

GSLC Inreach and Congregational Care Committee

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, February 10, 2022

Via Zoom and In Person

Present: Vern Andren, Cathy Beaty, Pr. Sheryl Erickson, Kimberly King, Pr. Mark Renner, Cathy Peercy and via Zoom, Judy Liliensiek, Pat Westimayer, Brian Wilmot and Jan Grebel

Cathy B opened the meeting with a devotional reading on Prayer and led the committee in prayer. The minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

Metrics for December and January

	December	January
• Home Communion calls or cards	31 visits, 5 cards or calls	16 visits, 15
• Hospital Visits	3 Hospice	
• Follow-up Contacts	28	38
• Grief Packets: 18 completed Grief Packet series, 33 families currently receiving packets		
• Funerals	4 funerals, 1 graveside	- 0 -
• New Prayer Chain Prayers updates	12 + 8 updates	12 + 7
• Stephen Ministry Active Relationships	8	9
• PrimeTimers: See Sarah I's report		
• Shepherd's Hands: At the January meeting one scarf, three baby blankets and two shawls were donated. Currently working on squares for blankets for Pine Ridge, prayer shawls and mittens. Prayer shawls distributed - 0		
• Keeping the Connection: Card Ministry team made 35 cards for Valentine's Day. An AMPED student actually assembled the cards as a service project. I love that!! Those will be signed by Becca and myself and go in the mail no later than Monday. I am going to design the next card for Easter and I plan to ask the Pastors to sign those. (Submitted by Kimberly King)		
• Card Ministry: 700 cards for July - December 2021, over 1000 for the full year, made by individuals mostly working at home		

Pr. Sheryl reported that there have been no funerals or graveside services since December. Also there have been fewer pastoral care calls. The pastors have taken this time to catch up with other duties. Sara I's report noted that PrimeTimers are doing some events in person with plans for more in-person gatherings in the future. Cathy P: Jessica reported that January Home Communion numbers are lower due to Omicron numbers, facility restrictions, and staff/volunteer illnesses.

Cathy P welcomed two new committee members, Judy Liliensiek and Brian Wilmot. Pr. Sheryl noted that Brian worships at the Verona campus and joins Jan as someone who can bring the Verona perspective to the committee.

Pr. Sheryl praised Cathy B's work putting together the 2021 Inreach annual report. She said she is thankful for all who keep the Inreach ministries active and healthy in these times of uncertainty. The report was the last official action as Cathy B finished her long term as the ICC Chair. Cathy P asked the committee members to prayerfully consider taking on the role of Vice Chair.

The committee considered Pr. Sheryl and Sarah I's reports. Both mentioned the Blue Christmas service as meeting the needs of people dealing with grief or other difficulties at that time of year. Pr. Sheryl noted planning being done for Lent, Stephen Ministry and Grief Sessions.

Cathy P's report on a zoom meeting held for all chairs and/or representatives January 25th. Cathy P noted that starting with the April ICC meeting our board representative Vern will be on the agenda to give a brief report on church board activities and actions. Also at that zoom meeting Amy Haskins, Chair of the Communications Committee, said they plan to make videos of each committee showcasing the "who, why and how" of each committee. The hoped-for result of the videos would be more people willing to become new members of the church committee community.

Cathy P noted the updates on the baptismal cards and the proposed Meal Train Ministry. The Card Ministry team will make a supply of cards to be sent in recognition of first-year baptism anniversaries. Also Jessica connected Polly Carter with Ronda Beggs so they can explore how to move forward with the Meal Train Ministry.

Vern reported on his meeting with Rick Blum about the possibility of a new pictorial directory. Many questions were addressed and many raised at their meeting. The committee discussed the information gathered by Vern and recognized that the project would not be possible in 2022 because of Covid issues and staff shortages. The committee needs to consider what style of directory would best suit Good Shepherd. Cathy B asked if the younger generation would even be interested in being included in a physical directory. It was noted that any decision still rested on the privacy/permission issue. For a pictorial directory to be published in 2023, there are many questions to be resolved. Vern said he would ask Rick B if he has any information about the cost involved for a highly polished version versus a more flexible one if the church works with a company such as Lifetouch. Cathy P asked that each committee member develop a list of their perceived questions and concerns to be a basis for continued discussion at the April meeting.

Cathy P noted the April meeting date will be April 7th because the second Thursday is Maundy Thursday. Pr. Sheryl volunteered to give the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Peercy, Chair