CSJ Mission Education Committee
Monday, September 21, 2026; 1:30-3:00 p.m.
In-Person: 2nd Floor Conference Room, CSJ Admin Center

Meeting Minutes

Present: Kevin Berg; Marilaurice Hemlock, CSJ-C; Andrea Pearson Tande, CSJ-C; Kris Smyth; Jill Underdahl, CSJ; Sandy Vargas; Karen Zeleznak, CSJ-C

Staff: Andree Aronson; Matt Halley

Excused Absence: Lacy Sietsema

The CSJ Mission Education Committee convened on Monday, September 21, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

DEI Statement: Andrea read the DEI statement.

Spiritual Centering: Led by Andrea.

Agenda: The agenda was presented for approval. Hearing no changes or additions, Karen moved and Marilaurice seconded to approve the agenda. All present members voted to approve with the exception of two abstentions.

Minutes: The August minutes were presented to the committee for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Kris moved and Karen seconded to approve the minutes. All present members voted to approve.

Accola Update: Matt reported that there is lots of support from the Province that isn't always discussed. The Province is making a $100,000 investment in the kitchen at Sarah's. Matt discussed the progress regarding the facilities/ownership vs. leasing. There was a discussion about embedding spirituality in Accola. The August open house was successful and provided an introduction to Sarah's. Accola has developed a deeper partnership with CVT and this has led to a federal grant opportunity. The September Board Education Session will take place at LIS. There was a discussion about a collaborative leadership model, which will leverage all voices at the table in decision-making.

Goals

- Goal 1: Present the Accola Board with information regarding Consociates and other forms of relationships with the CSJ Sister community and explore ways to strengthen connections between these groups and the Accola Board – finished at January Accola BOD Education session - COMPLETE
- Goal 2: Enhance Accola BOD members experience of the CSJ Community and mission by inviting them to participate in Province celebrations and events. Andrea will have a recommendation at the next meeting process with highlighting connections.
- Goal 3: Share with the Accola BOD the Directional Statements from the Province and resulting actions. Which ones are most important to know.
- Goal 4: Learn from program directors and staff members their views on how the programs

express Province and Congregational mission and direction.

- New suggestions – have 3 program directors meet with committee, have one CSJ meet with Accola committees, contribute to new BOD members for committee & staff/BOD orientation, Tour of CSJ archives, Stress importance of having a CSJ member/associate on each committee.

Workplan: The committee workplan was reviewed. A committee member will provide an update regarding movement within the Province to the Board. A new leadership structure is being developed that includes one canonical leader and two counselors.

Spiritual Centering: Members of the CSJ Mission Education Committee will provide the spiritual centering at Board and committee meetings. There was a discussion about incorporating all types of faiths, as well as developing themes that reflect the CSJ mission.

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola