



**Accola Programs & Opportunities Committee
Monday, January 13; 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
In-person and via Zoom**

Attendees: Kevin Berg; Karen Gervais; Fr. Larry Snyder; Colleen O’Malley, CSJ; Adele O’Sullivan, CSJ; Sandy Vargas; Anne Weyandt

Staff: Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Anita Duckor, CSJ-C

The Accola Programs and Opportunities Committee convened in-person and online at 2:33 p.m.

Welcome New Committee Member: Sandy Vargas

Anne welcomed Sandy Vargas to the committee. Introductions were made by all present members.

DEI Statement: Anne read the DEI Statement and led the committee in prayer.

Prayer: Anne shared a reflection by Elizabeth Johnson with the committee.

Minutes: The December minutes were presented for approval. Colleen moved to approve, and Adele seconded. Hearing no changes to the minutes, all present members voted in favor.

Review Proposed Wisdom Ways Recommendations

Anne provided an overview of the December Programs and Opportunities Committee meeting. Research and analysis were reviewed, and the committee used the time between the December and January meetings for reflection.

Matt has provided a draft of a vision of what Wisdom Ways is and could become. Some of the notes in this draft are a result of the reactions from the listening sessions. Matt reviewed this vision and explained his process for the drafting of this document. There was a discussion about possibly implementing a cohort model for Wisdom Ways and the capability to develop meaning communally rather than individually. There was a discussion about how individual perspectives (intellectual, emotional, etc.) can lead to social justice actions, and how Wisdom Ways can facilitate this shift.

It was stated that this document would be very helpful to the future director of Wisdom Ways. Matt explained that once the Board gives directional approval for Wisdom Ways to move forward, he will develop a job description for this position. There was a discussion about what skills an experience would be needed to fulfil this position and implement changes in Wisdom Ways. It was suggested that the Programs and Opportunities Committee will help Matt develop this job description.

There was a discussion about how to present the recommendation to the Board.

Matt reviewed the areas of Wisdom Ways that will not be changing. These specific programs are led by

the Sisters and Wisdom Ways does have the capacity to provide support.

The committee reviewed the value proposition and target market. Matt stated that there needs to be clarity around knowing what people are looking for and what Wisdom Ways can offer. There is a need to provide a community that allows exploration and the development of spiritual solutions. People are looking for ways to help the wider community. Wisdom Ways can provide tools, support and a path to encourage action.

Anne pointed out that the committee will meet one more time before the January Board meeting. It was suggested that Matt's document can be the foundation of the Board recommendation. There was a discussion about whether the Board would have enough time to digest this information in one meeting. The information may be presented at the February meeting, but the March education session may be utilized to decide on the recommendation.

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola