

## **WDP – USA Board Development Committee Meeting Summary**

**April 23, 2016 – 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Susan opened the meeting with prayer. Present were Roshin Abraham, Fanya Burford-Berry, Marlene Chase, Arvella Strong and Susan Skoglund. Absent were Inez Torres Davis and Shivonne McKay. Board Chair Susan Jackson Dowd observed our meeting. We added to our agenda the recommendation from the Board that we bring a recommendation or recommendations on changing the lack of diversity on the Administrative Committee.

We reviewed the **Nominating and Board Member Recruiting Guidelines** document that will be used this year. We updated the form to reflect this year's dates and Director qualifications that are especially needed. (See the attached form.) We have only one (1) known vacancy for the Class of 2019. (Marlene Chase who will complete her 2 terms of eligibility at the end of this calendar year.) We will circulate the revised document electronically to all Board members. We will also look into soliciting nominations from former Board members to increase our pool of applicants.

We determined that the updating of the resource manual would need more time than available at this meeting. Susan will divide the book among the committee members. After each committee member has an opportunity to make and share recommendations on her section, we will hold a conference call to discuss our recommendations. Susan will circulate a doodle poll to find the best time for all. Our goal is to hold this call by the end of May.

Since the proposed amendments brought to the Board for consideration at this meeting will not be voted on until the afternoon session, we decided to recommend that the current officers be retained for the remainder of this calendar year.

We then addressed the concern about lack of diversity on the Administrative Committee. First, we clarified that the committee is composed of the officers of the Board plus a member at large. We then noted that the Board has become increasingly diverse over the past several years with intentional actions to this end by the Board Development Committee and supported by the Board as a whole. Since all committee members and officers are chosen from among the directors, we have a pool of 15 women from whom to choose leadership. It was the consensus of the members present that the situation will rectify itself if we act intentionally to increase the diversity on all committees. We also recommended that all committees name vice chairs and recorders. We decided to work with our entire committee to name our vice chair and recorder (at our first conference call).

At the suggestion of Board Chair Susan J-D, we will look into the feasibility of having the treasurer be a staff person and name a Board member to be financial secretary. This is a model used successfully by Presbyterian Women. We will need to check that the New York corporate law as well as our unique needs and concerns. We will also ask for all current Board members to pray about whether they will be called to serve in a leadership role on the Board. We will ask that they contact a Board Development member if they feel so called.