



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission



PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE
Self-Development of People

Presbytery of Chicago Self-Development of People (SDOP) Committee 2022 Impact Report

In 2022 and 2023, your Presbytery of Chicago Self-Development of People has supported three organizations and their work to address inequality, injustice, homelessness, and racism. Our work is funded through the National SDOP Office by generous gifts made by you - members of the congregations in the Presbytery of Chicago to the One Great Hour of Sharing annual special offering. Thank you for your support!

SDOP awards grants only to those organizations that are led by those who are also the beneficiaries of their work and that promote justice, build stronger communities, and seek to create and maintain economic equity.

Our committee awarded two \$5,000 grants in 2021 for work in 2022 to The Gathering Chicago for a series of Healing Racism retreats for clergy and other church leaders, and to the Alliance for Community Services for their advocacy and policy work for people with disabilities. We recently submitted reports to the National Office regarding their work that you can read by following this [link](#).

This year, we added a new organization, the Graduate Council of the Lincoln Park Community Services. The Graduate Council's work is led by people who are formerly homeless and stayed at one of the shelters run by Lincoln Park Community Services before transitioning to permanent housing. The Council serves fellow residents as they make the same transition. Due to your generosity, our committee had more funds than last year to award and were able to award the Graduate Council \$10,495 for its Pursuit of Happiness project offering micro grants for those living in the shelter for enrichment activities like classes, and artistic lessons or performances, and to help with the post-pandemic revival of their Annual Picnic and Family Night programs. We partnered again with the Alliance for Community Services (ACS) and awarded a \$9,000 grant to help fund diversity and antiracism training and support a part-time communications intern to help spread the word about their advocacy and community actions.

Making these grants isn't a totally straightforward process. Because many grassroots organizations are small and led by people who either don't know about our available funding or don't feel they have the capacity to apply, we need help identifying organizations that we then invite to apply, host a workshop to help through the application process, and then conduct site visits with any applicants before making funding decisions and recommendations. Please visit the [SDOP website](#) to learn more the criteria and grant making processes.

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A typical annual timeline for us is:

- January/February, plan for the year;
- March/April, conduct outreach and plan application workshop;
- May/June follow up with invited organizations and continue outreach and asks for recommendations of organizations with an application deadline of August 1;
- July/August reminders to apply, review received applications and arrange site visits;
- September/October conduct site visits, make final decisions and recommendations;
- November 1, submit forms with funding recommendations to the SDOP National Office and communicate awards to recipients;
- December funds come from the SDOP National Office to the Presbytery Office and are then distributed to the recipient organizations.

How you can help:

1. **Celebrate SDOP Sunday on March 12 & Beyond!** See the SDOP Sunday Resource & Yearbook [here](#).
2. **We need three more members to re-certify in 2023!** If you are interested or know someone who is interested in helping us with our grantmaking work, please let me or Barbara Wilson know. Not all of them need to be Presbyterian, and only one of them can be white. The rules that govern the grantmaking for SDOP require that the committee have a majority of non-white members.
3. **Make your own generous gifts** to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering at your church this Lenten and Easter season.
4. **Share our information with grassroots organizations** you or your church relate to that meet the SDOP criteria and work to alleviate poverty, inequality, and injustice.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who has served on the committee over this time. Though Hope, Ariel, and Kristie are no longer serving, I have listed them here for their service in 2021 and 2022.

The 2021-2022 Presbytery of Chicago SDOP Committee:

Paul Abraham

Lisa Dagher, Chair

Hope Daniels

Kristie Finley

Ariel Gloor

Barbara Wilson, Staff liaison

Thank you all for your partnership in our work together!

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dagher, Chair

Presbytery of Chicago SDOP Committee

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