

GLOSSARY

This Glossary may be helpful as the following letters, acronyms, words, terms, and expressions may have special meanings as a person encounters them in the Self-Development of People ministry:

ADVOCACY

Speaking and/or acting on behalf of yourself and others.

CHURCH

The body of Christ, or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

CHURCH-BASED

Signifies that an entity has churches or congregations as the foundation of its structure.

CHURCH-RELATED AGENCY

An agency related through governance or charter to a specific church institution, denomination or particular church.

CIVIL SOCIETY (OR CIVIL INSTITUTIONS)

Civil and social organizations or institutions that advocate and take action primarily for social development and public interest.

CLERK (Stated Clerk)

An elected officer of a Mid Council, who records the transactions, maintains the roll, keeps the attendance, and makes official extracts from the records of the body. In a congregation, the officer is called the clerk of session. In the Presbyteries, Synods, and the General Assembly the officer is called the Stated Clerk.

COMMUNITY

A group of people of like-mind or purpose; or people who have come together to carry out a program or project; or people who live in a specific area.

COMMUNITY-BASED

Signifies that an entity has the community as the foundation of its structure.

COMMUNITY OF NEED

A group of economically poor, oppressed or disadvantaged people.

CONSTITUENCY

Designates the people or groups involved in or served by an organization or individual. It also indicates those who patronize or support a person, group, or organization.

CONTROL

The power to set and maintain the course of a group.

CONSULTATION

The two-way sharing of information and defining issues. It may be carried out in person, in writing or via telecommunications.

CRITERIA

The standards for Self-Development of People Committees to determine whether a project is valid for funding within the Self-Development of People ministry.

DEPENDENCY

A condition and/or relationship determined, influenced, or controlled by someone or something else.

PRESBYTERIAN DISTRIBUTION SERVICE (PDS)

The entity that has the responsibility to distribute Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) resources.

“DO-FOR”

A program or project in which someone (an individual or group) does something for someone else.

DOMESTIC TASK FORCE

The basic operational unit within the National Committee for work in the United States. There are four domestic Task Forces: Midwest, Northeast, South, and West. They also are referred to simply as Task Forces. They are made up of National Committee members who live in the respective Task Force areas. (There also is an International Task Force that is composed of National Committee members).

ECUMENICAL PARTNER

A Christian group or person who is not Presbyterian, who works and shares in the Self-Development of People ministry.

EMPOWERMENT

Providing the authority and power to act to groups and individuals. Some ministries of the Church help people see, understand, and accept this provision.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER (EP)

The administrator of a presbytery. Also called the Presbytery Executive.

FAITH-BASED

Signifies that an entity has faith-groups as the foundation of its structure.

FUNDING

The sharing of financial resources.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)

The highest council in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It meets biannually and consists of representatives from all the presbyteries. It often is called the GA.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL (GAC)

The elected group that carries out the work of the General Assembly between its meetings. It often is called GAC.

GENTRIFICATION

The renovation of poor, working class, mostly urban neighborhoods and the displacement of the original residents.

GLOBALIZATION

The development of extensive worldwide patterns of economic relationships between nations and/or corporations.

MID COUNCILS

Groups within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that have the authority and responsibility for making the decisions for the life, health, and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They are 1) the sessions of congregations, 2) the presbyteries, 3) the synods, and 4) the General Assembly.

GOVERNING GROUP

A set of people who lead a project or program (e.g., a board of directors, a steering committee, an executive committee).

GROUP

The formation of people joined by a common purpose.

GRASSROOTS

Signifies the local level of organizational capacity and generally is distinguished from the centers of political and economic power.

GUIDELINES

The tools to help Self-Development of People Committees rank or rate projects that have been evaluated as valid for funding when monies are limited.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

An agency that receives resources and a mandate and agrees to be responsible for program development on behalf of others.

IN-KIND

Designates the monetary value of non-monetary resources of a project.

INITIATE

To create, own and present a project to a Self-Development of People Committee for consideration.

INTERMEDIARY

A partner/agency serving as SDOP's funding mechanism in a region of the world.

MAJORITY

More than 50 percent.

MID COUNCIL (MC)

There are four councils in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), each responsible for the church's ministry in a wider geographic area: (1) The Session, responsible for the local congregation. (2) The Presbytery, consisting of all the Presbyterian (U.S.A.) congregations in a geographic area. There are about 175 Presbyteries in the United States. (3) The Synod, consisting of all the Presbyteries in a geographic area. There are 17 Synods in the United States. (4) The General Assembly, or national denomination, consisting of all the Presbyteries and Synods in the United States. Of these four councils, Presbyteries and Synods are termed "Mid Council" (MC).

MISSION

The dynamic activity of the Church in the world as prescribed by the Bible and understood by faith.

NEEDS BASED DEVELOPMENT

Development plans created with the criteria of the needs of the community, rather than the development opportunities that might be available due to natural resources or market opportunities. The pivotal point becomes who defines the needs, the community itself or some outside entity.

NETWORKING

The active process of building, maintaining, or expanding contacts and relationships of a personal or organizational nature.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO)

Any organization that is not controlled or sponsored by a government agency.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)

An ecumenical offering taken by ten denominations. It is often referred to as the OGHS. Each denomination uses the offering in its own way. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) uses it to support the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

OPERATIONAL AGENCY

An agency that runs programs in the field, either through staff or in partnership with others.

OPERATING GUIDELINES

The compositions of operations, structures, responsibilities, and authority for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering ministries.

ORGANIZER

One who organizes and/or helps people structure their efforts into functioning and systematic operations or structures.

PARTNERSHIP

A two-way relationship characterized by two-way understandings and sharing.

PCUSA

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

POVERTY

Very low economic conditions. In the United States, it is measured by the standards set by the U.S. government. Internationally it is measured by the country's worldwide economic context.

PRECIS

A one-page (front and back) summary of a project presented to the National Self-Development of People Committee for validation and funding consideration.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering program, which has the responsibility for leading the Church and its ministry in addressing worldwide emergencies, refugee concerns and their resettlement.

PRESBYTERIAN DISTRIBUTION SERVICE (PDS)

The entity that has the responsibility to distribute Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) resources.

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering program, which has the responsibility for leading the Church and its ministry in addressing worldwide hunger concerns.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY

The Presbyterian Mission Agency is the ministry and mission agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). View resources, donate and explore our ministries.

PRESBYTERY

The central council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is made up of equal numbers of clergy and lay representatives from each congregation within a prescribed geographical area. It also has a balance of lay representatives with clergy members who labor in non-congregation ministries.

PROGRAM

The focus of a group's activities or project.

PROJECT

The object of a group's activities.

PROPOSAL

A tool for self-development; an instrument that depicts the life-situation of a group, including the group's make-up, needs, goal, objectives, financial situation, and program evaluation plan.

PROSPECTIVE PARTNER

A group of economically poor, oppressed, or disadvantaged people.

RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY

Signifies racial identity other than white.

REGIONAL

A geographic area larger than a neighborhood, or town, or city.

RESOURCES

Materials, funds, capabilities, skills, and people—anything that can be used to further one's goals or program objectives.

RIGHTS BASED DEVELOPMENT

Development plans made against a set of rights perceived to be those of individuals and the community and may be in opposition to outside governance or economic interests.

SELF-SUFFICIENT

The ability to operate alone.

SESSION

The council in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at the congregational level, which consists of elected congregation members and moderated by the minister.

SOCIAL SERVICE

An organization or program that provides for people.

STATEWIDE

Occurring or extending throughout a state.

STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Changes the International Monetary Fund (IMF) requires of developing countries before it will extend loans. Poverty reduction has mostly replaced the term structural adjustment since the late 1990s.

STRATEGIC

Relating to the overall planning, method of operation, and eventual action.

SYNOD

The regional council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is made up of equal numbers of clergy and lay representatives from each presbytery within its region.

SYNOD EXECUTIVE

The administrator of a synod.

THIRD PARTY CONFIRMATION

The verification of international prospective partnerships by face-to-face site-visits usually carried out by ecumenical partners, mission co-workers, other selected volunteers, or staff.

UMBRELLA GROUP

An over-arching authority, group, or institution.

VALIDATION

The confirmation that a project meets the Self-Development of People funding criteria.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC)

The world working association of ecumenical churches.



Presbyterian Committee on the
**Self-Development
of People**

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