

MN Lutheran Via de Cristo State Council Minutes
April 7, 2025

Convener Greg Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 (E – Issues accessing zoom meeting)

March minutes have been posted to the website.

REPORTS

Admin & Finance (Janine):

- On the website Events page, the fundraiser info has been updated to indicate that payments/donations can be made by Venmo, Paypal or CC on the website Home page.
- The database is being updated with info from the last men's and women's weekends.
- An individual wants to donate towards tote bags to be used for Palanca bags. These tote bags are not suitable for Palanca bags, they are to be sold at the Fundraiser.
- Treasurer reports from both the men's and women's weekends have been received.

Metro Past Director (Kirsten)

- Looking into a new church to host next winter's weekend.

Metro Director (Carol)

- Metro council meeting was held on 3/23.
- Suellen Dickhausen has begun as metro council secretary. Working towards posting of metro council minutes on the VDC website.
- Feedback from the Feb Weekends
 - a) Need to enforce cell phone policy, particularly during rollos.
 - b) 15 responses received from the interest survey passed out at the Feb closuras. Carol is following up on responses.
 - c) The metro council has not been provided with any evaluations for pre-weekend trainings or for the weekends. Note: A summary of the evaluations, but not the originals, was provided prior to this state council meeting.

Motion: All evaluations concerning metro council scheduled activities should be directly returned to the metro council Executive Team, where they will be shared and addressed. (M: CH/RC; Motion opened for discussion)

Pro: The Metro council executive team requests evaluations for activities that they schedule be returned directly to them as they are the ones who plan and conduct these activities, including weekends and training sessions for weekends, and are the ones most directly affected and able to act upon feedback. They would share the evaluations with the state council.

Con: Historically, the State Council has been responsible for the receipt and storage/maintenance of evaluation originals. Providing the metro council with more direct and timely access to evaluations rather than changing who has responsibility for maintenance of the originals may address the metro council's concern.

(M:CH/BR; Motion does not carry)

The use of Microsoft Teams and/or Google docs for the creation/ storage of evaluations with access rights provided to the appropriate state and metro council and training team members may address this concern.

- d) VdC's policy for social media picture posting: Pictures from ultreyas may be posted on personal Facebook pages as long as there are no faces or names.
- August Weekend
 - a) August 14–17, Immanuel Lutheran, Princeton
 - b) No rector yet. Tradition is to alternate between male and female leadership for co-ed weekends, so the upcoming August weekend ideally would have male leadership. If no male rector is identified, a female rector will be sought.
- 5th Sunday "Out and About" that was slated for March 30 at Faith Lutheran in Coon Rapids did not occur. Another church will be identified for the next 5th Sunday month.
- Texts have been sent out to metro council volunteers asking for their personal commitment/choice to continue as part of Metro council.

Metro Director Elect (Brian)

- Fundraiser/ Auction.
 - LCM, Brooklyn Park will be the location for the upcoming fundraiser / dinner.
 - About 20 items to date have been donated for the silent auction.
 - 8 people have RSVP'd so far. Several individuals indicated that they haven't received any info about the fundraiser. The email addresses in the VdC database are being used for communications, but the weekenders from the latest weekends are still being entered in to Mailchimp, and some emails may be outdated.
 - If anyone is donating a basket, please keep the requested minimum bid around \$25.
 - Helpers for the fundraiser dinner are asked to pay for their meals.
 - 3 individuals contacted about being Director-Elect starting in May, but all declined.
 - Peggy Jo Olivier will be taking over as Ultreyas' lead on the metro council.
 - A June Ultreya is being targeted to be held at Bethlehem Lutheran at the Midway.

Newsletter – (Monica)

- March newsletter was distributed.

Communications – (Veronica)

- Flyers have been sent out for the fundraiser. Reminders will start being emailed weekly until the fundraiser.
- The "4th day community Spotlight" email will be resent to encourage more responses.

Misc

- In-person meeting originally targeted for May is pushed out to a target date of June 7.

Next meeting: Mon, May 5, starting at 7pm.

Closing Prayer: Chris

Motion: To adjourn at 8:25 pm (M: BR/LVP; Motion carried)