

**Self-Development of People**  
**Presbytery of the Northern Plains**  
**Fall 2024 Meeting**

Some changes are in store for our Presbytery's' Self-Development of People Committee. The rules for maintaining a Presbytery-level SDOP include having a Presbyterian clergy person or a Mid-Council staff person on the committee. With Pastor Robert Drake's leaving at the end of the year, we need to recruit another pastor or staff person to join the committee.

The SDOP Committee also needs to develop a succession plan for the Chairpersonship. The only requirement is that the Chair be a Presbyterian. I hope to recruit someone who will work alongside me in 2025 and be willing to take the position of Chair in 2026. The chairpersonship does not require a large commitment of time. An important function is to educate social justice organizations in our region about our mission and explain our program. The other primary task is to convene meetings of the Committee when applications are received to determine if the proposal meets criteria for funding. I plan to post a more detailed description of how SDOP works in a future Presbytery newsletter.

Another goal for the committee is to recruit more ethnic minorities. We only have three minority members out of seven. National SDOP has certified us through 2026 even though the requirement is for at least 50% ethnic minorities.

Our current funded project, the Hatch Out Fund, has been a success. Farmers graduating from the New Roots Cooperative training program have been able to receive grants to begin farming. The funds have not yet been exhausted and the project continues.

Submitted by:  
George O'Neill