

MN Lutheran Via de Cristo Metro Council Minutes  
June 22, 2025

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

Peggy Olivier motioned to start meeting. Steve Kallevang second.

**Members Present:** Brian Rath, Carol Hellen, Brenda Brown, Kim Heilmann, Jonathan Heilmann, Pastor Steve Carlson, Peggy Olivier, Steve Kallevang; Suellen Dickhausen

**Members Absent:** Stephanie Baeder, Veronica Vanpelt

Others Present: Wendy Showalter

**Opening Prayer,** The Prayer of the Holy Spirit -

**Approval of May 2025 Metro Council Minutes** – May Minutes were sent to Janine and posted on the website.

**Past Director Report** – Carol Hellen

- \* Reminder for distribution of monthly minutes to be sent to council members for approval prior to being posted to the website.

- \* Looking into possible St Paul Church for an 'Out and About ' option.

- \* Mapping out options to meet with a group of folks to work with organizing a series of visits – one is close at hand. Making list of 'to-do' items at these visits, including music, name tags, book marks, flyers etc..

- \* Carol sent some materials to Steve Kallevang to assist in beginning his chairmanship activities.

**Committee Reports**

**Ultreyas – Peggy Olivier**

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

- \* June 21 Ultreya at Bethlehem Lutheran in The Midway had roughly 20 folks show up. There was a witness talk and Eucharist was provided. It went well.

- \* Community Ultreya set for August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3pm - Marty's Farm- Somerset WI

Question was raised: How is information dispersed for Ultreya's? There was concern that the information is not reaching the greater community.

Answer: Facebook and emails

Discussion had: Brian to follow up with Veronica regarding how information is shared to the greater community as we move forward.

- \* It was proposed to the group to think about an area for our next Ultreya – after the Aug one at the Marty's farm. Peggy is looking for 3-4 churches to co-host an Ultreya. She would help set it up and run it. The host church would find a person for the witness talk.

- FYI: St Stephan's is unable to host any events until the Spring of 2027.

**Liaison – Steve Kallevang**

**WELCOME and Thank you Steve Kallevang for stepping into the liaison chair position!**

- \* Brian to connect with Janine regarding adding Steve's info to Metro council.

- \* Steve is prepared to make calls and work hard to reestablish relationships in this area.

- \* Steve, Joe Remley, Carol Hellen, Rosanna and Kathy Marty will work together in identifying liaisons for more churches.

**Site Selection – Jonathan Heilmann**

- \* Reaching out to various churches – have a few 'irons in the fire'

- \* Hope to find folks to join this committee

- \* Brian will help to reach out to gather others.

**Allocations – Kim Heilmann**

- \* Please let folks know to send applications to: VDCweekenders@yahoo.com

\* There are no weekenders signed up yet, but this is not unusual at this point.

### **Palanca – Stephanie Baeder**

\* UEC Palanca rep reached out to Brian regarding our weekend schedule. They are interested to attend and to stay in communication with us. Brian will share this info with Stephanie.

### **Music – Brenda Brown**

\* Met with the main and assistant music folks for the upcoming Aug weekend to discuss the CCLI license in all music books.

\* Working on updating songs to add to the list for use on weekends.

\* Talked with National Outreach Director who has computer PDF files/overheads for songs that she will share with us.

### **Spiritual Director – Pastor Steve Carlson**

\* There are 5 Spiritual Directors working the upcoming Aug weekend – 2/Palanca & 3/Rollo room.

\* Steve to attend the Nationals this year as the Minnesota Spiritual Director

### **Social Network – Veronica Vanpelt** No news update

### **Director Report – Brian Rath**

\* Brian introduced Wendy Showalter. Wendy would like to stay connected to VDC by offering insights into our past VDC history and VDC experiences. She has previously served in metro, state, and national roles. Council is asked to think about how her knowledge could best be utilized. **Thank you, Wendy!**

\* Janine Schimmelman will be stepping down from the data-base position.

**Thank you, Janine,** for all your time and hard work that you have done for VDC over all these years.

**We appreciate YOU!!** A few members of the VDC community have shown interest in portions of Janine's work. How her full workload will be re-allocated will take form as discussions move forward.

\*Saturday VDC Training: Brian sold a few song books / will bring more yellow books to next training session

- Eight new team members have been placed, with 3 of them who have never worked a weekend prior and 5 of them are from the North! There is hope that this will spark interest in the Northern region of MN.

- A Kitchen Rector has been selected ..looking to add more team members for the kitchen.

- Palanca has 12 members/ 5men/7women – 4 of which have never worked a team prior.

- 4<sup>th</sup> Day Team – has 4 members so far

- Waiting to hear from one more Rollista

\* Need to communicate that we are yet looking for August weekend team members.

Still need: 4 table leaders/4 -4<sup>th</sup> day team members and 7 for kitchen team

\*Discussion had regarding line of communication with the network of liaisons which has been a missing component within our VDC community. The hope is to clarify and organize to better communicate information to them more easily.

Discussion had: The idea to investigate building a smaller weekend TEAM so as not to overwhelm the weekenders. As of late there has been difficulty filling a TEAM. Some folks can't work the FULL weekend, but are willing to help out with specific areas such as stations/agape prep team/ agape meal/ set-up and take-down etc. There are various talents for folks to provide as support to the overall TEAM as needed during said weekend. Kim offered to take the lead to develop a list, using excel, of what talents folks have to offer during a VDC weekend. Kim will connect with Brian regarding this.

\* Reminder that these Council Meetings are open to the community - your voice matters.

**Old Business/Discussion**

Brian offered we start planning the 2026 fundraiser dinner and auction so it doesn't become last minute. Brian to reach out to see if anyone is interested in helping out with this. Many hands make light work.

**New Business/Discussion**

Discussion had: VDC has a continuing need for music leaders, SD leadership, treasurer skills, certified kitchen leaders, computer software office skills, etc.. Discussion surrounded how to find among our VDC community a way to identify persons with such skills. An eye also needs to be kept towards the level of offered skills. Two suggestions were 1) Using the weekender application form, and 2) Distributing an interest/talent survey at the close of weekends for both weekenders and the 4<sup>th</sup> day community.

**We are all working for Christ in this ministry – Let's do this together!!!**

Discussion had: Reviewing ways to do monthly metro council meetings that would be better than on Zoom. State Council will be trying out Microsoft TEAMS –audio only- meetings in July. Brian and Carol will check that out and report back to Metro Council. Another thought was to perhaps in the non-winter months have a meeting in person?

**Next Metro Council zoom Meeting: July 20, (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) evening at 7pm.** Watch for a zoom link from Brian.

**Closing Prayer** - 8:20pm - Pastor Steve Carlson

**Motion to adjourn meeting** - 8:21pm by Carol Hellen. Kim Heilmann second.