

**PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 22-24, 2018**

**Charlotte, NC**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

The Self-Development of People National Committee convened at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday February 22 at Caldwell Presbyterian Church. **CONVENED**

The following Committee members were present:

**ROLL CALL**

Rebecca Reyes, Chairperson	Sarah Jane Moore
Lisa Leverette	Joseph Johnson
Wesley Woo	Laura Krauss
John Etheredge	Johnnie Monroe
Karen Brown	Lawrence Low
Susan Dobkins	Phyllis Edwards

The following staff members were present:

Alonzo Johnson, Clara Nunez, Margaret Mwale, Sara Lisherness, and Teresa Bidart.

Excused Absence:

Sharon Ware, Pat Osoinach, Wayne Steele.

The meeting was opened by Rebecca Reyes with prayer.

**ACTION: 01-0218**

The Committee VOTED TO APPROVE the Proposed Agenda.

**Approved Agenda**

The Committee VOTED TO APPROVE the December 7, 2017 National Committee minutes.

**ACTION: 02-0218**

**Approved December 7, 2017 minutes.**

The National Committee members and staff participated in a dinner with Church leaders/Presbytery SDOP Committee. They were:

1. Rev. Dennis E. Testerman, Southern Outer Piedmont Ecoregion of NC.
2. Rosemary Klein, SDOP Chairperson, Presbytery of Charlotte.
3. Darryl R. Gaston, President of the Druid Hills Neighborhood Association.
4. Melissa Gaston, Live, Love and Laugh.
5. Matt Samson, Associate Professor of Anthropology Department of Anthropology, Davidson College.
6. Rev. Dr. John Cleghorn, Pastor of Caldwell Presbyterian Church.

Following the dinner, the Committee did a farewell for the Committee members that will rotate off the National Committee in May 2018. They are Lisa Leverette, Sarah J Moore, Joseph Johnson, John Etheredge, and Johnnie Monroe.

**PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 22-24, 2018  
Charlotte, NC  
DRAFT MINUTES**

Johnnie Monroe presented the new officers' installation:

Chairperson:	Rebecca Reyes
Vice-Chairperson:	Pat Osoinach
Midwest Task Force Chairperson:	Sharon Ware
Northeast Task Force Chairperson:	Karen Brown
South Task Force Chairperson:	Wayne Steele
West Task Force Chairperson:	Wesley Woo
Church Wide & Community:	Laura Krauss
International T/F Chairperson:	Susan Dobkins

**RE-CONVENED**

Friday, February 23 and Saturday February 24 in the morning the Committee members and staff divided in groups to different locations in Charlotte to conduct community workshops. The list with activities and locations is attached.

On Friday night, the National Committee members and staff that will attend the May 2018 National Committee meeting in Belize, shared a dinner at King's Kitchen restaurant in downtown Charlotte to discuss the agenda for this trip. The International Task Force handed out a package for the trip which includes an introduction to Belize, Belize maps, a tentative agenda for the National meeting, and precis of funded groups that the SDOP team will visit there in May.

The National Committee meeting re-convened on Saturday February 24 at 2:00 p.m. at Matthews Murkland Presbyterian Church. Wesley Woo opened the meeting with prayers.

**RE-CONVENED**

Rebecca Reyes reviewed the minute for mission schedule for Sunday to make sure everybody knew what they need to do and transportation arrangements.

The Committee discussed the 2018 and 2019 SDOP future meetings:

2018

- Belize - May 14-18 - International
- Philadelphia (Fall) September 13-16 - Northeast
- December – Conference Call

2019

- Albuquerque, NM – January 24-26 - West
- New York, NY – May 23-25 – Northeast
- Atlanta, GA – September 19-21 - South

**PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 22-24, 2018  
Charlotte, NC  
DRAFT MINUTES**

- December – Conference Call

**ACTION: 03-0218  
2018 and 2019 meeting  
schedule approved**

The Committee **VOTE TO APPROVE** the 2018 and 2019 meeting dates

Sara Lisherness, Compassion, Peace and Justice Director, addressed the group. She stated that regarding the scarcity we have in the 2017 budget, the end of the year puts us in a very good position. Specifically, the Special Offering was up. The General Assembly will approve the next period budget during this summer meeting.

In late November, 3 candidates for the PMA Executive Director position were interviewed but nobody was elected. The 3 interviewers declined the position.

Sara Lisherness informed the SDOP National Committee that the Coordinator, Racial and Intercultural Justice (Compassion, Peace & Justice) position is still open. She asked the committee members if they know somebody to fill this position they can recommend them. She will send the position description by email.

She also mentioned the PMA Mission Work Plan 2019-20. She will send it by email to all National Committee members as well.

**ACTION: 04-0218  
Received the Financial Report**

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Financial report presented by Joseph Johnson.

He reported that SDOP finished 2017 year in good shape.

The budget 2019 was approved.

Regarding to the discussion of the Gift recommendations, Joseph reported that the Financial Committee and the International Task Force met through conference call. During the December National Committee Conference call the investment proposal for Cartledge funds were presented as follow:

**ACTION: 05-0218 The  
National Committee members  
approved the  
recommendations of the  
Financial and International  
Task Force regarding the  
Cartledge funds**

Current balance: \$927,308.00

Option 1: Withdraw \$100,00 from the funds and earmark/restrict an (\$100,000 ?? or lesser amount) acceptable amount of those funds for focused program support in Nicaragua and Guatemala. If a lesser amount of the 100K is used for the two countries, the balance would be restricted to fund “exceptional projects” that request funding amounts larger than the current \$15,000 usually granted. In either case, the balance of \$827,308 would be invested in a balanced fund strategy with the Presbyterian Foundation. Use the investment yield for domestic and international project support, maintaining the corpus in the investment portfolio.

**PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 22-24, 2018  
Charlotte, NC  
DRAFT MINUTES**

Option 2: Commit \$75,000 from existing Operating Funds/International Project Funds for a 3-year project support in Nicaragua and Guatemala. Invest the current Cartledge Funds (\$927,308) in a short-term strategy (with guidance from Toni Carver-Smith) aimed at recovering the \$75,000 commitment over the 3-year period. At the end of the 3-year period, invest the to-date balance of the Cartledge Funds in a balanced fund portfolio as in Option 1, using investment yield as indicated in Option 1.

The Financial Committee and the International Task Force decided to recommend to the National Committee that Option #2 be withdrawn and Option #1 be amended to reduce the withdrawal amount to \$75,000 to be used for projects in Guatemala and Nicaragua with the remaining Cartledge funds to be invested with the Presbyterian Foundation utilizing the New Covenant Trust Investment Management Account and investing the funds in Socially Responsible Investment vehicles.

Related details and recommendations are as follows:

- 1) The recommendation agreed to by the International Task Force Chairperson is predicated on the expectation that the anticipated amount to continue to re-grant in Guatemala and/or Nicaragua will be significantly higher after year 3.
- 2) Funds for year 4 and beyond are also expected to be drawn from the principal amount vested in the account.
- 3) Toni Carver-Smith further recommended that funds drawn from the account be earmarked in the budget.

Upon approval of the above recommendations, the National Committee of the Self-Development of People direct officers and/or staff of SDOP, as required by the Presbyterian Foundation, to execute and implement the directions of the recommendations.

Joseph Johnson recommended to be in contact with the mission coworkers in Nicaragua and Guatemala to check what has been invested there. The \$75,000 will be used to start looking for intermediary partners there.

The National Committee **VOTE TO APPROVE** the recommendations of the Financial Committee and the International Task Force.

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Northeast Task Force report.

The Northeast reviewed correspondence from Strength to Love II group (SN17002) located in Baltimore, MD and authorized the staff to release the grant funds.

The Task Force have a pending site visit to Rochester Worker's Center

**TASK FORCES REPORTS**

**ACTION: 06-0218  
The Committee VOTE TO  
RECEIVE the Northeast Task  
Force report**

**PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 22-24, 2018  
Charlotte, NC  
DRAFT MINUTES**

(SN17003) located in Rochester, NY and will do it in April.

Karen Brown, Alonzo Johnson, and Margaret Mwale conducted a community workshop in Baltimore on November 11, 2017. The workshop attendance was very good.

The Task Force will have a meeting in April in Rochester, to do the site visit, the Task Force meeting and a community workshop.

Future meetings:

April: Task Force meeting in Rochester

May: Belize

September: Philadelphia

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the West Task Force report

**ACTION: 07-0218  
The Committee VOTE TO  
RECEIVE the West Task  
Force report**

The Task Force did a Zoom conference call on February 19. The Task Force reviewed the 2018 Plans and Goals.

Three groups site visit are pending. We will present the precis in May.

The Task Force reviewed the request of Youth Rise Organizing Institute (SW17001) located in Austin, TX to expedite their payment and. The Task Force approved their request to process the balance of the grant.

Laura did a recertification on the Pacific Presbytery.

**ACTION: 08-0218  
The Committee VOTE TO  
RECEIVE the South Task  
Force report**

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the South Task Force report

John thanks the National Committee to come to the south for this meeting.

Two precis will be presented for validation and funding:

New American Parent Support Group "NPSG"

Clarkston, GA

Validation/Funding: \$ 15,000

Payment Schedule: Quarterly

**ACTION: 09-0218  
VALIDATION/FUNDING  
SS17008**

Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

Homes for All Nashville

Nashville, TN

Validation/Funding: \$ 15,000

Payment Schedule: Quarterly

**ACTION: 10-0218  
The Committee VOTE TO  
TABLE SS17009**

The committee proposed **TO TABLE** this proposal until May with two

**PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 22-24, 2018  
Charlotte, NC  
DRAFT MINUTES**

nays, and one abstention, after reviewing more details of the application.

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Midwest Task Force report

The Task Force has focused their work in Milwaukee, WI

Detroit Presbytery will be re-certified before May 2018

The Task Force presented for information:

Street Vendors Association of Chicago (SVAC), Chicago, IL

Validation/Funding: \$3,000 for Technical assistance

Payment Schedule: Lump Sum

Alonzo Johnson and Margaret Mwale did a recertification for Mission Presbytery.

Future meetings:

The Task Force will be meeting in April in Milwaukee, WI

Karen Brown recommend that the entire Committee receive a training to be more consistent with the SDOP criteria while reviewing applications.

Rebecca Reyes explained that the Committee usually provide training for new members but during the last two years because of lack of funds the Committee have not been able to do it. The staff agreed to do a 2 days training in Louisville for new members and include the members that have join the committee in the last 2 years.

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Church wide and Community Relations Committee report.

On February 20 the Committee met via zoom to work on a plan of this National meeting in Charlotte. We also discuss how to accomplish the recertification training for the West and Midwest.

We encourage all the committee members to get busy scheduling Minutes for Missions at churches near you as soon as possible to talk about SDOP before the OGHs. The Committee members can use the SDOP Sunday materials disregarding the late date for SDOP Sunday. Also, get on the agenda for the Presbytery Assembly or assemblies near you. We thanked the whole committee for the tremendous outreach and all our doing about SDOP and remind the entire National Committee that all of us need to do outreach as much as possible.

John Etheredge thanked the outstanding work of Margaret Mwale during all

**ACTION: 11-0218**

**The Committee VOTED TO RECEIVE the Midwest Task Force report**

**ACTION: 12-0218**

**VALIDATION/FUNDING  
SM18001 upon receive a detailed budget**

**ACTION: 13-0218**

**The Committee VOTED TO RECEIVE the Church wide and Community Relations Committee report**

**PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 22-24, 2018  
Charlotte, NC  
DRAFT MINUTES**

this Charlotte planning and execution of the plan.

Margaret Mwale recognized the work that the entire planning team did to do this outreach meeting in Charlotte and the excellent team work and effort.

Alonzo Johnson stated that the staff have been doing a wonderful job in preparation of this meeting. The staff have been very busy, in engaging and making sure that the committee have all they need.

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the International Task Force report.

**ACTION: 14-0218  
The Committee VOTED TO  
RECEIVE the International  
Task Force report**

As Sara Lisherness mentioned during this last two years SDOP have faced scarcity of our budget. Fortunately, right now the SDOP budget is better and we can allow ourselves to do a better work in the ground.

Lisa Leverette stated that she is very happy to do this final assignment of doing the National Committee meeting in Belize to show the Committee what the International Task Force has done there in the last 6 years.

Regarding our intermediary's partners, the International Task Force is working to end this year the partnership with West Africa Initiative in Liberia and Sierra Leone. We asked them to resubmit their 2018 application to reflect the stepping down. In addition, the Task Force would like to know how they are going to survive after our partnership ends.

Panama is our next focus country, this year in November the International Task Force will start the visits. Lisa stated that she is happy to pass the International Task Force work to Susan Dobkins as Chairperson, she is very capable person and has a very good experience in the ground work in Central America.

Weekend evaluation

Rebecca Reyes asked the Committee about their opinions about this weekend meeting in Charlotte.

Susan Dobkins thanked the planning committee, especially Sarah Jane Moore, John Etheredge and Margaret Mwale for doing a very good job organizing this meeting. She is grateful for having the opportunity to know very good people during this weekend.

Sara Lisherness stated that the panel on Friday was very good.

Larry Low echoed Sara's opinion.

Johnnie Monroe talked about the trip to Rock Hill, NC. They met with the

**PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE**  
**NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 22-24, 2018**  
**Charlotte, NC**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

Providence Presbytery Executive Presbyter, the chair of the SDOP Committee, and he stated that it was a very good experience.

John Etheredge stated that he spent 957 hours (39 days) in conference calls to reach out people in Charlotte. He recommended that this kind of meeting will repeat it again, at least once a year.

Rebecca Reyes asked the staff to count the amount of people that participated in this reach out meeting and send an email to report this to the National Committee members.

Phyllis Edwards stated that this meeting facilitated the opportunity to spend more time with the National Committee members.

Lisa Leverette stated the importance of the relationship between committee members. Also, the South Task Force should keep the communication with these groups and people that have been reached out. We did this in Detroit after our Milwaukee meeting and made a great impact. The workshop that she conducted today at Jackson Park Ministries was very successful.

Laura Kraus stated that she visited with the Mission Project and SDOP had a resource Table. She met a child of 11 years old that had a very interesting conversation with her. It was a great experience.

Karen Brown stated that it was a very good weekend. She echoed Lisa that a follow up will be needed.

Sara Lisherness stated that the workshop that Karen, Margaret and Alonzo conducted went very well. People were very engaged.

John Etheredge asked if somebody has some critique to this weekend and everybody stated that was wonderful experience. No critiques.

Rebecca Reyes was disappointed that the Charlotte Executive Presbytery was not able to join us for the events.

Johnnie Monroe stated that a lot of pastors showed up at the workshops.

Karen Brown closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Bidart  
Bilingual /Meeting Planner