

## GSLC Inreach and Congregational Care Committee

### Meeting Minutes of Thursday, April 7, 2022

Via Zoom and In Person

Present: Pr. Sheryl Erickson, Jessica McCarty, Vern Andren, Judy Liliensiek, Kimberly King, Jan Grebel, Cathy Peercy and via Zoom Pr. Mark Renner, Pat Westimayer and Kathie Schroedel

Pr. Sheryl opened the meeting with a devotional reading based on Mt. 28:6 and led the committee in prayer. The minutes of the February 10, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

#### Metrics for February and March

	February	March
▪ Home Communion visits, 4 cards or calls	23 visits, 4 cards or calls	30
2		1
▪ Hospital Visits		1
34		42
▪ Follow-up Contacts		42
▪ Grief Packets: 40 active packet relationships, 20 completed packet series		
1CE		1CE
▪ Funerals		1CE
▪ New Prayer Chain Prayers + 3 updates	13 new + 9 updates	10 new
9		9
▪ Stephen Ministry Active Relationships		9
▪ PrimeTimers: See Sarah's report		
▪ Keeping the Connection: 35 Valentine cards mailed; Ruth Paulson, Susie Cramer and Kimberly made Easter cards to be signed by the pastors. This is the fourth and final card mailing of the school year. Becca and Ashley Vlack may also add notes of encouragement.		
▪ Card Ministry: Completed get well, thank you, milestone anniversaries, sympathy cards and just began the first anniversary after baptism card project		
▪ Shepherd's Hands: Continuing with regular knitting projects; 2 prayer shawls distributed		

### Board Representative's Report

Vern noted that GS's financial situation is good. The Facilities Committee has moved some budget items into the next year's budget. There is a contract in place for tree trimming at the Madison campus and the signage at the Verona campus is installed. Vern also reported that the new committee for Little Blessings may be set up in the same fashion as the Good Shepherd Foundation and would be tasked with helping Little Blessings to grow in their service ministry. Vern also said the Board is working toward more active collaboration with neighboring churches and the community.

### 2022 - 2023 Inreach Budget Proposal

Pr. Sheryl explained her reasoning behind the budget requests for Inreach ministries. The cost for three new member events is based on the cost of the event led by Pr. Dara under the tent last summer where beverages and meals were provided for the attendees. The Grief Support budget includes the cost of grief support packets and the Good Grief books used in the group sessions. The reduced Stephen Ministry budget reflects two donations specifically designated for Stephen Ministry which will offset expenses. Congregational devotionals include Word in Season, Christ in the Home (large print) and Lenten devotional booklets. Pr. Sheryl said there is no plan at this time to again put Word in Season booklets in the pew racks. Vern made a motion, seconded by Kathie, to approved the Inreach Budget as presented. The motion carried.

### Grief Classes during Lent

Pr. Sheryl reported that nine people (2 non-GS members) attended three day sessions in March. She said the group quickly bonded in sharing their grief experiences. Pr. Sheryl said one widow described her husband's passing as "dying of the dwindles," just fading away. Pr. Mark said many questions of faith arose among the group, e.g., Where did my loved one wind up? Both Pr. Sheryl and Pr. Mark commented that the series of three sessions worked well.

### Proposed Name Tag Sunday

Cathy P said that because in-person attendance has increased, a Name Tag Sunday is proposed for a Sunday in May, probably Mother's Day weekend. Vern suggested a month of Name Tag Sundays. Cathy P confirmed with Kathie that three per year was the norm before the pandemic. Judy said that her former church had personal name tags, but that was a smaller church. Jan noted that people should have the option of having the person(s) manning the name tag table fill

out their name tags. Pr. Sheryl and Jessica will check with pastors, staff and Directors to see if they are aware of any complications with holding a Name Tag Sunday in May.

#### Showcasing a Committee Ministry: Flower Delivery Ministry

Cathy P summarized the history of altar flower delivery. Lynne Kroger as pastor's assistant had taken on the responsibility of delivering the altar flowers to shut-ins and people recovering from illness or surgery. Pr. Sheryl recruited a group and a schedule was set to cover each week when altar flowers were purchased. Judy Hoard coordinates the team and Pr. Sheryl selects the recipient(s) of the flowers. Judy L is the newest member of the team replacing Susie Shetney in the schedule. Judy told about her experience delivering the April 3rd bouquet to a person who had just gotten out of the hospital. She said the woman and her husband were overjoyed at the kind gesture. Jessica confirmed that delivering the flowers is a heart-warming experience. Cathy P listed the 2022 team - Deb Simon and Bill Wambach, Alvis Koedam, Lynne Kroger, Joyce Van Gompel, and ICC members Jessica, Judy L and Cathy P.

#### Continued Discussion re: Church Directory

Vern reported that there is no cost to the church for a printed pictorial directory from Lifetouch. The company makes its money from photo sales. Kathie said her AZ church is printing a directory and updates will be made online. She said she and David signed a permission slip stating what personal information they would allow to be published. Cathy P commented on the article she printed as a handout [churchexecutive.com/archives/6-reasons-to-create-a-church-directory](http://churchexecutive.com/archives/6-reasons-to-create-a-church-directory) after she heard Judy's suggestion to google "why a church directory." Pr. Sheryl said she met with Brian Wilmot and they discussed the "why" a church directory. Their conclusion is connections. Pr. Sheryl also said there are many individuals who regularly attend GS but are not members. Would they be included much as the snowbirds in AZ are being included? Pr. Mark said the church really needs an interactive data base. Pat suggested asking younger people what they think about a printed church directory. The committee agreed it is still too early in the discussion to bring a proposal to the Board. Cathy P said she would include our continuing research and discussion of a printed directory in the executive summary for the Board.

Judy volunteered to do devotions for the next committee meeting to be held Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 6 pm in the Good Shepherd room at Madison campus. A zoom link will be provided for those unable to attend in person. The committee closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Peercy, Chair