

**GSLC Inreach and Congregational Committee**

**Meeting Minutes of Thursday, October 14, 2021**

Via Zoom and In-Person

Present: Cathy Beaty (via Zoom), Vern Andren, Pr. Sheryl Erickson, Pr. Mark Renner, Kathie Schroedel, Jessica McCarty, Cathy Peercy, Pat Westimayer (via Zoom)

Vern opened the meeting with devotional readings and prayer. The minutes of the August 12, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

<u>Metrics for August and September</u>	August	September
• Home Communion calls, 2 cards	?	35 visits, 2
• Hospital Visits	0	?
• Follow Up Contacts	42	44
• Elder Calls		
• Grief Packets 10/08/2021	15 active packets; 9 completed series as of	
• Funerals	4	
• Prayer Chain updates	15 plus 5 updates	15 plus 6
• Stephen Ministry Active Relationships	7	5
• PrimeTimers & Widow/Widowers		
• Shepherds Hands Thanksgiving meals; Jessica requested prayer squares for grief packets	Working on prayer squares for	
• Card Ministry	Fall greeting cards made for the Home Communion recipients, to be delivered by hand during visits or via mail during the month of October	

Home Communion had some adjustments in the past few weeks due to death, health improvement or decline, moving out of state, etc. For October there are 36 active households on the list with most receiving monthly visits, but some every other month. A few people still prefer a card or call only. There currently are 21 volunteer home communion servers. Although

there also have been changes in the provider list, overall it seems to be growing. GS is blessed with a dedicated and compassionate team for this important ministry.

The committee had a collaborative discussion about the October 11th event and Sara M's summary statement. Most of the committee members were in attendance at the shared leadership retreat. Pr. Sheryl reiterated that GS and its committees are learning organizations inviting people into transformative relationships with God, each other and the wider community. She noted that the ICC should focus on the "why" and not let the "what" be held sacred. Pr. Mark said that ICC should focus on bringing people out of isolation. The "why" of ICC programs and activities revolves around members' relationship to God and their relationships with the GS community as a whole. So, the ICC programs and activities are aimed at felt needs and life-changing events in the lives of GS members.

The committee discussed the possible collaborative efforts with other GS committees. It was noted Inreach and Hospitality already work together for New Member Gatherings. Pr. Mark suggested an internal congregational referral process be developed, e.g., if one committee identifies a need that they determine would be in Inreach's purview, they can easily transfer that information to this committee. This would require data base permission because of privacy issues. Jessica suggested a new "what" that she thought of while preparing to mail a first-year baptismal anniversary card. She asked how do we nurture a child and its family after baptism. After all, we as a congregation make a solemn promise to do that. There appears to be a gap between baptism and the three-year-olds receiving their first bibles. Would such a program or activities include the Children and Youth and Hospitality committees?

The conclusion of the committee is that the "why" is the connection between people and God and the connection between people and the rest of the community. So, the purpose of the committee is to continue to facilitate those connections.

### Other Discussion Topics

A New Member Gathering is scheduled for Sunday, October 17th following the worship service at Madison campus. Cathy P will help welcome guests who attend that gathering. Pr. Sheryl noted that follow-up calls to those who joined GS in August will be made in November. Judy Renner, Pat Westmayer and Judy Liliensiek will make those calls.

Pr. Sheryl and Sarah I will offer a meal for caregivers at the end of October with the opportunity for shared discussion and prayer time.

In response to a request from Pr. Dara, Shepherd's Hands members are knitting prayer squares for the Thanksgiving dinner; the goal is 700 squares. Jessica also had a request for squares for the new grief packets.

The committee discussed the possibility of printing a physical church directory (not necessarily pictorial) including staff, committee and congregational members' contact information. The committee recognized the privacy issue involved and the need for technical support and the support of the GS Board.

Pr. Sheryl suggested she submit a report for each meeting. That would free time for more discussion topics. The committee agreed with her suggestion. Cathy B will resend Sarah I's report.

Pat volunteered to do devotions for the next committee meeting to be held Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 6 pm in the Good Shepherd room at Madison campus. A zoom link will be provided for those who will not be able to attend in person. The committee closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Peercy, Vice Chair