



SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Resolution 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 longstanding 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"¹ 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.

