

Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People

West Region SDOP Mid Council Committees Conference Call

February 3, 2017

Present: Linda Shaw (Chair, Cascades Presbytery SDOP Committee); Ann Hayman (Committee Member, Pacific Presbytery SDOP Committee); Wendy Gist (Staff Liaison, San Gabriel & San Fernando Presbytery SDOP Committee*); Younglee Hertig (Chair, San Gabriel & San Fernando Presbytery SDOP Committee*); Wesley Woo (Chair, West Task Force, National SDOP); Sarah Jane Moore (Chair, Church-Wide/Community Relations Committee, National SDOP); Alonzo Johnson (Coordinator, SDOP); Margaret Mwale (Associate for Community Development & Constituent Relations, SDOP)

The meeting opened with prayer and personal introductions by each person on the call.

The purpose of the conversation is to use it as an opportunity to: learn about each other's work and how we can further strengthen/encourage each other; share best practices; further collaborate in our work at the various SDOP levels (National, Synod, Presbytery) and network with each other. It is hoped that a Tool Kit for use by all Mid Council Committees can be developed at some point as well as possibly Webinars on topics identified by Mid Council Committees in conjunction with the National SDOP Committee and staff.

Discussion:

There was conversation around what appears to be working with the various SDOP Committees and what does not appear to be working as well.

The survey completed by several Mid Council committees towards the end of 2015 was discussed. Several of the requests made in this survey have been fulfilled.

Participants discussed the importance of continuing to connect SDOP and its mission with issues communities are currently facing.

There is interest in connecting with others doing SDOP work.

It was noted that there has been some discussion around a Synod-wide committee.

Committee members shared that they try to stay in touch with funded projects.

Cascades Presbytery is very spread out, which makes it a challenge for the committee to get together. They try to have meetings when the Presbytery has its meetings, about 3 times a year.

Redwoods, San Francisco, San Jose (Tri-Presbyteries SDOP Committee) meets about 3 times a year.

It was felt that it would be helpful to have the work more spread out.

The buddy system (still to be followed up on) was discussed. This would entail pairing a seasoned committee chair or national committee member with a new Mid Council Committee Chair.

Letters detailing available amounts for Mid Council Committees to fund projects within their Presbyteries are expected to go out in May, earlier if possible.

SDOP Sunday is April 2 and resources will be available on the SDOP website to help promote and interpret it.

The 2017 application cycle was discussed. The application deadline for 2017 and beyond is **November 1**. When possible, it is preferred that project evaluation forms and payments request forms are electronically submitted; if mailed then they would need to be postmarked by the application deadline.

Prospective SDOP applicant groups will need to ensure they submit a balanced budget.

There was a request to send out contact information for everyone on the call so folks can maintain contact with each other.

There was consensus for future conversations. A suggested date for the next call will be shared well in advance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Mwale

*San Fernando/San Gabriel SDOP Committee is in process of forming. Certification training is this Spring.