

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR OUTREACH NLS
Nominee Information Form**



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Home Secretariat Light in the Desert **Church Affiliation** __ Community Lutheran Church

Weekend Attended (please include year): Iowa Cursillo 1986 LITD VDC #22 2014

First and foremost pray for guidance before and while completing this form.

I have read through the current Job Description located at <https://viadecristo.org/job-desc/vpo.pdf> and have a good understanding of what the position entails: x Yes No

Are you active in a reunion group? x Yes No. If "No", Explain:

Any family information you would like to share: I am married with 2 adult children. I have been a school psychologist in Clark County Nevada for the past 30 years. My husband, Bob, is the Director of Psychological Services for the same school district (so technically he is my boss... lol). My daughter, Kali, lives in Southern California. My son, Collin, is attending college in Oregon. My son's best friend, Deon, also lives with us and attends college in Oregon as well. My father was an Episcopalian Priest for over 30 years before his passing in 2014. He was actively involved in Episcopalian Cursillo and Koinonia in Iowa and Pennsylvania and VDC in Nevada. My mother continues to be active in VDC Nevada.

Experience with servant positions in churches: I was the acolyte director/Sunday School Teacher/Youth Group leader in the Episcopal church for many years both in Iowa and then in Nevada. I lived one year in Nebraska and during that year formed and led a young adults group at the Episcopal Church in Bellevue. I currently serve as an usher at Community Lutheran Church. In my youth, I was very active in the youth movement in the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, serving as the Diocesan Youth Council President for 3 years. I was a youth delegate to national convention several times. I also served on several TEC (Teens Encounter Christ - Episcopal youth version of VDC) weekends and other youth camps and weekends throughout the 80s.

Your experience in your local Secretariat and VdC weekends: I have served in several positions over 10 weekends and was Rectora of LITD VDC #30 in 2019. I have served on the local secretariat board as webmaster since 2015 and as communications chair/tech coordinator since 2016. I helped plan and run a renewal weekend in 2019 and serve on the ultreya committee now. I am active in a women's reunion group. I run tech for all zoom meetings held in our secretariat. I currently host my reunion grouping meetings via zoom.

Your experience on behalf of the NLS in attending and working: I attended my first national gathering in 2019. I have served as RC for Region one since June 2020. I have held quarterly zoom calls with my lay directors since taking over in June 2020 and communicate regularly through email and other social media platforms. I am admin for the Region One FaceBook Page. I also assisted in planning, organizing and hosting one regional virtual ultreya and one national ultreya during the pandemic. I attended 2 of my regions virtual untreyas during the pandemic as well.

Your experience in a leading a team or a volunteer team: I have a lot of leadership experience, both in my current job as a school psychologist as well as in the various church and recreational groups that I belong to and participate in. My friends and colleagues often look to me for guidance and leadership. My elementary school is a "Leader in Me" school and we have yearly trainings and monthly refreshers in working with the 7 habits of highly successful people. I am a member of several leadership teams under this capacity. I function in a leadership role on the special education teams at my school. I also have participated in facilitating discussion/planning groups for my school, including the parade committee where we plan, organize, build and enter a parade float for the annual Henderson Holiday Parade.

Your experience with teaching and nurturing leadership: As part of the school special education team and as a long standing school psychologist, I am often called upon to supervise interns and other young professionals to assist with their education and growth. I am often called upon by my colleagues to help facilitate discussions around growth and development of skills and am looked to as a leader in my professional field. I believe that these skills have helped me foster similar relationships within my secretariat and amongst VDC member participants. I am often called to give the Leadership Rollo by my community. I believe that I know how to see the leader in others and help foster that part of them to grow and develop. I also know when to step back and let people experience their own growth without me hovering and rescuing all the time. I believe that failure leads to growth and that not every setback is necessarily a bad thing. I believe in allowing people to "fail forward" but also in providing a supportive, enriching environment for them to fall on when they do fail so that they can learn from their mistakes. I also believe in delegating and working together as a group. If I do everything, I am not fostering leadership but rather stunting it. I believe that teams function best with a supportive leader who does not micromanage but encourages independence and collaboration.

Your experience in an organizational and facilitator position: I was rectora of LITD VDC # 30 and organized and facilitated that weekend. I was part of the team that organized and ran the LITD Renewal Weekend that we held in 2019. I am a member of the ultreya committee and am often asked to take on a leadership role in these events. In these groups I take on the assignments that I am given, and support others in theirs without becoming enmeshed. As previously stated, I believe in fostering independence through delegating responsibility and allowing others to perform their tasks without hovering and micromanaging.

Communication skills/experience including but not limited to a platform like Zoom: I am a school psychologist by trade and much of my job includes communicating with parents and staff. I believe this is one of my strengths. Specifically for VDC, I am the communications chair and technology coordinator for my secretariat. I send out all communication within my secretariat, maintain a database and keep the community informed of events, etc. I film a monthly video blog with our Spiritual Director called Fail Forward with Father Steven, that is published to youtube. I also maintain the website for our secretariat. I schedule and run tech for all zoom meetings. I manage the facebook pages for LITD and Region 1. I also have twitter and instagram

accounts for LITD and Fail Forward. I also have my own Instagram and Facebook accounts for my fledgling coaching business. I try to keep these things up to date with inspirational postings as well as upcoming events and activities.

Your experience with attention to detail, email, and social media to help keep others informed: As above In addition, my “paid” job requires a lot of personal and public communication with parents and staff, through email, phone calls, text messaging and report writing. It is my job to pay attention to details.

Your experience as a liaison or with public relations: Again, as above. As Regional Coordinator for Region 1, I have upped my communications to include the lay directors from around the region, as well as maintaining direct communication with the VPO and in her absence, the president and VP of admin. I feel confident that I have the appropriate communication skills to maintain such a role at the national level.

Other experience which would help you as the Vice President for Outreach: I am a social creature. I believe that my outgoing, friendly and supportive nature will lend itself well to this position as I try to facilitate interaction within and between regions.

This position does require attending meetings possibly in different regions/secretariats/ with leaders of churches, governments, helping begin a new secretariat, etc. What issues would you have in fulfilling these duties? The only problem I see with this is time. Traveling to other secretariats may be difficult for me initially as I work full time. However, the use of virtual platforms, such as zoom, has opened up new possibilities for interactions across the country. As RC, I have attended 2 virtual ultreyas in other states and held my own regional ultreya on top of the quarterly virtual meetings that I hold with the lay directors. In addition, we had a well attended national ultreya which I was part of. I have a great dedication to this movement and feel confident that I would be able to bring a level of excitement to the newly formed chapters, should they arise.

Special interests: I am currently the tech chair for my secretariat and am loving exploring the possibilities for connection that are possible with this virtual world. I am still learning as well, and am open to exploring additional means of staying in contact as we move forward.

How do you see the position of Vice President for Outreach in promoting and supporting the growth and health of the Via de Cristo ministry? As we come off of COVID and begin to hold weekends again, I feel that the VPO role is ever so important to keep the community connected and moving forward as we look to incorporate changes in our practices in keeping with the covid health needs. In addition, I feel very strongly that the VDC movement needs to begin to move in a forward direction to appeal to the younger/millennial generation that are entering the movement. We need to begin to incorporate things that will capture and hold their interest. Things from the 70s may no longer serve and we may need to revamp things to be more appealing to this technology saturated generation. I feel that the VPO position is uniquely situated to gather input and ideas from across the country, to help secretariats bridge that gap and keep our movement vibrant and viable for generations to come.

Why do you feel that you are well suited to serve in this position? Honestly, I feel a little out of my depth here because I only just took over the RC position during covid. There may be a learning curve. However, I have been active in interacting at a national level for most of this time and I feel called to serve in a larger capacity. I believe that my energy and enthusiasm for the movement as well as my technological knowledge will help me make up for any deficits that I may have.

Signature: Karen Weires Date 7/8/2021

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