



Southwest Conference
United Church of Christ



A N N U A L
M E E T I N G
2 0 1 2

April 20-21, 2012
The Good Shepherd UCC
Sahuarita, Arizona



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Table of Contents

Yellow	Agenda Good Shepherd Floor Plan Maps of Good Shepherd and Hotels Workshops Friday Evening Worship Bulletin Saturday Afternoon Worship Bulletin
White	Biographies of our Featured Guests: Miguel De La Torre, Paul Sherry, Sandy Sorensen Meet your Host Church: The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
Pink	2011 Annual Meeting Minutes
Ivory	Reports from the SWC Conference Minister Report Moderator Report Committee on Church and Ministry Justice Witness Committee Partners in Education Stewardship Lay Academy 2011 Camp Report Beatitudes Campus
Blue	Reports from our Ecumenical Partners Arizona Ecumenical Council New Mexico Council of Churches Chapman University Pacific School of Religion
Salmon-	Items for Vote Nominating Slate Bylaw Resolutions National UCC Constitution Changes Advocating for Justice in the Prison Industrial Complex
Lavender	Financials
Green	Scholarship Request for Travel Reimbursement Volunteer Opportunities Evaluation Communication Appreciation Page



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Agenda

Friday, April 20

- 9:30 **Registration Opens**
 9:45 **New Delegate Orientation**
 10:30 **First Business Session**
 Welcome & introduction of guests
 Results of written ballot
 Declaration of quorum
 Nominating Committee Report
 Lay Academy Report
 Operation American Patriot Report
 Sandy Sorenson
 Roll Call of Churches
- Noon Lunch**
 1:00 **Keynote-** Miguel de la Torre
 "Reading the Bible from the Margins:
 New Eyes Seeking Justice"
- 2:00 **Workshops** (see list below)
 3:15 **Break**
 3:30 **Program Session** (Sanctuary)
 JWM Report & Intro of Priority Options
 1 hr small group time- JWM Priority
- 4:45 **Second Business Session**
 Cornerstone
 Introduction of Resolutions
 Financial Reports
 Moderator Report- Lee Milligan
- 5:30 **Reception for MPB members** (Redman Room)
 6:00 **Dinner**
 7:15 **Worship** (Offering to benefit JWM Priority)
 8:30 **Coffee House** (after hours)

Saturday, April 21

- 9:00 **Worship**
 9:15 **Third Business Session**
 Paul Sherry
 Beatitudes Campus
 Summer Camp/National Youth Event
 Conference Minister Report
- 10:30 **Workshops** (see list below)
Noon Lunch
 1:00 **Program Session**
 Justice Witness Ministry Teams
- 2:15 **Break**
 2:30 **Fourth Business Session**
 Vote on Top Line 2013 Budget
 Vote on Nominating Slate
 Votes on Bylaw Changes
 Vote on GS UCC Constitution change
 Vote on Prison Resolution
 Vote on JWM Priority
 Presentations
 Gifts & passing of the gavel
 Thank yous
 Announcements & 2013 Invitation
- 4:00 **Worship w/Installation**
 (offering to be split- Samoan Church &
 New Building sound system)
- 5:00 **Depart**

Friday Workshops

Classroom C	Maricopa Interfaith HIV/AIDS Alliance
Library	Wildlands on the Edge: Impact of US Border Policies
Classroom A	Migrant Deaths in Indian Country
Redman Room	Two New Churches- Two Unique Approaches
Youth Room	Blessed are the Leaders
Classroom B	For the People: Engaging the Political Process in the Work of Justice
Board Room	Working for Justice- Partners in Education
Sanctuary	Faith and the Criminal Justice System

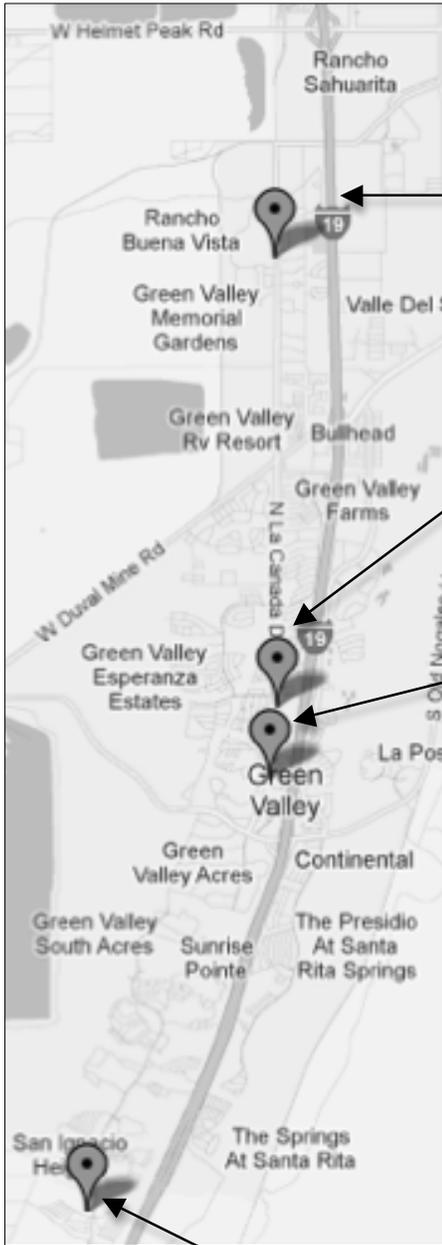
Saturday Workshops

Classroom A	Confessions of an Arab-American Muslim
Sanctuary	Food Justice
Library	Widening the Welcome
Classroom B	Desert Faith in a time of Global Warming
Redman Room	Finding Funds
Redman Room	Standing Alongside the Unemployed
Youth Room	Building a Prayer Practice



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Map of area



The Good Shepherd UCC
17750 S. La Canada,
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
520-625-1375

Holiday Inn Express
19200 I-19 Footage Rd,
Green Valley, AZ
520-625-0900
(Duval Mine Rd exit)

Best Western Green Valley Inn
111 S. La Canada,
Green Valley, AZ
520-625-2250
(Exit west at Esperanza, left on
La Canada)

Inn at San Ignacio

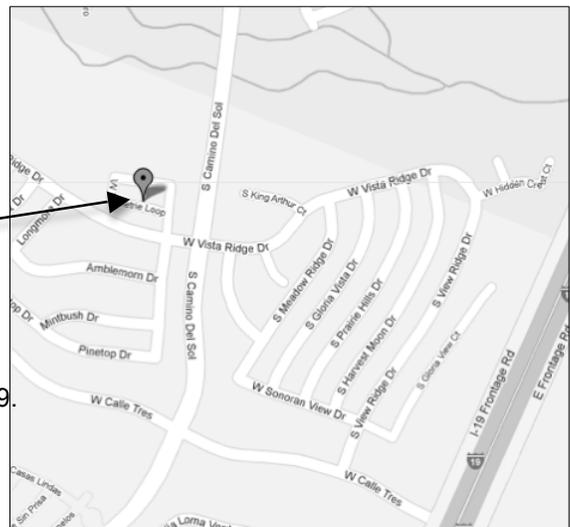
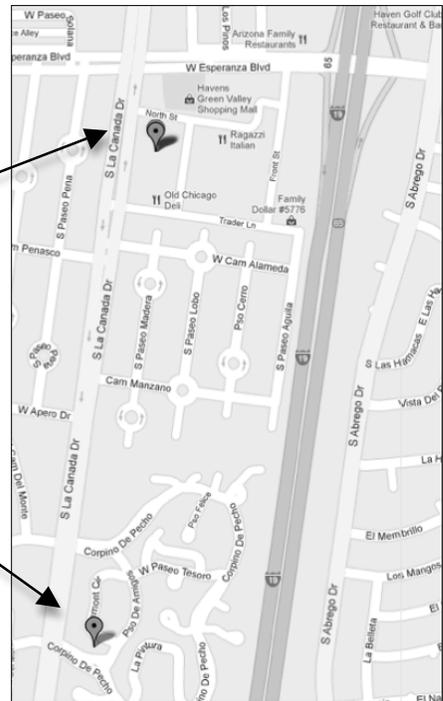
1861 W. Demetrie Loop, Green Valley, AZ
520-625-2250

The Inn at San Ignacio is located just off of the Canoa exit of I-19.
Exit at Exit # 56 (Canoa)

Turn right off exit ramp, then right on Frontage Road
Turn left at Calle Tres

Turn right on the second street, Camino Del Sol
Turn left on the first street, Vista Ridge

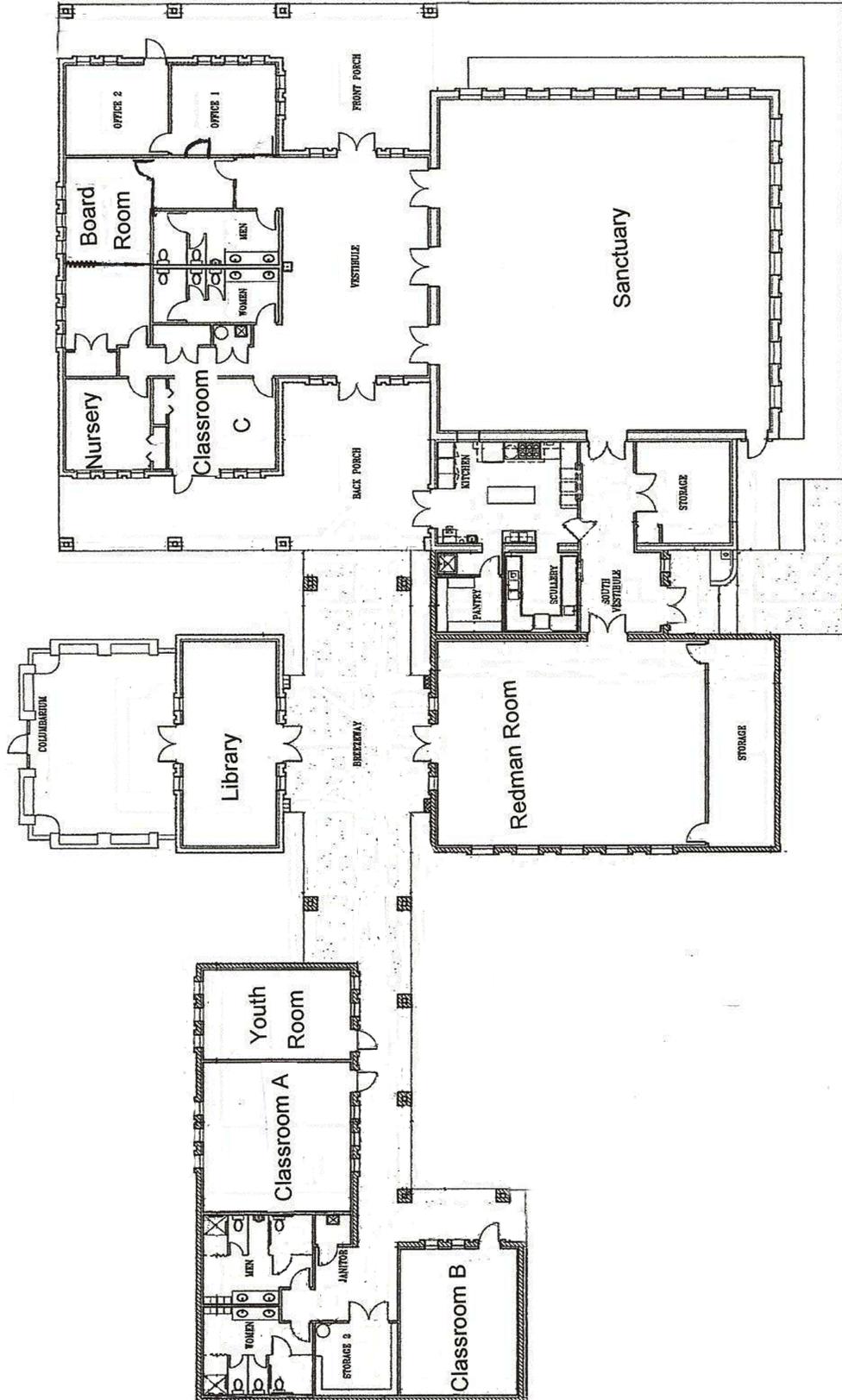
Turn right on Tropicana and follow around to the office





LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Good Shepherd Floor Plan





LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Workshop descriptions

MIHA Maricopa Interfaith HIV/AIDS Alliance

Learn about HIV/AIDS. There are still 57,000 newly infected persons with this virus in the U.S. and the stigma of the disease is still strong. Through education we hope to reduce both.

Wildlands on the Edge: Impacts of U.S. Border Policies

Dan Millis who heads the Sierra Club Borderlands Campaign will be making a presentation about the fragile borderlands and the environmental impacts of the US policies along the border. Several dozen federal protection laws were tossed aside to allow rushed construction of hundreds of miles of barriers. The border wall blocks wildlife migration corridors and causes flooding, and does not stop human cross-border traffic. Sierra Club Borderlands works to protect natural and historic resources for future generations.

Migrant Deaths in Indian Country: A Violation of Human Rights in the Name of Homeland Security

Arizona has become the epicenter for undocumented immigration into the US. Thousands of migrants risk their lives to cross the hostile Sonora Desert of southern Arizona every year. For hundreds, this is their last journey, succumbing to dehydration and heat exhaustion. In an effort to prevent their suffering and deaths, **Mike Wilson**, a Tohono O'odham human rights activist, has maintained water stations since 2002 for migrants crossing the Tohono O'odham Reservation. Wilson will talk about the effects of U.S. border enforcement policy in Indian country and the moral responsibility of offering your fellow human being a cup of water.

Two New Churches - Two Unique Approaches

Adaptive changes are compelling church planters to think very differently about how they build for the future. Come hear two planters talk about their new faith communities, about what is different, and why.

Blessed are the Leaders

Peggy Mullan, MNM, President and CEO, Beatitudes Campus and the **Rev. Peggy Roberts**, Sr. VP of Spiritual Life, Beatitudes Campus will present this workshop which uses a parallel reading of the Sermon of the Mount as a framework for modern management and leadership practice. Peacemaking equates to conflict resolution; being poor in spirit is akin to servant leadership and putting the mission of the organization ahead of the leader's ego. Please come prepared to look with new eyes at all eight blessings from the Gospel of Matthew and experiment with applying them in your own leadership practice.

For the People: Engaging the Political Process in the Work of Justice

Sandy Sorensen, director of the Washington office of the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, will present this workshop. What are some of the dynamics at play in current public policy debate and the 2012 election campaign? Why is a faith voice so critical in these times? We will explore those questions, surveying the current policy advocacy landscape and identifying ways to make a difference and stand for justice.

Working for Justice

Carol Wilson and **Larry Trent** will preview the new United Church resource, "Working for Justice" from Faith Practices in this workshop. As followers of Jesus, people of faith are called to answer the question, "how do my daily plans and routines show my commitment to work for justice?" Participants will be introduced to activities for children, youth, young adults, adults, seekers, as well as materials for worship, retreats, workshop rotation and intergenerational events.

Faith and Criminal Justice System

Penny Pestle, who is passionate about ministries that happen inside the correction system, will lead this workshop about the compelling need for transformation of our criminal justice system, how we approached this six-session series, and how we might address our next priority--restorative justice.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Workshop descriptions

Confessions of an Arab-American Muslim Cultural Liaison

Descendant of Egyptians, **Mona Darwich** found herself working with Arabic speaking refugees, when the first waves arrived in Tucson in 2008. Without a warning, she found herself forced to become a cultural liaison and interpreter at many levels in an outpatient mental health clinic to improve communication between staff and refugees. Mona will share her observations helping refugees dealing with the state system's expectations on this special population and how this professional experience affected her personally.

Food and Justice Workshop

Miguel De La Torre will speak about the theological and social ethics of food.

Widening the Welcome: Inclusion for All

This workshop will feature members of our Southwest Conference UCC congregations who advocate greater inclusion for all. **Michael Curry**, **Elodie Winger**, and **Debe Knaack** will participate in a panel discussion to share their stories about personal challenges, how church participation benefits them, and what opportunities for ministry are offered to them. After interviewing the panelists their pastors will discuss how a special needs ministry fits into their vision of the local congregation.

Desert Faith in a Time of Global Warming

The **Rev. Talitha Arnold**, a native of Arizona and Senior Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe, has worked to develop a theology to match the landscape of our desert lands and to help the United congregation be at home spiritually in this landscape. What spiritual lessons do our Biblical faith and life in the desert Southwest offer us in this time of global warming and climate change? The workshop focuses on what we can learn from our Biblical heritage and the desert around us to live in our time and place with faith and not fear.

Finding Funds for Ministry

Gordon Gilles, President, Cornerstone Fund, UCC and the **Rev. John H. Pomeroy**, Mission Interpreter, Western Area, will share a few key strategies for increasing giving in our congregations and invite participants to share their best practices for funding ministry. The workshop will discuss approaches to developing a narrative budget or mission spending plan, and will present some of the insights from J. Clif Christopher's recent books: "Not Your Parent's Offering Plate" and "Whose Offering Plate Is It?".

Standing Alongside the Unemployed

Paul Sherry will speak about the significance of the job crisis, and how you and your congregation can get involved and make a difference.

Building a Prayer Practice

The **Rev. Teresa Blythe**, an ordained UCC spiritual director and author, will lead an experience of prayer, discuss various forms of prayer, and talk about ways to incorporate prayer into church business and pastoral visits. We want to pray. We mean to pray. Yet sometimes we just don't get around to it. Stop judging yourself and consider that maybe you simply haven't found the way that you pray best! She will offer some basic building blocks for a life that includes prayer and meditation. This will be especially useful for church leaders (lay and clergy) who are interested in exploring prayer as a more regular spiritual practice.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Worship Bulletin for Friday evening

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude Las Mañanitas

Call to Worship

Worship Leader

One: At God's table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

All: Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down kin-dom of God is revealed.

One: At God's table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

All: Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the inside-out kin-dom of God is revealed.

One: At God's table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.,

All: Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst the kin-dom of God is revealed.

One: This is a sacred time; let us begin our time of worship.

***Hymn of Praise** #394 In Christ There Is No East or West

*Opening Prayer

Worship Leader

Source of Life who is known by many names; Over-turner and illuminator of hearts; we gather with gratitude for the earth and all who journey in it.

We give thanks for the interconnectedness of all creation. Source of justice who is known by many names; let us not swerve from the path of righteousness that leads to just and equitable relationships. Open our eyes that we may see the immigrant and undocumented; whose labor enables and sustains our living; the farm worker, the hotel worker, the line cook, the childcare provider, the healthcare worker;

Give us the will to leave behind the safety of our sanctuaries to become your living sanctuary; and claim our place in the movement to transform creation; that our voice, our heart, our spirit will join the voice, hear and spirit of all who demand to live with respect, justice, and peace.

(By Rev. Loren McGrail)

Choral Anthem

Prayers of the People

Special Music Migrant Sufremento

Scripture Reading Matthew 15:21-28



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Hymn Cielito Lindo

Chorus: Ay, ay, ay, ay,
Canta y no llores,
Porque cantando se alegran,
Cielito lindo, los corazones.

Sermon Was Jesus Anti-Immigrant?

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Josseline

***Doxology** Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Giver of every good gift, provider of all our needs, source of our life, we return to you these offerings from our lives that are rich with your blessing. Receive them with our gratitude and prayers that they will be a blessing to others who seek your mercy and care in our world. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** #402 De Colores

Chorus: Y por eso los grandes amores
De muchos colores me gustan a mi (repeat)

Benediction

Postlude Run, Run, Run

Special Music By---Pablo and Los Foileros
Pianist ---Kay Jean Moore
Director of Music---Scott Glysson
Good Shepherd Sanctuary Choir



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Worship Bulletin for Saturday

Gathering Music: First Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Arizona

Greeting: Lee Milligan

Call to Worship:

L: It is we who desire the Day of the Lord, and long for God's justice.

P: And it is we who are invited by God to be full participants in the ushering in of justice.

L: Our songs, our celebrations, and our assemblies ring hollow to God without this passion for justice.

P: And our time of worship brings no joy to God without a commitment to love even our enemies.

ALL: So let sing, and let us rejoice in God's presence. But let us also recommit our lives to the cause of justice.

Opening Hymn #544 Si Fui Motivo de Dolor, Oh Dios

Invocation Tina Squire

Poem Jack Evans

Scripture Amos 5.18-24

A Time for Centering

The Rev. Jaci Meade Scott

Founding pastor, Not Yo Mama's Church

Message "Reflections of a Privileged White Male"

John C. Dorhauer

Choir Anthem First Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Arizona

Prayer Teresa Blythe

Installation

Offering

Special Music God Has Chosen Me
Text and Tune by Bernadette Ferrell

Jane Cheek and Lee Milligan

Communion Paul Sherry

Special Music The Cry of the Poor
Text: Psalm 34 Music by John Foley, SJ

Jane Cheek and Lee Milligan

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn #595 "Some Glad Morning"

Benediction Jane Cheek



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Our Featured Guests

Miguel De La Torre

Miguel De La Torre is an associate professor of social ethics and director of the Justice and Peace Institute at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. He specializes in applying a social scientific approach to Latino/a religiosity within this country, liberation theologies in the Caribbean and Latin America, and postmodern / postcolonial social theory. Dr. De La Torre has authored numerous articles and over 14 books, including the award-winning, *Reading the Bible from the Margins* and *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins*.



Sandy Sorensen

Sandy Sorensen is currently the director for the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries in Washington. Having served in various capacities during her many years with the UCC's national setting, the Rev. Linda Jaramillo, JWM's executive minister says, "Sandy has solid and diverse advocacy and organizing experience which is based in her faithful understanding of justice."



Paul Sherry

Paul Sherry is the director of the Washington D.C. office of Interfaith Worker Justice. The president of the United Church of Christ from 1989 to 1999, he is a longtime advocate for economic justice and civil rights. Sherry, along with nearly a dozen other faith community leaders were arrested last July during a prayer vigil urging Congress to exempt from budget cuts programs that assist the poor.





LET JUSTICE ROLL!



The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ is a gathering of people committed to creating a bold, spirited, life changing presence in the Santa Cruz Valley. We seek to include everyone on the journey of faith because Jesus included everyone on the journey with him.

We seek an informed faith and welcome questions that lead us to deeper places of understanding-because we don't have all the answers. We take scripture so seriously that we find it can't be taken literally. We seek a life and faith that is grounded in service and compassion so we find ways to actively and boldly live out this call.

We believe God is still speaking and that we must remain open to the call of the Spirit and not claim to have all the answers down pat. We believe God embraces all people equally, regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation. We seek to include everyone on the journey of faith because Jesus included everyone on the journey with him.

We are playful people who believe in living joyfully, we love to sing, whistle, create and be moved by the spirit. We engage in lively worship, reach out to our neighbors, study the issues of the day, act boldly on our convictions and break bread together in gratitude.

Some of us live within a few blocks of the church building while others come as far as Tucson, Vail and Tubac. Some of us came just because we live nearby, some for our wonderful music, still others as a place for our children.

***Whatever the reason, we wonder if we might be just what you're looking for.
Come and see.***



THE GOOD SHEPHERD UCC
17750 S. LA CAÑADA DR.,
SAHUARITA, AZ 85629
(520) 625-1375
THEGOODSHEPHERDUCC.ORG





LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2011 Southwest Conference Annual Meeting Minutes

April 29-30, 2011 First Congregational Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Theme: It's About Mission

The Forty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference opened on April 29 at 10:30 AM with a welcome by the Moderator, Brendan Mahoney. The Moderator thanked the Host Pastor, the Rev. Lee Albertson, and the other New Mexico pastors and churches that helped provide various host services: the Rev. Daniel Erdman from Iglesia Congregacional Unida (UCC); the Rev. William D. Ingraham, Church of the Good Shepherd UCC; and the Rev. Mary Harris-Koth, St. Paul's United Church of Christ. Each of them welcomed us. Rev. Erdman's church provided the Pre Gathering music.

Special guests were recognized with voice, but no vote.

Cally Rogers-Witte, UCC Executive for Wider Church Ministries

David Coatsworth, Exec. for Financial Development, Wider Church Ministries

Susan Sanders, Team Leader, Global Sharing of Resources, Wider Church Ministries

Peter Makari, Area Exec. For Middle East/Europe, Wider Church Ministries

Gordon Gilles, Cornerstone Fund

Sandy Leuschen, United Church Funds

Elice Higginbotham, World Council of Churches

Vy Nguyen, Church World Service

Liz Anally & Betsy Stirbens, Young Adult Service Community

Other introductions were also made:

Mark Clark, Parliamentarian

Matt Smith, Audio Visual

Bob Rosenak, Transportation

Paul Hook, Local Arrangements

Larry Cummings, Church of the Beatitudes & Text4Faith

Jaime Romo, UCC Commissioned Minister for Healing & Healthy Environments

Angie Witmer, Worship Coordinator

Thank you to Jo Ann Vredenburg for serving as volunteer Secretary to take the minutes of the business and program sessions.

Thank you to Jo Ann Vredenburg for serving as volunteer **Secretary** to take the minutes of the business and program sessions.

With 38 of 44 churches represented, 162 voting delegates and 195 attendees, a quorum was declared. The Business Session was then called to order. The written ballot results were announced. All ballot items were passed.

John Dorhauer recognized our **General Synod Delegates** and **Mr. Mark Clark** who has been nominated for Associate General Minister and member of the UCC Collegium of Officers. He also recognized Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, who is about to retire, for the leadership she has provided in the UCC.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2011 Minutes *(continued)*

Lay Academy. John Dorhauer reporting. This is the inaugural year for this program. It has presented three sessions so far and there are more to come. Classes are open to only lay members of the Conference and attendees do not have to have participated in earlier classes to take part.

Tuesday with the SWC. John gave an overview of this new program. These webinars are held twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 11 AM for 1 hour. The 2nd Tuesday of each month focuses on financial issues and the 4th Tuesday on Church Growth and Development. To obtain sign-in information or to view the previous sessions, please check the SWC website. (www.uccswc.org)

Financial Reports – Alan Cochrane reviewed the **2010 Financial Report**. In November 2010 there was a projected shortfall of \$22,000 for the year. An annual appeal for support was sent to the churches, Board of Directors and individuals. Thanks to everyone's efforts, the 2010 budget ended with a surplus of \$4,308. Alan then looked at the **2011 Budget**. Pledged support declined by over \$49,000. The Communications position, which had been paid from a special reserve account in 2010, is now included in the 2011 Operating Budget for \$7,000. The Youth Ministry position for 2011, however, needs funding. The First Annual Benefit Golf Tournament to support the Youth and Outdoor Ministries staff position will be held on May 13th at the Phoenician. It was noted that only 5 churches contributed to the Sow the Seed Special Offering in 2010 with only one being in excess of \$100. Churches were encouraged to increase their OCWM giving, working toward a tithe of 10%. Also any ideas for fundraising are welcome.

Presentation: Larry Cummings a member at Church of the Beatitudes did a presentation on a new targeted fund-raising initiative that makes use of smart phones to raise new money. He spoke about using technology offered by Text4Faith now available to all churches in the SWC as a result of a contract signed by the Conference. He will be doing a one hour webinar on May 10th at 11 AM explaining this new technology.

Presentation: Gordon Gilles, President/CEO, Cornerstone Fund. He spoke of the Church Builder Bonus Program. He reminded us that in addition to being a community of faith, a church is also a legal corporation. Gordon provided examples of how churches can invest and protect their assets as well as support UCC ministries. He has marketing materials available. Churches are encouraged to use their website www.cornerstonefund.org.

Conference Minister Report – **John Dorhauer** introduced his report emphasizing the Conference Annual Meeting theme "It's About Mission." Membership and budget figures reflect the life of a church and its mission. We are living in a time of transition for the body of Christ. Many churches have forgotten what their mission is. The SWC Mission Statement is "called to embody God's unconditional justice and love."

He then spoke about the proposed new structure outlined in the Bylaws proposal. The Mission Planning Board (MPB) will be comprised of a representative from each SWC church with standing. He used the analogy from a book written by Tony Robinson, calling the MPB the Balcony group, dealing with the big picture, versus the Mezzanine group, the Executive Board, that deals with the day to day management. He emphasized that Mission is the most important thing we do as a Conference and the MPB will identify what the SWC Mission is.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2011 Minutes (continued)

There are six churches discussing start up ministries with Church Growth and Development Committee. Additionally, six churches are undergoing strategic planning to revitalize their church in partnership with the SWC.

John recognized the SWC Staff, Barbara Decker, Holly Herman and Katrina Glenn.

He announced that First Congregational UCC of Tucson will be closing. There will be a service of a closing celebration on June 11 at 2 PM. A large portion from the sale of the church will given to the SWC to be used for New Church Start Initiatives. John reflected that with each passing, new life begins!

Business Session in Recess.

Program Session 1 - Wider Church Ministries (Part 1)

The Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, UCC Executive for Wider Church Ministries, presented an overview of WCM. The United Church of Christ is a partner in global mission, living and working together in the household of God.

Four churches in Alabama received OGHS funds for the recent tornado disasters. The UCC also partners consistently with Church World Service/CWS for disaster relief work. Our mission focus is: "we do with, not do for!" We have many WCM resources available through DVDs, blogs, and on our website www.globalministries.com.

WORKSHOPS, SESSION 1

Business Session 2: presided over by Moderator-Elect, Lee Milligan.

Youth and Outdoor Ministries Report was given by Katrina Green, Tatum Covey, Allie Rowe and Dena Covey. Written report can be found in the Annual Report. Tatum reported on her experience with the Winter Youth Service Trip 2010 to Los Angeles, CA and the Junior High Retreat 2011 in Phoenix, AZ. Allie Rowe reported on the Senior High Sneak Trip 2011 where they traveled to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah. Dena Covey, mother of Tatum, spoke of the importance of the Youth Ministry program and the character and leadership development it provides.

Moderator Report by Brendan Mahoney. Written report can be found in Annual Report. He highlighted the Conference administrative structure, Church Growth and Development initiatives, Justice and Witness, communications technology, audit (we now have a Manual of Best Practices for use by local churches), and budget issues.

Introduction of Items for Future Vote

Moderator-Elect, Lee Milligan called attention to the Standing Rules and introduced Parliamentarian, Mark Clark.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2011 Minutes (continued)

By Laws - John Dorhauer gave an overview of Mission Planning Board (MPB) and Executive Board (EB). Conference officers are members of both groups. The responsibility of the local churches is expanded by having a delegate on the MPB and should create a two-way communication. John also thanked the Chair of the By Laws Committee, Jane Cheek.

Sante Fe Resolution - Brandon Johnson, Associate Pastor, provided highlights of resolution. Although not wanting to create a hardship for the SWC, the Santa Fe resolution wants to encourage the conference activities to be cognizant of the environment and committed to conservation.

Nominating Committee Slate - Carol Wilson. It is being presented with the assumption that the By Laws would be approved. There was a concern expressed regarding the lack of geographical representation on the Executive Board (no NM/TX members). The Nominating Committee was very aware of this and did try to recruit from these churches, but was not able to find appropriate volunteers.

Awards/Milestones

5 x 5 Churches - Good Shepherd UCC
United Churches Fellowship
Oro Valley UCC
First Congregational Church, Phoenix
Desert View
St. Paul's UCC
Rincon
Casas Adobes, Tucson
Sierra Vista Community UCC
Scottsdale Congregational UCC
First Congregational UCC, Prescott
West Congregational UCC, Phoenix

7 x 7 Churches - Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix
Valley Community Ch., NM
Desert Palm UCC, Tempe

New ONA Churches St. Paul's UCC, NM

New Clergy to the SWC were introduced:

Diane Thomas
Jarrett Maupin
Vernon Meyer
Doyle Burbank Williams
Brian Fertig
Richard Safford
Curt Ackley
Valerie Garrick



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2011 Minutes (continued)

Business Session in Recess

Evening Worship Service with Gathering music and Order of Worship – See Annual Report. It was a meaningful service with communion and Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte preaching.

Saturday, April 30th

Opening devotions with Angie Witmer
Gathering with rousing music provided by Steve Wayles.

Workshops, Session 2

Program Session 2 - Wider Church Ministries (Part 2)

UCC Commissioned Minister for Healing & Healthy Environments, **Jaime Romo**, spoke of the church needing to be a healing community and the number of people in a congregation that have been sexually abused. He circulated signup sheets for interest in the ministry and resources he provides.

Dr. Peter Makari, Area Executive for Middle East/Europe, Wider Church Ministries. He is considered an expert in Muslim and Jewish relations. He focused on the context and witness of Christian churches and organizations and the contribution they are making towards peace in the region. He also reviewed the variety and extent of partner agencies with which we work in the area.

David Coatsworth, Executive for Financial Development, Wider Church Ministries. David provided new thoughts and insights to uncovering all the resources available to fund mission. He listed the three basic reasons people give:

1. Believe in the Mission.
2. Trust the leadership.
3. Confidence in the organization.

Susan Sanders, Team Leader. Global Sharing of Resources, Wider Church Resources. She is responsible for administering the OGHS funds. Susan had lost her voice and Cally spoke for her in conjunction with a video presentation of various countries and the many ways people all over the world are being given support through OGHS, CWS, and Asian Rural Ministries. There is on-going information from missionaries through the website www.globalministries.org.

Susan thanked the SWC for their OGHS support from 2007-2010 which totaled \$227,764.

She presented 2 Awards to SWC local churches.

Highest OGHS amount	\$8,434.00	Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona
Highest OGHS Per Member	\$22.36	Community Congregational, Tombstone

Recessed for Lunch



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2011 Minutes (continued)

Business Session, Part 3 with Moderator, Brendan Mahoney presiding.

Justice Witness Committee Report by Phil Reller. See Annual Report.

Phil highlighted the concerted efforts made by SWC church members who registered voters which did impact the results of the November elections. An introduction was then made by the Rev. John Herman, Pastor of Desert Palm UCC, Tempe. Desert Palm member, Richard Kenyon was recognized and presented a cross and a certificate for his dedication and commitment to justice and for covering every home in a crucial precinct. Phil noted that 11 Hispanic churches have closed in Mesa alone. He then presented a video telling stories of how people have been affected by SB1070.

John Dorhauer lifted up the five issues discerned from the JWM congregational listening sessions: Immigration Reform, Prison Ministries, Caring Communities, Eco-Justice and GLBTQ Concerns. He also thanked Rev. Liana Rowe for her significant contribution to the immigration issue and SB1070. The JWM committee is open to anyone who has a passion for ministry in any of these areas.

Church Growth and Development Report – See Annual Report. There are six new church starts at various stages of development. Daniel Erdman spoke about one of these new church starts meeting at Iglesia Congregacional Unida.

Cameron Trimble is coming in June to train an Assessment Group how to assess new church start leaders.

Presentation of Mark Clark, General Synod Nominee for Associate General Minister. Mark shared video depicting some of his childhood and pilgrimage. His challenged us to “Imagine how WE can change lives.”

Voting Session

Slate of Officers and Committee Nominees:

In response to the absence of a NM/TX representative on the Executive Board, Jonathan Kesler from First Christian Church, Las Cruces, NM, was nominated as the fifth Executive Committee Member-At-Large. A written ballot election was then held to determine whether Mr. Kesler or the previously nominated candidate, Bill Hughes, would be the nominee for this at-large slot. Mr. Kesler carried the election 114 to 14. The Nominating Report was then approved by Voice vote.

2012 Top Line Budget:

Moved and seconded to accept. Discussion – Concern was raised about churches making a commitment to OCWM which needs to be addressed by SWC. Youth Ministry staff person will be fulltime if the 2012 Top Line is adopted and OCWM pledges are forthcoming. Budget approved by Voice vote.

By Laws:

Moved and seconded to approve the Draft By Laws as written. Approved by Voice vote.

Santa Fe Resolution:

Moved and seconded to adopt the Santa Fe Resolution as written. An amendment was presented. Moved



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2011 Minutes (continued)

and seconded. A motion was made to terminate discussion on amendment. Carried. The amendment was carried by hand vote in favor. A motion was then made to table the Amended Resolution. Did not carry by hand vote. The Amended Resolution carried by hand vote in favor.

The United Church of Santa Fe concurred with the amendment but also stands by the facts that were deleted from the Resolution. They requested this statement be included in the minutes.

The Ackleys of Ackley Consulting Group offered to do fundraising for the Conference without change to work with a volunteer committee group to raise funds for the Youth Ministry position.

Moderator Brendan Mahoney passed the gavel to new Moderator, Lee Milligan.

John Dorhauer held a service of **Installation**

An invitation was extended by the Rev Randy Mayer for the 2012 SWC Annual Meeting to be hosted by Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita.

Gifts of a gavel, plaque and kaleidoscope were presented to Brendan Mahoney.

Thank yous were given.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.

Jo Ann Vredenburg
Secretary pro tem



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2011 Minutes (continued)

AMENDED RESOLUTION FROM UNITED CHURCH OF SANTE FE CONCERNING FUNDRAISERS

Summary:

To request that future fundraisers of the Southwest Conference demonstrate:

- a. an awareness of our responsibility to care for God's creation, especially the deserts in which the Conference is located.
- b. a wise use of the Southwest region's resources, particularly water,
- c. and a commitment to the inclusivity of all persons.

WHEREAS our Biblical faith identifies the desert as a sacred place of dreams and visions, where Hagar heard the voice of God, Jacob saw a ladder of angels, the Hebrew people were fashioned for freedom and Jesus himself was comforted by angels, and

WHEREAS that same faith calls us to care for creation and to love this world as our Creator God Loves it; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Santa Fe strongly supports both youth and outdoor ministries, as witnessed by the congregation's long-standing commitment to youth and young adult Programming on both a local and conference level; our gathering of pledges for camperships for this summer's camps; our 30-year history of caring for creation; and our Whole Earth Covenant; And WHEREAS we also support the United Church of Christ's long-standing commitment to the "integrity of creation, justice and peace;" and

WHEREAS an important part of youth and outdoor ministry in the Southwest is education for all ages in caring for God's creation; learning to live as good stewards of the earth, and conserving the unique life and landscape of the desert; and

WHEREAS we want future generations of youth, children and adults in the Southwest to be able to enjoy the beauty and faith lessons of the desert; and

WHEREAS desert is defined as less than 10 inches of water a year and therefore water conservation is central to sustainable life throughout the Southwest;

THEREFORE the United Church of Santa Fe asks that the Southwest Conference adopt a policy that future fundraisers for any cause, but especially those supporting "youth and outdoor ministries" be examples of caring for the outdoors, be environmentally sound; show a commitment to sustaining life in the desert; and be inclusive of as many and diverse people as possible;

FURTHER, the United Church of Santa Fe asks that the Southwest Conference adopt a "Whole Earth Covenant" that commits us to being good stewards of God's creation in all aspects of our life together and that the Conference also encourage local churches to adopt similar covenants so that Future generations can not only live on this good earth but can also experience God's presence in the beauty and power of this Southwest landscape. A copy of the United Church of Santa Fe's Whole Earth Covenant is attached as an example.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2011 Minutes *(continued)*

United Church of Santa Fe Whole Earth Covenant (Adopted June 21, 2009)

Included in the founding Covenant of the United Church of Santa Fe is this pledge: "We endeavor to live in harmony with all creation as stewards of the earth." In keeping with this, and in the face of a changed world, we propose this Whole Earth Covenant.

We live and move and have our being in God, Creator of the cosmos.

God's creation is seamless. It births and sustains all life, together.

The lesson of creation's seamlessness is clear: planetary health is primary, human well-being is derivative. If the rest of nature does not thrive, neither do we.

Yet now we are altering the conditions for life as we know and cherish it. The same achievements that have taken some across the threshold of abundance have brought much life to the brink of ruination. We are at a turning point of our own making and the future of Earth's community of life is uncertain.

Accelerated climate change increases planetary uncertainty. Yet Christian faith prepares us for an uncertain world. Forged in turbulent times, Christian faith has again and again sustained and renewed people of many cultures, races, and regions amidst uncertainty and danger. As we practice vigilance to emerging needs Christian faith may call us to even more radical action than we presently envision.

Signs of peril are also tests of faith. The immensity and uncertainty pertaining to climate change and the eco-crisis dare not sever bonds between persons or with the rest of life. Solidarity and justice are imperatives. This means that the moral and spiritual climate is as vital to sustainability as the physical climate is cause for concern and sometimes despair.

In sum, God calls us to dedicate ourselves anew to an Earth-honoring faith.

Accordingly, we commit ourselves to the following actions:

As a Congregation:

- Develop through worship, education and our interpretation of Christian traditions, a spirituality that reflects our home in the desert and our respect for all of creation in all its diversity. We learn from the desert, its peoples and their heritage; and we celebrate its life.
- Model institutional practices that sustain and restore resources. We will be vigilant to emerging needs and challenge ourselves to continually seek deeper and more effective responses.
- Promote justice for humanity and for the rest of creation through education and outreach to the wider community and through support of governmental laws and policies that insure economic and ecological security. Peace and justice to creation, as well as in creation, is the extension of our ongoing commitments as a community of faith and as leaders in the wider Christian community.

As Individuals:

- Deepen our spiritual awareness of the sacredness of all creation and of God's call to us to live in harmony with the natural world of which we are a part.
- Change our lifestyle and consumption patterns to become more responsible guardians of God's creation, which sustains us and which we hold in trust for future generations.
- Engage the issues threatening our planet while understanding the limits of our comprehension in the face of the complexities of both the problems and their solutions.
- Recognize that as desert dwellers we have a special responsibility to protect its delicate ecosystems, and not least, to wisely use water which is precious to all life.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Conference Minister Report

In this report, I want to do three things. In reflecting on the year that has transpired since last we met, I hope to share with you what I think were the most pressing concerns. I also want to name what I think were the successes of the last year. And I want to offer what I think are the focus areas as we move forward into a new time.

Pressing Concerns

The list of concerns will include the following: churches that continue to feel threatened by a lingering financial crisis; a Conference budget that is both clearly affected by the extent to which the lingering financial crisis impacts our local churches and has, in the last three years, been cut about as deeply as it can be; a youth program that has historically been one of the strengths of the Conference but which is severely impacted by a lack of financial support from the churches of the Conference.

It has now been a three-year trend that has seen churches in the Conference cut their funding to us because of the financial realities they are facing. There are certainly exceptions, but the cuts that our churches have faced since December of 2009 are being passed on to the Conference. Attempts to fund-raise outside of the standard collecting we do through OCWM have proven modestly successful.

It is now apparent that the health of middle judicatories is going to depend on a combination of thinking outside the box to resource more effectively and efficiently the needs of our local churches and of being much savvier about fund development. While we will never fully abandon OCWM as a vital resource, we can no longer assume that it is the only way we fund our mission. It may soon no longer be the primary way we fund it.

The Board two years ago made a commitment to function with a balanced budget. We have yet to fail to honor that commitment, but every dollar cut means a loss in services. Two years ago, we lost our Communications Director. In 2011, we lost our Youth and Outdoor Ministry coordinator (more on that to come). The balancing of the budget has come at a price. We are not sure how much more can be cut before essential tasks are compromised. Critical reserve accounts are going to stabilize us for the foreseeable future, but long-term health will depend on creating new revenue streams.

A single fund-raising event held on one-day in May raised enough money to fund the five months we had our Youth Coordinator last year. The Board at that time made a critical decision not to hire another Coordinator until two essential tasks could be completed. The first would be to evaluate our programming and redefine the purpose and mission of our Youth/Young Adult programming. The second would be to strategize about raising the funds needed to hire a Coordinator, since those funds are no longer in the budget.

We agreed that events already on the calendar would continue if we could find a volunteer to plan and execute them. Volunteers were found. Two events were planned. One was cancelled due to lack of interest and low registration. The second was successful, thanks to the help of key leaders from Church of the Beatitudes and a functioning Youth Council. However, when that event was completed, the Board voted to terminate all youth activities in the Conference (except Camp) until such time as a Coordinator could be hired. Emerging concerns around liability exposure prompted this decision.

Money is being put in the budget to hire a Camp Director and Assistant Director, and because of that we anticipate completing again what remains one of our most successful endeavors: our two weeks of Church Camp.

Those are the areas of concern.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Conference Minister Report (continued)

The Year's Successes

The successes of the year will include the following: the restructure of the Conference; Video-Bridging; a wide array of responses/actions/advocacy around justice matters; two emerging new church plants; one successful church closing; the Lay Academy; the Installation of a child of the Conference as a member of the Collegium.

At last year's annual meeting, delegates voted on a restructure plan that would dramatically alter what had been our standing operating procedures. Within two hours of the first Executive Board meeting, we were ready to pronounce the new structure a success. In that meeting, items that had been on the Conference agenda for years were acted upon in responsible ways.

Two critical decisions that were made, and that could have a deep impact on the Conference, included signing a contract to list the sale of the ten acres of land in Surprise and to put a bid on a piece of property into which we could move our offices. Neither of those actions would result in immediate results. Since that day we had to write a second contract with a new agent for the Surprise land. We continue to pursue a contract on the short sale of a building that we hope to move into in May with the Disciples, and for which we have secured funding through the Cornerstone Fund (more on the building later).

Both the Executive Board and the Mission Planning Board have established early foundational practices that center us in our mission. We have laminated posters of both our Conference Mission statement and the Core Values of the United Church of Christ. Before either Board makes each decision, the Moderator pauses to ask how such a decision will help us live out our call to embody God's unconditional justice and love. We open every meeting with a time of devotion, and close every meeting with time to reflect on a critical issue for the church in our time.

At the close of the first Mission Planning Board, one of the local church delegates shared with some pride how much had changed as a result of the structure, and how honored he was to be a part of what felt like an historic moment and a new day in the Southwest Conference. The two fully functioning Boards are learning how to relate covenantally, responsively, and responsibly to one another. I am pleased by their commitment to this new way of being.

There are challenges to operating in this new way of being. We realize we have to more fully utilize our local church representatives as a means of more effectively communicating emerging wider church realities to the local churches.

While three functioning Ministry Teams are now identified, and all have met at least once since the establishment of the new structure - there is work to be done to bring each Ministry Team to a more full and functional capacity. This will need direct attention in the next year.

The three teams are: The Financial Development Ministry Team, co-coordinated by Nancy and Curt Ackley; the Church Growth and Development Ministry Team coordinated by Rock Fremont; and the Justice and Witness Ministry Team coordinated by Lauri Hasler.

The Lay Academy finished its first year. The Executive Board assigned two of its members to complete a full evaluation of that year before committing to a second year. Their 12-page report and list of critical recommendations led to the creation of a Lay Academy Task Force, the complete re-hauling of our operational assumptions and procedures, and a renewed commitment to building an Academy of which we can be proud.

Those who participated felt their experiences were meaningful. We finished the pilot year with every dollar given to fund this program fully intact - in other words, the program was self-sustaining in its first year. The Academy will begin again in the fall of this year, and a three-year curriculum will soon be announced.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Conference Minister Report (continued)

With a grant from the Essential Conference Ministry fund, the Southwest Conference became the first Conference to partner with our National offices to create a video bridge. Using state of the art technology, the Conference established in the first year a video bridge between Phoenix and Northern New Mexico (Albuquerque site at Church of the Good Shepherd). We have used that numerous times now for COCAM interviews, meetings of Ministry Teams, and consultations with local churches.

Orders have been placed and funding from the National Offices renewed for three more units, which will enable us now to also connect by video bridge Northern Arizona (Sedona site at Church of the Red Rocks), Southern Arizona (Tucson site at Casas Adobes), and Southern New Mexico/El Paso (Las Cruces site at First Christian United Church of Christ). We are committed to this technology as a means of dramatically reducing travel costs, dramatically improving our ability to build critical relationships with our covenant partners spread out over a wide geography, and dramatically altering our carbon footprint.

At every level of the Conference (local church members, clergy, church boards, Conference Boards, Conference Minister), the United Church of Christ in the Southwest upholds its long held reputation as a leader in justice advocacy.

Randy Mayer led a delegation of Conference Ministers and National Leaders on a border awareness week in response to the passage of SB 1070. Our commitment to the boycott of Arizona, along with a host of others, resulted in three bills in AZ that being defeated that surely would have passed otherwise; and the successful recall vote of State Senator Russell Pierce.

No Longer Silent clergy continue to be a leading advocate and voice for LGBT justice. Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona has joined the growing list of Open and Affirming churches in the Southwest Conference. I continue to be present at key events, speak at every opportunity, and write about the critical justice issues of our time, and am deeply appreciative of the support I hear and receive from the covenant partners when I do. I was not used to that in other places I have served.

Although many conversations have been held with potential new church leaders, there are two new church plants active in the Conference. One is Footsteps UCC, led by the Rev. Jeffrey Dirrim and the other is Not Yo Mama's Church led by the Rev. Jaci Meade Scott. Each of these new churches is emerging without a template – and each believes that its vision for what a church will look like will challenge some of our assumptions about what a church is and does. There is no underestimating how difficult the pathways will be for these two settings – but each is showing early signs of hope and success.

It may come as a surprise that I list as one of our successes the closing of a church, but what First Congregational Tucson and its leaders did in their last days serves as a model and template for what could soon be a number of other churches reaching that point on their own life cycle. They prayerfully considered what it would mean to honor the legacy of those who established that church, and knew that by their closing they could bring new life and new hope to another setting that had yet to be conceived. Their covenant, formed with the Southwest Conference, was to close, sell their assets, and dedicate the bulk of their resources to funding the creation of a new community of faith.

As a Conference, we now bear the responsibility of honoring that covenant and participating in the strategic development of a new and emergent community of faith.

I can't tell you how proud I am on our behalf every time I see our beloved Mark Clark speak as a leader in the United Church of Christ. We are wise to celebrate his gifted leadership, and the ways in which that gift was honed here in the Southwest Conference.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Conference Minister Report *(continued)*

Moving Forward, our Focus Areas

My last words will be about our future.

Two years ago, we heard Cameron Trimble say that if we were to be successful with our new church plants, we would focus not on location but on leadership. It is fast becoming evident that the tools that seminaries and churches have relied on to prepare pastors as effective leaders and equip them for their calling are no longer meeting the needs of a changing world and church. Adaptive behaviors are critical, and identifying both key leaders and key training resources for them is imperative.

A key piece of the Board's decision to bid on the property we hope soon to move into was that the building would give us an incubation space, a laboratory, or a play space for creative and entrepreneurial leaders.

We are imagining that the Southwest Conference will be recognized as a catalyst for leadership development. Conversations with both the local chapter of the Center for Progressive Leadership and the internationally recognized Center for Leadership Studies are being worked through as we speak, and approved of by our Executive Board.

It is our hope that soon we will be able to announce the kinds of strategies that will lay the groundwork for a future in which new leadership emerges, leadership with the potential to perpetuate not our institutional identity, but our missional calling.

Our new passion must include a means by which we preserve not our buildings, but our unique perspective on the gospel: a perspective that values a continuing testament, an extravagant welcome, and transformed lives.

John Dorhauer
Conference Minister



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Moderator's Message

OK. If it hasn't happened to you by now, it soon will: you're going to get tired of hearing about this past year being filled with 'transition.' We expended a lot of effort and energy in transition to a new organizational structure under the new By-laws. This meant that leadership of the Conference had to make a transition from having a large Executive Committee to a smaller, more flexible Executive Board meeting more often. In addition, the leadership had to transition to incorporating a Mission Planning Board with representation from every one of our Conference's covenant partners (which means not only the congregations in the Conference, but other entities as well, as you'll hear about elsewhere). In the midst of this we began a transition from renting space at the Interchurch Center to negotiating the purchase of our own building. Yes, this has been a year of transition.

But transitions, besides being the occasions of change, are the places where we engage the future, and that is what your leadership has begun to do. The new structure is already helping us engage the realities of the present in a way that positions us to prosper in the future. The best evidence of this is the acquisition of video-conferencing equipment to connect more easily in this geographically huge Conference, and the identification of and pursuit of the property on Sheridan Street. However, as they say on all those late-night television commercials, "But wait, there's more!"

We are engaging the future that is unfolding before us as we discern God's call to us in the area of youth ministry. We continue to engage the future as we develop the Mission Planning Board and its function in the life of our Conference. We engage the future as we build up our Justice and Witness tables, utilizing and nurturing the strengths and passions of our people here in the Southwest Conference. This is all about the future, about the justice and reconciliation and compassion that God deeply desires that we embody in this place and time.

It has been my privilege and honor to be present and active with the leadership of this Conference in this time of transition, and I look forward to the future and all the blessings and adventures it brings.

O Lord, here we are, your servants. May it be with us according to your Word.
Amen.

Lee Milligan
Moderator



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Committee on Church and Ministry Report

(Actions Taken April 2011 – April 2012)

Committee Members:

- Rev. Dr. Donna Cavedon, Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona, AZ, Chairperson
- Rev. Dr. Dosia Carlson, Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, AZ
- Mr. Dan Mullen, Shepherd of the Hills UCC, Phoenix, AZ
- Ms. Lisa Sampson, Scottsdale Congregational Church, Scottsdale, AZ
- Ms. Lisa Roger, First Congregational Church, Phoenix, AZ
- Mr. Michael Holmberg, Valley Community Church, Silver City, NM
- Rev. Dr. Abigail Atkins, Church of the Palms, Sun City, AZ
- Rev. Bill Ingraham, Church of the Good Shepherd, Albuquerque, NM
- Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi, Casas Adobes UCC, Tucson, AZ
- Pastor Jessie Sustaita, Iglesia Congregacional La Trinidad, El Paso, TX
- Mr. Pete Norum, First Congregational Church, Prescott, AZ
- Mr. Larry Trent, Rincon Congregational Church, Tucson, AZ
- Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, SWC Conference Staff
- Ms. Barbara Decker, SWC Conference Staff

Report from the Chairperson of COCAM, Donna Cavedon:

Activity of the Committee on Church and Ministry has been intense this past year. Statistics alone cannot tell the full story, but by looking over the data below, one gets a strong sense of the enormity of the work that comes before COCAM in the authorizing and oversight of UCC ministers.

The committee is made up of a dedicated group of lay and clergy who find this work to be challenging as well as rewarding. The Committee on Church and Ministry is often the link between the local church and the Southwest Conference for a variety of reasons. Some of these challenges come in the form of a complaint to the Committee, which may trigger a long and difficult fitness review process.

Another reason COCAM may get involved with the local church is when an individual member believes he or she might have a call to ministry – ordained, commissioned or licensed. When a person feels called to ordained ministry, the local church supports that member through a discernment process that is important to the individual as well as the Committee. Ordination is the last step in that lengthy process – the end of one journey and the beginning of another. Watching a person in discernment flourish and grow is a very rewarding time for the committee.

Strengthening the ties between local churches and the Southwest Conference is a positive aspect of the work of the Committee on Church and Ministry. COCAM members have been privileged this past year to participate in local church meetings and services as a visible sign of the covenantal relationship between the churches and the conference.

COCAM acted on behalf of the Southwest Conference and the wider church in the following actions:

I. Transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing from the Southwest Conference:

- Kenneth Worthman to Florida Conference (Ken passed away a month later.)
- Jeremy Lopez to the Western Association, New York Conference
- Katharine Harts to the Northern California/Nevada Conference
- Fletch Wideman to the Metropolitan Denver Association, Rocky Mountain Conference

II. Transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing to the Southwest Conference:

- Carl Mohr from Northeastern Association, Rocky Mountain Conference
- Sharon Littrell from Central Association, Penn Central Conference
- J. Matthew Smith from Pacific Northwest Conference
- Tim Mac Jones from Northeastern Association, Texas Conference



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

COCAM Report (continued)

III. *Granted Dual Ministerial Standing:*

Doyle Burbank-Williams, United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ
(Covenant and installation recorded in 2011 report.)

IV. *Persons in Discernment*

- Marianne Long was taken into discernment for ordination at the request of Church of the Beatitudes. She ended the process after six months at her own request.
- Teresa "Tess" Cowen-Jones was taken into discernment for ordination at the request of Rincon Congregational Church.
- James Crary was taken into discernment for ordination at the request of Scottsdale Congregational Church after COCAM determined that his master's degree is equivalent to an MDiv.
- Lois Gray was taken into discernment for ordination at the request of St. Paul's UCC.
- Other persons continuing in discernment are Andria Davis, Kelly Kahlstrom, Lorraine Cenicerros, Michele Mellott, Debby Stinton, and James McCaffrey

V. *Ecclesiastical Councils*

COCAM Approved for Ecclesiastical Council for Ordination

- Judy Green-Davis; outcome of EC: approved pending a call
- Josh Whistler; outcome of EC; approved pending a call
- Brian Gruhn; outcome of EC: approved pending a call *
- Chris Hinkle; outcome of EC: approved pending a call
- Beth Frigard; outcome of EC: approved pending a call

COCAM Approved for Ecclesiastical Council for Privilege of Call (POC)

- Alan Joplin; outcome of EC: approved for POC; COCAM terminated 4 months later for cause
- Ken Wells; outcome of EC: approved for POC
- Alberta Wallace; outcome of EC: approved for POC *
- Jaci Meade Scott; previously approved for POC, COCAM extended for one year 10.13.11

COCAM Approved for Ecclesiastical Council for Commissioning

- Mark Clark; outcome of EC: approved for ministry of administration at the national UCC
- Nancy Ackley; approved for EC for ministry of financial development in church settings, Date TBD *
- Susan Aurich; approved for EC for ministry of congregational care, Date TBD *

VI. *Ordinations*

- Teresa Blythe was authorized as an ordained minister at Casas Adobes Congregational Church, Tucson, AZ. Her 4-way covenant includes the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson.
- Noel Andersen was authorized as an ordained minister at The Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita, AZ. His 4-way covenant includes Church World Service, Washington, D.C.
- Josh Whistler was authorized as an ordained minister at Shepherd of the Hills, Phoenix, AZ. His call is chaplain at the Colorado Children's Hospital in Denver, CO. *

VII. *Licensing*

- Alberta Wallace licensed for one year as pastor of Yuma UCC to assist Rev. Stacy Richards
- Luis Gonzalez' license renewed for another year as pastor TOX Ministries, Phoenix, AZ
- Diane Schrecengost's license renewed for another year as Assistant Pastor/Director of Care Ministries at Desert Garden UCC, Sun City West, AZ
- Josh Whistler's license renewed for another year to serve as resident chaplain at the Children's Hospital and at University of Colorado Hospital



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

COCAM Report (continued)

- Jessie Sustaita's license renewed for another year as pastor of Iglesia Congregacional la Trinidad in El Paso, TX
- Jarrett Maupin licensed for one year as pastor of Liberty Church, Phoenix, AZ; terminated when church disbanded
- Ilai Tupuola licensed for one year as pastor of First Samoan Congregational Christian Church in AZ, UCC, Phoenix, AZ
- Judy Green-Davis licensed for one year as Assistant Pastor at First Congregational Church, Phoenix, AZ
- Jane Cheek's license renewed for another year as pastor of First Congregational Church, Prescott, AZ

VIII. 3-Way Covenants

- Beth Johnson with Shepherd of the Hills, Phoenix, AZ, and SWC
- J. Matthew Smith with Valley Community Church, Silver City, NM, and SWC
- Sharon Littrell with St. Paul's UCC, Rio Rancho, NM, and SWC
- Noel Andersen with The Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita, AZ, and SWC
- Theresa Stirling with Congregational Church of the Valley, Scottsdale, AZ, and SWC
- Gloria Smith with Encanto Community Church, Phoenix, AZ, and SWC *

IX. 4-Way Covenants

- Tina Campbell with Scottsdale Congregational UCC, Cornerstone Hospice, and SWC
- Lynn Holloway with Church of the Beatitudes, Cornerstone Hospice, and SWC
- Lynn Holloway with Church of the Beatitudes, INSPIRIS Hospice, and SWC
- Teresa Blythe with Redemptorist Renewal Center at Picture Rocks, Casas Adobes Congregational UCC, and SWC
- Noel Andersen with Church World Service in Washington D.C., The Good Shepherd UCC, and the SWC

X. Installations

- Diane Thomas as pastor of Faith United Community church, Dewey, AZ
- Donna Cavedon as assistant pastor of the Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona, AZ
- J. Matthew Smith as pastor of Valley Community Church, Silver City, NM
- Sharon Littrell as pastor of St. Paul's UCC, Rio Rancho, NM

XI. Placed on Leave of Absence

- Dave Jernigan granted a leave of absence for one year; dropped when he retired
- David Weaver granted second year leave of absence
- Pat Slentz granted third year leave of absence
- Gary Reyes granted fifth year leave of absence
- Dana Bender granted second year leave of absence
- Kyle Kneen granted second year leave of absence
- Karen Negronida did not renew leave of absence because she retired

XII. Ordained Ministerial Standing (OMS) Terminated

- The OMS of Rev. Carol Creitz was terminated without prejudice at her request
- The OMS of Rev. Bruce Turner was terminated without prejudice at his request
- The OMS of Rev. Laura Adelia was terminated when she was ordained in the Episcopal Church

XIII. Church Actions

- Service of closure for First Congregational Church, Tucson, AZ (6.11.11)
- Reported to national that Desert Surprise had ceased to function as a worshipping congregation. (They are still incorporated) (5.3.11)



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

COCAM Report (continued)

- Received the new church start, Liberty Church, in care of the Conference; later reported that Liberty Church had dissolved. (8.11.11)

XIV. Other Actions and Activities

- COCAM conducted boundary training sessions for UCC clergy.
- COCAM recommends to the Annual Meeting the approval of the affiliation of the Marshallese Ministry of Tucson with the SWC. *
- COCAM conducted two situational support consultations.
- COCAM conducted three fitness reviews; referred one fitness review to another conference. Two reviews are on-going, two reviews concluded with no action.
- COCAM established two new policies:
 - The committee established a policy of retirement boundary training within the first three years of retirement. Current retirees who have taken boundary training in retirement are exempted and those retirees who engage in active call will be required to take standard boundary training during the duration of the call within the first twelve months. A course will be developed for retirees.
 - All authorized ministers – Ordained, Commissioned, and Licensed – in the Southwest Conference will need a criminal background check, a self-disclosure form written by the SWC based on the national profile form, and a psych evaluation as part of the authorization process.

XV. Ordination Anniversaries

60 Years:

The Rev. John Hollowell
The Rev. Carl Mohr
The Rev. Howard Schenk

50 Years:

The Rev. Robert Bradstreet
The Rev. Ernest Dunn
The Rev. Henry Hansen
The Rev. Ray Plumlee
The Rev. James Rabb
The Rev. Francis Rath
The Rev. Rudolph Schnabel

25 Years:

The Rev. Karen MacDonald

XVI. Deaths

The Rev. Dale Doverspike died April 12, 2011 in Tennessee.
The Rev. Barbara Henderson died July 3, 2011, in Los Alamos, NM.
The Rev. Kenneth Worthman died June 8, 2011. (Standing in Florida Conference)

* Starred items are expected to happen before the Annual Meeting.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Justice Witness Committee

Justice and Witness issues are all around us and in September a group of people got together to discuss the issues. We began with five tables: Immigration, Environment, Widening the Welcome, Prison, and LGBTQ. These five tables are all of great importance but we needed to prioritize what issues to address.

John contacted me because of my interest in Justice and Witness Ministry and asked if I would facilitate the JWM Team. Because I feel called to this ministry how could I say no.

In March of this year we gathered together with some previous members of the team and also some new members to begin our work. Those from the team who were unable to attend were sent the information from this meeting as we are now a bigger group. At this meeting we prioritized the tables and narrowed down to three. John presented our work to the Mission Planning Board and they loved what we did and thought it would be a good idea to have the delegates at the Annual Meeting discuss and decide on the issues of focus because this would strengthen the Conference wide commitment and would place the ownership firmly in their hands. We will meet again after the Annual Meeting.

On the National level, we needed a representative from the Southwest Conference for Justice and Witness Ministries and I offered to take that position. I will be working with the Covenantal Life Committee with emphasis being on Centro Romero in California. This is an immersion center for Education and Social Transformation.

I feel very blessed to be working with the local and national teams. There are exciting things happening that I will present at the Annual Meeting.

Blessings,

Lauri Hasler

Justice and Witness Ministries



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Partners in Education

Available to help local churches with ministries of education, the Southwest Conference Partners in Education are committed to assisting congregations plan and provide effective teaching ministries through workshops and consultations.

Each year the Partners respond to a number of requests from local churches regarding curriculum and other resources as well as have a presence at Annual Meeting.

Please feel free to contact me, if the Partners can be helpful to your congregation.
(Phone: 520 296-9222 or email larrywtrent@yahoo.com)

Larry W. Trent
Conference Coordinator, Partners in Education
Southwest Conference United Church of Christ.



Faith Practices: Worship, Learning and Serving for Vital Congregations

Giving and Receiving Hospitality

Create a community that welcomes all, especially those who are different from the mainstream of the current community.

Keeping Sabbath

Be intentional about rest, worship, and working for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

Living Stewardship

Live in harmony with others and the world, through relationships, liberation, grace, justice, peace, mutuality and material possessions.

Playing and Living Joyfully

Include God in your recreation and re-creation, doing justice and moving outside yourself into sharing one with another.

Giving Testimony and Witness

5) Giving Testimony and Witness

Recognize God's action in your life and find ways to express it meaningfully with others.

Encountering Scripture

Listen to what the sacred texts tell us about our common family story and the Christian community.

Coming Soon ... Praying and Making Ritual



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Stewardship Ministry Team Report

After a number of years absence, the SWC is re-forming and re-envisioning a Stewardship Team, with the emphasis on Stewardship as Ministry. Nancy Ackley, Dick Kenyon and Ron Ireland met in January to discuss the purposes for the Team. We agreed that the old assumptions of why and how the church is supported with time, talent and financial gifts are no longer working the way we wish they would. Something more than new “techniques” will be required if we are to have the resources that are necessary for financially healthy congregations and wider church.

Goals include:

- Shifting the culture around “stewardship” in local churches from that of an annual, unpleasant process to raise financial pledges to a year-round ministry that celebrates our abundance and sees our relationship with money and possessions as central to our faith.
- Effectively communicating the many ways in which the ministries and mission of the Conference and of each congregation are possible only with the generous support of the churches and the individuals who are members of the SWC family.
- Increasing understanding of what OCWM is and why we should care!
- Listening to the concerns of our churches, and responding in helpful ways to what they are saying they need.
- Offering workshops and training to pastors and congregational leaders in effective ways to integrate stewardship into the core ministry of the church.
- Networking with each other to share best practices for seeking annual support for the ongoing work of congregations.
- Assisting with special fundraising campaigns.

We are seeking those who have an interest in thinking about faith and money as connected to each other, and in following Jesus’ example of using this connection to deepen our faith and strengthen our capacity for ministry. Contact the Conference office, and let’s talk!

Nancy Ackley
Stewardship Ministry Team Chair



LET JUSTICE ROLL!



Lay Academy Report

The Lay Academy began in the Fall of 2010 and in its pilot year, five (5) sessions were conducted as retreat type seminars covering the following topics: Old Testament Foundations, Origins of Christian Beliefs, Covenant, Ethics and Ecumenism. The preliminary results of the pilot efforts yielded high praise by program participants and great enthusiasm to continue the program, which did break even financially, even in its initial efforts.

The Lay Academy now is being overseen by an Advisory Board, consisting of 5 people, 2 clergy and 3 lay, with representatives from the Executive and Mission Planning Boards.

The goals of the Program for the coming year are:

- Re-launch the Program in the Fall 2012.
- Develop the curriculum in advance with a view to a 3-year program.
- Market the program throughout the Conference.
- Partner with Conference Covenant Partners as hosts for a conference wide deployment strategy.
- Develop a self-sustaining financial model.
- Develop formal feedback protocols to ensure continuous improvement.

The Advisory Board, which just started at the end of January, is hard at work to develop the curriculum and prepare for a re-launch of the Program in the Fall.

Ecumenism



Origins of Christian Beliefs



Christian Ethics



Old Testament Foundation



Covenant



LET JUSTICE ROLL!



2011 Camp Report

The theme of camp 2011 was "Take Action" and that is what we did!

From Super Camp in Prescott, Arizona to Senior High Camp in Mimbres, New Mexico we embodied God's unconditional justice and love as we strived to imagine how we could carry our theme of "Taking Action" back to our homes, churches, schools and everyday life.

The work of the program staff was exceptional. These youth donated their time as they led the camps. There were 10 program staffers at Super Camp and 8 at Senior High Camp. They were Junior and Senior high students that "did" church by working together, planned the activities, led the activities, set up camp and cleaned up camp, did not sleep (much), cared for the campers, respected the counselors and deans, led prayers, put on skits, and then debriefed every night on where they met God as they did all this and where they hoped to meet God tomorrow.

The program staff WERE and continue to be AWESOME.

Then there were the deans, counselors and counselors in training who cared for, consoled, taught, listened, prompted, urged, prayed with, guided, got campers to sleep and got campers awake, shared their faith, got campers off the bus and got them back on the bus, made campers feel at home, helped youth to grow in ways they might be not wanting to grow, and supported and nurtured their co counselors and program staff. They are committed to this program and generous beyond belief in their leadership roles.

This is a group of young adults and youth leaders that deserve many awards.

We were blessed this year to have Dana Bender, Jay Bergstrom and Betsy Stirbens as co-directors! I don't think camp could have happened without them.

It was pure joy to work alongside all of them.

BUT most importantly there were the campers. Close to 75 youth at Super Camp and 30 youth at Senior High Camp attended.

They arrived at camp excited and maybe a little apprehensive. They jumped right in got with the theme of "Taking Action" by participating, singing, sharing, helping, eating (really good food), playing in the oh so wonderful outdoors, and forming new relationships that I am convinced will help sustain them as they grow and thrive in God's loving spirit. I personally believe we sent home changed campers. Changed for the better.
Camp is a growing edge for our youth.

Camp is a very unique experience. I encourage you to speak with any camper that attended. And I encourage you to support and perhaps consider joining us at camp this year!

Camp made a difference in everyone's life who participated, including mine.
Thanks be to God and to the churches and people who helped make camp happen!

Yours in Christ,
Michele Mellott



LET JUSTICE ROLL!



Beatitudes Campus

In the spirit of Christian hospitality, the Beatitudes Campus offers a continuum of housing and services to the aging, focused on our needs as we reach age 62 and greater. Our community sits on 22 acres in the heart of north central Phoenix, Arizona, and offers our resources as a member of the Southwest Conference of the UCC. Our roots extend back to our founding by the Reverend Dr. Culver H. Nelson, for whom our Administrative Center is named.

These days, a deepening recognition of our role in the Southwest Conference is blooming at the Beatitudes Campus. Through a formalized initiative we call the Ambassador Program, the Campus is increasing its outreach and support of UCC congregations throughout the Phoenix metro area, sharing our expertise, services and facilities. Over 10 area UCC congregations have participated in this program thus far, with key clergy staff attendance at informational planning lunches; this program seeks to establish a stronger collaborative bond -- supporting the spiritual lives of both campus residents and faith community congregants. We look for increasing opportunities to provide mission moments in UCC congregations, increasing awareness of our mission and our array of services.

Additionally, we recognize our call to serve all seniors, and have increased our outreach efforts to all groups, regardless of faith background, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

Spirituality is an integral part of Campus life. Our Senior VP of Spiritual Life, Reverend Peggy Roberts, sits at the executive level of Beatitudes Campus leadership, and leads a staff of three full-time chaplains. Multi-faceted spiritual programs, services and supports are offered to residents. Our work as a ministry of the Church of the Beatitudes provides an opportunity to collaborate with Beatitudes AgeLink to provide excellence in intergenerational child care.

A recent \$83 million redevelopment project has expanded the capacities of our Campus, with new accommodations, services and amenities. We encourage all to visit the Campus, and see firsthand the changes we've made. Here's a brief listing:

- 458 Independent Living Apartments, ranging in size from 400 to 1700 square feet.
- Home care supportive services offered through our Beatitudes at Home program - now available to seniors inside and outside our campus walls.
- 92 private studios in our on-site Assisted Living program, Plaza View.
- 29 residences in our new Early Memory Support program, the Virginia G. Piper Residences.
- Compassionate and innovative Skilled Nursing services in Long Term Care, Rehabilitation, and Advanced Dementia Care (Vermillion Cliffs).
- Best practice training in our Palliative Care for Advanced Dementia program.
- Outpatient therapy services available on-site through the Oasis program.

Although much is new, the strong sense of community at the Beatitudes Campus is as vital as ever. Our mission propels us toward new innovation in the field of aging services, ever mindful of our deep roots in the United Church of Christ.

Peggy Mullan, President and CEO

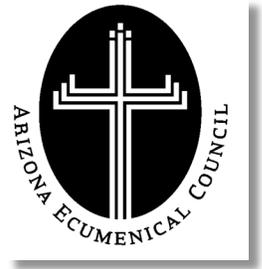
1610 West Glendale Avenue • Phoenix, Arizona 85021 • Phone: (602) 995-2611 • Fax: (602) 995-4854

A Ministry of Church of the Beatitudes

Affiliated with: Duet: Partners in Health & Aging and Beatitudes Agelink Intergenerational Child Development Center



LET JUSTICE ROLL!



Arizona Ecumenical Council Report

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

Friends and Colleagues,

The members of the council continue to do good work in order to "proclaim the mighty acts" of God. To be ecumenical is to be a witness that God's love for the world is the way of life for God's people. We want the world to be a place of peace and hope and good news despite the daily news. So to remind you of the AEC's work, our Earth Care Commission encourages a faithful response to the challenges of the earth's environment. They have helped launch the Arizona chapter of Interfaith Power and Light which helps congregations wisely use their energy. They have planned a conference (April 28) called "Desert Wisdom" at the Franciscan Renewal Center which will explore the spiritual dimension of living in the desert. They are committed to helping anyone who wishes to act on their understanding that we are to be stewards of the earth, not just users.

When members of our Theological Dialogue commission meet they don't just plan events, but they have lively theological discussions on a variety of topics, usually prompted by their planning for the Donohoe Forum. In 2011 the topic was "God after Darwin". A DVD of the talks by Dr. Philip Clayton has been produced and along with a follow-up session for all interested people to discuss the relationship of science to religion. In 2012 they are going to focus on the future of the church and have invited David Kinnaman of the Barna Institute to help us all understand some of the dynamics of why young people see their faith in a different way.

The members of our Public Policy Commission are keen observers of that is happening in our state and nation, especially for those people the Church has been called to look after: the poor, the children, the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the outcast, and the prisoner. They meet once a month to go over legislation, to write position papers, to network, to strategize. This last year they have especially worked on immigration, health care, prison reform, and the death penalty. It has been an honor to work with this group of committed people who bring their experience and their hearts to the task.

The Council has also been active in inter-religious activities, networking with the Jewish and Muslim communities to see how together we can do good for our cities and state. In March we held an inter-religious young adult conference on immigration called "Faith and the Fence" supported by the Vesper Society. We also are continuing our presentations in faith communities on the issue of Medicare and the new health care law, supported by St. Luke's Health Initiatives. Please contact our office for a date if you have not done so yet.

This year will also be a year of transition. First, our office is moving. The United Methodist Desert Southwest Annual Conference has generously offered the AEC office space in their building and we will be moving during the month of March. Then, at the end of June, I will retire from active ministry and a new Executive Director will assume this task. There will always be challenges to help the Church live into its God-given unity, but all along the way there are many people who encourage and support that effort. It has been a privilege to work for all the member churches and I thank you for the honor to serve God and all of you for these ten years.

God's peace be with you always,
Rev. Jan Olav Flaaten

1550 East Meadowbrook Avenue • Phoenix, Arizona 85014 • 602.468.3818
www.aecunity.net



LET JUSTICE ROLL!



New Mexico Conference of Churches

New Mexico Council of Churches Report

The New Mexico Conference of Churches is a community of Christians across the state. We work to build relationships across denominational borders in order to live into Jesus' prayer that we all may be one. The fruit of these relationships in Christ is a common mission to respond to those in need and to advocate on issues of importance.

The New Mexico Conference of Churches (NMCC) continued to work to build unity in the Body of Christ during 2011. 150 people from across the state met in Albuquerque at the end of October for NMCC's Statewide Gathering. The Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon was the keynote speaker and invited participants to continue the ecumenical endeavor by adapting to the changes in the church and the world. This year's gathering will be Saturday, October 27th. More information will be available soon.

The Conference established a new partnership with the NM Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice (NMFCIJ) this year. NMFCIJ trains volunteers to work with families struggling with immigration issues. By providing babysitting, transportation, and interpersonal support, the Coalition has made it possible for families to participate in legal information meetings and attend immigration hearings with family members.

NMCC continues to support the PEP program. (Partners Envisioning Progress) PEP seeks to positively impact the lives of at risk youth and families living in poverty. Through a Second Chance grant, PEP works with Central, Northern, and San Juan County affiliates of Big Brothers, Big Sisters to train and match mentors with youth who have been incarcerated.



Heeding Jesus' call to strive for unity, justice, peace and the integrity of creation, we are people of faith ministering to bring healing and hope to New Mexico.





LET JUSTICE ROLL!



Chapman University Report

Greetings to the good people of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ! I am sorry that I will not be able to join you in person this year.

Your Conference is very ably represented on the Chapman campus this year:

- Bryce Anderson, Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix
- Lindsey Kearns, Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix
- Annie Mellott, Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix
- C. J. Simonson, Scottsdale Congregational UCC
- Megan Stoner, Shepherd of the Hills Congregational UCC, Phoenix

Since 2010 Chapman University has been an official United Church of Christ school. Our campus of just over 6,500 students is a liberal arts and pre-professional school of high caliber. Founded by the Disciples, the school gives enormous support to shepherding UCC and Disciples students, in the following ways:

- UCC and Disciples preacher's kids and grandkids who show some financial need receive half tuition
- UCC Conference youth leaders receive half tuition if their family shows some financial need
- Every UCC and Disciples student who participates in the DOC student ministry receives a \$2,000 annual scholarship
- We have three full time staff to do leadership training, offer pastoral support and help students run this vibrant ministry.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Founders Day, March 23-24. Speaker was Amy-Jill Levine and preacher was Felix Carrion of the StillSpeaking Ministry of the United Church of Christ. Next year's Founders Day will feature Brian McLaren and will be held March 15-16, 2013. A promotional packet will be sent to every UCC church in the Conference during the first week of January. Please help us get the word out. Founders Day offers CEUs for clergy as well as an event for prospective students and parents.
- Sixteen of our 91 students have taken advantage of study abroad in this past year. Some of the places they have studied are South Africa, Fiji, Bulgaria, China and India. This campus is very committed to instilling a broad world vision and experience.
- We completed our 150th anniversary year, with many celebrations highlighting our church relatedness.
- We continue to excel at leadership training in the DOC program. All of our weekly worship services, our retreats each semester, our service projects are organized and led by our students.

If you are ever in the Orange County, California area (between LA and San Diego and 4 miles from Disneyland) we would love to let you know you are coming and give you a tour of this beautiful campus. Please let the students of your congregations know about our school and have them give us a call if they are coming for a tour. We are here to help.

Blessings,

Rev. Nancy Brink, Director of Church Relations

brink@chapman.edu / www.chapman.edu/churchrelations / 714.997.6760

Chapman University Office of Church Relations, One University Drive, Orange CA 92866

Ways to Stay in Touch

- You can follow us on Twitter at Chapman DOC. We will be tweeting during Founders Day.
- You can follow us on Facebook at Chapman University Disciples on Campus Alumni & Friends.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!



Pacific School of Religion Report

Pacific School of Religion and its President Riess Potterveld send greetings to the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.

A multi-denominational seminary of the United Church of Christ, PSR has been preparing bold leaders for historic and emerging faith communities since its founding in 1866. Our graduates are known for innovative ministries of compassion and justice around the globe—in urban and rural parishes, higher education, pastoral counseling, the arts, public policy, and many other fields. PSR is a member of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), a consortium of nine Bay Area seminaries.

This year, approximately 220 students are studying in a variety of degree programs at PSR. 27% of our students are affiliated with the UCC, and those students have an active cohort of UCC faculty, staff, Board members, and local clergy who surround and support them as they are formed for ministry. Annual tuition for a full-time student is approximately \$17,000.

Assistant Conference Minister Carol Barriger is on campus regularly to meet with students individually and as a group. Together with PSR's Professor Randi Walker and UCC ministers from local churches, the students gather regularly for "salons" offering theological conversation and workshops offering assistance in preparation for practical issues of ministry.

The Earl Lectures will return January 29-31, 2013 with the theme of *Faith and Family*.

This year we significantly increased our online and evening classes to allow for more flexible learning options for students. We also launched a new lay education program which is entirely online. Theological Education for Leadership (TEL) offers classes and seminars year round for clergy, laity, and spiritual seekers from diverse racial/ethnic communities. The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program has also been retooled to allow for more flexibility for students.

All across the country, seminary enrollment is declining, as traditional churches shrink and full-time positions for clergy are harder to find. While we have always been concerned about the level of student debt that PSR students graduate with, those concerns have taken on a new urgency as they have contributed to lower enrollment figures for several years now.

PSR has established a Commission on Strategic Direction to explore the future direction of the school. This commission will look at new models for financial operations, facilities planning, creative partnerships, and development of new markets for theological education at PSR. This movement is informed by the rapid global changes which are affecting the size, shape, and mission of Christian churches across the country, and motivated by the commitment of PSR's Board of Trustees, President, and Faculty to do all that is necessary to assure the long-term financial sustainability necessary to accomplish PSR's mission.

The challenges and opportunities faced by the seminary parallel those being faced by the church. We are together imagining new shapes for communities of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, and Pacific School of Religion takes seriously its mission of preparing leaders for those communities. The changes that we anticipate over the next few years will allow PSR build on its strong history of socially progressive Christianity and honor the generous support of its friends and donors.

We are grateful for PSR's long partnership with the United Church of Christ in the formation of progressive Christian leaders.

Kathi McShane
Vice President for Institutional Advancement



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Nominating Slate

CLASS	CONTINUING MEMBER	NOMINEE	ASSN	CHURCH	CITY
<u>MODERATOR</u>					
2013	Pastor Jane Cheek		NAZ	First Cong. UCC	Prescott
<u>MODERATOR-ELECT</u>					
2014		Cary Meister	SAZ	Yuma UCC	Yuma
<u>TREASURER</u>					
2014	Alan Cochrane		CAZ	Church of the Beatitudes	Phoenix
<u>SECRETARY</u>					
2013	Barbara Nordlund		CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale
<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u>					
2013		Rev. Randy Mayer	SAZ	Good Shepherd UCC	Sahuarita
	Rev. Jeffrey Dirrim		CAZ	Footsteps UCC	Phoenix
	Jonathan Kesler		SNM/EP	First Christian UCC/DOC	Las Cruces
2014		Rev. Paul Whitlock	CAZ	Desert Heritage	Mesa
		Judy Gilman	NNM	Ch. of the Good Shepherd	Albuquerque
<u>COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY- Section A</u>					
2013	Rev. Bill Ingraham		NNM	Ch. Of the Good Shepherd	Albuquerque
	Rev. Abigail Adkins		CAZ	Church of the Palms	Sun City
	Rev. Dosia Carlson		CAZ	Beatitudes	Phoenix
	Pastor Jessie Sustaita		SNMEP	La Trinidad	El Paso
2014	Pete Norum		NAZ	First Congregational UCC	Prescott
	Lisa Roger		CAZ	First Congregational UCC	Phoenix
	Dan Mullen		CAZ	Shepherd of the Hills	Phoenix
2015		David Huisjen	SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
		Rev. Tina Squire	SAZ	Community Christian	Tombstone
		Rev. Ken Heintzleman	CAZ	Shadow Rock	Phoenix
	Larry Trent		SAZ	Rincon UCC	Tucson
	Rev. Donna Cavedon		NAZ	Red Rocks	Sedona
<u>COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY- Section B</u>					
2013		Rev. Matt Smith	SNMEP	Valley Community	Silver City
		Margaret Douglas	SAZ	Oro Valley UCC	Oro Valley
2014		Rev Vernon Meyer	CAZ	Sun Lakes UCC	Sun Lakes
		Sandie Chapin	NNM	St. Paul's UCC	Rio Rancho
2015		Rev. Diane Thomas	NAZ	Faith Community	Dewey
		Mary Benin	CAZ	Shepherd of the Hills	Phoenix
<u>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</u>					
2013		Saul Sustaita	SNMEP	Iglesia La Trinidad	El Paso
		Rev. Sharon Littrell	NNM	St. Paul's	Rio Rancho
		Grace Bunker	SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
		Rev Linda Brady	CAZ	First Cong. (Crystal Lake)	Phoenix
		Donna Gentry	CAZ	Scottsdale Cong. UCC	Scottsdale
		Rev. Bob Carlson	NAZ	Red Rocks	Sedona
<u>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</u>					
2013	Patricia Dunn		NNM	St. Paul's	Rio Rancho
2014	Dave Stone		SAZ	Rincon	Tucson
2015		Andy Vera	SAZ	Church of the Painted Hills	Tucson
		Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams	CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Southwest Conference UCC Bylaw Resolutions *

From the Southwest Conference UCC Executive Board

1. Proposed By-Law Change to Article IV, Section C: Mission Planning Board/ Composition & Membership

Add paragraph 4. to read:

Any CHHSM agency operating within the boundaries of the Southwest Conference may elect one representative from their organization to serve on the Mission Planning Board.

2. Proposed By-Law Changes to Article 111, Section G: Responsibilities of the SWC/Committees

Paragraph 1 to be amended by changing the closing period to a comma and adding these words:

Sections A and B.

Title to Paragraph 9 amended to add a comma after the word Ministry, and these words at the end:

Section A – Pastoral Authorization

Paragraph 9, subsection a. to be replaced with the following:

a. The Conference shall elect to the Committee on Church and Ministry, Section A, twelve (12) members. There shall be at least four (4) lay members on the committee. There shall be at least two (2) members from the Central Arizona Association, and at least one from the other four Associations. Each Association shall be represented by at least one (1) clergy.

Paragraph 9, subsection b. to be replaced with the following:

b. The Committee on Church and Ministry, Section A, shall handle matters of ministerial authorization according to the policies, practices and recommendations of the United Church of Christ as well as its own rules, so long as they are consistent with those of the United Church of Christ. Terms of office shall be three (3) years. Terms shall be staggered such that members are elected in three (3) classes, each with four (4) members. One successive term is permitted. The Committee shall select its own chairperson annually.

Add Paragraph 10 with subsections a. and b. to read:

10. The Committee on Church and Ministry, Section B

a. The Conference shall elect to the Committee on Church and Ministry, Section B, six (6) members. There shall be three (3) lay members on the committee. There shall be at least two (2) members from the Central Arizona Association, and at least one from the other four Associations.

b. The Committee on Church and Ministry, Section B, shall handle matters of church standing and covenant relations according to the policies, practices and recommendations of the United Church of Christ as well as its own rules, so long as they are consistent with those of the United Church of Christ. Terms of office shall be three (3) years. Terms shall be staggered such that members are elected in three (3) classes, each with two (2) members. One successive term is permitted. The Committee shall select its own chairperson annually.

* Full sets of SWC Bylaws are available.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Toward Unified Governance Resolution

Synopsis of Single Governance

Message from John Dorhauer.

2011 General Synod delegates approved substantive UCC Constitutional and Bylaw changes. In order for those changes to go into effect, two-thirds of the Conferences must vote to approve them before the 2013 General Synod. We will be voting on them at our annual meeting. This is a straight up or down vote. We may not amend the document as it comes to us for approval.

The final proposal and additional information is available on the national UCC website.

Go to this link: <http://www.ucc.org/governance/>

Historical Timeline

July 2009

Delegates to the Twenty-seventh General Synod in Grand Rapids, Michigan adopted the Resolution Toward Unified Governance for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. This requested the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministry Boards to bring a proposal to the Twenty-eighth General Synod with changes in the Constitution and Bylaws necessary to begin implementation of a Unified Governance Structure.

The Executive Council appointed a Unified Governance Working Group with members from the Covenanted Ministry Boards, the Executive Council, Historically Under-Represented Groups, Seminaries, and other national bodies. The Working Group was charged to create a proposal for unified governance and deliver it to the Executive Council for preparation of implementing Constitution and Bylaw amendments for consideration by Delegates of the Twenty-eighth General Synod in Tampa, Florida.

Over the 2009-2011 Biennium

The Working Group met to fulfill its charge and created A Proposal for Unified Governance for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. Once the proposal was affirmed by the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministry Boards, a sub-committee of the Executive Council met with Church and Covenanted Ministry Board attorneys to prepare constitutional changes.

July 2011

Delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod considered the constitutional changes required to implement the proposal and approved the Unified Governance revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws.

The amendments combine the five existing governance boards into a unified governing structure, the 52-member United Church of Christ Board, diverse and skilled in varied ways to serve the life of the entire Church with principles of good governance.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Toward Unified Governance Resolution

Frequently Asked Questions

What is unified governance for the national setting?

While there will be 4 separately incorporated entities, the membership of each will be identical; thus *one group of people* will have the common responsibility of fiduciary oversight, fund development, and strategic planning rather than many. The United Church of Christ Board is directly accountable to the General Synod and the whole United Church of Christ. The responsibilities of the UCC Board as well as checks and balances are clearly defined in the proposed Constitution and Bylaws. (We currently have 4 Covenanted Ministry Boards and an Executive Council, five distinct entities guiding the national setting with the General Synod).

How does unified governance support mission? The mission of the United Church of Christ is discerned and pursued in multiple UCC settings and communities, individuals and churches, including the General Synod. Governance in the national setting enables coordinated planning and implementation to communicate and connect the mission. It also helps to allocate a responsible, faithful development and use of resources in service of God's mission with other settings of the Church. It is expected that a common board will be the most effective form of governance to embrace the challenges and creative opportunities the coming years will present to the United Church of Christ and the broader ecumenical community.

Are historical legacies and mandates safeguarded in the Constitution and Bylaws? Yes. Use of funds in accordance with donor intent is carefully outlined in the proposed Constitution and Bylaws. The Covenanted Ministries' attorneys have reviewed and collaborated on the proposed language and guidelines regarding historical mandates, investment decisions, and draw rates.

Is unified governance in synch with our polity? Yes! The local church is still the basic unit of the church, the General Synod is still the church gathered! Unified governance has been reviewed and affirmed in 2006, 2008, and 2010 by UCC polity and history consultations. (A Summary follows).

What happens to the corporations of the Covenanted Ministries we have now? The corporations of Wider Church, Justice and Witness, and Local Church Ministries will continue and each will hold its financial assets and its mandates. Executive Council will be changed to the United Church of Christ Board. The Office of General Ministries will not continue but its functions will belong to the United Church of Christ Board.

What is the Role of the Ministry Teams, are they Boards? They are advisory working groups making recommendations to the full board as all decision making is a function of the United Church of Christ Board.

Why is good governance and a smaller more diverse board important? A smaller board more effectively performs required functions using principles of good governance. Studies show that the larger the board is, the less effective it is. Principles of good governance include *strategic planning, resource development and stewardship, monitoring, and oversight*. These are vital for us to respond faithfully to God's call to ministry and mission. One common board charged with the overall responsibility for this function will enable the UCC to respond most effectively to that call while being accountable directly to the General Synod and to the whole Church continuously through multiple communication and reporting modes.

Is this bad news for small conferences? A conference minister from each region will serve on the board. There is also a conference-rotation provision for at-large members around how much time can pass without a conference serving. And the full board is called to serve the interests of the whole church, all board members, from rural, suburban, urban, intercultural and multiethnic, and of many skills, all are charged to serve the whole. We are not looking at tokens or slots, we are looking for diverse gifts and life experiences to serve all our diversity!

What are the diversity requirements of the board? The United Church of Christ Board shall have 52 members, all of whom are elected by the General Synod. 36 members serve in "at-large" positions, others are ex-officio. All members shall have voice and vote. The United Church of Christ Board will mark a diverse membership in keeping with the vision of



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Toward Unified Governance Resolution (continued)

the UCC as a multiracial, multicultural church which welcomes all. No less than half of the board must be persons of color, no less than half must be women, and no less than one-fifth must be persons under 30. All members will bring their particular and diverse life experience, expertise, wisdom, points of view, and faith to governing and all will be asked to represent and to serve the whole church with their gifts.

How are Board Members chosen? Explain the Nominating Committee, who is on it, and who may put forward names to be considered? The General Synod will elect most of the members of the Board, with the exception of a few who will serve by virtue of their particular office in the Church. The General Synod Nominating Committee will offer a slate of nominees for to the Synod, based upon the competencies and skills needed for an effective board, including diverse points of view and life experience from fund development to cultural competencies, and diversity that includes socioeconomic diversity. The Nominating Committee itself will be diverse, including members from conferences, historically underrepresented groups, and the Board itself. Anyone in the UCC may submit names to the Nominating Committee for consideration as potential board members.

UCC History and Polity Consultations on Unified Governance - A Summary

1. Three different consultations (2006, 2008, and 2010) affirmed that the single governance structure does not violate our covenantal polity and may allow us to be more faithful to who we are and the mission we are called to by God.
2. The proposed governance structure reflects a covenantal polity consistent with our principles and practices. Nothing in these principles and practices specify the size or number of entities with which the covenant is to be kept. In our history and that of our predecessor bodies, we have had many different configurations and numbers of decision-making bodies. But, the trajectory of that history is towards fewer and fewer decision-making bodies.
3. The consistent value and practice of the UCC and its predecessor bodies is concern first about the mission of the church in the world and for the sake of the world, not just for the sake of the church, and to an openness to the leading of the Spirit in each time and place. We are called to respond and adapt the church to follow the leading of the Spirit in the mission we are called to and not to maintain ourselves for the sake of keeping with that with which we are most familiar.
4. The role and authority of our leaders must be clearly articulated. Our historic understanding of church calls us to be clear about such matters for the sake of covenant and unity. When the role and authority of our leaders is unclear, it hampers our ability to act in mission to and for the world. We become bogged down on internal matters, less attentive to God's mission.
5. Unified governance is more faithful to who we are - one church. The legacies we are called to steward belong to the whole church, not to one particular part of the church. While efficiency is important, the most important thing is discernment of the Spirit's call and to have that done with one decision-making body opens the possibility for more effective and faithful discernment.
6. Transparency is a core value and the single governance proposal promotes this value with appropriate lines of responsibility and accountability.
7. Faithfulness to our past and history does not demand that we adhere to a particular structure or form. It demands that we respond in our day and time, faithful to discerning the mission before us. Our world is very different from even the one faced in 2000. We must respond differently to this new world. Our ancestors in faith shaped the structure of the church to meet the mission they understood they were called to and we must do the same. Faithfulness is in following in their footsteps to courageously go forward, making changes in the way we are structured in order to be good stewards and carry out God's mission that we are called to here and now.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Advocating for Justice in the Prison Industrial Complex

WHEREAS, the prophetic voice in Hebrew Scripture in Isaiah proclaims,

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners ...” (Isaiah 61:1);

WHEREAS, Jesus speaks of his mission and ministry,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free ...” (Luke 4: 18);

WHEREAS, we read instruction to Christian communities in 2 Corinthians 5:17,

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new" and in Hebrews 13:3 "remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured;"

WHEREAS, the U.S. has the highest rate of incarceration in the world and the number of people in the U.S. in the criminal justice system will soon surpass the number in higher education;

WHEREAS, spending on prisons and security now approaches our spending on national defense, although serious and violent crimes have dropped for the past decade;

WHEREAS, our nation's prison industrial complex now includes operation of prisons by private companies and Wall Street investment houses compete to underwrite private tax-exempt bonds while small rural communities increasingly look to the prison industry to replace lost farm-related and unskilled blue-collar jobs;

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona now incarcerates over 13% of its prisoners in private prisons ranking it 11th highest in the U.S. and is the national epicenter for incarcerating undocumented immigrants, Texas leads the nation in number of private prison beds, and New Mexico outsources the largest proportion of its inmate population to private corporations (43.8 %) in the nation;

WHEREAS, legislation has been proposed in the Arizona State Legislature to privatize 2000 prison beds;

WHEREAS, the Governors of 48 states, including those in our Southwest Conference UCC, have recently received letters from Corrections Corporation of America proposing the following:

“CCA (sic) is earmarking \$250 million for purchasing and managing government-owned corrections facilities. The program is a new opportunity for federal, state or local governments that are considering the benefits of partnership corrections. ... Physical requirements for facilities that would be eligible for purchase by the fund would include:

- A minimum rated occupancy of 1,000 beds;
- A structure age of no more than 25 years;
- A designation that the structure is suitable for immediate occupation or is already occupied by an inmate population; and
- An assurance by the agency partner that the agency has sufficient inmate population to maintain a minimum 90 percent occupancy rate over the term of the contract.”



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Advocating for Justice in the Prison Industrial Complex
(Continued)

WHEREAS, there exists a large body of research challenging claims of CCA and other private prison contractors of economic benefits and cost savings for states contracting to incarcerate prisoners in private prisons, for employment and economic benefits to communities where prisons are built, and questioning incentives for programs of rehabilitation where profits are generated for stock holders based on “occupancy” of prison beds;

WHEREAS, much contradictory evidence exists about the merits of prison labor especially as prison laborers diminish jobs for local community workers;

WHEREAS, the Eleventh General Synod of the UCC called for a moratorium on the construction of new prisons and jails and the Twenty-first General Synod of the UCC adopted the “Resolution: Prison Industrial Complex”;

WHEREAS, the church must speak with prophetic clarity about injustice that promotes violence rather than public safety and about profit-making from incarceration and human trafficking;

WHEREAS, the church must speak with a pastoral heart and presence to those families wounded by injustice;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ calls for each setting in our Conference to commit to study and learn about the nature and dynamics of the private prison industry in our regions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ authorizes agents of our Conference to advocate for justice in the prison industry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we examine our investments to ascertain our participation, if any, in those entities participating in the private prison industry.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2011 Church Contributions

5x5 #	Name	Address	Basic 5 x 5	One Great Hour/Sharing 5 x 5	Christmas Fund 5 x 5	Neighbors in Need 5 x 5	Strengthen the church 5 x 5	SW Mission Fund 7 x 7	Sow the Seed 7 x 7	Designated Appeals	Per Capita	Travel Pool
15	Iglesia Sin Fronteras	El Paso, TX 79901-2722	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	First Congl Church of Flagstaff	Flagstaff, AZ 86001	250.00	516.00	137.00	508.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	279.00	690.00	69.00
X 35	Good Shepherd UCC	Sahuarita, AZ 85629	33,739.26	5,959.00	1,587.00	1,789.11	841.50	0.00	0.00	2,240.00	2,700.00	300.00
50	Desert Heritage	Mesa, AZ 85203	600.00	1,033.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
X 60	United Churches Fellowship	Nogales, AZ 85628	1,000.00	57.00	132.00	63.00	36.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	380.00	38.00
X 70	Oro Valley UCC	Oro Valley, AZ 85704-7909	9,000.00	1,447.00	862.00	480.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	968.00	1,161.00	0.00
X 75	TOX Ministries	Phoenix, AZ 85069-9919	951.55	25.00	25.00	35.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80	Encanto Community Church	Phoenix, AZ 85007	4,383.76	560.00	404.00	345.00	0.00	1,022.14	0.00	1,100.80	262.78	71.00
X 90	First Congregational UCC	Phoenix, AZ 85004	11,500.00	1,391.67	416.00	139.00	307.00	0.00	0.00	1,527.00	4,300.00	430.00
100	South Mountain Community Church	Phoenix, AZ 85040	3,403.10	166.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.00	270.00	26.90
110	Church of the Beatitudes	Phoenix, AZ 85021	35,677.63	3,020.62	2,457.83	2,484.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	330.00	8,041.00	850.63
X 115	Shadow Rock UCC	Phoenix, AZ 85029	13,200.00	4,725.00	680.00	254.85	690.00	0.00	144.99	210.00	4,800.00	0.00
120	Shepherd of the Hills Congregational	Phoenix, AZ 85018	9,000.00	5,004.00	711.00	1,372.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	3,793.00	387.00
130	First Samoan Congl Christian Church in Az	Phoenix, AZ 85019	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	610.00	61.00
X 140	West Congregational Church	Phoenix, AZ 85031	780.00	95.00	176.00	1,226.11	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	40.00
X 150	First Congregational UCC	Prescott, AZ 86301	1,495.00	1,297.00	1,552.20	550.00	527.00	0.00	100.00	550.00	1,070.99	0.00
155	Faith United Community Church	Dewey, AZ 86327	100.00	235.00	492.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,443.00	370.00	0.00
X 157	Black Mountain Community	Scottsdale, AZ 85266	40.00	329.35	380.50	213.00	128.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	60.00
158	Congl Church of the Valley	Scottsdale, AZ 85259	7,054.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,370.00	850.50	63.75
X 160	Scottsdale Congregational UCC	Scottsdale, AZ 85251	14,043.00	885.00	727.00	649.00	67.00	2,900.00	0.00	2,502.00	1,330.00	0.00
170	The Church of the Red Rocks	Sedona, AZ 86336	19,720.00	5,882.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,495.00	5,851.50	650.17
180	Sierra Vista Community UCC	Sierra Vista, AZ 85635	350.00	2,034.00	423.00	260.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	100.00
185	Church of Palms	Sun City, AZ 85351	14,546.00	3,138.19	183.00	2,138.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	2,335.00	3,140.00	314.00
X 190	United Church of Sun City	Sun City, AZ 85351	8,004.00	2,305.00	972.00	2,291.00	330.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,072.00	312.00
193	Desert Garden United Church of Christ	Sun City West, AZ 85375	10,000.00	2,524.00	4,678.00	1,952.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	300.00
7x7 195	Sun Lakes United Church of Christ	Sun Lakes, AZ 85248	8,455.15	984.00	500.00	500.00	720.00	206.00	300.00	1,785.43	2,049.96	204.96
200	First Congregational Church	Tempe, AZ 85281	0.00	134.41	0.00	183.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	495.00	55.00
7x7 205	Desert Palm UCC	Tempe, AZ 85283	12,550.04	2,039.35	2,114.00	1,191.00	845.00	880.00	810.00	1,125.00	2,510.04	251.04
207	Marshallse Ministry UCC	Tempe, AZ 85281	25.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
210	Community Congl	Tombstone, AZ 85638	700.00	876.00	1,062.00	785.00	0.00	120.00	0.00	284.00	300.00	0.00
X 220	Casas Adobes Congl	Tucson, AZ 85704-4222	14,000.00	887.00	955.43	905.00	287.00	0.00	0.00	1,460.00	3,213.00	0.00
223	Church of the Painted Hills	Tucson, AZ 85745	4,401.25	1,282.09	0.00	732.00	308.00	50.00	99.75	670.00	1,100.00	0.00
230	First Congregational UCC	Tucson, AZ 85712	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
X 240	Rincon Congregational Church	Tucson, AZ 85711	14,500.00	3,257.00	2,300.00	1,473.00	1,412.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.00	3,000.00	0.00
245	Marshallse Ministry in Tucson	Tucson, AZ 85745	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
X 260	First Congregational UCC	Albuquerque, NM 87106	9,000.00	725.00	590.00	432.00	285.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	2,000.02	300.00
X 270	Church of the Good Shepherd	Albuquerque, NM 87122-2375	18,137.80	1,417.00	518.25	1,098.00	238.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	1,700.00	170.00
280	Iglesia Congregacional Unida	Albuquerque, NM 87102	900.50	55.00	0.00	53.00	0.00	267.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	37.79
290	United Church of Angel Fire	Angel Fire, NM 87710	822.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
308	First Christian, Las Cruces	Las Cruces, NM 88001	1,561.60	0.00	0.00	313.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	630.00	63.00
310	United Church of Los Alamos	Los Alamos, NM 87544	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
315	St. Paul's UCC	Rio Rancho, NM 87124	1,200.00	374.00	0.00	170.00	294.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	891.00	0.00
318	United Church of Santa Fe	Santa Fe, NM 87505	0.00	584.77	1,024.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,420.00	3,360.00	0.00
X 320	Valley Community Church	Silver City, NM 88061	2,075.00	460.00	271.00	200.00	330.00	315.00	0.00	375.00	450.00	45.00
X 325	Desert View UCC	El Paso, TX 79936-4240	921.98	277.00	311.00	241.00	205.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	440.01	44.01
330	Iglesia Congregacional la Trinidad	El Paso, TX 79905	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
X 400	Yuma UCC	Yuma, AZ 85366-2004	1,085.40	310.00	135.00	40.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	270.00	30.00
7x7 400	Footsteps	Phoenix, AZ 85016	211.03	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
7x7 400	Not Yo Mama's Church	Phoenix, AZ 85016	59.00	20.00	10.00	18.00	20.00	12.00	20.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
	Personal Contributions		250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,300.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	250.00
			292,993.80	52,101.45	26,796.21	28,083.07	8,306.50	9,282.14	26,559.74	25,752.23	70,781.80	5,549.25



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2013 Top Line Budget

2011 Final, 2012 Final Budget, and 2013 Top Line Budget for Southwest Conference UCC

Income	2010 Actual	2011 Budget	2011 Actual	Final 2012 Budget	2013 Top Line
OCWM (Pledged)	320,371	288,500	292,994	266,000	285,000
Per Capita (Pledged)	70,492	73,500	70,782	72,500	72,500
Annual Meeting	23,593	22,000	16,973	22,000	22,000
Interest (Banks, Conerstone, UCF)	895	1,000	866	1,000	1000
Undesignated Use/gifts to conference	13,255	15,000	7,799	15,000	15,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	0	3,700	3,690	0	0
Fundraisers	0	25,000	18,318	25,000	20,000
Strength Contribution	2,697	3,000	3,545	3,000	3000
Transfer from New Church Starts Reserve	0	10,000	0	10,000	10,000
Transfer from Undesignated General Fund	0	0	0	0	
Transfer from Youth ministries reserve	30,965	0		0	
Rental Income				7,000	12,000
Conference Income	462,268	441,700	414,967	421,500	440,500
Committees for Conference Ministries	11,738	9,200	4,747	7,750	7750
Conference Life and Ministries	35,961	37,168	27,945	36,300	36300
Church & Ministry Operations Programs	5,176	4,500	3,287	4,000	4000
National & Regional Expense	5,109	4,200	4,238	4,700	5200
Mission	95,975	88,075	89,713	79,050	83,800
Administration & Communication	29,326	39,700	37,078	41,450	42650
Building & Equipment Operation	27,518	26,500	24,851	35,400	37700
Called Ministerial Compensation & Benefits	105,060	107,221	105,558	108,705	113516
Office Staff Compensation & Benefits	142,097	125,136	111,653	104,067	109165
Conference Expenses	457,960	441,700	409,070	421,422	440081
Total Income Less Expenses	4,308	0	5,897	78	419



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2012 Budget

	2010 Actual	2011 Budget	2011 Actual	2012 Budget	Notes
Committees for Conference Ministries					
Church Growth & Development Committee	3,395	1,500	740	750	
Justice Witness Ministries Committee (Includes ONA & Border Task Force)	1,942	2,000	1301	750	
Youth Ministry Committee	362	500	39	250	
Youth Council	467	500	243	250	
Stewardship/Mission Interpretation	0	0	0	1000	
Mission Planning Board/Executive Board	5,200	4,200	1976	3500	
Financial Oversight & Endowment Committees	0	0	0	500	
Nominating Committee	0	0	383	250	
Personnel Committee	372	500	65	500	
Total	11,738	9,200	4,747	7,750	
Conference Life and Ministries					
Annual Meeting	16,534	17,000	13553	17000	
Clergy Retreat	0	0	0	0	
Conference Minister's Discretionary Fund	101	500	0	500	
Staff Development & Travel	448	500	44	500	
Conference Minister's Expenses	18,259	12,000	8001	10000	
Youth Ministry/Camp Travel	556	750	184	250	
Partners in Education	0	0	0	0	
Search & Call	63	255	0	250	
Contract Workers	0	6,163	6163	7800	Webmaster \$150/wk
Leadership Events/OWL	0	0			
Total	35,961	37,168	27,945	36,300	
Church & Ministry Operations Programs					
Committee on church & Ministry Meetings	4,307	3,500	3559	3500	
COCAM Issues/Training Boundary/Polity	869	1,000	-272	500	
Total	5,176	4,500	3,287	4,000	
National & Regional Expense					
Council of Conference Ministers (Dues)	1,109	1,200	1086	1200	
General Synod Reserve Expense	4,000	0	0	3500	
General Synod Expense (Actual)	0	3,000	3152	0	
Total	5,109	4,200	4,238	4,700	



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2012 Budget (continued)

	2010 Actual	2011 Budget	2011 Actual	2012 Budget	Notes
Mission					
National contribution (25% OCWM)	80,092	72,125	73248	66500	25% of OCWM
Campus Ministry/Conference Pledge	1,238	1,200	1200	1500	\$300 to 5 campuses
Pacific School Of Religion	375	250	250	250	
Arizona Ecumenical Council	6,000	6,000	6000	4500	
New Mexico Conference of Churches	4,500	4,500	4500	3000	
Ecumenical Delegates' Expense	270	500	1015	800	
Interchurch Resource Center	3,500	3,500	3500	2500	
WHEAT	0	0	0		
Total	95,975	88,075	89,713	79,050	
Administration & Communication					
Accountant Tax Preparation	300	300	300	300	
Accounting/Payroll Service	12,515	12,000	12000	12000	
Books for Office Use	147	150	90	150	
Miscellaneous	395	500	169	500	
Bank Fees	218	250	925	1000	
Audit Reserve Funding	0	2,000	2000	2000	
Office Supplies	2,880	3,500	2723	3000	
Postage	3,807	4,000	3170	4000	
Newsletter	0	0		0	
Telephone & Internet	3,968	4,000	3524	4000	
Legal Expenses	0	0	0	0	
Copier	3,981	4,500	4106	6000	
Fax Machine..Net of Income	402	250	259	500	
Other Printing	713	750	312	500	
Sabbatical Reserve	0	7,500	7,500	7,500	
Total	29,326	39,700	37,078	41,450	
Building & Equipment Operation					
Insurance (Property/Liability/Auto/Work Comp)	4,340	4,500	4421	6500	
Furnishings & Repair	264	1,000	1461	1000	most of 2012 will be from reserve
Computer/Office Equipment & Repair	76	1,000	490	1000	
Office Rent/Mortgage	22,838	19,000	17927	8800	Jan - May at 24th St



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2012 Budget (continued)

	2010 Actual	2011 Budget	2011 Actual	2012 Budget	Notes
Building & Equipment Operation (continued)					
Utilities				10,800	Apr-Dec \$1200/mo.
Property Maint. (Landscape, janitor, security, supplies)				6300	Apr-Dec \$700/mo
Building Reserve				0	not first year
Car Maintenance	0	1,000	552	1,000	
Total	27,518	26,500	24,851	35,400	
Called Ministerial Compensation & Benefits					
Conference Minister					
Base Salary	45,000	45,000	45000	45000	
Housing	25,000	25,000	25000	25000	
Wage Sub-Total	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	
Called Ministerial Benefits-CM					
Health/Dental	18,855	21,016	19,353	21500	new rate
Pension/Life & Disability Ins(Pen 14% Dis 1.5%)	10,850	10,850	10,850	10850	
Professional Expenses (Bks, Subs, CE)	0	0		500	
Continuing Education	0	0		500	
Social Security Offset (7.65%)	5,355	5,355	5,355	5355	
Benefits Sub-Total	35,060	37,221	35,558	38,705	
Total Called Ministerial Staff	105,060	107,221	105,558	108,705	
Office Staff Compensation & Benefits					
Office Administrator	39,312	39,312	39462	39312	(36 hrs/w @ 21/hr)
Asst to Conference Minister	30,576	30,576	30726	30576	(28 hrs/w @ 21/hr)
Communications Director	13,104	0		0	now on contract
Youth Person	23,001	23,000	10542	7000	Camp Director
Salary Camp Assistant	0	0	5,060	3,000	Camp Assistants
			(2,065)	0	donations to offset youth salary
Wage Sub-Total	105,993	92,888	83,725	79,888	
Staff Benefits					
Health/Dental	12,140	11,333	9,726	8,000	
Pension/Life & Disability Ins(Pen 14% Dis 1.5%)	15,854	13,809	12,026	10833	15.5% of Salary
Employer Fica (7.65%)	8,110	7,106	6,176	5346	7.65% of Salary
		0		0	
Total Staff	142,097	125,136	111,653	104,067	



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

2012 Pledges

Church #	Church Name	2011 OCWM Pledge	2011 OCWM Actual	2012 OCWM Pledge	2012 Per Capita	2012 Travel	2012 SWMF	2012 Sow/Seed
15	Sin Fronteras	0	0	0	0			
30	First Cong Flagstaff	0	250	1,000	730	73		
35	The Good Shepherd, Sah	33,372	33,739	33,372	2780	278		
50	Desert Heritage	600	600	600	1200			
60	Nogales	1,000	1,000	1,000	320	32		
70	Oro Valley	9,000	9,000	9,000	1310			
75	TOX	400	952	0	0			
80	Encanto	3,900	4,384	3,330	700			
90	First Cong Phoenix	11,500	11,500	12,000	4390	439		
100	South Mountain	3,400	3,403	3,069	210	21		
110	Beatitudes	38,500	35,678	4,850	7200			
115	Shadow Rock	13,200	13,200	14,200	4800			
120	Shepherd of the Hills	9,000	9,000	9,000	3140	314		
130	First Samoan CCC	1,000	1,000	2,000	670	67		
140	West Congregational	780	780	600	550	55		
150	First Cong Prescott	1,500	1,495	1,000	1100			100
155	Faith United Dewey	0	100	760	440	37		
157	Black Mountain	40	40	750	800		100	100
158	Cong'l Ch of Valley	7,065	7,054	3,000	790	79		100
160	Scottsdale Cong'l	14,043	14,043	16,173	1,350		2900	
170	Red Rocks	18,000	19,720	20,000	5,850	585		
180	Sierra Vista	350	350	350	960		100	
185	Church of Palms	14,546	14,546	14,403	3,270	327		
190	United Ch Sun City	8,000	8,004	8,000	2,690	269		
193	Desert Garden	7,500	10,000	10,000	2,890	289	1000	
195	United Ch Sun Lakes	8,456	8,455	8,500	1,690	169	200	300
200	First Cong Tempe	0	0	0	630	63		
205	Desert Palm	12,500	12,550	12,500	2,520	252	850	850
207	Marshallese Ministry Tempe	100	25	410	100	40	40	120
210	Tombstone	700	700	0	0			
220	Casas Adobes	14,000	14,000	14,000	2,940			
223	Painted Hills	4,725	4,401	4,800	900			
230	First Cong Tucson	475	0	0	0			
240	Rincon	14,500	14,500	14,500	2,920		1000	
245	Marshallese- Tucson	800	800	800	740	168		100
260	First Cong Albuq	9,000	9,000	9,000	2,000	300		
270	Ch of Good Shep Albuq	19,500	18,138	20,878	1,780	178		
280	Iglesia Cong Unida	900	900	900	200	20	300	
290	Angel Fire	0	822	0	0			
308	First Christian	1,074	1,562	1,557	1,290	129		
310	Los Alamos	0	1,500	3,000	1,500			
315	St. Paul's	1,200	1,200	1,000	850			
318	Santa Fe	0	0	0	2,600			
320	Valley Comm Silver City	1,950	2,075	2,000	490		300	100
325	Desert View EP	922	922	918	500	50		
330	Iglesia La Trinidad	120	0	115	230		115	
400	Yuma	1,000	1,085	1,462	210	21		
95	Footsteps	0	211	0				
55	NYMC	0	59	0				
	TOTALS	288,618	292,743	264,797	72,230	4255	6905	1770



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Scholarship Request for Travel to the SWC Annual Meeting

_____ I would like to apply for a mileage travel scholarship at the rate of \$.14 per mile up to a maximum of \$125. I drove _____ miles.

OR

_____ I drove a car-pool and would like to apply for a travel scholarship of up to \$200 for actual travel expenses. My gas receipts are attached and total \$_____.

OR

_____ I flew to Annual Meeting and would like to apply for a travel scholarship to offset my plane fare up to \$125. My ticket receipt is attached and totaled _____.

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send this form plus any required receipts to:

SWC UCC,
4423 N. 24th St., Suite 600,
Phoenix, AZ 85016



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Volunteer Opportunities

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR SERVING IN THE CONFERENCE?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Local Church: _____

Please indicate where you would consider serving on behalf of the Southwest Conference:

____ as a member of the Mission Planning Board

____ on the Executive Board (Position: _____ At Large or _____ Officer)

____ as a General Synod Delegate

____ as an Annuitant Visitor

____ as an Office Volunteer

____ on a Ministry Team (please indicate which Team)

__ Justice and Witness Ministries __ Church Growth & Development

__ Youth __ Stewardship

On an elected committee (please indicate which committee)

__ Nominating __ Personnel Committee

__ Committee on Church and Ministry

Other area of interest _____

Please return this form to: SW Conference, 4423 N. 24th St, #600, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Because the committees are formed to be diverse in composition, not everyone who volunteers for a committee may be asked to serve in the next round of nominees, but it helps future nominating committees to know of your interest. Ministry Teams are not elected, but rather recruit members based on interest. Your names will be passed on to the chairs of those committees.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

Communication

STAY CONNECTED • GET INFORMED

Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

Website: www.uccswc.org

Events and news from the Southwest Conference, our churches, the national UCC, a church directory, resources for clergy and church lay leaders, adults & youth, and more.

E-newsletter: *In the Loop*

Delivered to your inbox – news to keep you connected.
To subscribe, on the SWC home page select:



Southwest Conference facebook page

On the SWC home page select:



United Church of Christ

Website: ucc.org

UCC email newsletters: Choose only the emails (below) that you would like to receive at:
http://act.ucc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=UCC_Signup

Keeping You e-Posted:

UCC's weekly, coordinated e-zine distributed each Tuesday.

Stillspeaking Daily Devotional:

Brief uplifting thought, prayer and scripture to begin your day.

Weekly Seeds:

Devotions on Sunday's lectionary readings distributed each Monday.

Justice and Peace Action Network:

Legislative alerts on public policy; news and event opportunities.

Congregational Vitality:

Tips, resources and events for vital congregations.

OGHS Updates:

News from UCC's One Greater Hour of Sharing; disaster updates.

Called Out:

News from the UCC's office for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns.

UCAN Stop AIDS E-News:

News from the UCC HIV and AIDS Network.



LET JUSTICE ROLL!

In Appreciation and Recognition

SWC Officers 2011-2012

Rev. Lee Milligan, Moderator, Casas Adobes UCC, Tucson, AZ

Pastor Jane Cheek, Moderator-Elect, First Congregational UCC, Prescott, AZ

Alan Cochrane, Treasurer, Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, AZ

Barbara Nordlund, Secretary, Scottsdale Congregational UCC, Scottsdale, AZ

The Southwest Conference, United Church of Christ, expresses its grateful appreciation to the officers named above and also to...

- The Planning Committee: Rev. Lee Milligan (Moderator), Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer (Conference Minister), Rev. Randy Mayer (Pastor, Good Shepherd), Jackie Smith (Local Arrangements), Holly Herman (SWC office), Peggy Ice (Webmaster), and Barbara Decker (SWC office)
- Jay Rowe (Audio/Visual), Rev. Steve Wayles & Pastor Jane Cheek (New Delegate Orientation), Lisa Roger (graphic design)
- The host church, Good Shepherd UCC, and the helpers from Rincon and Casas Adobes in Tucson, "UCC Store" minders Bette Mulley and Martha Belle Fray, custodian Severo Martinez, all the cookie bakers, servers, drivers, singers, poster makers, and gofers that make this all run smoothly.
- Rev. Curt Ackley, Parliamentarian
- All the nominees who have graciously agreed to serve the SWC in the coming years
- All the workshop presenters- thank you, thank you!
- Our SPECIAL GUESTS: Rev. Miguel De La Torre, Rev. Paul Sherry, and Sandy Sorensen
- Gordon Gilles & Jake Pomeroy (Cornerstone), Sandy Lindahl (United Church Funds), Pat Harrison (Lovitt Touche')
- Musicians: Pablo and Los Foileros, The First Samoan Congregational Christian Church in AZ choir, the Good Shepherd Sanctuary Choir with Director Scott Glysson and pianist Kay Jean Moore

All of YOU who attended the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference.
Without you there is no Conference!

Sincere apologies to anyone I have missed. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!