



Accola Programs & Opportunities Committee
Monday, July 14; 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
In-person and via Zoom

Attendees: Comfort Dondo; Anita S. Duckor, CSJ-C; Karen Gervais; Steve Kenney; Sandy Vargas; Anne Weyandt

Staff: Haven Green; Matt Halley

Excused Absence: Colleen O'Malley; Lacy Sietsema; Adele O'Sullivan, CSJ; Fr. Larry Snyder

The Accola Programs and Opportunities Committee convened in-person and online at 2:30 p.m.

DEI Statement: Anne read the DEI Statement.

Spiritual Centering: Anita led the committee in spiritual centering.

Minutes: The March minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Sandy moved to approve and Karen seconded approving the March minutes.

The July 14 meeting was recorded and the July minutes have been transcribed by Lacy for the August meeting.

Meet & Greet with Haven Green

Anne welcomed Haven Green, the new Director of Wisdom Ways. Members of the Programs and Opportunities Committee introduced themselves. Haven reviewed their background and expressed enthusiasm for the work Wisdom Ways does. They reviewed the direction of Wisdom Ways over the next six months. They explained that staff are exploring the types of programs they would like to implement in 2026 and using Fall 2025 as a "beta period" for programming to see what would work. Sandy asked Haven about their approach to different audiences. Haven explained that Wisdom Ways is looking into different approaches and would appreciate any feedback and advice that committee members may have regarding this topic. There was a discussion about how to start a dialogue with different communities, particularly with regards to spiritual needs in the current social and political climate. There was a discussion about bringing in politicians to talk about the connections they see about faith and how that influences the work they do.

Discussion: How the Programs and Opportunities Committee can Support Community Outreach Work the Accola

Matt reported that there are three main components to the sustainability plan (potential for earned revenue, developing a long-term facilities plan, and meaningful community engagement). The support of the Programs and Opportunities Committee will be important for all components, particularly the community engagement aspect. The community engagement function will fit into the Advancement Department, which will involve communications initiatives and the communications manager. Matt reported that there is a goal to develop the volunteer program and identify possible partnerships with

mission-aligned organizations. There was a discussion about advancement strategy, what community engagement will entail, and the role the committee can play in developing these initiatives. Karen stated that at this moment, Accola is about relationships, not community engagement. Steps involved will include: trusting relationships, possibly developing mission-aligned relationships, identifying needs, and working together to address those needs with partners. Anne suggested bringing this discussion to the July Executive Committee meeting.

August Spiritual Centering: Sandy will lead the August spiritual centering.

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola