



DRAFT

**Accola Programs & Opportunities Committee
Monday, February 9, 2025; 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom**

Attendees: Anita Duckor, CSJ-C; Karen Gervais; Colleen O'Malley, CSJ; Anne Weyandt

Staff: Andrée Aronson; Haven Green; Matt Halley

Excused Absence: Comfort Dondo; Steve Kenney; Adele O'Sullivan, CSJ; Sandy Vargas

The Accola Programs and Opportunities Committee convened online at 2:35 p.m.

Spiritual Centering: Anne led the committee in spiritual centering.

Minutes: The January minutes were presented for approval. A clarification regarding the focus of the Programs and Opportunities Committee with regards to Accola's strategic plan. The role of the committee within the community was explained, as well as how Accola can be a more inclusive and representative organization. Hearing no further questions, Anita moved to approve the minutes and Colleen seconded. All present members voted to approve the January minutes.

Follow-Up: Community Event in Response to ICE Activity

Haven reported that they are in the process of gathering a small group of interfaith leaders and creating a contemplative space for reflection and dreaming. The goal is to think about what our collective grief is pointing towards and what kind of future can be envisioned. This committee has discussed ways to move forward with regards to spirituality and justice, and this will be central to Accola as it brings neighbors together. The committee discussed grief, spiritual connectedness, and how this event will tie in concepts of justice. The committee reviewed the target audience for this event. This will be a one-time event and will be open to all who want to attend. There was a discussion about ways to address different levels of traumatization. Haven provided an overview for how this event may be structured.

Discussion: "What is the evolving context for Accola's work and its impact on our committees (and the upcoming Board retreat)?"

Based upon the above conversation, Matt requested feedback on how this committee can bring the essence of this conversation to the Board Retreat. Atum Azzahir is a gifted facilitator and will be leading the retreat. It was suggested that board members be asked to reflect on the needs of the time and how this creates a tangible social action agenda. The committee discussed advocacy and what this might look like.

Anne explained that the retreat won't have a strict agenda, but that it will contain a combination of work and a plan for what comes next. Anne reviewed three questions that have come out of this committee meeting that can be used to facilitate conversation during the retreat:

1. What is stirring in you? What is the yearning? What drives you to be on this board?

2. How much risk are you willing to take?
3. If members are stirred to act, what do we do individually and collectively? What are we willing to do to forward our yearning into meaningful action?

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola