

GSLC Inreach and Congregational Care Committee

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, December 9, 2021

Via Zoom and In-Person

Present: Cathy Beaty, Vern Andren, Jessica McCarty, Kimberly King, Kathie Schroedel, Pr. Sheryl Erickson, Sarah Iverson, Cathy Peercy, Sara McCormick, and via Zoom, Pat Westimayer and Pr. Mark Renner

Pat opened the meeting with a reading of Isa. 40:11 with a devotion emphasizing the Good Shepherd and led the committee in prayer. The minutes of the October 14, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

<u>Metrics for October and November</u>	October	November
• Home Communion cards, 33 visits	2 calls, 2 cards, 32 visits	3 calls, 2
• Hospital Visits	-0-	-0-
• Follow-Up Contacts	35	35
• Grief Packets completed grief packet series	22 active grief packet relationships//15	
• Funerals	3	-0-
• New Prayer Chain Prayers	10 new and 5 updates	
• Stephen Ministry Active Relationship	7	7
• PrimeTimers & Widow/Widowers		
• Shepherds Hands		
• Card Ministry		
• Prayer Shawls distributed		2

Jessica reported that three more families have been added to the active grief packet group in December. Pr. Mark gave two prayer shawls to George and Bev Lindquist just three weeks before George died. The family truly appreciated the shawls that gave George comfort in his last days.

New Member Follow-Up Calls

Pr. Sheryl said she had given information to Pat, Judy Liliensiek and Judy Renner for their follow-up calls to the families who joined the church in August. Pat reported that she plans to follow up with one of her families, because there are some health concerns involved. Judy L had one family that is undergoing real stress and she would follow up with them. Pr. Sheryl said Judy R had sent notes to each family on her contact list before making her calls so they would be expecting a call from her phone number. Pr. Mark said Judy has two families that she will continue to try to contact. Pr. Sheryl commented that some people have already left for warmer climes.

Birth to Age 3 Inreach

Jessica reported that Children's Ministry has sent a family advent packet containing a letter from Joanne Zastrow or Jessica, an Advent calendar with stickers, family prayers and instructions on how to make an Advent wreath to about 30 families who were planning to have children baptized or had children baptized in 2020 or 2021. Many of the children are older toddlers now and will enjoy putting a sticker on the calendar or watch their parents light a candle or switch on a battery-operated candle.

Baptismal Anniversary Cards

Jessica said that now a year has passed since baptisms resumed, cards printed in house are sent to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the baptisms. She asked if the Card Ministry team might want to make the 20-30 cards per year for this purpose. Pr. Sheryl recommended Jessica contact Susie Cramer and/or Ruth Paulson, who lead the Card Ministry team to get their feedback.

Meal Train Ministry

Jessica presented a proposal from Ronda Beggs and Joanne Zastrow to develop a new meal train ministry. The meals would be directed to people after the birth of a baby, hospitalization, death of a loved one or Just Because. They are looking for people who would be on the team to prepare meals and deliver them. Pr. Sheryl said GS had a similar program called Helping Hands led by Polly Carter a few years ago and recommended Ronda and Joanne ask her advice on how to proceed and perhaps get a list of those who were part of the Helping Hands program. Pat said Polly had helped her bible study group organize meals for one of their members. Pr. Sheryl said post-hospitalization people are less apt to use this service, because they have their own network of family or neighbors to help them.

Shepherds Hands

Pat reported the group had supplied enough prayer squares for the Thanksgiving to-go meals. Other projects in progress are making hats and scarves for Toki students and knitting baby

blankets. Pr. Sheryl said Pat should check with Donna Maysack on why she asked the group for the blankets. Pr. Sheryl said there already are at least 10 blankets in storage at the church and recommended that the group finish the blankets they've started but wait until they get the feedback from Donna. Sara M said Diane Charles has resumed knitting which is a big accomplishment for her.

Keeping the Connection

Kimberly said that Ashley Vlack, Becca Feldhacker and she had sent 32 Fall cards to college students. This week they are working on 34 Christmas cards to be mailed. Two more mailings, one in February and one at Easter, are planned. Kimberly noted that she now has a gmail address for Keeping the Connection. Pr. Sheryl recommended that Kimberly publish a note in the January Messenger providing the email address so parents can provide updated mailing addresses of their college students.

Printed Church Directory

The committee continued their discussion of the possibility to have a new printed church directory. Pr. Sheryl said there had been some discussion pre-pandemic about doing a new directory and someone should contact Rick Blum. The committee recognized the privacy issue, the expense involved and the impact on staff. Who would be the provider? Who would organize volunteers for the photographic sessions? Vern volunteered to talk to Rick. Sarah I said there also is a next-generation shift and perhaps we should check with other congregations on what they are doing. Kathie said she would check with her church in Arizona.

Other Topics

The committee thanked Cathy B for her leadership as chair of the Inreach Committee since its inception in 2017. Cathy P will assume the chair position in 2022.

Sara M thanked the committee for the opportunity to sit in on this meeting. She praised the entire committee for keeping the Inreach programs going through the difficult times.

Vern said he had met a young man, Andrew Chang, Sunday morning who was attending a service for the first time. Vern noted that Andrew works in the difficult job of hospice care. Cathy P said Andrew had come to choir rehearsal Wednesday night. Sarah I said Andrew also attended the Sunday evening service.

Vern asked if it is possible to send cards or letters to other post-high young people. Sarah I said letters are sent to all young people when they graduate. Perhaps this is another collaborative area to explore.

Jan had talked with Pr. Sheryl about not being being able to attend committee meetings because of work travel and wondered if she should continue to be a part of the ICC Committee. All members said she is a valuable asset to the group and she should continue to be a part of the group.

Vern reported he had been at a facilities committee meeting and raised the question about having pictures of former pastors posted at both campuses. It was noted that pictures of confirmation classes could also be posted at both locations.

Cathy B volunteered to do devotions for the next committee meeting to be held Thursday, February 10, 2022 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