

Governing in the CSJ Charism

by Suzanne M. Kearney, Executive Director

Governing means providing strategic leadership to our sponsored ministries. It entails the functions of setting direction, making policy and strategy decisions, overseeing and monitoring organizational performance, and ensuring overall accountability for the mission of the organization.

“Governing in the CSJ charism” adds a new and rich dimension to our roles as Trustees and Directors that is a privilege, challenge and gift. For us, our clients and constituencies are “the Dear Neighbor.” We take a particular stance toward their needs in our local ministries by caring for the whole person, creating a healing and safe environment and encouraging them to draw ever closer to a God of love and compassion, of justice and peace.

We work together differently at all levels within our sponsored ministries. At the Board level, we seek to create an atmosphere at our meetings that welcomes, affirms, heals and unifies. We are enthusiastic about growing into, being formed in and transformed by the charism that unifies us with each other and with God.

Acting within the CSJ charism means that we take care about how we interact with each other in our deliberations, striving to listen respectfully to each other, expressing our thoughts to achieve an optimal outcome rather than to advance a personal preference and appreciating the diversity of talents and perspectives that we bring to our efforts.

We do this out of a deep love for God and commitment to continue the CSJ mission.

We do this in everything that we undertake together.

We do this both individually and collectively.

As Trustees and Directors, we are called to share in the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph as expressed in the CSJ charism of unity and reconciliation. We are called to do no less than open ourselves to an ongoing conversion at the very heart of who we are.

Practical Ways To Grow In The CSJ Charism

Take ten minutes at each Board meeting to educate and form ourselves as Trustees in the CSJ charism.

Participate in the special events at our ministries that commemorate the history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston.

Model for each other peaceful resolution of differences and outreach to those on the fringes of society.

For additional resources,
please contact the Office of Sponsored Ministries at 617-746-2193.