

Southwest Conference of United Church of Christ  
Committee on Church and Ministry – B  
2021 Annual Conference Report

The Committee on Church and Ministry (COCAM B), as with Southwest Conference member congregations and communities, faced and met the challenges of the pandemic. We marvel and are blessed by the resilience and ingenuity of our entire Conference in finding new ways to continue our important and impactful ministries.

COCAM-B installed the Rev. Dr. Rebecca McElfresh with great joy as Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and Spiritual Growth for Good Shepherd UCC/ Sahuarita following her ordination on March 1, 2020.

COCAM-B worked with several congregations toward funding requests and also provided situational support where requested. The Committee also collaborated in developing COVID-19 response guidelines for congregations and communities.

COCAM-B was particularly blessed during the pandemic to participate in the Zoom ecclesiastical councils of Kelly Kahlstrom, Deborah Hill and Carson Hawks. The Zoom format was a departure from the past, and all rose to the occasion to ensure our collective work of sharing a prophetic witness regardless of the challenges and constraints of the pandemic.

We are not at the end of the pandemic, yet. But the end is a light on the horizon that we finally can see. COCAM-B holds each congregation and community in prayer for their ministries in difficult times. Our congregations and communities have selflessly provided relief and hope to the wider community while nurturing each other despite social distancing.

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Tim. 1:7. Our congregations, communities and people have shown just how true this is. We look forward with joy to the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brendan Mahoney, Chair