



Presbyterian Mission
**Presbyterian Committee on
the Self-Development of People**



People Investing in People

ENGAGE WITH SDOP

**Promote Justice
Build Stronger Communities
Seek Economic Equity**



“SDOP is the reaction of a church that knows the call to love your neighbor as yourself; ‘whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them.’ The church that claims to love kindness, do justice and walk with the God who walks with the poor. We are who we are and do what we do because God has called us to embody the Word in the power of the Spirit who once called the prophets, the example of the Lord and his indescribable passion for justice.”

— The Rev. Wilma A. Quiñónez-Cubero; Presbyterian Church in Country Club, Puerto Rico (Iglesia Presbiteriana en Country Club)

RIGHT:

Fideicomiso de la Tierra del Cano Martín Pena, San Juan, Puerto Rico — Fideicomiso's staff and community-led board assists with relocation and land ownership, ensuring continued independence.

FAR RIGHT:

Chadsey-Condon Community Organization, Detroit, Michigan — To form an Anti-displacement / Neighborhood Inclusion task force to empower themselves with the knowledge and tools necessary to ensure gentrification without displacement.



SDOP HISTORY

In the late 1960s, as poverty and oppression continued their chokehold on disadvantaged communities, several activists, including James Forman, turned to mainline denominations to “step up” and make a difference. The Presbyterian Church took Forman’s message seriously — creating what came to be known as the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP).

SDOP is a ministry that affirms God’s concern for humanity. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners, dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting and enabling. SDOP works toward the self-development and empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people who seek to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice.

OGHS SOURCE OF FUNDS

SDOP’s primary source of income is approximately one-third of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), a special offering taken by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to raise funds in order to partner with underresourced communities all over the world. The Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance also receive a portion of the funds. Visit specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs to learn more about the OGHS offering and/or to give.

CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS

Projects must be presented, owned and controlled by the group of economically poor people who will benefit directly from them, and address the long-term correction of conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression.



GET INVOLVED WITH SDOP

SDOP is supported by generous gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Contribute to the OGHS Self-Development of People online at presbyterianmission.org/donate/og200000; by phone at **800-872-3283**; or to send a check, please write “OG20000” on the memo line and mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

- Consider giving directly to SDOP. Your gift, together with others, makes it possible for thousands of communities around the world to have an opportunity to take control of their own destinies and develop solutions to their own challenges. The power of your giving gives hope, meaning and purpose to people who for one reason or another find themselves in hopeless situations. Visit presbyterianmission.org/donate/E051602.
- Invite SDOP committee members or staff to speak to your congregation, presbytery/synod meetings, mission fair, etc.
- Serve on the SDOP committee within the bounds of your presbytery or synod. If there is not a committee, consider establishing one. Email sdop@pcusa.org.
- Learn more about SDOP’s international projects in focus countries.
- Invite an SDOP group in your area to share their story with your congregation.
- Share a “Minute for Mission” about SDOP with your congregation.
- Submit a form to the General Assembly nominating committee to serve on the National SDOP Committee. Email valerie.izumi@pcusa.org.



“ I love being a part of SDOP. There are miracles right in front of us every day, and they happen when community groups come together to create solutions and restore wellness to situations broken by poverty and oppression. Energy just pours out when people reclaim their dignity. Every partnership that we support through SDOP really brings hope to life — gardens, tenant associations, computer skills, generational coaching, childcare coops, and sewing sessions, so many incredible ideas. Your generous donation isn’t about giving money away. It is justice rolling down like water. And it is the best part of my ministry in the church. ”

— Rev. Elona Street-Stewart
Synod of Lakes and Prairies



MATTHEW 25

“SDOP is truly living the vision of what Matthew 25:31–46 is all about.”

— Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson,
SDOP Coordinator

MATTHEW 25

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

LEFT:

Jobs Not Jails!, Holyoke, MA — The Neighbor to Neighbor —Jobs Not Jails is a campaign led by community members to invest in jobs, education, and mental rehab reform instead of more prison development. The community is organizing to identify policies that need to be changed and is working with pro bono legal assistance to introduce new legislation.

RIGHT:

Youth on the Move, Pineapple, Alabama — A youth-empowered after school project to prepare low income youth to meet the challenges of living in a severely depressed county in western Alabama.



SDOP CORE STRATEGIES

- Promote Justice
- Build Stronger Communities
- Seek Economic Equity

Visiting the transportation committee, talk about the importance of all New Yorkers, having access to driver's licenses regardless of their immigration status.



“With much gratitude to God and SDOP, Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center continues the work after 18 years. We maintain our prophetic mission by doing our part to make this country a great home where we can all live, work, fight and celebrate with equity, justice and dignity. The struggle continues, and we continue the battle.”

— D. Mejia, Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

LEFT:

Alianza Agricola, Rochester, New York — An organization of farmworkers, its main goal is to work with the statewide Green Light Driving Together campaign to attain access to driver's licenses regardless of their immigration status.

RIGHT:

Southeastern Goat Cooperative, Tuscaloosa, Alabama — Goat Herd Expansion, Raising and selling goats.



Social Issues

Workshops Available:

Immigration, poverty/justice, housing, land trust, grants, community organizing, economic equity and others.

Grants for Low Income Community Groups

who own, control and benefit directly from projects that promote long-term change in their lives and communities.

To apply, visit our website, and download an application at pcusa.org/sdop.

Questions?

English: 800-728-7228,
ext. 5781, 5782, 5792

Spanish: 800-728-7228,
ext. 5781, 5790

Fax: 502-569-8001

Email: sdop@pcusa.org

pcusa.org/sdop



SelfDevelopmentOfPeoplesdop



ABOVE:

Strength to Love Farms, Baltimore, Maryland — An urban farm owned and maintained by returning citizens and community members. It also addresses the issue of a food desert in the neighborhood.

COVER:

1. Demographic Inspirations, Detroit, Michigan — A project to transform eight blocks

of vacant land into an urban garden and community green space. The newly created storm water management system will reduce the storm water runoff that floods basement, provide water for the garden and save the members monies by providing drainage fee credits.

2. Women of Value, Panama City, Panama — A catering service which provides high

quality product at affordable prices and provides employment and training to group members.

3. International Refugee Development, Lansing, Michigan — Community garden to cultivate crops, some for individuals unable to work and some to sell for profit.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



Presbyterian Committee on the
Self-Development of People