



CSJ Mission Education Committee
Monday, February 16, 2026; 1:30-3:00 p.m.
In-Person: 2nd Floor Conference Room, CSJ Admin Center

Meeting Minutes

Present: Susan Oeffling, CSJ; Andrea Pearson Tande, CSJ-C; Kris Smyth; Jill Underdahl, CSJ; Karen Zeleznak, CSJ-C

Staff: Andree Aronson Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Steve Kenney; Angela Schreiber, CSJ

The CSJ Mission Education Committee convened on Monday, February 16, 2026 at 1:32 p.m.

DEI Statement: Kris read the DEI statement.

Spiritual Centering: Led by Susan.

Minutes: The November minutes were presented to the committee for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, all present members voted to approve the minutes.

Agenda: The agenda was presented for approval. Susan said that there is one correction on the agenda: it should read March volunteers for the DEI and Spiritual Centering.

Accola Update

Matt reported that the ICE surge has had a dramatic impact on Accola, its programs, and its staff. Matt expressed appreciation for staff commitment, resourcefulness, and flexibility. Learning In Style School has largely become a basic needs distribution hub and teachers have developed plans to offer classes online.

Matt noted the hope of people being brought together. There is a tremendous opportunity for Accola to be the convener where people come together and express their commitment. Matt acknowledged Andrée and the Advancement team and the preparation and implementation of engagement strategies. It was reported that there has been an incredible spike in both contributions and volunteers. Andrée stated that Accola has received over 190 donations, most of which are first-time and from out of state. It was reported that Julie has received over 50 volunteer applications. Accola is responding to current needs in a big and broad way. Andrée added that she and Janine visited Holy Angel Academy. They spoke to over 80 people about Accola and ways students can engage in their community.

Andrée explained how the volunteer program is providing resources to the Accola community. The committee discussed the ICE drawdown, how ICE tactics are changing, and how people can remain vigilant and protect people within their communities.

Debriefing of January 22 Board Education Session

The committee discussed feedback from the January Board Education session. Andrea reported that there was time at the end of the presentation for questions and Board members did fill this time up.

There was a discussion about the use and term of “Third Age of Joseph.” It was pointed out that this term is an important piece of language and provides the framework for what Accola does, but it has the potential to be limiting to those outside of the CSJ community. It was suggested that Board members be asked “what does the invitation of the spirit of St. Joseph mean to you?” The committee discussed Accola’s values and how it can leverage sustainability while still maintaining integrity. It was suggested that Board members be reminded that the Board Education session was recorded and is on the Board Portal. Board members can be encouraged to watch the video and think about how the spirit of St. Joseph fits for Accola.

Next Steps

The committee discussed future CSJ Mission Education offerings for Board members. The Minneapolis bus tour has been shelved for a later date. Province/Congregational Directional Statements will be posted to the Portal. The committee discussed packaging up some CSJ stories that are foundational to

Accola. The Consociates are in the beginning stages of establishing a non-profit that could potentially be a partner to Accola.

March DEI & Spiritual Centering: Andrea volunteered to read the DEI Statement. Matt will lead the Spiritual Centering.

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola