

## Annual Gathering Regional Coordinator Report

Region #2 - 2020

Greetings from Region #2!



What a challenging year it has been for all of us. Many changes and new ideas of how to stay connected in these trying times. We have become video call champions for sure!

We had a weekend in the fall of 2019 that was well attended through Northern Lights. This secretariat has taken on the concept of hosting weekends at large outdoor camps in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. There could not be a more beautiful site to share the grace and love of The Lord than in the wilderness surrounded by towering oaks, hickory trees and pines. This secretariat covers the far northern counties of Wisconsin and occasionally will gather in some of our 4<sup>th</sup> day community from the Milwaukee area as well. They are going strong and have a re-commit and re-new workshop planned for later this year. I am planning on attending and teaching, along with Wendy Showalter, how they can re-ignite their 4<sup>th</sup> day pilgrims for even more participation in future VdC movements in their area.

Sonrise VdC secretariat is in the Southern portion of Wisconsin. I am currently the Assistant Lay Director and have witnessed the very real struggles of this movement here. Our attendance is lower than it has been in years and we are trying to find ways to accommodate an ever-changing world to encourage our younger fellow brothers and sisters to join us on a spiritual journey weekend. With technology and communication being a key component in staying in touch with our 4<sup>th</sup> day, we are hoping to re-build our data base to reflect current information and reach out to our community. Several Ultreyas were held and we even celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> weekend last year!

Ignite held their very first ever weekend and it was a success. They are still working out the kinks and having to work around the blanket of Covid-19 and the turmoil in MN has been a challenge. Social Media has been a great help in communicating with their 4<sup>th</sup> Day community.

MN VdC - covering the Twin Cities and Northern Minnesota has had similar difficulties in attendance as Sonrise. I attended a council meeting in January with Wendy Showalter, and we tried to offer some positive encouragement as they work their way through these common struggles. They just had their annual meeting and have welcomed Susan Strong as their new Lay Director.

My plan for the future is to reach out to our other Secretariats and connect. I was encouraged by our other RC's to try and make the connections through Facebook and it has been a successful way to find ways to become more involved. I am looking forward to increasing my communication with more pilgrims in my region!

Regional Coordinator, Region 2

Shelli Eder

cheddareder66@gmail.com