

MN Lutheran Via de Cristo State Council Minutes  
May 5, 2025

Convener Greg Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**Members Present:** Kirstin Gonzales, Brian Rath, Janine Schimmelman, Greg Thompson, Chris Van Hofwegen, Loren Van Pelt, Veronica Van Pelt, Monica Voss, and Rosanna Chambliss

Members Absent: Pastor Paul Brown (U), Carol Hellen (E)

Opening Prayer: Greg

**REPORTS**

**Admin & Finance (Janine):**

- The metro VdC fundraiser raised \$2595, \$1000 more than in previous fundraisers.
- NLS and CCLI were paid.

**Metro Director Elect (Brian)**

- Metro meeting was held on April 27. Highlights were covered. (Further details are included in the April metro council minutes posted on the website).
  - Wayne Meyer and Pete McCloy will be stepping back from the metro council.
  - Peggy Jo Olivier will be taking over from Wayne as Ultreya's lead. Pete will keep the trailer at his place but Brian haul it to events.
  - The fundraiser went very well. 53 people attended. Special thanks to Paul (kitchen), Kate (dining room) and Lori R. (silent auction) along with 17 other volunteers. Looking to make the fundraiser an annual event.
  - An Ultreya is being planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of June to be held at Bethlehem Lutheran in the Midway.
  - For the Aug. Co-Ed weekend:
    - Bob Everhart is the rector.
    - The Spiritual Director is Mark Marxhausen, and the Palanca rector is Peggy Jo Olivier.
    - The Day 1 leader's training is not yet scheduled as some team rectors still need to be identified.
    - Team training is scheduled for June 7, June 21, July 19, and Aug. 9
    - Manuals are ready for the Day 1 training.
  - As of May 1, Carol is now Past Director in place of Kirstin, and Brian is Director in place of Carol.
  - Looking to have 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday gatherings in May and June.

**Metro Past Director (Kirsten)**

- As of May 1, Kirstin's term as Past Director was completed.
- Kirstin and Brenda visited a church in Hutchinson that may potentially host a future VdC weekend. Additional details pending.
- Kirstin created a new trifold with info about VdC that she distributed to the metro and state council for feedback. Kirstin addressed feedback and re-distributed the trifold to the councils. Looks good, no further comments.
- While at the 2025 ELCA Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, Kirstin had the opportunity to talk with various folks about VdC. Some thought VdC had ended; others were interested in keeping VdC going in the North District and thought their churches

might potentially host a weekend. Kirsten encouraged that they consider working team at the upcoming VdC weekend at Princeton.

#### **Newsletter – (Monica)**

- Planning to distribute a newsletter this month. Inputs requested by May 10.
  - Will include the need for someone to fill the Director Elect and the Trailer Supply positions on the Metro District Council, as well as a thanks for those who are leaving for time served.
  - Will welcome Chris as the new convenor and include thanks to Greg for his work as convenor.
  - Those interested in serving on team for the Aug. VdC weekend will be pointed to the website to complete a “Work a Team Registration” form.

#### **Communications – (Veronica)**

- Distributed an email to the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community from the Mason Dixon Credo requesting Palanca for their 3-day weekend.
- Planning to restart the “Verse of the Week.”

#### **Convenor – (Greg)**

- Thanks to Kirstin, Wayne and Pete for their time served!
- Welcome to the new Convenor, Chris, and thanks to Greg for his time as Convenor!
- Going forward, Greg and Kirstin will be heading up activities in the North District.
- Greg will continue to take care of the bins and will be available to help with the by-laws. He plans to continue attending the State Council meeting as a guest and to be a resource for Chris.

**Motion:** To close the meeting at 7:46pm. (M: BR/VVP; Motion carried)

Meeting re-opened with Chris as Convenor.

#### **Convenor – (Chris)**

- The mission is to try to get more people involved in VdC. Suggestions from council:
  - At ELCA senate assemblies, to which all senate churches send a representative, get a table to provide information to promote VdC
  - Contact the Hull's for additional suggestions on what they've done when putting up a table at their church for VdC promotion.
  - Kirstin and Veroncia will look into possible VdC merchandise.
  - VdC 4<sup>th</sup> Day members at Pine City may be a good source of sponsors for weekenders to attend the VdC weekend this Aug.

#### **Misc**

- In-person meeting is pushed out to June 7 at Chris' place at Big Lake.

**Next meeting:** Sat, June 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Chris' place

**Motion:** To adjourn at 8:04 pm (M: VVP/ BR; passed). No discussion. Motion carried.

**Closing Prayer:** Chris