

MN Lutheran Via de Cristo State Council Minutes  
March 3, 2025

Convener Greg Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Members Present:** Kirstin Gonzales, Carol Hellen, 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)

**To accept February minutes** (M: Motion carried).

## **REPORTS**

### **Admin & Finance (Janine):**

- CD rolled over for another period.
- A trifold providing information about Via de Cristo can be ordered from the National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS); however, the info is dated. Veronica has a newer trifold that she will send to Janine.
- Janine has received a couple requests from the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community for reports from the MN VdC database. Mark Todd is working on the database.
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- **Convenor (Greg)**
- Greg retrieved a number of the old songbooks from the North District.
- Additional songbooks will be needed soon, and we will probably return to the older ones. The VdC musicians, in general, prefer the older songbooks as there are quite a few errors in the Psalm 33 songbooks.
- Tom (from the North District) initially bought \$10,000 of the older songbooks. The State council has paid Tom \$7500 for a majority of the songbooks. If the State council pays Tom \$2500 more, we will own all the remaining songbooks. If we pursue obtaining the remaining songbooks all at one time, there should be a documented agreement between the MN VdC council and the North District that this would be the final payment for the songbooks.
- The VdC weekend manuals are going to an electronic version. A sub-committee will review the manuals prior to release.
- The State council plans to meet in person for the May 3 meeting.

### **Metro Director (Carol)**

- A full Metro council meeting was held on 2/16.
- The men's VdC weekend had 31 volunteers and 9 weekenders. The biggest issue was recruiting volunteers. Also costumes that were supposed to be available for the Stations of the Cross weren't available.
- The women's VdC weekend had 45-50 volunteers and 12 weekenders. The biggest issues were related to security, plus technology issues (e.g., finding a computer, dead outlets, projecting PowerPoints onto a screen, etc.).
- Suellen Dickhausen will start as the secretary for the Metro council in March.

- Kristin and Carol met to discuss candidates for the Director and Director Elect positions that will expire in May. Brian Rath is slated to become Director in May, but no one has been identified yet for the Director Elect position.
- No update on site selection for the Aug. VdC weekend, so a rector can't be selected yet. A site selection sub-committee is being established to help the Site Selection Director in identifying potential sites for weekends. This sub-committee, while looking into sites for weekends, could potentially identify sites that are too small or not suitable for a weekend, but that might be suitable for an ultreya.
- The first "Small Service Project" is planned for March 30 at Faith Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids.
- Carol and Joe Remley have developed a letter to send to 10 churches that have a large 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community but who currently do not have a VdC liaison, asking them to identify a liaison. Joe is ready to step aside as the Liaisons lead.
- A Metro Training chair is needed. This needs to be someone who has already been a rector. A training sub-committee would also need to be developed to work with them.
- The Marty's are planning for an ultreya at their farm on Aug. 2.

#### **Metro Director Elect (Brian)**

- Once the weather warms, Brian intends to go through the supply trailer and inventory it.
- The location for the upcoming fundraiser / dinner auction still needs to be identified.
- Brian and Chris will draft up a Safety Plan with the intent to cover emergency procedures during training for weekends.

#### **Operations (Loren)**

- Loren is looking to leave as Operations chair, though he will continue on the sub-committee reviewing the new weekend manuals.

#### **Newsletter – (Monica)**

- Will include weekenders' 1<sup>st</sup> names plus 1<sup>st</sup> initials in the next newsletter, which is targeted for 3/15 for distribution.
- Will also include in the newsletter a notice that the State council needs an Operations Director, and that anyone interested should contact Greg or Chris.

#### **Communications – (Veronica)**

- Posted info about upcoming events and weekends on website.
- Will be posting about the agape dinner on Facebook

#### **Misc:**

- A 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community member has offered to make new banners with covers for the VdC weekends. The state council will provide oversight by reviewing and signing off on drawings of the proposed banners prior to their creation.

**Next meeting:** Mon, April 7, starting at 7pm.

**Motion:** To adjourn at 8:40 pm (M: BR/LVP; Motion carried)