

Southwest Conference of United Church of Christ
Committee on Church and Ministry – B
2022 Annual Conference Report

The Committee on Church and Ministry (COCAM B), and all the Southwest Conference member congregations and communities endured and thrived in a pandemic that has lasted far longer than anyone anticipated. Last year at this time we sensed the light at the end of the tunnel only to discover there is more distance to travel. Sustained in God's spirit, our congregations and communities have adapted and continue to move forward amid great change. "[T]hose who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31 (NRSV).

COCAM B administers several grant programs on behalf of the Conference. The Conference Hybrid Church technology grants program was a huge success. Twenty-two churches applied for and received a total of \$113,000. The Conference continued extending grants for clergy coaching, new ministry grant funds, and solidary grants.

Additionally, at the beginning of the pandemic, the Conference authorized COVID-19 Emergency Funds for local churches through the Local Church Emergency Support Program (LCESP). Two years into the pandemic, at COCAM B's request, the Conference has re-authorized these emergency funds.

COCAM-B also addressed one Situational Support Consultation request and responded to a potential Fitness Review request referred from the Hawaii conference.

COCAM-B participated in the Installations of Rev. Susan Valiquette at First Church UCC Phoenix, Rev. Bethany Meier-Evans at First Christian Church Las Cruces, and Rev. Bill Utke at Desert Garden UCC.

Our prayers have been continuously with Taos UCC since the sudden passing of Rev. Pamela Shepherd. Pamela was the founding pastor of Taos UCC and a friend to many of us. Julie Parmenter, retired clergy from the Rocky Mountain Conference, a member of Taos UCC and COCAM-B, has offered her services as pastor while the congregation and she herself grieve and plan for the future.

COCAM-B continues to offer its services to all congregations and communities within the Southwest Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Brendan Mahoney, Chair

Churches Celebrating Significant Anniversaries in 2022:

5 years (2017): Taos UCC
20 years (2002): First Samoan Congregational Christian Church in AZ
First Tempe Marshallese
30 years (1992): Oro Valley UCC