

MN Lutheran Via de Cristo Metro Council Minutes
March 23, 2025

Director Carol Hellen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Carol Hellen, Brian Rath, Kirstin Gonzalez, Pete McCloy, Kim Heilmann, Johathan Heilmann, Wayne Mayer, Joe Remley, Suellen Dickhausen

Members Absent: Brenda Brown, Stephanie Baeder, Steve Carlson, Veronica VanPelt

Opening Prayer Carol Hellen

Welcome to Suellen Dickhausen – Secretary

Each council member offered a brief description of their position + duration of time on council

February Weekend

A. Men's Weekend concerns: Recruiting team members

Availability of eligible musicians

B. Women's Weekend concerns: building security

Technology availability and work-ability

Cell phone use, especially by weekenders

Brian is interested in addressing a building security plan that makes clear individual church procedures for severe weather plans, fires, as well as a method for building entry that secures the VDC weekend activities. Brian to also look into bylaws regarding VDC weekend pictures on Facebook. We believe the policy to be there ought to be no pictures taken on the weekends and no pictures posted on social media.

C. Three pieces of metro VDC information were placed in the weekenders' and teams' white take-home bags: "Anticipated Metro Calendar", "Ten Ways to Support Via de Cristo", and "What Does a Liaison Do?"

D. Following the Sunday afternoon serenade, an interest survey was distributed to the 4th day community. The interest responses:

5th Sunday "Out & About" (2)

Fundraiser/Auction (0)

Be a Liaison/Contact person (3)

Site Selection Networking (0)

Office Organizing (2)

Serving next Retreat Weekends (9)

Metro Council Discussion & Service (3)

Other Comments (2) - - Have stick-on name tags available at Closura

- - Charis asked for a joint discussion to address bringing in new younger folks.

Carol to follow up on survey responses. Brian to connect with Charis representative.

A council member suggested that this survey also be distributed to the weekenders at an appropriate time before they leave the weekend. This would offer more exposure for them to become part of an upcoming team or stay connected with VDC in other ways.

August Co-ed Weekend

* August 14-17, 2025 at Emmanuel Lutheran in Princeton

* Carol is yet working on securing the Rector for this weekend.

* Information for the next weekend (Feb 2026) will be available prior to the Aug 17 Closura.

February Coed Weekend

* A Rector has been identified.

* A goal of July 1, 2025 has been set for identifying the site to be used.

5th Sunday Out and About

- * Sun, March 30
- * Carol is working on this to make sure we have a church scheduled. Two churches have been consulted.
- * Council members had no other church suggestions.

VDC Fundraiser/Auction

- * Saturday, April 26, 2025 at LCM church in Fridley
- * Dinner at 6:00 PM, Salad, Spaghetti, Brownie dessert, Cost \$25
- * Veronica VanPelt overseeing fliers/advertisement etc..
- * 4 reservations secured so far, with hope for 80 people to partake
- * Silent Auction 4:30-6pm – Contact Lori Ritt @651-432-2286 for donation information.
- * Announcement for who purchased donated items will be given at the end of the evening.

Council Updates

Liaisons – We currently have 34 churches with confirmed liaisons. Joe is working on ways to best reach out to congregations to find VDC church liaisons. Ideas to help with this:

- a) Send letters to churches that do not have a named liaison.
- b) Send a letter to ten 4th day persons from a designated church requesting their assistance or suggestions in filling the liaison need at their church. (Using this method with ten different churches would offer a connection of 100 people.)
- c) Find a list of rectors from season's past asking if they would act as a liaison for their church.
- d) Ask VDC Council members to be a liaison at their church

Trailer Supplies – Pete asked the 4 team rectors of the Feb weekends to write a list of what was in each of their bins before reloading the trailer. Brian received one response. Pete and Brian will examine items in the trailer and take inventory of all items prior to the upcoming August weekend.

Site selection – Pitching new churches is a delicate process that takes time. Gustavus Adolphus was suggested by a 4th day person. At one time they had a large VDC community. Jonathan is in contact with them. He has also tried to contact Trinity, Discover and Faith. Anyone who would like to help with this, please reach out to Jonathan.

Ultreya – Brian related that an ultreya is under consideration prior to the Marty's August ultreya. A number of folks from Bethlehem Lutheran in the Midway have recently gone through VDC. Wayne spoke with their liaison, Mary Amdahl, about a possible May or June ultreya at their church. Their church is not available until after 6:00 PM so we could possibly have a 2 hour gathering instead of 3 hours.

Allocations – Kim had no news update

Future Calendar

Sun March 30 - 5th Sunday Out & About
Mid April – Rector Training for August Weekend – Carol & Brian to facilitate this
Sat April 26 – Fundraiser/Silent Auction
Sun June 29 - 5th Sunday Out & About
July 1 Reminder: Projected confirmed site selection for Feb 2026 Coed Weekends
Sat Aug 2 - 4th day Community Ultreya at the Marty Farm
Aug 14-17, 2025 Coed Weekend – training dates tbd prior to weekend

Metro Council Position reassignments will take effect May 1, 2025

Director: Brian Rath
Past Director: Carol Hellen
Director – Elect: Needed – Requirements: Past Rector or Rector Eligible

Thank you Kirstin!!! You are a “Treasure of Knowledge” and have been SO appreciated over these past few years.

SURVEY: To Continue In Metro Council Service.

We are committed to approach council as a TEAM that works cooperatively together to move VDC forward in a productive way as we each step up and give it our best.

Please take time in prayer to discern where God is calling you during this season of time. Carol will send out individual texts to each Council Member. Please be honest as you consider continuing in your current position on Metro VDC Council.

Joe offered this thought: If you are stepping down at this time and know of someone who would be interested in joining council, please offer their name to Carol or Brian. Any recommendation would be appreciated.

Next Meeting: April 27th (4th Sunday) evening at 7pm – change due to Easter on 3rd Sun.

Motion to adjourn at 7:50pm

Closing Prayer – Joe Remley