updates	14 new
requests		
• Stephen Ministry Active Relationships	10	10
• Keeping the Connection		
Approx. 50 cards sent		
• PrimeTimers & Widow/Widowers	See minutes	
• Shepherds Hands (working on prayers shawls for church and hats and scarves for food pantry, clothes closet and homeless)		

Hospital visits now are allowed for major illnesses or emergencies. The grief group is hybrid in that some participants are attending via Zoom. Jessica reported that there are 18 current grief

packet mailings, three more than in February. Kimberly said that high school students signed the Easter cards sent to college students. Most families are waiting to schedule any funeral or memorial services. The Covid Task Force meets on Sunday, April 11th. Their guidelines may impact funeral plans. Pat told about her family's plan to celebrate her Mom's memory with Covenant Presbyterian members. Sarah reported that PrimeTimers continue to meet via Zoom once a week. They also have enjoyed the two Sunday night prayer events.

Assistance for the Spring/Summer Worship Schedule

The committee discussed how to help as the church transitions to in-person worship formats. Cathy B and Vern volunteered to usher if needed. Sarah said that, because of the limited number of attendees for each service, there will be no regular ushering teams. All services require registration. Sarah said services will be better defined by June.

Plans for Resumption of In-Person Home Communion

The committee discussed the possibility of resuming in-person home communion in May or June. Cathy B volunteered to call selected nursing homes and residential facilities to find out their visitor policy within that time frame. The planned visit would have a masked, fully vaccinated individual meet one-on-one with a church member who is a resident there. The server would offer communion using a pre-sealed wine and wafer packet.

Cathy P and Kimberly volunteered to call communion recipients to ascertain their preferences for receiving in-person home communion. Cathy B said she would help if needed. Questions to be asked include whether the person is open to an in-person visit or would rather continue to commune during the televised worship services and whether the recipient has received the Covid vaccine. Pr. Sheryl and Jessica will contact the communion servers.

Other Topics

Pat asked if it would be possible to resume in-person Shepherds Hands meetings, perhaps using the tent. Jessica suggested making a room reservation specifying the tent when a date is chosen. Pat will contact the Shepherds Hands crafters to find out if the group wants to meet together again.

Sarah proposed planting a tree on each campus as a testimony to the loss and unresolved anger and grief caused by the pandemic. She said that a bench could be placed by each tree for people to sit and meditate. Vern suggested the benches could be memorial gifts. Sarah will talk to Rick Thomas about moving forward with this idea.

Pat volunteered for devotions at the next Zoom meeting scheduled on Thursday, June 10,2021 at 6 pm. The committee closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Peercy, Vice Chair