

Recommendations from the Mid-Council Review Task Force (members: Sarah Jane Moore, Robert Stauffacher (Chairperson Presbytery of South Alabama SDOP Committee); Elona Street-Stewart (Synod Executive & SDOP Staff Person Synod of Lakes & Prairies); Wayne Gnatuk)

- As a pilot project, choose four Presbyteries as participants, one in each of the four geographic areas of the US as defined by Task Force, and send them notification of their annual amount of funding along with a check for the same amount. Each of the four Presbyteries will then receive funding applications, review them, and make decisions about funding each one. Following decisions, the Presbytery will write a check to the project for presentation at a local congregation or Presbytery meeting. The Presbytery's SDOP Committee will send the national SDOP office a one project summary form with pictures attached. The Presbytery must return any unspent monies at year's end; if unspent monies are not returned, the unspent amount will be deducted from next year's check to that Presbytery. (This recommendation is based on materials received from Ken Graham, Chair of Long Island Presbytery's SDOP Committee.
- National SDOP Staff and the National Committee itself through its Domestic Task Forces should more aggressively contact Presbyteries who haven't filed Certification Applications by reviewing Certification Status Reports (CSR) at each Task Force Meeting, and checking in with Mid Councils as appropriate.
- Domestic Task Force members should be in regular touch with existing committees during the year, to see how they are doing and to offer support.
- National Committee members and staff should give plenty of advance notice when they will be making site visits and are requesting Presbytery/Synod staff/pastors and/or SDOP Committee members to accompany them on the site visit. Failure to do so results in a negative image of SDOP in that Presbytery!
- The annual budget for each Mid Council SDOP Committee should be given to them no later than by May 1.
- Certification Training and the Certification Approval Process need to be more aligned. We should move to a three-year rotational system based upon Task Force Regions, in which each Mid Council SDOP Committee is both trained and certified every three years. (Because we have few SDOP Committees in the West Task Force region, Mid Council Committees in the West can be done the same year as the Midwest Region).