

**ITEM B.208
FOR INFORMATION**

**PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE
SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE
SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2014
LOS ANGELES, CA
MINUTES**

Wednesday September 17, 2014 Reginald Ragland – Former National SDOP member, Brian Symonds – Pacific Presbytery SDOP Committee, Blanca Rivera – T.R.U.S.T. South LA, Margaret Mwale, Mary Lewis and Mary McAdory (staff) the Planning Committee for the Community Partnership Day Los Angeles met to finalize the agenda for Saturday September 20, 2014 Self-Development of People Community Partnership Day Los Angeles.

Excused absences were Linda Shaw, Sandra McNeil and Ann Hayman.

Thursday September 18, 2014 the Self-Development of People National meeting convened at 3:30 p.m.

Selma Jackson opened the meeting with prayer.

The following Committee members were present:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| John Etheredge | Lawrence Low |
| Jonas Georges | Shavon Starling-Louis |
| Oscar Heyward | Johnnie Monroe |
| Bernadette Hightower-Hughes | Sarah Jane Moore |
| Jimeka Holloway | Joe Love Nelson |
| Selma Jackson, Chairperson | John (Pat) Osoinach |
| Joseph Johnson | Rebecca Reyes |
| Laura Krauss | Cathryn Surgenor |
| Lisa Leverette | Sharon L. Ware |

The following staff members were present:

Teresa Bidart Wayne Gnatuk Troy Glover Mary Lewis
Mary McAdory Margaret Mwale Clara Nunez Cynthia White

The new Committee members Mark Down, Jimeka Holloway and John (Pat) Osoinach were welcomed.

Excused Absence:

Cynthia Hayes. Westley Woo, also a new Committee member could not be at this meeting due to prior commitment.

The following guests were present for portions of the meeting:

Matthias Peterson-Brandt, Director of Community Ministries Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Ann Hyman, Pacific Presbytery SDOP Committee
Michael Fagans, photographer / filmmaker / storyteller creative / - Former National SDOP Committee
Susan Freed-Held, Former National SDOP Committee and George Held
Pamela Johnson, spouse

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Gerri Monroe, spouse
Sara Lisherness, Director of Compassion, Peace and Justice
Reginald Ragland, Former National SDOP Committee
Brian Symonds – Pacific Presbytery SDOP Committee Chairperson
Baxter Talbert, Knox Presbyterian Church Sound Engineer
Sally S. Wright, Associate of Special Offerings Ambassador Program

Young Adult Volunteers:

Jordan Akin, Lanita Ames, Heather Glady, Christian Huisman, Stephanie Moore, Matthew Scit, Sara Selg and Jennifer Udeochu

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

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE** the National Committee May 15-18, 2014 minutes.

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Staff report presented by Cynthia White. Cynthia White shared sadly that Dr. St. Paul Epps, the first Self-Development of People Director died September 16, 2014 at the age of 98. The National Committee took up a love offering in lieu of flowers. Johnnie Monroe wrote a special prayer to the family on behalf of SDOP.

Cynthia reported that Carline Seide-Murphy has resigned for personal and work related issues.

Cynthia reported that Troy Glover will resign as SDOP Young Adult Community Liaison in December of 2014 to continue his education.

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Steering Committee report presented by Selma Jackson with the following corrections:

Oscar Heyward and Joe Love Nelson were present at the July 17-18, 2014 Steering Committee meeting. The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE** the Steering Committee report with corrections.

Reginald Ragland, Pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church and staff was commended for its hard work and hospitality as host for the September Self-Development of People National Committee meeting.

The National Committee dates proposed for 2015 meetings:

January 22-15, 2015 in Houston, TX
May 12-17, 2015 in Seine Bight, BZ
May 19-24, 2015 in Chicago, IL Alternative date and city
September 17-20, 2015 in Pittsburgh, PA

The Steering Committee dates proposed for 2015 meetings:

March 12-14, 2015 in New Orleans, LA
July 16-17, 2015 in Des Moines, IA
December 10-11, 2015 in Portland, OR
The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

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The next meeting is scheduled December 11-12, 2014, in Orlando, FL

The plenary adjourned at 4:30 p.m. and recessed into Standing Committees and Task Force meetings.

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Community Relations Committee
 Church-wide Relations Committee

 International Task Force

Thursday September 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Selma Jackson welcomed our guests and began our time together with prayer by Johnnie Monroe. Dinner followed immediately. Following dinner members of the Self Development of People Community Relations, Church-wide Relations and staff engaged in conversation with Young Adults (Jordan Akin, Lanita Ames, Heather Gladly, Christian Huisman, Stephanie Moore, Matthew Scit, Sara Selg and Jennifer Udeochu) and Church Leaders (Ann Hayman, Susan Freed-Held and George Held and Reginald Ragland).

Friday, September 19, 2014, the Self-Development of People National meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

Brian Symonds, Pacific Presbytery SDOP Committee Chairperson opened the meeting with prayer and led us in bible study.

Following bible study the Self-Development of People Committee, guest and staff welcomed and joined The Reverend Eric Law of the The Kaleidoscope Institute in a Sensitivity and Cultural Awareness Training.

Friday September 19 the Standing Committees reconvened and the Task Forces convened:

11:15 -11:45 a.m. Committee Relation
 Finance Committee

11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Domestic Task Forces
 Midwest
 Northeast
 South
 West

The Committee recessed for lunch at 1:00 p.m.

The National Committee reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

The National Committee, guest and staff welcomed Xiomara Corpeno of CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane Rights of Los Angeles) with a presentation and dialogue on Immigration. Xiomara shared about undocumented workers and youth and how they are advocating for their rights.

Selma Jackson welcomed Sara Lisherness, Director of Compassion Peace and Justice. Sara talked about the collection of Social Justice Ministries that are part of One Great Hour Sharing which include Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, Peacemaking and United Nations.

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Sally Wright, Associate for Special Offering Ambassador Funds Development indicated she wants to hear our story so that she can share with congregations.

Sally shared that the Ambassador Program purpose is to connect Presbyterians to the four Special Offerings.

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Financial report presented by Oscar Heyward for the period ending August 31, 2014.

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

No précis was presented for validation and funding.

The Midwest Task Force welcomed their new member Jimeka Holloway. Sharon Ware reported that five new applications were reviewed. Two were rejected and three were assigned site visits hopefully to be completed by their next meeting.

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

The next Midwest Task Force meeting is a conference call scheduled on November 12, 2014.

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

Two précis were presented for validation and funding and three projects were presented for validation and funding for additional funds.

Community Financial Literacy, Portland, ME

Validation/Funding: \$15,000

Payment Schedule: Quarterly

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE), Providence, RI

Validation/Funding: \$15,000

Payment Schedule: Quarterly

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

Systems-Change Advocacy, Hudson, NY

Validation/Funding: \$5,000

Payment Schedule: One Time Payment

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

Pratt Towers, Inc., Brooklyn, NY

Validation/Funding: \$15,000

Payment Schedule: Quarterly

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

Bridging the Gap Organization, Baltimore, MD

Validation/Funding: \$15,000

Payment Schedule: Quarterly

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

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The next Northeast Task Force meeting is a conference call scheduled on November 6, 2014.

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

Two précis were presented for validation and funding.

We Are Ready To Work, Clarkston, GA
Validation/Funding: \$18,255
Payment Schedule: Quarterly
The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

VOTE (Voice of the Ex-convicts), New Orleans, LA
Validation/Funding: \$15,000
Payment Schedule: One payment
The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

The Task Force approved closing the following files because of final reports never received in the office:

WISE (Women Initiating Seeds of empowerment) Group, Irvington, AL
Shuqualak Community Action Group, Inc., Shuqualak, MS
Darlington Group, Hartsville, SC

The next South Task Force meeting is November 14-16, 2014 in Orlando, FL

The Committee **VOTE TO RECEIVE** the West Task Force report.

Four précis were presented for validation/funding.

Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE), Albuquerque, NM
Validation/Funding: \$15,000
Payment Schedule: Quarterly
The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

Financial Opportunity Project, Los Angeles, CA
Validation/Funding: \$15,000
Payment Schedule: Quarterly
The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

South Hayward Parish, Hayward, CA
Validation/Funding: \$10,000
Payment Schedule: Quarterly
The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**
Kake Tribal Heritage Foundation, Kake, Alaska
Validation/Funding: \$10,000
Payment Schedule: Quarterly
The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**
The next meeting is November 7-8, 2014 in Albuquerque, NM.

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

Lisa Leverette shared that the Task Force reviewed the West Africa Initiative additional funds request and approved of \$8,740 for administrative cost in Liberia only.

The Task Force approved to release the funds requested by the General Secretary of CCSL for continued membership in ACT (Alliance of Churches Together), a major ecumenical entity working in West Africa.

Placencia Tour Guide Cooperative, Placencia Belize
Validation/Funding: \$3,500 for technical assistance (Contingent on questions being answered)
Payment Schedule: Lump Sum
The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

The International Task Force asked the staff to send the criteria for selecting a country for focussed funding.

The next meeting to Belize will be completed by Lisa Leverette and Cathy Surgenor in October or November. The dates will be approved by them. The International Task Force will have a conference call upon their return.

The Committee **VOTED TO APPROVE**

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Church-wide Relations Committee report.

Sarah Jane Moore, Chairperson for Church-wide Relations Committee welcomed new members Mark Downs and Pat Osoinach.

Sarah Jane reported the following:

Congregational Outreach Project (COP) will complete visits to congregations and email information to Wayne Gnatuk by Thanksgiving. The National Committee was invited to do the same and report to Wayne so that the effectiveness of COP on the One Great Hour of Sharing can be tracked.

Seminary Outreach Project (SOP) connections are Larry Low – San Francisco Seminary; Johnnie Monroe – Pittsburgh Seminary; Pat Osoinach -Austin Seminary and Chicago McCormick Stuart Barnes Jameson.

Minute for Mission (MFM) Larry Low will be going to the Covenant, Selma Jackson at Knox Presbyterian; Johnnie Monroe preaching at Redeem Presbyterian Church, and Sarah Jane will be going to St. Paul with Reverend Ann Hayman.

Mark Downs will be the contact person in Houston, TX; he will be able to set up at least five or six Minute for Mission.

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Sarah Jane shared that the Young Adult (YA) listening session with eight young adults was very moving and that all of whom responded well to the follow-up form and they would like us (SDOP) on Face Book. Also the YAs expressed an interest to attend a local SDOP meeting and go on a site visit.

The next Committee Relations Committee meeting is January 25, 2015 in Houston, TX.

The Committee **VOTED TO RECEIVE** the Community Relations Committee report.

John Etheredge, Interim Chairperson welcomed new members Shavon Starling-Louis and Wesley Woo.

John shared that the following was tabled for a later discussion:

- Sending out mass emails to identified groups at this time, as discussed during a previous meeting.
- Creating a network with young adults.

The Community Relations Committee discussed the need for a Northeast Task Force member and shared the discussion with the Steering Committee.

John shared that former SDOP funded groups will be contacted to a.) check on their project's progress, b.) ask them if they know of other groups that could partner with SDOP and c.) offer to conduct workshops.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The Committee Relations convened at the The LINE Hotel at 7:30 p.m.

The Self-Development of People staff met with Committee Relations (Rebecca Reyes and Bernadette Hightower-Hughes) to discuss the working of the SDOP.

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Saturday September 20, 2014

The National Committee and staff met at Immanuel Presbyterian Church at 8:00 a.m.

The Partnership Day convened with a continental breakfast and registration of SDOP Community Partners and the setting up of Exhibit Booths.

SDOP Partners that participated:

Wilmington Community Garden, Unveil Sickle Cell, Community Preparatory School, Winning Economic Justice for Women, Butterfly Network, Los Angeles Community Action Network, T.R.U.S.T. South LA, Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), Preschool Without Walls, DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) Hollywood.

Brian Symonds, Chairperson of Pacific Presbytery SDOP Committee introduced and thanked the SDOP participating partners.

Linda Culbertson, Executive Presbytery of Pacific Presbytery opened the Partnership Day with prayer and remarks.

Welcome was extended by Elizabeth Zehnder, Pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church and Selma Jackson, Chair of National Self-Development of People Committee

Additional remarks by Cynthia White, Coordinator of National Self-Development of People Committee

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Margaret Mwale introduced the Planning Team - Ann Hayman, Sandra McNeil, Reginald Ragland, Linda Shaw, Brian Symonds, Blanca Rivera and Mary Lewis.

The event continued with an SDOP Community Partners Panel Discussion with Butterfly Network, Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), Community Preparatory School and Los Angeles Community Action Network.

Followed by these Workshops: Collaborative Partnerships in Your Community; Applying for a Grant/Telling Your Story; Complicating the Single Stories with DOOR Hollywood; Doing Mission Locally and Self-Development of People Global Engagement.

Lunch and wrap up was 12:00 noon

The SDOP National Committee, guest and staff departed from Immanuel Presbyterian Church for the learning experience that was a visit to South Central LA. Facilitated by SDOP Partner T.R.U.S.T. South LA.

Debriefing of Partnership Day

Discussion centered around the following:

What was good about Partnership Day:

The Partnership program being excellent for building, sharing experiences and contacts. They hope the Partnership continues.

The Panel discussion was a great offering of information

Great representation from Pacific Presbytery.

The diversity of the exhibitors.

What could be done to enhance Partnership Day:

To have foundations from the cities

Bilingual presentations

Give a guideline for 'how to do Partnership Day'

What the happening news is in that city/state should dictate the workshops

Ask local chairpersons to publish a summary of events in their Newsletter

Follow-up before and after

Have one of our partners present the workshop

Debriefing of the National Committee meeting

Allow more time to conduct the work of the Task Forces and Committee Relations

Continue the continuing education will like to have Sensitivity and Cultural Awareness Training with Eric Law continued.

Excellent presentation but not with the business meeting

Bridging of generations

Finance meeting explanations to go forward with reviewing applications

Be time conscience

Sensitivity to the different cultures or cultural make-up of the SDOP Committee

Identify and define the use and purpose of the SDOP Alumni's

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The National Committee thanks Selma for conducting the National meeting and Cynthia for bringing staff and the staffs' interactions.

Compliments to Reginald Ragland for his preparations and involvement for this National meeting.

A special thanks to Troy Glover, SDOP Young Adult Community Liaison in New Orleans, LA for his dedication to.

Johnnie Monroe closed the Debriefing with prayer and invitation for dinner with Troy.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L McAdory
Senior Administrative Assistant