

HOME ABOUT US NEWS & EVENTS CHURCHES GROWTH & VITALITY JUSTICE & WITNESS RESOURCES YOUTH

In the Loop with the Southwest Conference UCC August 2015

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Dear Friends of the Southwest Conference,

Celebrating John Dorhauer's Ministry!

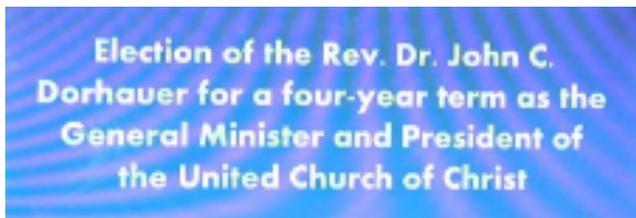
In 2008, the Rev. John Dorhauer accepted the call as Conference Minister for the Southwest Conference in the United Church of Christ. In 2015, he accepted the call as General Minister and President to the United Church of Christ. This video honors his work in the Southwest Conference and looks forward to the ways in which his ministry will impact the UCC as a whole.



John C Dorhauer

The week of July 12 John made a farewell tour of the conference visiting with clergy and lay UCC members. You can view a slideshow of his farewell by clicking on the link to the PowerPoint presentation. You may need to click "**Open**" the attachment, and "**Allow**" your PC to access it. Then click "**Slide Show**" on the top menu bar, and "**From Beginning**" in the left corner of the menu bar, to start viewing. [Click here to see the photos.](#)

General Synod Impressions



How



General Synod 30
June 26 - 30, 2015
Cleveland, Ohio



proud the Southwest Conference was when the vote was announced that the Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer is the new General Minister and President of the UCC!!!

Our thanks to Ms. Rebecca Glenn, who led the SWC delegation, and to our delegates Rev. Andria Davis, Ms. Jean-Marie Huisjen, Mr. Emmery Groomes (a.k.a. Emeri Devante), Rev. Judy Green-Davis (substituting for Rev. Deborah Clugy-Soto), and Mr. Frank Fox. **CHURCHES ARE URGED TO ASK THEM TO VISIT AND SHARE THEIR GENERAL SYNOD EXPERIENCE.**

Here is an impression of Synod from delegate Jean-Marie Huisjen:

Without a doubt the best part of General Synod was being there when John was elected General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. It was an extremely emotional moment.

While I enjoyed being involved in the business of the church and learning about all of the resolutions that were before us, I was most impressed by the different worship services and all of the speakers. Molly Baskette encouraged us to think out of the box in order to make our churches grow. Connie Schultz helped us to understand that one person can make a difference - we just have to stand up for what we believe is the right thing to do. The Community Wide Worship service on Sunday afternoon had 4000 people take part in communion and listen to Bishop Dwayne Royster discuss saving the "damn" world.

This was my first General Synod and there were times that I was frustrated, inspired, tired, exhilarated, joyous and sad. I am looking forward to doing it all over again in 2017. Thank you for the opportunity to represent the SWC at General Synod.

UCC Action Seeking Peace Between Israel and Palestine

A General Synod Resolution

[This article, written by John Dorhauer, originally appeared on the Huffington Post website.]

Delegates representing the United Church of Christ gathered in Cleveland last week, and among the many things they did over their week together was to debate a resolution regarding the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. The resolution called for the United Church of Christ, in all of its settings, to divest from companies that profit from the occupation of Palestinian territories and boycott products made by companies that operate in illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The United Church of Christ comes together not just to speak words and pass resolutions. We listen for the voice of our still-speaking God, made manifest in the collective and prayerful discernment of the men and women gathered to speak to our churches and in our world. We do not speak with an assumption that our voice is the only voice in the vast marketplace of ideas that try to capture the hearts and minds of others, but we do speak with passion, conviction,

clarity.

Ten years ago in Atlanta, General Synod took significant action by calling for the use of economic leverage, including boycotts, divestment and sanctions to address the continuing Occupation. This year's resolution is built upon the foundation of that 2005 resolution.

Today, the situation is worse than it was ten years ago...[\(Click to read the rest of the article.\)](#)

Interconnectedness--Vapid Jargon?

written by Brendan Mahoney

"If we want to move the needle, we need to push the envelope of connectivity by leveraging the low hanging fruit, which at the end of the day will synergize the next great thing." You are right if you think the preceding sentence is vapid jargon. I usually count "interconnectedness" among similar empty verbiage because the term frequently travels without the company of any meaning. The concept of interconnectedness, however, is full of deep meaning. It is a foundational precept of our spiritual tradition - the lens through which Jesus viewed our existence.

Interconnectedness at first glance appears un-American. It means we cannot take credit for everything - that we really didn't do it ourselves. Somewhere on the trajectory of American cultural development, individuality became decoupled from interconnectedness. As a culture, we exalt rugged individualism and discount interconnectedness.

That was not always so. The value of interconnectedness historically reminded Europeans (and their progeny) of their higher selves. John Donne, the Jacobean poet, articulated interconnectedness meaningfully and spiritually in the familiar (and therefore neglected) Meditation XVII, Devotions upon Emergent Occasions (1623):

No man is an island entire of itself;
every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;
if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less,
as well as if a promontory were,
as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were;
any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
it tolls for thee.

Donne describes interconnectedness with micro and macro metaphors: the largest concept then known, continents, and the small and mundane, death. Islands separated from continents remain a part of the continent. We live on a planet with other humans, animals and plants. Our individual and collective actions affect the rest of the planet. Because we are spiritual beings, the transition of a spirit from this existence to another affects me, whether or not I am aware. We are affected by others' experiences no matter how remote to us. That is the point underlying Dr. King's memorable admonition that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We may feel or pretend to be isolated and separate, but we are not. Our commitment to environmental responsibility and social justice emanate from our true interconnectedness.

Interconnectedness is the purpose of Jesus' prayer "that they all may be one" -- that we recognize our interconnectedness and develop empathy for each other and all of creation. Jesus is interconnectedness and empathy incarnate. He fed, healed, prayed and cried for us. Jesus prayed that we would yearn to be the same.

A great insight of the UCC is our recognition that actualizing interconnectedness must be voluntary. Interconnectedness is the basis of our voluntary covenantal relationships. We live in covenant relationship with other members of our congregations. Our congregations live in covenant relationship with each other and our conference and the denominational national setting. Our covenantal relationships do not sacrifice individual autonomy; rather, interconnectedness and individuality rest in equipoise. Sometimes we are good at it, sometimes not, but we always try.

Far from being vapid jargon, interconnectedness is the very *basis* of our UCC spiritual tradition, both in deeds and in relationships. I pray we may all be one.

E.P.I.C. Year 2

A year ago, the Executive Board plus representatives from COCAMs A and B and the Mission Planning Board met to do some long term planning/visioning. Out of that weekend retreat came EPIC (Education, Participation, Innovation, and Communication). These four areas, identified by the retreat members, focuses the mission of the conference. Goals in each of these categories for Year One were set, and, for the most part, these goals were met. The Executive Board and other representatives met again this spring to decide if the EPIC acronym still represented our mission, and if so, what would be the Year Two goals. This is what they came up with:

Education:

- Continue to have conference members write an article on the theme of "Interdependence" monthly that can be distributed to churches for their own newsletters.
- Create a Blog with contributions from the Conference Minister and a variety of other writers from the conference.
- Create a Guest Speakers Bureau that can be utilized by churches for specific topics

Participate:

- Create 3 Church Triads for mutual support and encouragement in revitalizing and innovation
- Increase Annual Meeting Participation by offering 1 free visitor registration to churches
- Develop a Networking resource for churches to share talents and resources

Innovation:

- Host a Social Media workshop to assist churches in utilizing social media to expand ministry
- Sponsor an "Innovation Laboratory" for research and development in creating sacred space and ministry
- Create a set of Webinars available on the website
- Present 4 sample "Post Modern" worship services

Communication:

- Encourage local churches to distribute the "In the Loop" conference newsletter to its members
- Create a Clergy pre-Loop newsletter to highlight items of importance
- Expand the use of the Clergy Facebook page

Even though the Conference is in transition, the Executive Board is committed to meeting these goals. Watch and see what happens over the next 10 months!

POMO Worship

Part of the EPIC initiative for Year 2 is to produce a sample "Post Modern (POMO)" worship experience each quarter. (See Innovation, 4th goal, above.) The first of these experiential services was held on July 23rd at the SWC office and video-bridged to Tucson. There was a wonderful turnout of about 40 people from a wide sampling of SWC churches. Music was performed by Rev. John Herman on Native American flute and by the band of OneChurch led by Ryan Gear. Segments of the service were presented by Rev. James Pennington, Rev. Gloria Smith, Rev. Ken McIntosh, and Rev. John Dorhauer. The focus of the service was to invite and

experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in a new way and to allow oneself to take the risk of this experience. The next sample "POMO" service will be held on Nov. 5th again at the SWC office.

John Dorhauer wrote, "This was my last moment with the SWC. What a high to leave on. Thanks to the POMO worship team. You were amazing!" For a more complete description of this wonderful service, read Ken McIntosh's article [by clicking here](#).



Goodbye to Immigrant Care Coordinator



August 16th will be Tyler Connoley's last day as Immigrant Care Coordinator for the Southwest Conference. When he took this position last August, we hoped there might be funding to continue it beyond the first-year grant, but we also knew it might be a limited position. During this year, the Southwest Conference and our churches have developed new relationships with Immigrant Welcoming communities and individuals around the country -- and even around the world. Thanks to Tyler's networking, the SWC has renewed connections with people in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Wyoming, Colorado, the Northwest, and Italy. We also have stronger connections between our SWC churches doing immigrant justice work.

Tyler will continue to be the pastor of Silver City UCC and is pursuing other avenues for bi-vocational ministry. He'll carry forward his passion for Immigrant Welcome and Justice, and his church will continue to participate in local and regional networks. We're grateful for the work he did this past year, and for his continuing presence among us.

The Immigrant Welcoming Fund of the Southwest Conference continues to operate. Any person working with immigrants may request a small grant from the fund by contacting Holly Herman in the conference office. Grants are usually given in amounts smaller than \$500, although larger grants are sometimes provided. Priority is for requests that will directly benefit immigrants and their families.

Designated Conference Minister Search Committee Update



The SW Conference search committee has narrowed the search to a short list of strong candidates. We anticipate completing our search by fall.

In the meantime, the Rev. Lee Albertson is serving as Acting Conference Minister. He can be reached at 505-217-6556 or by emailing LAlbertson@uccswc.org.

Dana Bender, DCM Search Committee Chair

Join the swelling support for a global climate treaty

Pope Francis calls all people to care for our earth in his papal encyclical, *Laudato Si'* (Praised Be). Those who want to add their name to the letter below can email their desire to doug.bland@tempeccc.com.

We address you as diverse Arizona faith leaders who stand with Pope Francis.

We give thanks for Pope Francis' clarion call to care for the common good of all creation. Our prayer is that the papal encyclical, *Laudato Si'* (Praised Be), will be a turning point for our planet home. The science is clear. Now it is time to move beyond the debate about climate change to solutions and action.

The encyclical, a document for "all people" no matter religion or politics, urges a fundamentally changed relationship to the planet. The Pope's argument is a moral one above all, grounded in the dignity of the human person and the primacy of the common good.

Pope Francis set a needed tone for our time when he assumed the papal name of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. The encyclical itself takes its title from and opens with St. Francis's Canticle of Creation: "Laudato si', mi' Signore"---Praise be to you my Lord." In the 12th century, St. Francis stood with and for the poor, loved all creation as kin, and embodied peace. Today Pope Francis calls us to justice, love and peace. He speaks on behalf of the poor who contribute least to the causes of global climate change and suffer the most from the impacts. He reminds us that "Earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor." He calls us to hear "both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."

The Pope writes with a pastoral heart and the voice of a prophet. Though he has a graduate degree in chemistry, he does not write as a scientist, an environmentalist, a business leader or politician. Pope Francis' appeal is as a world religious leader embodying courage and hope at a time of civilizational emergency.

As the undersigned faith leaders we work with our religious communities and our civic leaders to understand the meaning of *Laudato Si'* / Praised Be! We join the swelling support for a global climate treaty in December. We urge individuals and our congregations to sign the Paris Pledge to reduce our consumption of energy by 50% by 2030 and to net zero by 2050. Interfaith Power and Light will deliver the Pledges in person in Paris. As faith leaders we support the Clean Power Rule and initiatives like the Green Climate Fund, which will assist brothers and sisters suffering most from the effects of climate change.

We ask you to take Pope Francis' words to heart: "Today in view of the common good, there is urgent need for politics and economics to enter into a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life." (Laudate Si 229)

Laudato si', Praised Be!

News from the Churches

Send YOUR church news to Barbara Decker, SWC Office, to share in In the Loop.

Marshallese Ministries, Tucson

We are grieved to hear that **Pastor Wendell Langrine of Marshallese Ministries died on Sunday**, July 26th, of a massive stroke. He died in a hospital in the Marshall Islands.

Pastor Wendell was beloved by his congregation and will be greatly missed. His sudden death was a shock to his family and everyone who knew him. At the time of his death, Pastor Wendell was forty-five years old and in good physical condition. Pastor Wendell had been a minister for ten years. He is pictured here (far right) with UCC clergy at his installation in 2014.



Wendell is survived by his wife, Marciana, and two children, Esa and Tara. Please keep the family, extended family, and the congregation in prayer at this time. There will be a memorial service for Pastor Wendell in Tucson sometime in August. Watch for details. Condolences may be sent in care of The Church of the Painted Hills, office@cphucc.org, 3295 W Speedway Blvd. Tucson AZ 85745. (The Marshallese Ministries meets in the Church of the Painted Hills building.)

United Church of Santa Fe

The church bid farewell to their Associate Minister, Rev. Brandon Johnson, the last weekend in July. Brandon has been called to be the pastor of a Disciples of Christ, congregation in Oklahoma.

First Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Phoenix, AZ

The new pastor, Rev. Talosaga Seumanutafa, will be installed on Saturday, August 29, at 10:00 am at the church, 3118 N. 41st Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85019. All UCC congregations are encouraged to support this sister church by sending members to attend the installation service.

Scottsdale UCC, Scottsdale

NOW HIRING!! Sunday Morning Nursery Coordinator for Scottsdale UCC. Must be at least 18 years of age, able to pass a background check, certified in infant & child first aid and CPR, able to supervise volunteer assistants, and experienced in childcare and positive behavior management. \$12-12.50/hr. D.O.E., 2 to 2.5 hrs./week. Contact Michele Mellott 602-617-4356.

Rincon Congregational Church, Tucson Welcome to Our New Assistant Minister!

We are happy to announce that **Pamela Denzer**, a seminarian at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio and former Tucson middle school teacher, has been offered and accepted the position of **Assistant Minister at Rincon**. This is a half-time contract position, extending from August 16, 2015 to June 15, 2016.

Pam will provide staff support for the Faith Development and Justice and Witness Ministry Teams, as well as some preaching, teaching, fellowship and service opportunities at Rincon and beyond. She's excited to return to Tucson and feels strongly called to Rincon as she prepares for graduation and ordination in 2016. If you'd like to write to Pam to welcome her and wish her traveling mercies, you can reach her at PDenzer@mtso.edu.

Ktizo UCC, Phoenix

Beginning July 8, Ktizo became a **City of Phoenix Hydration and Heat Relief Station**. This means that we will open our doors on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm and have cold water to give out, as well as offer a 'cool' place to get away from the sun. Ktizo already offers a free breakfast and community support on Wednesday mornings, so this will be expanding that outreach.

Ktizo invites SWC folks to go with us on our Partnership **Trip to La Flor, Nicaragua**, February 24-March 3, 2016! Right now, the United airfare is \$758 (higher if we went a few weeks later). On the ground costs are approximately \$750. The weather was fabulous last year at this time. We will work with our La Flor partners on their hopes and dreams for our visit there. We may be building houses, visiting with school children, sharing with micro credit women and more. We hope you will go. Contact Nancy Elsenheimer, 602-284-6156.

Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona

WELCOME our Interim Pastor - Rev. Dr. Lawrence Corbett on Sunday, August 2nd

Lawrence (Larry) has standing as an authorized pastor with both the UCC and Presbyterian churches. His early pastoral experience began as an Associate Pastor in the Cleveland area and he is known from those days by several of our congregation. Larry's more recent work includes church development at which he oversaw church growth from a handful to 1400 members and several tenures as Interim Minister. Much of his adult life has been spent in the Southwest. He and his wife own a home in Scottsdale. The last couple of years he has served as Interim Minister in Colorado. That church will soon be installing a permanent settled pastor which is perfect timing for all of us.

Encanto Community Church, Phoenix

Wall of Tolerance At Encanto Community Church UCC, we are going to dedicate one month to displaying and promoting a Wall of Tolerance to promote tolerance and positive messages in the wake of the Emmanuel AME massacre and the previous hate event at the Mosque in Phoenix. Pastor Gloria Smith invites others to join the cause.

Interdependence in Action--On July 26th, Encanto Community Church provided the Sunday night meal to Rebel & Divine UCC. Thank you to them and to all the churches that volunteer to provide this ministry to our sister congregation!

Free Yoga Classes! Brooker Notte is teaching Yoga classes on Monday nights at 7 p.m at Encanto Community Church. If you don't know how to do a downward facing dog, upward facing dog, half cobra, chair pose, half boat pose, or child pose, you are encouraged to come, learn, and become more in-tune with your body. All levels and physical conditions are welcome to participate. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a friend.

Two SWC Churches in the Top 50 Nationally!

South Mountain Community Church and **Scottsdale Congregational UCC** both made the Top 50 list of Per Capita Giving to OCWM in 2014. See the whole list in this month's issue of the national UCC *Stillspeaking Magazine*. As one of the smallest of 38 conferences, we have some powerful and dedicated churches! Congratulations, you two! You make us proud!

Shepherd of the Hills Partners with Rebel & Divine UCC

Recently Rebel & Divine UCC added another partner to its list of SW Conference churches active in supporting its ministry. Shepherd of the Hills Congregational UCC is the latest to be included in the multi-geographic ministry of Rebel & Divine through the gift of dedicated office space.



The new partnership was celebrated through a joint worship service on July 19, 2015. During the service, stories were told of how each faith community strives to embody Micah 6:8. When it was time to receive the special offering in support of new church starts, Shepherd of the Hills asked those wishing to designate their Strengthen the Church funds for the new church start of Rebel & Divine to do so. Then the offering was received in shoe boxes as a means of remembering how Rebel & Divine started as a ministry providing footwear to homeless and at-risk youth and young adults in the LGBTQ community.

Following worship, a potluck provided the opportunity to share stories along with lunch. Following lunch, members and friends of Shepherd and of Rebel & Divine banded together to create summer survival kits consisting of water, food, sunscreen, lip balm, fingernail clippers, floss and deodorant. After surrounding the kits with outstretched arms, two faith communities became one as they prayed for the recipients and for one another.



Rebel & Divine UCC's main office is now located at 5524 E Lafayette Blvd in Phoenix. You may leave messages for Rebel & Divine by calling 602-840-3130, ext. 16.

Rebel & Divine: Talent Show!

Rebel & Divine UCC is hosting a talent show. The Talent Show will showcase at-risk LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, ally, or intersex) youth ages 14-24.

They will be able to share their life stories through art: poetry, singing, drag performance, dancing, etc. R&D will be asking for a minimum donation of \$5 to aid in sustaining the Sunday gathers and trans* youth focused clothing closet. This event will be hosted by Sonja Jae Savage and Brittney Summers and will be in honor of Ms. Ebony, an icon in the LGBTQ community who always encouraged new performers and made a lasting impact on the Phoenix community.

Date: Saturday August 15
Place: 917 E Sheridan, Phoenix
Time: 5 - 8 pm

Come join in the fun!

A vibrant poster for the Rebel & Divine Talent Show. The title "REBEL & DIVINE TALENT SHOW" is at the top in large, bold letters. Below it, the text "JOIN US! IT'S TIME TO LET THE YOUTH TELL THEIR STORY." is written. The poster features a grid of small images showing various performers: a ballerina, a singer, a guitarist, a drag queen, a dancer, and a musician. At the bottom, the location "917 EAST SHERIDAN STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85006" is listed, along with "LIVE MUSIC • OPEN MIC • DANCE • POETRY • BANDS". A red banner at the bottom contains the text: "* MINIMUM DONATION, IN HONOR OF MS. EBONY. \$5 MINIMUM DONATION * SATURDAY AUGUST 15TH 08.15.2015 | 6PM-8PM DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN!". The logo "BRANDBRIGHTDESIGN" is in the bottom right corner.

A program at First Phoenix--Gender Roles in Islam

Gender Roles in Islam WOMEN AND THE MUSLIM FAITH

Wed | August 12th | 7PM | First Church UCC

Join Us
for this unique opportunity made available to everyone by First Church UCC. Do you have questions about gender roles in Islam? We do! So we asked Azra Hussain, the Valley's sought after expert on the subject to spend some time with us to help better understand their beliefs and practices.

Azra Hussain
Founder and President of Islamic Speakers Bureau of Arizona

All Are Welcome!

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
PHOENIX

1407 N Second St
Phoenix 85004

For more information, please visit our website!
phoenixucc.org

Lay Academy SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

News Flash!!!

A Unique Opportunity that you may access through the SWC Lay Academy is the **2015 Parliament of the World's Religions** to be held Oct 15 - 19, 2015, in the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Lay Academy has a limited number of tickets available at the discounted rate of \$249.00 (currently \$475 online). Accommodations and travel are a separate fee and managed by attendees. Learn more about the event at www.parliamentofreligions.org and from Rock Fremont.

The Lay Academy has another exciting year planned for 2015 - 2016.

September 11-12, 2015 We'll begin in September as the congregations of El Paso, TX, host Rev. Dr. Vernon Meyer and his session on Apocalyptic Literature- *"Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven... But Do You Want To Go Today? The Rapture Revealed"*.

November 13-14, 2015 In November, Rev. Rock Fremont will take us on a tour of the Abrahamic faiths for his session *"In The Beginning... From Zoroaster to Abraham,"* a field-trip

originating in Scottsdale, AZ that will take us from the church, to the synagogue, to the mosque, and beyond.

January 8-9, 2016 We'll gather again in January in Sahuarita, AZ for Rev. Dr. Randy Mayer's session on the topic of Immigration, *"How Extravagant IS Our Welcome?"* followed by a session **March 11-12, 2016**, in Mesa, AZ, *"We Evolve, Does God?"* led by Process Theologian Rev. Dr. Jeanyne Slettom. We'll wrap up the year **May 13-14, 2016**, with Rev. Barb Doerrer-Peacock's session in Flagstaff, AZ, *"Transfiguring Mountains: a Practical Spirituality."*

Lay Academy is open to all lay people. Contact Lay Academy Coordinator Rev. Rock Fremont for more information or go to the website, www.LayAcademy.org.

Duet Opportunities

Volunteer

"It just helps in every way..." - Evan, grateful homebound adult

Duet brings together compassionate volunteers with "neighbors" who can no longer drive yet wish to remain living in their own homes. Jim and Evan represent how a "duet" of service reduces loneliness. Over the past seven years, Jim has grocery shopped with and for Evan. "I'm not sure what I'd do without Duet," exclaims Evan. "Before it was panic mode. How do I get to the store? How do I get home?"

Now retired, Jim feels great satisfaction knowing that Evan is less stressed by having food in his home and a friend to share life with. More people long for a caring volunteer!



Attend just one 2 ½ hour volunteer orientation to begin. Please call 602-274-5022 or visit www.duetaz.org for orientation dates and to register. Thank you.

Movies and More for Grandfamilies!

Are you raising your grandchild, or do you know someone who is? Duet invites "grandfamilies" to join Duet for a free and fun-filled movie night on Friday, August 14, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. at 555 W. Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021. You will also learn about the many additional services Duet offers to help grandfamilies thrive. Call to reserve your spot by August 7th at 602-274-5022. Yes - popcorn is included!

(Duet was formerly known as Beatitudes Center DOAR.)

Announcements

Crop Hunger Walk Heads Up

Join us on October 8th at 1 pm at First Congregational Phoenix for the annual Phoenix CROP Hunger Walk. The CROP Hunger Walk, sponsored by Church World Services, raises awareness and funds to end hunger in the US and around the world. ~~ announcement from Rev. Andria Davis

UCC Employee Verizon Discount!

If you are a UCC church employee, you are eligible for an 18% discount from Verizon. Go to www.ucc.org and put "Verizon discount" in the SEARCH box to find the appropriate link. However, the discount may only be obtained by using an email account whose domain name includes "ucc" and "org". Email addresses ending with gmail, yahoo, etc. are not

considered as valid addresses for determining eligibility. If your church does not have "ucc" or ".org" in its address, you may use the conference email, Office@uccswc.org. When doing so, please notify the Conference Office that you are applying for the discount so that we may confirm your eligibility. Questions? Call Holly at the Conference office, 602-468-3830.

Global Mission Partners Coming

A heads up... Kate Moyer and Doug Smith, Global Mission partners serving in Mexico, will be with the DOC Arizona Region and the UCC Southwest Conference October 1 - 17, 2015. Watch for details of how to arrange a visit to your congregation.

Books for Indonesia

Former Global Ministries mission personnel, Reverend Max Surjadinata, Global Ministries, and the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ welcome you to donate your used theological and biblical studies texts, and/or provide gifts to cover shipping expenses of these books, to the Christian Church of Sumba School of Theology, a Global Ministries partner, in Indonesia. Max is collecting the books and the SWC is collecting donations for shipping. Read more about this [project...](#)

Coming in October

Still Speaking Worship Event On Line

The Faith Formation Team of Local Church Ministries is offering an on-line opportunity for United Church of Christ churches to enter into a panel discussion on "**Creating Sacred Space**" for worship. This panel of liturgical art specialists will be discussing the importance of the worship space and offer ways to use it creatively in order to enhance worship.

The event will stream live at 11 AM (EDT) on October 27, 2015 from the Amistad Chapel at the Church House in Cleveland, Ohio at http://www.ucc.org/creating_sacred_space. This event will be recorded and posted at this link for later viewing. With questions, please contact Rev. Ivy Beckwith at beckwithi@ucc.org.

2015 Calendar of Events

August - November

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Aug 3 | Executive Board, SWC office, 10 am - 2 pm |
| Aug 3 | DCM Search Committee, SWC office 2-4 pm |
| Aug 13 | COCAM A, SWC office, 9:45 am - 2:30 pm |
| Aug 15 | Rebel & Divine Talent Show SWC office, 5-8 pm |
| Aug 29 | Installation of Pastor Talo, First Samoan Church, 10 am |
| Sept 10 | COCAM A, SWC office, 9:45 am - 2:30 pm |
| Sept 11-12 | Lay Academy, El Paso, TX |
| Sept 21 | COCAM B, SWC office, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm |
| Sept 29-Oct 17 | Global Mission Visits with Doug Smith and Kate Moyer |
| Oct 3 | Innovation lab, SWC office, by invitation |
| Oct 8 | COCAM A (video conference) |
| Oct 24 | Mission Planning Board, SWC office, 10 am - 4 pm |
| Nov 5 | Second POMO worship experience, SWC office, 7 pm |
| Nov 9-11 | Clergy Retreat, Redemptorist Center, Tucson |

Nov 11 COCAM B, SWC office, 12 Noon to 3:30 pm
Nov 12 COCAM A, SWC office, 9:45 am - 2:30 pm
Nov 13-14 Lay Academy, Scottsdale, AZ

**2016 Annual Meeting April 22-23, Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix
All Summer Youth Camps June 19-24, 2016, Emmanuel Pines, Prescott**

This communication is made possible by your contributions to **Our Church's Wider Mission.**
Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to office@uccswc.org by bdecker@uccswc.org |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Southwest Conference United Church of Christ | 917 E. Sheridan St. | Phoenix | AZ | 85006