

2023 Region 6 Annual Report

We were hoping to see a big comeback in the number of VdC weekends held over the past year but have learned that as in many churches, the VdC comeback for Region Six has been slower than expected for many of its movements. Lake Gaston VdC has reluctantly stopped their efforts to get a new movement off the ground due to the pandemic. The new movement had planned to hold their first weekend in March, 2020 but, after 3 scheduled attempts, never held a weekend.



Pilgrims are hard to find everywhere but many movements are reporting a pent-up demand for weekends, especially among potential team members. It's very difficult to replicate the special feeling one experiences while serving on a VdC weekend. Many wonderful weekends have been held in Region Six over the past year – just not as many as usual.

Here is a brief summary of the activity within the Region 6 Secretariats:

- **Atlanta VdC** - Atlanta VdC has held no weekends since before the Covid pandemic and none are currently scheduled for 2023. Team development has been difficult and few pilgrim applications have been received. Still led by Co-Lay Directors Chris Strudthoff and Jim Yoho, the movement is in a discernment process about their future as a viable VdC movement. Their 3rd “Back to the Mountain” reunion weekend scheduled for November, 2022 was cancelled. The good news is that they still have a committed base of cursillistas who participate on their Secretariat (12 Zoom meetings per year) and attend Ultreyas. They also have some new Secretariat members including a new SD. Please pray for this movement as they seek God’s will for their future.
- **Eastern North Carolina VdC** - Eastern NC VdC held its first weekend since February, 2020 in February, 2023 (Mixed #106). They had a spirit-filled weekend with 18 guests and 37 team members. They also held a renewal weekend in September, 2022 with 38 attendees. Eastern NC VdC has a team fully formed for its next weekend in September, 2023. They also have another renewal weekend scheduled for late October with 60+ cursillistas expressing an interest in being there. The ENCVdC leaders are sensing a new wave of enthusiasm with many familiar faces surfacing that haven’t been seen since before the pandemic. Doug Austin is now the Lay Director for this movement after former Lay Director Terry Park stepped down to battle terminal cancer. Your prayers for Terry are coveted.

- **South Carolina VdC** – South Carolina VdC has scheduled a Co-ed (#20) weekend in September, 2023, another Co-ed (#21) weekend in April, 2024 and another weekend (Men’s, Women’s or Co-ed) in the fall of 2024. SCVdC is still holding its Secretariat meetings virtually. They have also held two Ultreyas over the past year. Ron Redd is still the Lay Director for SCVdC.
- **Tennessee VdC** - Tennessee VdC held its Mixed #40 weekend in October, 2022 with 11 pilgrims. Mixed #41 was held in March, 2023 with 17 pilgrims and Mixed #42 is scheduled for October, 2023. Weekend teams average about 40 team members. Led by new Lay Director John McCay, the Secretariat continues to meet 12 times a year, including 3 in person. Tennessee VdC holds an in-person Ultreya shortly after each weekend and their annual meeting in September each year.
- **Western NC VdC** - Western NC VdC normally holds six weekends per year with men’s, women’s & mixed weekends held in the winter/spring and summer/fall seasons. WNCVdC has held five weekends over the past 12 months and has scheduled three weekends for the fall of 2023. Six weekends are scheduled again for 2024. Led by new Lay Director, Gary Roseman, the WNCVdC Secretariat meets 11 times a year and has scheduled 8 months to meet virtually and 3 months to meet in person. Four Ultreyas have been held in the past year, all in-person, with total attendance exceeding 300 people. Over the past year, WNCVdC has built 5 teams with a total of 211 team members to serve a total of 44 pilgrims.

We and many of our churches are being challenged today to persevere. Hebrews 10:36 tells us – “You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised”. And James tells us in chapter 1, verses 1 – 3: “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” Via de Cristo builds strong Christian leaders for our churches and our environments. Let’s persevere!

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