

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

May 18-20, 2017

Oakland, CA

DRAFT MINUTES

The Self-Development of People National Committee convened at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday May 18, 2017

The following Committee members were present:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Rebecca Reyes, Chairperson | Sarah Jane Moore |
| John (Pat) Osoinach | Joseph Johnson |
| Wesley Woo | Lawrence Low |
| Laura Krauss | Phyllis Edwards |
| John Etheredge | Johnnie Monroe |
| Susan Dobkins | Sharon Ware |

CONVENED

The following staff members were present:

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

ROLL CALL

Excused Absence:

Shavon Starling-Louis; Susan Dobkins; Lisa Leverette, Karen Brown

The meeting was opened by Rebecca Reyes with prayer.

Rebecca let the National Committee know about Shavon Starling-Louis resignation.

**ACTION: 24-0517
Approved Agenda**

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE** the Proposed Agenda

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE** the January 26-28, 2017 National Committee minutes.

**ACTION: 25-0517
Approved January 26-28, 2017
minutes.**

The National Committee members and staff participated in a dinner with Church leaders/Presbytery SDOP Committee. They were Ginger Smyly (Chair for the Redwoods, San Francisco, San Jose (Tri-Presbyteries) SDOP committee, Clarisa Moore, member of the Tri-Presbyteries, and Rev. Jeff Hutcherson, San Francisco Presbytery Pastor for Mission & Vision.

Friday, May 19, 2017 the Self-Development of People National Committee meeting re-convened at 9:00 a.m.

RE-CONVENED

Rebecca started remembering the life of former National committee member, Michelle Uchiyama, who passed away at the beginning of this month.

Karen Finney, former national Committee member attended the funerals and she stated that "I was able to attend Michelle's Celebration of life this past Sunday. It was a very upbeat (as Michelle had directed her friends and family) but spiritual service. Our friend was well loved and respected in this community. Countless attendees remarked about the positive influence she had on their lives as well as how she connected people with each other. SDOP was mentioned in the proclamation from Georgia State Legislators. The governor will be issuing a Georgia State Citizen award posthumously (I think it is the highest award a Georgia citizen can be awarded). Atlanta will definitely miss Michelle and so will I"

Bible study was conducted by Rev. Beverly Brewster.

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The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Staff report presented by Alonzo Johnson.

ACTION: 26-0517
Received staff report

Alonzo summarized the work of the SDOP Staff during the last 3 months:

- Continued work on visibility, especially in Presbyterian media outlets.
- Trailblazers series with Rick Jones - good coverage, we are getting attention. Rebecca, John Etheridge
- Doing some writing. CPJ newsletter cover story. Wrote an article for Louisville Seminary's Mosaic which is the Seminary's alumni publication. Wrote for Presbyterians for Earth Care devotional lifted up Multicultural Alliance community partner connected the work of environmental care with the work of SDOP.
- Margaret one of the featured videos talking about OGHS. Many of you are aware that one of our Community partners Jobs Not Jails were featured on OGHS Special Offering materials.
- SDOP Sunday, which was also called Justice Sunday. OGHS, special resource highlighting several community partners who represent the various contemporary issues facing the church.
- Margaret and I in conversation with Mid Councils. Some of you were on those phone calls. In addition to helping folks walk through the grant process, these talks also function as a check-in and a place to encourage and inspire one another. We thank Sarah Jane, Laura and John for their leadership in these conversations. We are hoping a toolkit can come out of these conversations.
- Staff have been working diligently on the database that will be created for us by IT. Clara has taken the lead on this and it is coming along well.
- Staff continues to meet regularly, when we return, we will be scheduling our SDOP staff retreat with a focus on In line with our CPJ goals for the year.
- Teresa and a few members of the International committee had a successful visit to our partners in Belize, Rick Jones our CPJ communicator has done a wonderful story about this. Rick has also done a fantastic job covering the OGHS West Africa Initiative as he traveled with myself, Luke Asikoye (PDA) and Valery Nodem (PHP) to Sierra Leone and Liberia. Rick has posted an array of media and stories that lifted up both the beauty and relevancy of our work. Clara has been diligent in making sure all of these stories are making the rounds on social media.
- Guest preacher for the NEXT conference in Chicago. Also co-lead a workshop about reparations with Shavon Starling Louis and PHP' Andrew Kang Bartlett.
- Seasons of Justice - Cleveland
Ecumenical Advocacy Days- Clara, Margaret and I. Margaret, PHP coordinator Rebecca Barnes and Synod Elona Street Stewart presented a Workshop on the Dakota access pipeline. Clara and I put together a workshop focusing on Creating community with law enforcement. We had Vice Moderator runner up and Urban Ministry Rev. Adan Mairena, and one of our community partners ONE DC partner for this workshop. Joseph and Pam Johnson were there representing and spreading both gift and gospel of how we do Christ's work in SDOP.

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Sara Lisherness, Director of Compassion, Peace and Justice, addressed the National Committee. She started mentioning CPJ days meeting in Washington, DC, where more than 200 people attended this year. Then she mentioned that the OGHS offering looks like is up this year. Also, she talked about the transition process which includes the Way Forward Committee (they can make recommendations to GA), the Six agencies review (Office of the General Assembly (OGA)), Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment & Loan Program (PILP), and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC)). Sara also talked about vision 20/20.

Task Force meetings convened at 10:00A.M

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. Domestic Task Force Meetings

11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Standing Committee meetings
Members, Engagement meeting
Finance Committee
International Task Force Meeting

The committee re-convened at 1:15 pm after lunch

RE-CONVENED

The meeting started with the gift conversation. Rebecca mentioned the donation of \$1,000,000 to the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) and \$1,000,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

Alonzo read some bibliography notes about the donor, Matilda Cartledge. She died Dec. 20, 2017 at age 96 in Black Mountain, North Carolina. Prior to moving to North Carolina in retirement, she taught biology for many years at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, a well-regarded, tuition-free school that serves students primarily from Southern Appalachia. Previously, she taught on the religion faculties of Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, and Presbyterian-related Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee. Cartledge held two graduate degrees — one in theology from Princeton Theological Seminary and another in biology from the University of Tennessee. Her cousin, Rebecca McClure, describes her cousin as a devoted Presbyterian who had a keen interest in social justice.

The National Committee members expressed their ideas and some questions about the gift and the better way to use it. Joseph, Sara, Alonzo, and Rebeca answered the questions.

Joseph Johnson, as a Chair of the Financial Committee, informed the Committee that he will travel to Louisville in the next months to meet with Alonzo, Sara Lisherness, and someone from PILP to discuss what are going to be the benefits to invest in our account to gain money from the investment.

A motion that Phyllis Brown, who is on the Finance Committee, would be invited to go with Joseph to Louisville for this meeting.

Joseph will report back to the Committee at the September meeting.

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The Churchwide and Community Relation Committee continued the meeting discussing their strategic planning and the agenda was approved.

ACTION: 27-0517 Approved Agenda

Minutes from April and May 2017 were approved.

ACTION: 28-0517 Approved the Churchwide and Community Relation Committee April and May 2017 minutes were approved.

Margaret reported on the conference calls that have happened during the last months with the Mid-Councils Committees.

The National Committee discussed the request of Genesee Valley Presbytery to do the site visit without the presence of a National Committee member when no Committee members live close to the location to save money. Staff was asked to send a letter to them explaining that according with our handbook it is the National Committee responsibility to do the site visit.

The Churchwide and Community Relations Committee discussed the Strategic Planning and set up task for their members to do it soon.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Sara closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting reconvened on Saturday May 20 at 9:00 am.

RE-CONVENED

The meeting started with a Learning experience session. Rev Norman Fong from China Town Community Development Center in San Francisco made a presentation about what their Center has done since their beginning.

Ken Johnson, from Oakland Community Organization followed the session. He explained the main objectives of the organization and all the activities that they do and support their community.

TASK FORCES REPORTS

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

ACTION: 29-0517
The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Midwest Task Force report

- Midwest conducted a conference call on April 24.
- April 27 Columbus, OH conducted SDOP workshop of collaboration of local and National - 50 attendees, at United Way of Central Ohio representing grassroots and agencies that support underserved populations
- August National and local will host and conduct evening workshop at United Way for those members from organizations who attended April 27 workshop
- MWTF next meeting will be co-mingled with SDOP August workshop in Milwaukee (DBT), designated as city of need. Committee will be contacting PCUSA community, social services and grassroots to participate.

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- Recertification is outstanding for Synod of Covenant to be conducted by Sharon.

The next Midwest Task Force meetings have been scheduled for August 19-20 in Milwaukee, WI

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

ACTION: 30-0517
The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Northeast Task Force report

Brandworkers, Long Island City, NY
Validation/Funding: \$15,000
Payment Schedule: Quarterly
The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE** upon receiving the breakdown of the personal item in the application budget.

ACTION: 31-0517
VALIDATION/FUNDING
SN16002 upon receiving the breakdown of the personal item in the application budget.

Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services, Inc., Rochester, NY
Validation/Funding: \$14,800
Payment Schedule: Quarterly
The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

ACTION: 32-0517
VALIDATION/FUNDING
SN16009

The Task Force **VOTED TO RESCIND** the following project:

SN15006 JUNTOS, Philadelphia, PA in 2016 for \$15,000. It has RESCINDED for \$7,500 because of lack of communication.

ACTION: 33-0517
Rescind SN15006 for \$7,500

The Task Force will recertify National Capital Presbytery in 2017 fall or 2018

Community Workshops/Outreach: Laura Krauss participated in the Church-Wide & Community Relations Conference Call on April 3.

Johnnie Monroe contacted the Chairperson of Pittsburg Presbytery and visited several churches during Lent to talk about Self-Development of People and do minute for mission.

The next Northeast Task Force meetings have been scheduled as follow:

July 11 at 3:00 P.M. (EST) Conference call (second choice on July 18)
September 14-16 National Meeting in Cleveland, OH
Fall Participation in the Baltimore Forum. Date TBD
December 7 National Committee Telephone Conference Call

The Northeast Task Force Chairperson, Laura Krauss, has recently moved back to California.

Motion that Johnnie Monroe become the Northeast Task Force Chair and Laura can still continue to be a member.

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The committee **VOTE TO APPROVE** to keep Laura as a Northeast Task Force Chair until future considerations.

The Northeast Task Force suggested the possibility to keep Shavon as a member of the National Committee until 2018. The National members discuss and approved by majority. The SDOP National Committee Chairperson abstained.

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

Youth on the Move, Pine Apple, AL
Validation/Funding: \$10,000
Payment Schedule: Quarterly

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE** upon a successful site visit report. Visit is scheduled for June 5, 2017. A precis will be sent to National committee for their approval before payment is processed.

The South Task Force will conduct a community workshop and an informal discussion with pastors, Clerk of Sessions and outreach individuals in the Nashville Presbytery June 15, 2017.

Task Force at its next meeting will discuss ways to secure applications and educate congregations and presbyteries on the SDOP ministry.

Recertification training:

New Hope and New Harmony completed April 8, 2017

Charlotte and Providence to be completed by Rebecca Reyes

S. Alabama and Florida to be completed by Joseph Johnson

The next South Task Force meetings have been scheduled for June 14-16, 2017 in Cookeville, TN

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

Coalition for Police Accountability, Oakland, CA
Validation/Funding: \$15,000
Payment Schedule: Quarterly

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**.

Youth Rise Organizing Institute, Austin, TX
Validation/Funding: \$15,000
Payment Schedule: Quarterly

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

ACTION: 34-0517 7
VALIDATION/FUNDING
SS16006 upon a successful site visit report

ACTION: 35-0517
The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the West Task Force report

ACTION: 36-0517
VALIDATION/FUNDING
SW16009

ACTION: 37-0517
VALIDATION/FUNDING
SW17001

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The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE** upon a successful site visit report and approved by the West Task Force.

upon a successful site visit report and approved by the West Task Force.

The Task Force **VOTED TO RESCIND** the following project:

SW13010 Central American Resource Center -CARECEN,
Validated in 2014 for \$15,000. It has RESCINDED for \$ \$7,500.00 because of lack of communication.

ACTION: 38-0517
Rescind SW13010 for \$7,500

The next West Task Force meetings have been scheduled for July 27-29, place TBD

Community Workshops/Outreach

A Mid Council certification training, as well as a community workshop was conducted on April 8 by Margaret and Wesley.

**STANDING COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

ACTION: 39-0517
The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the International Task Force report

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

Barranco Fisher Folk Cooperative, Toledo, Belize
Validation/Funding: \$15,000
Payment Schedule: Quarterly

ACTION: 40-0517
VALIDATION/FUNDING
SI16004

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**.

The team revisited the description of the International Task Force for the SDOP handbook. -Reviewed and revised to:

“The International Task force partners with groups in countries around the world according to the SDOP criteria. The task force uses the following formula to identify areas in which to engage: The primary method of engagement is to partner directly with groups in one country for six (6) years for focused person to person engagement with at least an additional three (3) year stepped down engagement via an intermediary or alternate arrangement. Secondary partnerships with intermediary partners may also be identified should resources be available and alignment be consistent with SDOP criteria”.

Regarding the West Africa Initiative (WAI) the International Task Force is stepping down the initiative. Alonzo is in discussion about the timeline to wind down the initiative. SDOP has been a consistent supporter if WAI for years, throughout the Ebola epidemic and beyond. This has been a productive initiative.

Two members of the International Task Force (Rebecca and Lisa) and Teresa visited Belize last February. They did several visits with funded groups (Maskall

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Agriculture Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited, Los Pequeños Agricultores y Ganaderos de Nago Bank Cooperative Society Ltd, Marigold Women's Group, Trio Farmers in Development Pre-Cooperative, El Paraiso Agriculture Cooperative Society, Ltd., Seine Bight Village Council, and Sandy Beach Women's Cooperative Society Limited, (the Task Force agreed to consider this final request from the group)), and a site visit to Barranco Fisher Folk Cooperative. The site visit was well attended, good design, realistic budget. Group has participated in a variety of training to increase capacity. Group provided updated member roster and budget. Team recommended validated and funded, SI16004 for \$15,000

In process, in conjunction with the Ministry of Cooperatives to elaborate a Belize paper. Expect to have Interim draft by September. Voices and impressions of partners well integrated into document. Paper will serve as a learning document for ministerial and international collaborations.

Discussions with in country partners- Cynthia Ellis, Mr. Lewis, Froyla Tzlam, Ministry of Cooperative officers and others focused on SDOP transitions from Belize, groups histories for Belize paper and participation in future collaborative convening's were fruitful.

The SDOP team met with Executive team of the Ministry of Cooperative-. The discussion about the Belize paper was productive. Paper is expected to be a best practices guide to ministry and international development. There is a lot of excitement about the project. Meeting focused on designing tone and questions for the paper. Roles, expectations and timelines were agreed upon.

Panama Update (Country of Focus)

Fact finding is proceeding well. Colleagues with relationships in Panama are providing contacts for the SDOP team to build our knowledge of Panamanian culture to drive initial decision making. A team of 3 will make their first visit to Panama at the beginning of November.

RE-CONVENED

The committee re-convened at 1:00 P.M. after lunch

Wesley recommended that the staff be contact with the Oakland organization leader that was here in the morning with the National Committee because his organization has a partnership with organizations in Rwanda.

ACTION: 41-0517

Received the Financial Report

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

The report was reviewed and approved by the National Committee.

The National Committee approved to have an extra National meeting on December 7 to 9, 2017 in Charlotte, NC

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Churchwide and Community Relations Committee

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Churchwide and Community Relations Committee report presented by Sarah Jane Moore.

Sarah Jane first thanked Larry Low for setting up minutes for mission for May 21. Alonzo will be preaching at Sleepy Hollow Church and minutes for mission will be done by Sharon Ware, Larry Low, and John Etheredge.

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Then she thanked everyone and to Margaret and Alonzo for your conscientious application to the strategic planning process we focused on yesterday.

As mentioned there are some issues arising out of our Mid-Council phone conversations that need to be brought before the committee discussed and possibly acted upon.

1. Application process -Many Mid-Council SDOP Committees use either the current National application form or their own version of an application form. People on the calls asked for a simpler form. Because we didn't want to hold up the process and because 2 committees had already sent in their payment requests the Church-Wide & Community Relations Committee agreed that for 2017, Mid Council Committees could use a simplified application form comprised of questions that are on the current National pre-application form plus the budget (which is not on the pre-application).

Staff has worked on the above simplified form for the Mid-council committees.

—We also had a suggestion to create one application form that can be used by community groups applying at both the Mid-council and National level and to bring this discussion to the May National meeting.

--There was a further suggestion made to create one joint application form that can be used by groups at both the National and Mid-council level.

It would use a budget form like the current one whereby they could fill in amounts requested from the national and the Mid-Council. (Not recommended by committee of the whole).

The committee of the whole was glad to hear that Staff is working on simplifying the National Application and to bring their draft to the National September meeting.

Action

2. Number of People in the group for Mid-Councils “no less than 5 “was recommended to be put in the next revision of the application form

Second Mid council conference call focused on MASTER GRANT AGREEMENT AND ADDENDUM.

The National Committee **APPROVED** to change the January National meeting dates to February 22 to 24, 2018 at the same place that was agreed earlier.

The National Committee **APPROVED** to meet in New York in May 17-20, 2018

Pat closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Bidart
Bilingual /Meeting Planner

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