

MN Lutheran Via de Cristo Metro Council Minutes
May 21, 2025

Meeting called to order by Director Brian Rath at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Brian Rath, Carol Hellen, Joe Remley, Brenda Brown, Stephanie Baeder, Steve Carlson, Peggy Olivier, Veronica Vanpelt, Suellen Dickhausen

Members Absent: Kim Heilmann, Jonathan Heilmann

Opening Prayer Brian Rath

Approval of April 2025 Metro Council Minutes – Motion approved by Brenda Brown . Peggy Olivier second, all approved. Carol stated that March 2025 minutes are on the web site per Janine Schimmelman.

Past Director Report – Carol Hellen

* Reminder to all: your first point of contact with any concerns will now be Brian Rath. If Brian is not available, you can contact Carol and she will pass your thoughts along to Brian.

* The By-laws state that Carol's roll as Past Director is to work with the current director as needed. She would also like to continue to work alongside of the liaison group and the 5th Sunday 'Out & About' as these are passionate positions for her.

Committee Reports

Spiritual Director – Steve Carlson

The master list of current Spiritual Directors is being rebuilt to establish who are and who are not interested in being on the list. This will enable finding pastors to work weekends with greater ease.

Music – Brenda Brown

Brenda is looking to build a master list of typical songs sung on any given weekend. She will ask musicians to help her compile a list of songs that are covered under the CCLI as she plans to put together an excel spreadsheet template to use on-site for future weekends.

5th Sunday Out and About

The intention of these Sunday's is for VDC visibility and awareness.

Carol Hellen will connect with Brenda Brown as they contact churches to see if they are receptive to what VDC has in mind. We would like to make a list of songs typically sung on a weekend so when approaching a church they would have a list to allow the church to choose 2-5 familiar songs to use that Sunday. This way, during the 1-2 minute announcement being made we can say that the songs you heard today are familiar to VDC. They will work with individual congregations as each church is unique.

* There is a possibility of a 5th Sunday at a church in Hutchinson – the pastors are excited to have us!

Palanca – Stephanie Baeder

There have been wall palanca requests from various parts of the world. Stephanie has sent out 4 international and 13 domestic requests this month.

Carol emphasized the thought that 17 VDC weekends are going on in the near future in the US and the world.

Allocations – Kim Heilmann No news update.

Site Selection – Jonathan Heilmann No news update.

Liaison – Joe Remley

Joe will be stepping down from this chair position. He has asked Steve Kallevang to step into the liaison chair position. Steve will join the ranks in June.

Joe, Carol, Steve and Rosanna will meet to bring Steve up to date. Please welcome Steve, offering words of encouragement and assistance where you can. Thank you.

Ultreyas – Peggy Olivier

The hope is to have 4 community Ultreya's each year.

* Community Ultreya set for August 2nd, at 3pm - Marty's Farm- Somerset WI

* Community Ultreya set for Sat June 21, 5Pm-7:30pm at Bethlehem Lutheran in The Midway.

Mary Amdahl has secured someone for the witness talk.

Director Report – Brian Rath

1. National Weekenders events – Brenda Brown is the director for region 2

2. Regarding upcoming August 14-17 weekend at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Princeton:

* Thurs May 29, 2025 - Day One Leadership training (Rector & Team Leaders)

* Sat June 7, 2025 - Day Two Training – Team break out sessions - need 3 volunteers to help: Thank you to Steve Carlson and Brenda Brown who volunteered help.

* Team Training dates (all Saturday's): June 7, June 21, July 19, Aug 9

3. Fundraiser: Thoughts were offered to gather ideas for possible location for next year's site. Looking to widen involvement of more communities around the cities to invite more folks to get involved.

* Please connect with Lori Ritt if you are interested in helping with the silent auction part of this fundraiser. Thank you.

Old Business/Discussion

Veronica Vanpelt sent questionnaires out on Facebook and in the newsletter for the 4th day community spotlight features. Veronica uses Facebook and the VDC newsletter to "Spotlight" a number of leaders in various areas of our VDC community. The articles relate information given in response to a questionnaire sent to each of them. It may include their area of service, hobbies, favorite bible verse, unique memories, etc..

New Business/Discussion

Questions/Thoughts offered:

Joe Remley inquired about the goal of weekend Team Rectors. The goal is to invite new fourth day members to be on team with hope that half of each team ends up with new volunteers. Rectors are given a list of weekenders from past five weekends to draw from. Theoretically these people are meant to be called. What we are noticing is that recruiting is not as fluent as it may have been in the past.

Peggy offered that we consider putting together a consolidated list of people who have gone through VDC the last 10-15 years

JoAnn Palo & Janine Schimmelman are working on accessing the data base to compile such a list of folks. Brian to inquire with Janine on how this is coming along.

Brian offered the thought of building the Rector eligibility list by having people work different teams over time.

Thank you Joe Remley for your services as Liaison Chair and all you have done for VDC with great efforts to bring liaisons to our churches. We appreciate all that you have done for us

Next Metro Council zoom Meeting: June 22nd (4th Sunday) evening at 7pm. Watch for a zoom link from Brian.

Closing Prayer 7:51pm – Carol Hellen

Motion to adjourn meeting 7:53pm by Peggy Olivier. Stephanie Baeder second.

