



**Accola Executive Committee
Wednesday, September 24, 2025; 8:00 – 9:30 am
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

In Attendance: Kevin Berg; Anita S. Duckor, CSJ-C; Steve Kenney; Mary Lydon; Brian Mallaro; Susan Oeffling, CSJ; Jill Underdahl, CSJ; Anne Weyandt; Jean Wincek, CSJ

Staff: Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Joel Rainville

The Accola Executive Committee convened on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 via Zoom and in-person at Learning In Style School. Chair Steve Kenney called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

DEI: Read by Brian.

Spiritual Centering: Jill led the committee in spiritual centering.

Minutes: The July minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Brian moved and Susan seconded to approve the minutes. All present members voted to approve the July minutes.

Agenda: The September agenda was presented for approval. Hearing no changes to the agenda, all present members voted to approve.

President's report – See Report

Matt reported that this is a full week for Accola. An open house has been organized at Learning In Style and this will take the place of the September Board Education Session. He encouraged Board members to attend and bring guests. There will be a 30-minute program, followed by Accola director/program introductions, and a tour of LIS. Matt reported that Wisdom Ways is also hosting a bonfire at Crosby Park. This event will include storytelling, music, cider, and community.

Matt reported that new Accola marketing materials are being rolled out and there has been excellent feedback here. It has also been brought to his attention that there is interest on a national congregation level on how Accola is moving forward. He, Jill, and Adele have met to discuss ways Accola can be helpful without competing with the CSJ community. Jill explained where the different CSJ congregations are at in terms of community and how they are looking for ways to continue nurturing and supporting ministries.

Matt reported on the state of the national mood and how this impacts Accola. He has been reflecting on ways Accola can pivot and demonstrate a well-defined set of values and compassion for its neighbors. He has been thinking about ways Accola can create community and what effective engagement looks like.

There was a discussion about how to communicate with different groups of people and how to share

Accola's values. Matt reported that staff development is a priority, and policies and procedures are being formalized around this topic. The feasibility project is moving forward, and Matt has found a partner who will analyze the residence.

Committee Updates

Finance/Audit: Brian reported that the Finance and Audit Committee is meeting in-person after this meeting and is in the process of wrapping up the FY25 Audit. CLA has signed off on the financial statements and previous processes have been cleaned up.

Investment: Mary reported that the Accola Investment Committee has sent out RFPs for an OCIO (Outsourced Chief Investment Officer). The committee solicited bids from seven entities and will begin the vetting and interview process.

Nomination & Governance: Anita reported that the committee is drafting a leadership selection process for the Board. She stated that it would be helpful to share committee workplans with all the Chairs.

Mission Education: Susan reported that her committee is in the middle of project discussions. A bus tour of the CSJ community has been postponed until next year.

Programs and Opportunities: Anne reported that the committee is having discussions about ways to be successful in community partnerships.

Advancement: Matt reported that an Integrated Fund Development Plan is being developed. This plan will highlight how Accola will achieve its fundraising goals and a Special Advancement Committee meeting is being organized to do a deep dive into these details. Matt reported that fundraising is behind this year but there will be a spike in giving over the holidays and at the end of the year. He and Andrée are making visits and taking phone calls with donors, and Advancement is strategizing ways to bring in new donors.

Executive Session: The Executive Committee went into Executive Session at 9:15 a.m.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola