

## Mandate

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) shall assist the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in carrying out its global commitment to work toward the self development of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people, who own, control, and benefit directly from projects that promote long-term change in their lives and communities.

The mandate was established by the 182nd General Assembly of the former United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. in 1970, and reaffirmed and approved by the 199th General Assembly (1987) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

## Mission

Self-Development of People is a ministry that affirms God's concern for humankind. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners, dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting and enabling. We participate in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people who are seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice.



Women project funded by Eastminster Presbytery SDOP

All persons interested in serving at the National level on the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People need to:

- read about the General Assembly nomination process.
- know your presbytery and synod name.
- know who you will ask to serve as your references.
- think through your responses to the following questions:
  - Why are you interested in serving on the Self-Development of People Committee?
  - How does your commitment to Jesus Christ shape your participation in the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?
  - What relevant experiences, gifts, and skills would you bring to the work of this committee?
  - What professional and/or church experiences would contribute to your service on this committee?
  - Please list any corporate and not-for-profit board or committee service.
- Submit your completed form with three (3) personal references. Forms are available at the General Assembly Nominating Committee website [www.pcusa.org/nominations](http://www.pcusa.org/nominations)

*All are encouraged to submit nominating forms!  
You do not have to be Presbyterian or have experience in all of the areas listed above.*

**QUESTIONS?** Please contact:

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**One**  
great hour  
of sharing

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**OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE  
COMMUNITIES IN NEED  
IN YOUR AREA**



Youth project funded by Detroit Presbytery SDOP Committee

**JOIN / START A  
SYNOD/PRESBYTERY  
SDOP COMMITTEE**

*“People Investing in People”*

## SDOP Mid Council committee (For Synods and Presbyteries)

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) is a national ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). PCUSA has regional entities which are also called Mid Councils (MC). All congregations in a geographic area belong to a MC known as a Presbytery. All the Presbyteries in a geographic area belong to a MC known as a Synod.

Some presbyteries and synods have Self-Development of People committees, which make grants in their regions within the bounds of their presbytery or synod. These are known as Local/Mid Council SDOP Committees. If there are SDOP committees in the presbytery and synod in which an applicant group is located, the project can simultaneously apply to all three levels (presbytery, synod, and national). A Mid Council SDOP Committee has at least five members, majority racial ethnic and majority Presbyterian.



Latino repair project funded by New Hope SDOP Committee

Being a part of the Self-Development of People (SDOP) ministry provides an opportunity to positively impact the lives of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people around the world. We hope you will consider serving on a Synod and/or Presbytery SDOP Committee.

This is an opportunity to increase resources for low income community groups in your community with your involvement and the support of the Self-Development of People.

## Interested? Next Steps to Join/Start a SDOP Mid Council Committee



Sewing project funded by Western Reserve Presbytery SDOP Committee

- Talk with your Synod or Presbytery to learn about their guidelines for starting a committee.
- Recruit members to start the SDOP committee, get certified by the National Committee, and begin funding SDOP projects in your area.

Ideas to recruit members:

- Contact previously funded projects (National & Mid Council).
- Invite a National Committee member to speak to your congregation, Synod and/or Presbytery.
- Contact former Mid Council Committee members.
- Ask the Presbytery/Synod Nominating Committee for assistance.

### Responsibilities

- Seek out, receive, and evaluate applications from groups of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people.
- Promote and interpret the SDOP ministry and promote the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, including all three of its ministries: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Educate Presbyterian Church (USA) members/congregations/MCs on the condition and status of economically poor and oppressed communities, and share related theological insights.
- Maintain a relationship with National Committee members and with funded projects in the area.

## One Great Hour of Sharing



Youth group funded by the Pacific Presbytery SDOP Committee

Funds for local SDOP committees to enter into partnership with low income community groups are available thanks to the support of Presbyterian congregations that generously give to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering.

To confirm your Synod and/or Presbytery, please call the National Office for their contact information.

Synod/Presbytery

Place SDOP Committee

Contact Information

HERE