

Minnesota Via de Cristo Council Meeting Minutes
Grace Lutheran Church, Hermantown 5454 Miller Trunk Hwy
Saturday, September 15, 2012
Agenda

Present:

Bob Cedergren, Convener, Cindy Kuismi,
North Past Director, Dave Reedstrom,
South District Director-Elect, Diane Purcell,
Council Treasurer, Ginny Buck, Asst
Convener/North Director-Elect,

Jackie Campeau, Secretary,
Jim Arend, State Coordinator, Josie Trobec,
Communications Chair, Nancy Barker, North
District Director, Steve Renquist South District
Past Director

Absent:

Tim Dickie, Metro District Past Director,
Trish Reedstrom, South District Director,
Rev. Jerry Lanes, Spiritual Director,

Jim Packer, Metro District Director-Elect, Joe
Wagner, Operations Chair, Dave Lindquist,
Metro District Director

We opened with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit and Eucharist.

The minutes of the July 10, 2012 meeting were read and accepted by a motion by Ginny Buck and a second by Josie Trobec. The minutes will be posted.

State Officer Reports

Spiritual Director: Bob Cedegren reported in for Pastor Jerry who has accepted an interim position at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Alexandria. He will be staying on the Council. The North is excited to have Pastor Jerry in their District. Please keep him, his family and the North District in your prayers. Pastor Jerry does have a new email address. Feel free to send notes of prayers or support.

Communications Director: Josie Trobec

- Newsletter - 2012 Publication Calendar
 - October 11 - this issue will include the July weekenders and the October team rosters. At this point appears to be on track. But still too early to determine. **ON TRACK FOR PUBLICATION**
 - A status from Kathy pertaining to the requested content material from:
 - Convener Notes – Bob communicated it will be delivered by end of September
 - South District Reps– No word as of yet
 - North District Reps– No word as of yet
 - Metro District Reps– No word as of yet
 - Spiritual Director – Pastor Jerry has not made a commitment as to if he will be submitting a message for the October News Letter
 - Rectors - no acknowledgement from Kate Haukos (Metro) or Bart Porter (North). Received all information requested from Loren Van Pelt and Marci Mehr

NOTE: Would like to acknowledge the North district for the improvement in sending information on time, even ahead of schedule. Please know it has not gone unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

- November ? - This issue could include the October weekenders and the November team rosters.
- Newsletter Challenges
 - The Districts Reps could still use some improvement in sending information to Kathy, particularly regarding meeting dates (this holds true for Jim, for posting on the website)
 - Council member reminders
 - Multiple communication reminders are sent from Kathy for other content material
- Website
 - Have not incorporated any new modifications to the site since May
 - Jim continues to maintain the site updating it with new events as informed of
 - Convener Corner message has been updated on a consistent monthly basis

- Palanca
As previously stated in May's meeting; Lenore has shared would like to step down from her role, but will remain on board until a replacement is found. A meeting is scheduled with Lenore to talk about next steps – Wednesday, September 19th
- Social Media
Jim and I met at the end of August for a sharing of knowledge regarding Facebook. I have been added as an administrator of the Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota, the two of us will serve as administrators for now.
 - We would like to find an individual in the 4th day community who would be interested in managing the site in an active role. TBD
 - As of last month have begun receiving weekly reports outlining the traffic to the site. Provides us with great insight as to how we can continue to increase the traffic.
 I'm continuing to work with the North District in resolving the naming convention of the group – further discussion to take place under new business

Secretary: Jackie Campeau

New grids are in the book. Book is up to date.

The recorded conference call worked out great. Thank you to all for identifying yourselves and speaking clearly. That was a great help. It is also appreciated to have feedback and corrections for updating minutes and notes.

Financial Overview: Bob Cedergren/Diane Purcell

Ginny requested a district breakdown of income and expenses to be discussed with the treasurer's report.

Income comes primarily from weekends. Thrivent matches are welcome.

Included below are the financial highlights for the current fiscal year through August 31, 2012.

January - August 2012

For the first eight months of 2012, our financial condition is improved over where we were for the same period last year.

As of August 31, 2012, our checking and savings accounts have the following balances:

- ✚ checking account: \$5551.06 (compared to \$4278.27 as of August 31, 2011)
- ✚ savings account: \$19,498.63 (compared to \$13,667.30 as of August 31, 2011)
- ✚ Thrivent account: \$10,828.01 (compared to \$10,828.01 as of August 31, 2011)

The combined overall balance of these accounts as of August 31, 2012, was \$35,877.70. This compares with a prior year balance on August 31, 2011, of \$28,773.58 for an increase of \$7,104.12. Great News - It has been nearly 20 months since we have had to transfer funds from the Thrivent savings account to cover Council operating costs. This was not the case two years ago when we needed to dip into our reserves to fund our operations.

There have not been any unusual or unexpected expenditures since during the first eight months of 2012. Since our last Council meeting, the Council has paid expenses that included our annual insurance premium (\$2,144), purchased Psalm 33 songbooks (\$1600), paid tithes to Southern MN TEC (\$1000) and NLS (\$2000), and paid for NLS delegate expenses.

From an income and expense perspective, for the first eight months of the current year, Council income is down approximately \$21,000 or 34 percent primarily due to lower income from the weekends (down \$18,400 from previous year). Non weekend income is down approximately \$2700 from the previous year which is related to a one-time \$3000 gift the Council received last year from a metro area church. The Council has done a good job of managing expenses this year as year-to-date expenses are down approximately 3.6 percent (\$24,026).

As we continue to go through the year, we will need to watch our expenses so they stay in line with our income. As has been stated in the past, nearly 75 percent of the ministry's income comes from weekends while only 35 percent of our expenses are attributed to weekends.

If you are interested in seeing the detailed Balance Sheets, Income Statements, or Check Detail, please let either Diane or Bob know.

Annual Appeal

Last year's Annual Appeal approximately \$33,000. This is short of our goal of \$35,000 and over \$2000 behind where we were the previous year. We received contributions from fewer donors this year and the average gift per donor has decreased as well compared to the previous year. We did have a large contribution of \$15,000 from one donor - which is very much appreciated. Contributions are welcome throughout the year, but very few are received after the first quarter of the calendar year.

Planning is under way for the 2012 Appeal which will take place in November 2012. Plans for this year are to explore requesting matching funds from Thrivent for our appeal. This is possible based on discussions with Thrivent at the NLSAM.

Contributions

United Way - Employer Matches

For the first eight months of 2012, MN Via de Cristo has received \$2118.47 from United Way and employer matches. This is ahead of where we were last year at this time by nearly \$790. On an annual basis, we are on track for the contributions the Council typically receives from United Way contributions. Please encourage your 4th Day Community to consider checking with their employers to see if they match. This can be publicized through your newsletters. Consideration should also be given to including this in the newsletter and on the Council website.

Thrivent Choice

This continues to be a positive source of income for us. So far in 2012, donations in the amount of \$2626 have been received from Thrivent members. This is about \$1000 more in donations than we received last year at this time. While it is not guaranteed that this program will be continued by Thrivent, it is good to see that our 4th Day is taking advantage of this program and directing their dollars to MN Via de Cristo. As a ministry, we need to continue to highlight this giving option on the Council webpage and in the Council and District newsletters.

A stretch goal for 2012 would be to see this option for giving continue to increase with the intent of reaching over \$4000.

Outreach/Tithe

As early as 1999, the MN Via de Cristo Council made a commitment to tithe 10 percent of Annual Appeal donations received each year to support outreach to new and growing VDC communities. We are still working to make up for shortages in our commitments of past years for the tithe. Our current outstanding balance to be distributed stands at \$10,819. The outstanding balance includes the addition of \$3335 which is ten percent of the 2011 Annual Appeal. Over the past 18 months, we have made significant progress in reducing our outstanding commitment.

Efforts will continue to reduce the Council's outstanding commitment until we are caught up. Possible beneficiaries of the Council's commitment could be directed to:

- NLS (Executive Director)
- Northern TEC
- Virginia's VDC movement
- Wisconsin Community (organizing as a 501c3 non-profit)

Discussion Items for the Council

During the Treasurer's report, there may be items requiring the Council's approval or action. One topic of discussion is to seek the Council's permission to obtain quotes for our D&O insurance as our premiums have increased over the past couple of years - partially due to our recent claims history.

Operations Director: Bob reported in for Joe.

The supplies are inventoried. About \$1,000 is needed to cover bibles and yellow books. The needs and amount will be deferred to the next meeting.

Assistant Convener: Ginny

Ginny has made contact with Ultreya and Liaison contacts for each district. A newsletter feature will reflect on the importance of Ultreyas and the roles of liaisons. The Metro does not have a liaison. When someone fills that role, give the contact information to Jim.

Convener: Bob

The meeting schedules were gone over. We were reminded to track mileage and time spent as a Council representative. Give it to Diane. Be sure to include travel time. Time at Closuras as a Council rep also count.

District Reports**Metro:** Bob

- The Metro meets the 2nd Monday of the month. They need an Ultreya representative, a Liaison and a Palanca person.
- The music book Psalm 33 is being transitioned into the Rollo Room.
- So far there are 14 men and 7 women October weekenders.
- Rector training and Day 1 for January have been held.
- May Rectors are Jeff Southward and Jackie Campeau.

North: Nancy (Nancy will send notes)

- There are 28 women and 14 men signed up for the Staples weekend.
- Their District team is full.
- The contracts for 2013 are in the works with Detroit Lakes confirmed. April 2013 will be a new church.
- The meeting after the men's Closure had great attendance.

South: Steve (Steve will send)

- The August 8th Ultreya in Butternut was poorly attended.
- September 29th is the South's fundraiser. It's \$15 per person. There will be a silent auction. It will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield.
- November 15-18 will be a mixed weekend in Austin. There will be separate tables for male and female. The rollos will be mixed gender.
- The South's trailer will be modeled after the North's.

Coordinator Report: Jim

We were given a PowerPoint presentation at lunch showing 4th Day community information. It's a versatile tracking program that can allow us to find all the 4th Day members in our churches, weekends worked, etc. If you want particular information, contact Jim Arend. He will let us know if the information can be released or not.

It's a great program and should help keep 4th Day records updated.

Treasurer's Report: Diane

Distributions will be made to TEC North and Wisconsin Sunrise. These are tithes committed from 2009. Another opportunity would be to give to Rainbow in Washington DC to help it reorganize.

Annual Tithe Commitment

We received a thank you from the Southern Minnesota TEC kids.

Picture costs fluctuate widely. Some are digital and printed in 4th Day, some are printed offsite, others are palanca. Costs range from 0 to \$237.

In 2012 the weekend average was within budget. The kitchen is averaging \$1,582 per weekend. Palanca is down.

There is money available for pulpit supplies if needed.

The approval of the 2013 weekend budget will be moved to the November meeting.

Old Business

District Open Positions: District Leaders

We are still looking for people to fill vacant positions. If you know of anyone willing to serve, people should contact VDC.

New Business

Minnesota Palanca Letter: Josie

A copy of the Palanca letter is on the next page.

We need to decide if we want signatures on the Minnesota Palanca letter. The North has their own that's sent to Palanca. They send to the Metro. Nancy suggested that they be personalized with signatures, weekend dates, etc.

Recap from NLS Annual Meeting: Delegates

This year's National Lutheran Secretariat was held at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

Bob reported that the energy is growing. This is Year 3 of the new meeting structure. The camaraderie of the Minnesota delegates was great. They had a great time getting to know each other and other delegates from around the country. It was a wonderful learning experience.

There is a link to the NLS: viadecristo.org/share that gives us access to non-public information that can be used by our districts. Check it out. There may be information there to prevent us from reinventing the wheel.

The NLS is planning a recommitment day titled "Reconsider and Recommit" for the 4th Day to re-energize and get on the same page. Watch for more details.

We need to figure out a way to get the 4th Day community to realize VDC is not an event, it's an ongoing journey – a first step It should become part of your life not just a weekend to attend. This is also a National problem.

Other state delegates hold Minnesota in high regard. We have the largest delegation. The delegation size is determined by the number of weekenders

12 people attended an open forum. It focused on getting back to basics in your area. The delegates experienced new vocabulary which can vary according to region or cultural backgrounds. (Renewal group vs. reunion group, pilgrim or weekender, etc.)

It's a great experience. Try to attend one if you can. It's highly recommended.

Role of NLS Executive Director: Bob

This position is currently voluntary. Nancy Peterson holds this title. There is discussion about making this a paid position but need money to fund. The NLS wants to create a \$2.5 endowment to help fund this. Bob and Nancy will meet. We need to know what we need to do to interact.

Nominating Committee: Bob

The nominating committee is comprised of Conveners and Past Directors completing their second term. Open positions are Finance, Secretary, Communications, North Director Elect, Metro Director Elect and South Director Elect.

A future agenda item: We need to re-evaluate the Constitution regarding Council members failing to attend meetings.

North Facebook Group Account: Josie

There was discussion about how Michelle polices the website. She monitors the postings. She also clarified how their “friending” works and how it is secured. The North has changed the URL and description.

Josie and Michelle will continue the dialog.

Ginny led the closing prayer. Nancy B. said Grace. We adjourned to working lunch where Jim gave us a demonstration of the database and the many ways it can be used.

Following lunch and the demonstration we had workshop/breakout sessions to give District Leaders and the Executive Committee time to touch bases, express concerns and share feedback to the whole group

We were dismissed at 2pm.

Important Dates:

Council Meetings

July 10, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Conference Call

April 9, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Conference Call

September 15, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Grace Lutheran, Hermantown

May 11, 2013

10:00 a.m.

TBD (Council)

October 9, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Conference Call

NLS Annual Meeting

July 26 - 29, 2012

Denver, CO

November 10, 2012

10:00 a.m.

TBD (Metro)

Executive Committee Mtgs

As Needed

January 8, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Conference Call

February 9, 2013

10:00 a.m.

TBD (South)