

Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People
Steering Committee Minutes
December 9, 2016
Conference call

The Steering Committee meeting convened at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Rebecca Reyes (Chairperson), John Etheredge, Joseph Johnson, Sharon Ware, Wesley Woo, Lisa Leverette, Laura Krauss, Sarah Jane Moore, Alonzo Johnson (Staff), Clara Nunez (Staff), Margaret Mwale (Staff), Teresa Bidart (Staff).

Excused: Johnnie Monroe

Alonzo Johnson opened the meeting with prayer.

The agenda was approved with changes in the items order.

Joseph Johnson presented the financial report and the members discussed and approved the budget recommendations from PMA.

The July minutes were approved.

The draft of the agenda developed by the staff and Rebecca for the January meeting was discussed. Some meeting days look very busy and members recommended changes in the meeting activities and meetings.

Rebecca and staff will re-structure the agenda and will send it to the entire Committee.

Task Force/ Standing Committee reports

Task Forces' chairpersons presented their report:

Sharon reported on the Midwest Task Force: The Task Force reviewed two grants applications that are going to be processed as technical assistant grants. These groups in the future may submit grant applications.

John Etheredge reported on the South Task Force: The Task Force members need to talk about a better understanding of interpreting SDOP. Instead of having face to face meetings they may divide in the future and attend Presbytery's meetings where they can reach out more churches and promote the Self Development of People ministry. He is going to do a site visit next month.

Wesley Woo reported on the West Task Force: The Task Force did two conference calls, two site visits are planned to do in January. The main concern are the mid-councils, without them there is more difficulty to have funded projects.

Laura Krauss reported on the Northeast Task Force: The Task Force rescinded two projects, will recommend two projects for Validation and funding at the January meeting, and rejected two pink

slip projects during their last conference call. The Task Force reached out for Alumni members to help them with the sit visits. Cathy Surgenor accepted to do one. The Task Force did two re-certifications and are planning to do two more next year.

Sara James reported on the Church-wide Committee: The committee met twice by conference call since the last National meeting. We are working on arranging minutes for mission and preaching for the Miami mtg. Alonzo is helping identify a person on the ground in Miami who can help us arrange advantageous placements. So far, Rebecca, Alonzo, Margaret, Larry Low, and I have volunteered. Any others, please let Larry know. We plan to do an analysis of giving from the churches where we have done MFM's and preaching since 2014 in hopes of spotting an upward trend in OGS giving. We hope to continue to keep SDOP connected to young adults. So, are the YAV's coming with us on the bus or to dinner on Thursday or Saturday. We encourage members to use the new OGHS video that features Neighbor to Neighbor partner and its Jobs not jails project. We noted that we have fulfilled most of the suggestions from the Mid-Council survey completed in 2015 including: Mid-Councils receiving their budget amounts by May 1, moving certification training to a 3-year process, maintaining on-going contact with Mid-Councils. The one remaining is the pilot project to give 4 mid-councils their annual amount in a check along with their letter. Following decisions, the Presbytery will write a check to the project for presentation at a local congregation or Presbytery assembly. The mid-council will do a big check presentation picture and send to us with project summary returning any unspent money a year's end. Money not returned will be deduced from next year's check to the Presbytery. We will ask everyone at the National meeting how their respective mid-councils are doing as a way of encouraging communication. Margaret and I have been talking about piloting a Buddy system to help new mid-council chairs even before January if possible.

Lisa Leverette couldn't stay at the conference call because of work commitments. Alonzo mentioned that the International Task Force, Teresa and him will have a conference call on Tuesday December 13 and will discuss the future of the West Africa Initiative. Teresa mentioned that Lisa and her are looking for information on organizations in Panama and had made some contacts. More concrete information will be discussed at the January meeting.

John Etheredge reported on the Community Relation Committee: The committee discussed and will present to national committee combining Church-Wide Committee with Community Relation Committee. Because our committee address the use of social media to promote the SDOP ministry the same as Church-Wide. We both work with mid councils committees and young adults.

A full report will be available at the January meeting on the check presentation project.

Task force chairs are encouraged to make contact with funded groups after first report received to 1) thank them for their work, 2) ask if they know of other groups we can form partnerships, 3) ask about need for a workshop in their area, and 4) ask if they have space to display our materials.

A workshop is scheduled for Union Seminary, Richmond, VA., February 6, 2017. Students, local pastors and SDOP committee will be invited.

The New Engagement Committee have not meet yet.

MEETING DATES

2017

Miami, FL - January 26-29

San Francisco, CA (Spring) [May 18- 20](#)

[Conference Call](#) (Summer)

Cleveland, OH (Fall) September 14- 16

2018

Albuquerque, NM (Winter)

Charlotte, NC (Spring)

[Conference Call](#) (Summer)

Philadelphia (Fall)

Rebecca thanks everybody for their time and participation in the meeting.

The conference call adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Bidart