



Accola
CSJ Mission Education Committee
Thursday, August 19, 2024; 1:30 – 3:00 pm
In-Person

In Attendance: Kevin Berg; Susan Oeffling, CSJ; Kris Smyth; Jill Underdahl, CSJ; Karen Zeleznak

Staff: Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Not Present: Angela Schreiber, CSJ; Andrea Pearson Tande

The Accola Mission Education Committee convened on Monday, August 19, 2024, via Zoom. Chair Susan Oeffling, CSJ called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

DEI: Read by Lacy Sietsema

Prayer: Susan read the prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The July 11, 2024 minutes were presented. Hearing no corrections or changes, all present committee members voted to approve the July minutes.

Approval of Agenda: There was a discussion about Board Portal access. Kevin and Matt will determine what type of access to provide. Hearing no modifications to the agenda, all present committee members voted to approve the agenda.

Wisdom Ways Update

Matt reported on and that Wisdom Ways staff have been sifting through program offerings. They will maintain Christian Meditation and Hedgerow, as well as various projects of the Sisters. He reported that work is being done to better understand what Wisdom Ways has been and what its potential will be moving forward. There are a number of consistent themes: feminist theology, CSJ theology, ritual, social justice, etc. There will be a deep dive in the connection between spirituality and social justice actions. The Programs and Opportunities Committee is looking at the needs in the community and exploring how Wisdom Ways will fit into the NDO.

Two consultants have been hired to evaluate Wisdom Ways and they are guiding the Programs and Opportunities Committee in gathering information and researching what else/who else is doing similar work. One of the consultants is currently serving as interim director. They will help the committee to make a recommendation for Wisdom Ways moving forward. This work will last through January 2025. People have been forthcoming about potential stakeholders. Matt asked Mission and Education Committee members to email him with suggestions.

It was suggested that Matt contact the CSJ Justice Commission and the work groups. Committee members also suggested a few individual stakeholders within the wider community.

Matt reported that there has been the added challenge of finding a new insurer for Wisdom Ways. The previous insurer only dealt with religious entities.

Annual Goals

Everyone should have a copy of the committee charter and should review it. There was a conversation about the CSJ culture and how to provide this education to Board members. There are six Board Education sessions that can be used to provide this education. Stories about being bold, social justice, and charism in action can be shared. It should be pointed out that “we are building on the history that started in 1852 and pulling threads from the past into the present.”

It was suggested that Program Directors be asked about three critical things to know about programs. The committee should also research what is important for new Board Members to learn during orientation. There was a discussion about the history of the CSJs in St. Paul and Minneapolis, as well as a possible bus tour to bring this history to life. Susan provided a list of twelve sites that could be visited. Jill has a binder of stories that can be used as a resource. Kevin asked for a list of all the ministries started by the Sisters. It was suggested that the committee create an impact map.

Susan said that the committee needs to reach out to people and find out what they would like to know.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lacy Sietsema, Accola