

## **Update on the Self Development Of People (SDOP) Mission Spring 2025 Presbytery Meeting**

Our “Hatching-Out” project funded last year is going well. The project was a \$5,000 grant to the New Roots Farm Incubator Cooperative, located in Fenton, Minnesota, which provides training in farming techniques to immigrant and other disadvantaged farmers. After graduating from the incubator (a process called “Hatching-Out”), farmers can lease or buy a plot of land on which to farm. The land, also in Fenton, is owned by a non-profit called PRAIRIE (Prairie Rose Agricultural Institute for Research, Innovation, & Education). Our grant provides graduate farmers with funds to help cover the costs involved in starting a farm.

Thus far, two farmers have started their own farms with SDOP funds. Another graduate farmer expects to begin his farm this spring. There are other farmers in the training program who, upon graduation, are expected to access those SDOP funds in the future. We anticipate our grant to be able to help at least six graduates from the cooperative to begin their own farms. (In case you are wondering, Fenton is in southwest Minnesota. The home office of PRAIRIE is in Moorhead.)

As a reminder, the mission of SDOP is to provide grants to low income or marginalized groups to improve their self-sufficiency. The funds come from donations to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing collected during Lent in all Presbyterian Churches.

George O’Neill

Chair, Self-Development of People for the Presbytery of the Northern Plains