

Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

2015 Annual Meeting

April 17-18, 2015

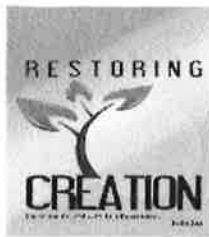
The Church of the Red Rocks





Table of Contents

Pink	Agenda Meet our Hosts: The Church of the Red Rocks Area Map Site of the Church of the Red Rocks
White	Friday Evening Worship Bulletin Saturday Afternoon Worship Bulletin Biographies of our special guests: Rev. Jim Antal Rev. Doug Bland Sister Joan Brown, O.S.F. Participants Workshops
Yellow	2014 Annual Meeting Minutes
Green	Reports from the SWC Conference Minister Report—John Dorhauer Conference Moderator Report—Dana Bender Church Growth and Development Coordinator—Kenneth McIntosh Committee on Church and Ministry "A"—Donna Cavedon Committee on Church and Ministry "B"—Diane Thomas Immigrant Care Coordinator—Tyler Connoley Lay Academy – Rock Fremont Widening the Welcome Report—Michael Curry Youth Ministry—Michele Mellott, John Angiulo
Blue	Reports from our Ecumenical Partners New Mexico Council of Churches AZ Faith Network (formerly AZ Ecumenical Council) Beatitudes Campus Chapman University Pacific School of Religion
Salmon	Nominating Slate Financials
Lavender	Scholarship request for travel reimbursement Volunteer opportunities Evaluation Communication Appreciation



Annual Meeting Agenda

Friday, April 17

Church of the Red Rocks

8:30	Church open for Vendors to set up	
9:30	Registration Opens	Narthex
9:45	New Delegate Orientation	Sanctuary
10:30	First Business Session	Sanctuary
	Welcome	
	Welcome by George Ault & Moderator of Church of the Red Rocks	
	Introduction of Guests	
	Results of written ballot—declaration of quorum	
	Financial Reports-	
	2014 Year end	
	2015 Pledges	
	2015 Budget	
	2016 Top Line	
	Welcome 3 New churches	
	Peace United Church of Christ	
	Silver City United Church of Christ	
	EFKAS Phoenix (Cong. Christian Church of Am Samoa Phx)	
	Other Reports	
	Mission Planning Board/Executive Board	
	Cornerstone Fund	
	United Church Funds	
	Justice Witness Ministry	
	Church Growth Ministry Team	
	Gift to UCC Coalition	
Noon	Lunch	There is a table reserved for PSR alums, interested folks
1:00	Keynote	Rev. Doug Bland & Sister Joan Brown Sanctuary
2:00	Workshops	
	Headlines of Hope	Sanctuary
	Investing from the Heart	Choir Room
	Church Management for Sustainability	Classroom B
	Arizona Faith Network	Classroom A
	A Taste of Lay Academy	Fellowship Hall downstairs
	Welcome the Stanger	Painted Cliffs
	JWM Storytelling Project	Conference Room
3:15	Break	
3:30	Business Session	Sanctuary
	Immigrant Care Coordinator Report	
	Camp	
	EPIC Report	
	Lay Academy Report	
	Conference Minister Transition Plans	
	Conference Minister Report	

5:30	Reception for Mission Planning Board members	Choir Room
6:00	Dinner	
7:15	Worship- (worship bulletin in Annual Meeting book) Offering to benefit Conference Minister Search Fund Preaching: Rev. Jim Antal	Sanctuary
8:30	After Hours: SWC 50th Birthday Party & Reception for John Dorhauer	

Saturday, April 18

9:00	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
9:15	Business Session Office Manager Report Moderator Report	Sanctuary
9:45	Workshops Interfaith Action for Climate Justice Making Sense of DACA/DAPA Building a 200 Block Sanctuary Staying Open to Divine Presence Cooperative Advocacy: Offering Sanctuary Capturing the Spirit in Words JWM Storytelling Project	Sanctuary Choir Room Classroom B Fellowship Hall Painted Cliffs Classroom A Conference Room
11:00	Keynote Rev. Jim Antal	Sanctuary
12:00	Lunch Active Clergy lunch in Fellowship Hall downstairs with Jim Antal	
1:30	Business Session Widening the Welcome Report Votes Nominating Slate 2016 Top Line budget Presentations Introduction of New Pastors serving SWC Transfers of Standing into SWC Ordinations/Installations in last year Ordination Anniversaries 5 x 5 and 7 x 7 Churches OCWM- highest donor and highest per capita Open and Affirming Church of the Palms Sun Lakes UCC Congregational Church of the Valley 50th Anniversary Remembrance Gifts and passing of the Gavel Announcement of Next Year's Annual Meeting Site	Sanctuary
3:00	Worship Offering to benefit CM Search Fund Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer preaching Installation of officers and committee members	Sanctuary
4:00	Depart	



Meet our hosts— The Church of the Red Rocks

Welcome to Sedona! We're glad you are here!

Since The Church of the Red Rocks was founded in 1960, our congregation has experienced struggles and challenges, but many joyous milestones of victory. At the beginning, we had no pastor, no building, no money—only a vision and abundant faith in divine guidance. We affiliated with the Congregational Church, and soon became the United Church of Christ in 1965. During those early years we were blessed with pastors who attracted newcomers in the rapidly growing Sedona community. We became a congregation of members from various denominational backgrounds, but our leaders always encouraged the laity “to live with diversities in love and to foster a spirit of harmony.”



In 1985 we called the Rev. Dr. George Ault as pastor. During his 30 years of wise and dedicated leadership, our church has become a program-centered congregation with eleven commissions that address our spiritual, educational, financial, and mission outreach efforts. Many lives beyond our congregation have been touched by our support of the Sedona community and our commitment to address social issues. In 2010, we joined other Southwest Conference Churches by becoming an “Open and Affirming” congregation.

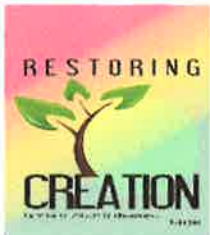
One of the hallmarks of The Church of the Red Rocks is music. Along with the fine musicians in our membership, we enjoy the participation of students and faculty from Northern Arizona University music departments. This partnership has resulted in a music program that is well known in the Verde Valley area.

However, the element that continually gives energy and life to our church is the spirit of volunteerism! We are primarily a congregation of retirees—“seasoned,” yet vibrant—folks who generously give of their talents and time to serve God, the church and the community beyond.

Challenges lie before us—growing our membership and sustaining our programs and outreach as we seek a new senior pastor. Sadly, George is retiring in June. But we step into the future with faith and confidence—knowing God is already there to greet us!

***Welcome to The Church of the Red Rocks!
We look forward to our time together!***





Friday Worship

"Processional Rondo"

by Kerry Johnson
Mary Rubel, Director

Greeting

George Ault

Call to Worship

Dana Bender

L: Come, let us dwell in God's shelter. Let us dwell in God's work of art.

Come, because the Earth is the Lord's, and God's Earth is our home.

All: We live in God's World; we are not alone. We share this life with the heavens and the earth,

with the waters and the land, with trees and grasses, with fish, birds, and animals, with minerals and creatures

of every form, and with all our brothers and sisters.

L: God is good and everything that God makes is good. God is love and everything that God makes is love's fruit.

All: Let us worship God!

(written by Tatiana Valdez)

Hymn

"Touch the Earth Lightly"

#569

Prayer

Maya Bode

Oh, Great Spirit, Creator of all things: human beings, trees, grass, berries. Help us; be kind to us. Let us be happy on earth. Let us lead our children to a good life and old age. These, our people: give them good minds to love one another. Oh, Great Spirit, be kind to us. Give these people the favor to see green trees, green grass, flowers, and berries this next spring, so we all meet again. Oh, Great Spirit, we ask of you. ~~ Mohawk Prayer

Poem

Jack Evans
Poet Laureate of the SWC

Video Slide-show on Earth Care

Scripture: Genesis 9:9-13; Luke 10: 25-29

Jay-Jewell Roth

Sermon: "Earth to Church: Can I Get a Witness"

Jim Antal

"Mother Earth"

by Eric Kaz
guitar and vocals, Lee Milligan; drums, Amos Smith

Offering

Dana Bender

"Aria" by Michael Helman

Church of the Red Rocks Handbell Choir

Doxology

Hymn

"This Land is Your Land"

Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

This land is your land. This land is my land
From California to the New York island;
From the red wood forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and Me.

As I was walking that ribbon of highway,
I saw above me that endless skyway:
I saw below me that golden valley:
This land was made for you and me.

I've roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts;
And all around me a voice was sounding:
This land was made for you and me.

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,
As the fog was lifting a voice was chanting:
This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land. This land is my land
From California to the New York island;
From the red wood forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and Me.

Benediction

Jim Antal

Postlude

Apocalypse 2015

By Jack Evans, Poet Laureate of the SW Conference

Part I Darkness

Wind, the only voice.
Light, the only shelter.
We had dreams in those days
 of love and transubstantiation.
Creation strode through first mist.
The world is sepia at dawn,
Gradually it edges into color.
Puddles consecrate the landscape.
Stone and steam, mud thick
 as an act of contrition.
Wood beams glisten
 with the kiss of rain.
There is no silence like the first.

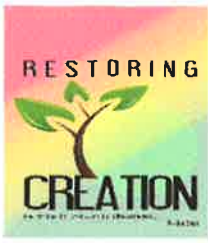
Spider webs of silver,
A Calvary of telephone poles
 crisscrossing skyline.
The poor in spirit are given dreams to eat
Their souls grind against the sand.
We search in silence
 for the sacrament of doubt,
The rust of saints has settled
On dead artifacts from seasons
 drenched in fiery rain.
On this road we are joined
 by a distant traveler
Who asks, why are you grieving
We know the answer
 but are too afraid to speak.

Water dripping like a liquid hourglass.
Doorways and ladders
 and the parable of sky.
The water loses its illusion but rain still falls
Along the edges of our collective fear.
And he broke the bread and said,
Remember how the sun
 once bathed this ancient dream?

The bread turns to concrete
The wine turns to oil.
And then it began to snow
And then it grew dark.

Part II Light

The sun speaks, like a brother,
 of communion with the stars,
The connectedness of kisses,
And the meaning of breath.
The moon whispers
 our redemption,
Her wisdom born in blood.
The transfiguration of light
Into cosmic vision tells us
 there still is hope.
Wounds can be healed.
The scar tissue of our sins
May yet be our conscience,
And the voice of the spirit sings,
Love creation with all your heart
 your soul.
Love the earth as you love yourself.



Saturday Closing Worship

Prelude

John Herman

Greetings

Donna Cavedon

Call to Worship

L: All creatures of our God now sing; lift up thy voice and with us sing.

All: *Alabamos al Dios de la creacion.*

L: Thou burning sun with golden beam; thou silver moon with softer gleam,

All: *Alabamos al Dios de la creacion.*

L: Thou rushing wind that art so strong; Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,

All: *Alabamos al Dios de la creacion.*

L: Thou flowing water, pure and clear; make music for thy Lord to hear,

All: *Alabamos al Dios de la creacion.*

L: Thou fire so masterful and bright; that givest all both warmth and light.

All: *Alabamos al Dios de la creacion.*

L: Let all things their creator bless, and worship God in humbleness.

All: *Alabamos al Dios de la creacion.*

Hymn

“Come O Fount of Every Blessing”

459

Poem

Jack Evans, Poet Laureate of the SWC

Scripture: Philippians 1:3-11

Max Bode

Sermon

John C. Dorhauer

Hymn

“Lead, Kindly Light”

(see next page)

Installation and Commissioning

Lord’s Prayer, New Zealand

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen.

Offering

Dana Bender

Doxology

Closing Hymn:

"Be Now My Vision"

#451

Benediction

John Dorhauer

Postlude

John Herman

Lead, Kindly Light

First Tune

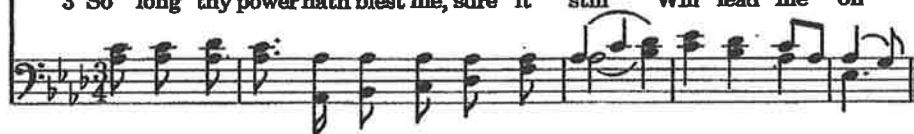
John H. Newman, 1801-1890

LUX BENIGNA 10.4.10.4.10.10.

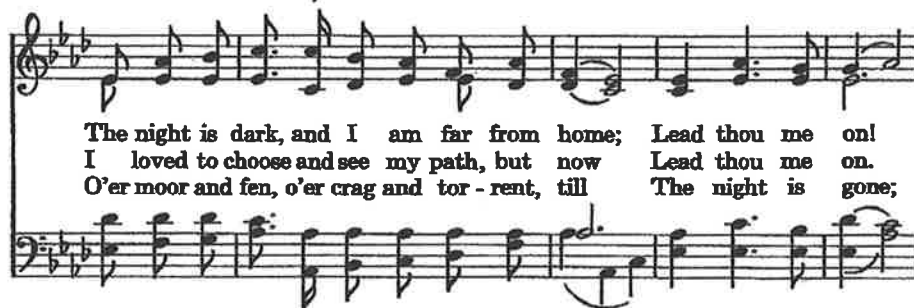
John B. Dykes, 1823-1876



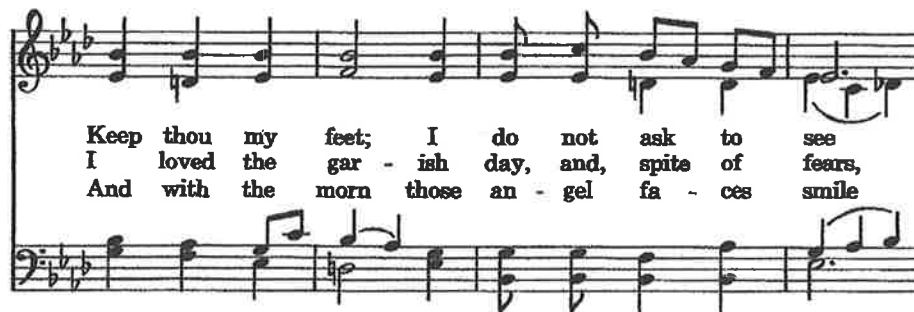
1 Lead, kind-ly Light, a - mid the en-cir-cling gloom, Lead thou me on;
2 I was not ev - er thus, nor prayed that thou Shouldst lead me on;
3 So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still Will lead me on



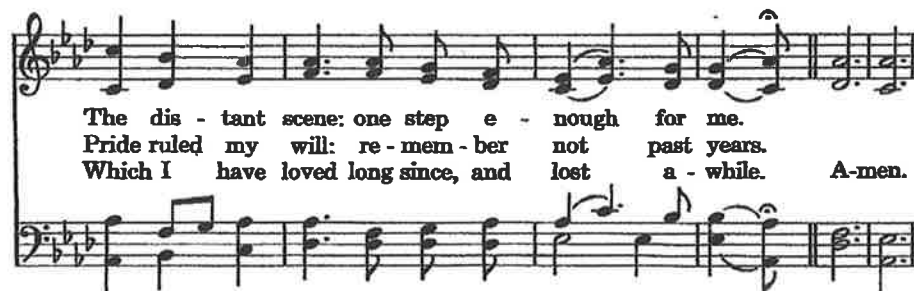
The night is dark, and I am far from home; Lead thou me on!
I loved to choose and see my path, but now Lead thou me on.
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and tor - rent, till The night is gone;



Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
I loved the gar - ish day, and, spite of fears,
And with the morn those an - gel fa - ces smile



The dis - tant scene: one step e - nough for me.
Pride ruled my will: re - mem - ber not past years.
Which I have loved long since, and lost a - while. A-men.



If Not For You

I Darkness

There is a shadow over the land.

There is a sorrow settling

 Into our beings,

For this is what loss is;

A searing of the soul,

A trembling in the heart.

 A sense of an emptiness

That can never be fully filled.

II Light

There is joy in this moment,

 A rush of holy spirit.

This is the Easter of our days.

Our brother,

Called to a new sacred labor,

While each of us provides

 A piece of light

To help illuminate the way.

Jack Evans
Phoenix, Arizona
April 2015



Biographies of our Special Guests

The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal is Minister and President of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, the largest Protestant denomination in the Commonwealth. After graduating from Princeton University, his work at Yale focused on the yet to be born field of environmental ethics. After founding a national organization to train activist high school students to oppose nuclear war, he served as Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (USA), an interfaith pacifist organization. He taught for 13 years, and then led churches in Newton, MA and Shaker Heights, OH. An environmental activist since the first Earth Day in 1970, he authored and was lead proponent of the UCC's vote in 2013 to divest from fossil fuel companies—the first denomination to do so. He has also engaged the spiritual discipline of civil disobedience numerous times, most recently at the White House to stop the Keystone XL pipeline. He speaks on climate issues all over the country. An avid cyclist, you may see him on the road wearing his "God is Still Speaking" jersey. Jim and his wife, Cindy, have two grown sons.



Doug Bland is pastor at the Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tempe, AZ, where he has served for twenty years. The church's inter-religious and multi-cultural storytelling concerts earned two Diversity Awards from the Tempe Human Relations Commission. Doug has chaired the Earth Care Commission for the Arizona Ecumenical Council and is Executive Director for the Arizona Interfaith Power and Light—a religious response to global warming. He is adjunct faculty at the South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute, where he teaches "The Art of Storytelling," "Telling Sacred Stories," and "Using Storytelling in Businesses and Organizations." Doug and his wife, Amy, recently walked the Camino de Santiago, traveling 600 miles by foot across northern Spain.



Joan Brown, O.S.F., is a Franciscan sister living in Albuquerque where she is the Executive Director of New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light. Her love of God, creation and community come together in her work addressing climate change and the devastation within the Sacred Earth community by connecting spirituality, justice, economics and environment. Her ministerial life has included campus ministry; directorship of organizations for peace, justice, creation and nonviolence; living with women from the streets in a shelter; co-founding a non-profit to help new immigrants construct strawbale homes on the US-Mexico border and now working in New Mexico with Interfaith Power and Light. Her lifestyle incorporates year round food production, chickens, bees and reverence for food, creation and the community of life.





Participants

- Rev. Jim Antal**, Conference Minister, Massachusetts Conference, UCC
- Rev. George Ault**, Senior Pastor, Church of the Red Rocks, Moderator-Elect, SWC UCC
- Ms. Dana Bender**, Moderator, Southwest Conference UCC
- Rev. Doug Bland**, Executive Director, Arizona Interfaith Power and Light
- Revs. Ric and Lynn Brightman**, Pastors, Peace UCC (new church), El Paso, TX
- Ms. Nancy Brink**, Director of Church Relations, Chapman University
- Sister Joan Brown**, Executive Director, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
- Rev. Donna Cavedon**, Assistant Pastor, Church of the Red Rocks
- Rev. Tyler Connoley**, Pastor, Silver City, NM, UCC (new church), Immigrant Care Coordinator, SWC UCC
- Ms. Barbara Decker**, Assistant to Conference Minister, SWC UCC
- Rev. Rich Doerrler-Peacock**, Secretary, SWC UCC
- Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer**, Conference Minister, SWC UCC
- Rev. Ted Elsenheimer**, Pastor, Ktizo UCC, workshop leader
- Rev. Rock Fremont**, Director, Lay Academy, SWC UCC
- Mr. Gordon Gilles**, President/CEO, Cornerstone Fund
- Ms. Judith Glenn**, Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Coordinator
- Mr. Don Hart**, Pres., United Church Funds
- Rev. Ken Heintzelman**, Pastor, Shadow Rock UCC, workshop leader
- Ms. Holly Herman**, Office Manager, SWC UCC
- Rev. Elaine Greensmith Jordan**, past Conference Moderator, writer, workshop leader
- Rev. Gene Lefebvre**, workshop leader
- Mr. Logan Marshall & Rev. Andria Davis**, Co-Coordinators, SWC Justice Witness Ministry
- Rev. Randy Mayer**, Pastor, The Good Shepherd UCC, workshop leader
- Rev. Ken McIntosh**, Church Growth Coordinator, SWC UCC
- Ms. Michele Mellott**, Annual Meeting Youth Coordinator
- Mr. Carlos Osuna**, Audio/Visual
- Rev. Gloria Smith**, Pastor, Encanto Community Church, workshop leader
- Rev. Amos Smith**, Pastor, Church of the Painted Hills, workshop leader
- Rev. Erin Tamayo**, Director, AZ Faith Network, workshop leader
- Pastor Esera and Joanna Tovai**, EFKAS Phoenix, AZ (new American Samoan church)
- Mr. Phil Ward**, Treasurer, SWC UCC



Workshops

Friday Workshops

“Headlines of Hope – Expanding Our Imagination of What Is Possible”- --Rev. Dr. Jim Antal

Facing climate change requires enormous hope. We will examine numerous examples of such hope as we stretch our imaginations and perhaps awaken new vocations. The anticipated Papal Encyclical, Our Children’s Trust, Civil Disobedience and Divestment will all be discussed.

“Investing from the Heart, Building for the Future”

--Mr. Gordon Gilles

This workshop discusses the investing and loan opportunities available through the Cornerstone Fund and how the partnership between investors and borrowers is both missional in nature and stewardship directed.

“Church Management for Sustainability”

--Rev. Dr. Gloria J. Smith

Presentation on the process of auditing the church's decisions for determining the ability to practice sustainable environmental practices. This also includes the process of Council and Trustee management of sustainable practices.

“Arizona Faith Network: New and Improved”

--Rev. Erin Tamayo

Great things are happening at Arizona Faith Network (the re-imagined organization formerly known as the Arizona Ecumenical Council.) Come hear and experience the new mission in an exciting way. Executive Director Rev. Erin Tamayo will share how AFN plans to take our theology and put it into action in partnership with others in the community. This workshop will demonstrate how we, as people of God, can reflect on our theology in a way that leads us to live out our faith that in turn guides us to further discourse and understanding of God's work in the world. Come learn how you can get involved and share ideas with this exciting newly re-imagined organization!

“A Taste of Lay Academy: Was Paul Misunderstood?”

—Rev Dr. Vernon Meyer

The conclusion of many Pauline scholars is that we have been reading Paul through the lens of the 16th century Protestant Reformation and not with an understanding of the real First century reformer in the growing Jesus Movement. Using the book by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, "The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon," this session will dig through the levels of the "conservative" Paul, to the "reactionary" Paul, to get at the "radical" Paul. Finally what sense can we make of Paul in the church of the 21st century? If you have ever wondered what the Lay Academy is about, this will be a great opportunity to experience it for yourself!

“Welcome the Stranger: Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation”

--Rev. Dr. Randy J. Mayer

Description: We live in an exciting place in this country because there are so many opportunities for individuals and congregations to live out their call of hospitality. This workshop will help congregations see all the exciting ways that they can create study programs, immersion experience, and develop relationships with immigrant communities that are already in their midst.



Workshops (Continued)

Saturday Workshops

"Interfaith Action for Climate Justice"

--Rev. Doug Bland & Sister Joan Brown

Connect the dots between faith and climate change, the biggest threat facing humanity and planet Earth today. Learn what faith communities in Arizona and New Mexico are doing to reduce the causes of climate change through action, education, advocacy and prayer. Consider ways churches can divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Explore the impacts of climate change in the southwest, including prolonged droughts, the growing threat of forest fires, water shortages and an increase in the number of environmental refugees.

"Making Sense of DACA & DAPA: What do they mean? When will they take effect?"

How can we help?"

- Rev. Tyler Connoley

This workshop will walk participants through the basics of the President's Executive Action, which provides deferred action for certain immigrants. We'll talk about the latest news regarding when the programs are expected to begin, as well as who can benefit. We'll talk about attempts to end the programs, and how we can advocate for their continuation. And we'll cover basic actions churches can take to reach out to the folks in their neighborhoods.

"Building a 200 Block Sanctuary... through Community Partnerships:"

--Rev. Dr. Ted Elsenheimer

Discovering that our neighbors are no longer strangers and instead are partners in our 200 Block Sanctuary ... recognizing Holy Ground. Where we can discover our neighborhood's value, our oneness with all, not some, of the people. Developing partnerships within your 200 block sanctuary: Schools, Community Gardens, Mental Health community services, many levels of Government, and Businesses.

"Staying Open to Divine Presence and Guidance in the Midst of an Active Life!"

-Revs. Amos Smith and Kenneth McIntosh

Two UCC Ministers and Authors talk about ways they stay open to the Divine Presence throughout the day. Amos, who has practiced Centering Prayer off and on since 2001 and daily since 2008, will begin the workshop by talking about how Centering Prayer affects his daily life and the life of his congregation. Then Kenneth McIntosh will share ways of practicing the presence of God throughout the day from his book, *Water from an Ancient Well: Celtic Spirituality for Modern Life*.

"Cooperative Advocacy: Offering Sanctuary without Fear"

- Rev. Gene Lefebvre and Members of Ministry of Sanctuary Team at Shadow Rock UCC

This workshop will provide an overview of the Sanctuary Movement. Also, members of Shadow Rock will share about their recent experience of sanctuary, the lessons learned and extend an invitation for congregations to offer sanctuary.

"Capturing the Spirit in Words"

- Rev. Elaine Greensmith Jordan

Summon the poet within in this session designed to free our creative side. We'll learn more about who we are in a friendly, easy class where we'll look within for treasures of feelings and ideas that bring revelations—of self and spirit. Bring a pen! Or pencil! Or laptop!



Conference Minister Report

~~ John C. Dorhauer

It strikes me as I write this that I am preparing my last report for our Annual Meeting delegates. When I sit to prepare this, it gives me an opportunity to reflect on the year just past. That doesn't seem quite sufficient this time – I find myself reflecting on the 7-plus years we have shared together. I am overwhelmed. You are a beautiful people in a beautiful place. I am so proud of what you have accomplished. As I prepare to leave, I find I am filled with gratitude for what we have made possible together. You are a destination Conference – one that others want to come to because of what you make possible when you set your mind to it. You have a clear sense of what the gospel asks of you; of how a faithful proclamation of that gospel changes lives; and a requisite courage to walk journeys others fear. I want to take what you have shown me is possible and ask your covenant partners in other settings to risk taking those journeys with you. Collectively, together, we can change the world. I believe that, and so do you.

Since last we gathered at the Annual Meeting at the Church and on the Campus of the Beatitudes, many things have happened that will have a lasting impact on your shared future.

Three of our churches voted to become Open and Affirming:

- Sun Lakes United Church of Christ under the leadership of the Rev. Vernon Meyer;
- Congregational Church of the Valley under the leadership of the Rev. Theresa Stirling;
- Church of the Palms under the leadership of the Revs. Len Silvester and Judy Green-Davis.

I want to make note of something: two of those churches are in planned retirement communities. We tend to miss-categorize our older adults as unchanging and inflexible. They have proven that to be a lie.

We have finished the first year of our three year EPIC commitment – our long range strategy to focus on Education, Participation, Innovation, and Communication. In that first year, we accomplished quite a few of the things we set out to do. I will highlight two of them here.

First, we sent delegates to an innovation lab in Boston and have committed funds to piloting in year two an innovation laboratory here in the SWC. Details about that will be forthcoming.

Second, we birthed five post-modern churches. The three year goal was to start one in year one, two in year two, and three in year three for a total of six. How cool is it that five of them are up and running right now after year one? They are:

- Revolution UCC in El Paso, TX, pastored by the Rev. Deborah Clugy-Soto;
- Silver City UCC in Silver City, NM, pastored by the Rev. Tyler Connoley;
- Sacred Space in Tucson, AZ, pastored by the Rev. Teresa Cowan Jones;
- Rebel and Divine in Phoenix, AZ, pastored by the Rev. Jeffrey Dirrim;
- Ktizo UCC in Glendale, AZ, pastored by the Revs. Nancy and Ted Elsenheimer.

Once again, leaders like these are helping not just the Southwest Conference, but the United Church of Christ find a new voice, new relevance, and new vitality by showing us how the gospel can come alive in new ways.



Conference Minister Report (Continued)

In order to strengthen our commitment to two significant ministry initiatives, we have brought on two additional part-time staff: The Rev. Tyler Connoley, who is serving as our Immigrant Care Coordinator; and the Rev. Ken McIntosh, who is serving as our Church Growth Coordinator. These two are making a real and profound difference in helping us to organize our collective efforts around justice and evangelism. Please read their reports included in this Annual Meeting book.

The building itself continues to be a remarkable asset. In this year we have been able to host

- the first ever gathering of Ecumenical judicatory leaders and Postmodern leaders from across the country;
- the Phoenix area celebration of Arizona becoming a Marriage Equality state, with over 500 people present to hear Mayor Greg Stanton and others speak;
- the Green Party of Arizona using our building to host their meetings;
- a training event for Our Whole Lives teachers;
- Phoenix Marshallese Ministry special events;
- a pre-retirement seminar of the Pension Board of the United Church of Christ;
- assorted other groups such as a neighborhood Parents Club, young adult LGBT choir; Medicare for All justice organization, a mental health advocacy group, and a Buddhist meditation group.

One of the two churches who had been worshiping in the building graduated and moved into their own building – leaving space on Sunday morning for City Square Church, a new church initiative of the Methodist Church. The building itself makes us a missional presence, and offers us a real presence in a culturally and economically diverse community.

In 2013 we celebrated New Mexico becoming a Marriage Equality state. Last year, we celebrated Arizona becoming a Marriage Equality state. SWC clergy and key lay leaders were instrumental in making that happen, and over 150 clergy from around Arizona, many of them our SWC clergy, were seen holding signs that read “We stand ready to marry you” outside government buildings all over Arizona as on October 17, at 10:30 am, the ban on same sex marriages was lifted. Before the day ended, those clergy performed over 200 same sex marriages.

Our board this year agreed to partner with an attorney to pursue a court case challenging the constitutionality of the private prison industry. The attorney who is hoping to file the brief was interviewing prisoners being held in private prisons when he came across one who showed him a copy of the resolution we passed at our annual meeting in Sahuarita that called for the abolition of private prisons. That prisoner had no idea who we were, but he found a copy of that resolution and kept it. Because of that, we are now an advocate on his behalf to help stop the injustices perpetrated on him and others by the State of Arizona and the contracts it writes to the private prison industry.

I am sure I am leaving much out, but even this brief recitation tells the story: you are a remarkable people who take your commitment to faith, to justice, to evangelism seriously. It has been an honor and a joy to share this journey with you. I will take all that I have learned from and experienced with you along with me in my next calling. My goal will be to help the entire United Church of Christ act and speak and be like you. You do this so well. Thank you – for everything. And may it please the spirit of our Still-Speaking God to bless you in all your future endeavors.



Moderator's Report ~ ~ Dana Bender

Growing up UCC in northern New Jersey, I always appreciated my church's progressive interpretation of scripture and focus on social justice. However, after two years serving on the Executive Board for the Southwest Conference, I can honestly say that I have never been so proud to be a part of this denomination. I was speaking to someone the other day who had been approached about serving on the board and I found myself getting really excited for her, because serving at a conference level brings a whole new perspective to our ministry. I have gotten to meet so many really wonderful people along the way. In April, I will be handing the gavel over to Rev. George Ault from Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona. George will usher us all in to a time of vast change here in the southwest! But more about all of that later! Here are some highlights from the past twelve months.

You may remember that last year a group of representatives from the Executive Board, Mission Planning Board, and COCAM met for a weekend and produced a three-year plan called EPIC (Educate, Participate, Innovate, and Communicate). One year later, many of the goals for this movement are being reached. Holly Herman is tracking how various churches in the conference are communicating conference-wide activities. We have several new post-modern church starts in our midst. John Dorhauer has completed his "Why the UCC?" video and it is available to anyone who wants to use it. Interdependence is really what EPIC is all about – the need for each of us to know what is going on around us and draw from each other's resources.

Last June, the Board had a Skype meeting with Cameron Trimble, Executive Director for the Center for Progressive Renewal (CPR) regarding allotting 20% of John Dorhauer's time to be spent in conjunction with CPR (now Convergence Network). John's primary job was to build relationships with key leaders across denominations and organizations. As the Alban Institute is dissolving, there needs to be a warehouse for progressive churches; Convergence Network is working to serve in that capacity. As John was already on their Board of Directors and had spent his sabbatical visiting post-modern churches and faith communities, this decision seemed to be a logical extension to John's work here at the conference.

Two new Intern positions were established this past year. Tyler Connoley was hired last August as Immigrant Care Coordinator. Tyler was hired by means of designated funds for this position by the national UCC. He coordinates on behalf of the Southern California-Nevada Conference, the Southwest Conference, and South Central Conference, and with the national office. Tyler is also a resource for churches like Shadow Rock UCC in Phoenix who have given sanctuary to immigrants on their campus. Ken McIntosh was recently hired as Church Growth and Development Coordinator. He is working closely with our new church starts, existing churches who wish to become part of supportive "triads," and current churches who wish to revitalize and become connected to larger resource congregations called "anchor churches."

At last year's annual meeting, I'm not sure that anyone imagined that only 6 months later Arizona would become a marriage equality state! October 17 was huge day of celebration at our state capitol and in our local churches. The day culminated with a celebration that was held at the Conference Office with over 300 people in attendance including the Mayor of Phoenix.



Moderator's Report continued

In February, John Dorhauer was nominated to be the President and General Minister of the UCC! His duties will begin in the late summer. As sad as I am to see John leave the southwest, I believe that his gifts will absolutely shine through at the national setting. I am excited to see where his leadership takes us!

Which brings me full-circle to that aforementioned "vast change." After this meeting, Holly Herman and Barbara Decker begin a year-long staff transition plan that will culminate with their retirement some time in 2016. Both of these women have been integral parts of our community of faith. Their expertise, institutional memory, and strong sense of call to their work at the conference are things that really cannot be replaced. However they, and the Executive Board, are working on transition planning that includes bringing on a part time Office Manager/Administrator who will increase his/her hours as Holly and Barbara approach the end of their time at the conference. Additionally, a committee has been formed that will update our conference profile as we look for a Designated Conference Minister to begin in the fall.

As someone told me recently, "Change is." We can look at change with trepidation or embrace that, as a conference, we have some real traction on a number of issues, an amazing and faith-filled group of leaders, and courage to take chances when it is necessary and right to do so. As I leave my term as Southwest Conference Moderator, I do so with gratitude for the opportunity to serve with this fantastic collection of awesome individuals who truly do believe that all are welcome and are dedicated to serving a loving and just God.

Blessings to you all,
Dana Bender, Southwest Conference UCC Moderator



Church Growth and Development Coordinator Report ~~Kenneth McIntosh

I've just begun this new role; at the time of writing this report I've had 10 weeks on duty. I'm arranging this report according to the items in my job description (in bold Italic font).

Developing a pool of resource material for use by both new and renewing churches...written, online, or human. And "***Develop a basic 'how to' manual for new churches...***" So far I've compiled a list of 19 resources in web, human resource and print formats. This database needs to be formatted as both a website and a manual.

Build a working relationship with Convergence, Inc., Director Cameron Trimble,...resources offered to SWC... Emailed and spoke with Cameron Trimble. Established agreement with Center for Progressive Renewal to re-purpose 5 video teachings for SWC purposes and available to SWC.

Build a set of church triads, partnerships...for mutual support and accountability. Discussed both triad and resource network models at Church Growth meeting in Albuquerque and identified potential churches. Held initial meeting to discuss resource network and arranged to meet with more potential partners. Conference Minister following up on potential triad constituents.

Familiarize yourself with emerging growth strategies. Read 9 books/articles online and on Kindle, attended one live event and registered for National Church Leaders Institute 2015.

Help...goal..of creating and maintaining 6 postmodern churches. Visited 2 and spoke with 3 other ministers of established po-mo churches, and in ongoing dialogue with another local pastor regarding possible church in Casa Grande. Followed-up another potential new church contact. Established new church pastors' Webex monthly connection to discuss issues and share support for po-mo churches in SWC.

Familiarize yourself with...Assessment Team and consult with them.... Conducted phone consultation with assessment team to evaluate an application for assistance from a SWC church.

Communicate...for distribution of the Conference's Church Growth Assets, and communicate...about availability and application for these funds. Met in person with leaders of Marshallese Phoenix church, and will present their need for assistance to SWC board.

Additional Work this year so far:

Spoke with 22 SWC ministers (both new and long-established churches) either in-person, on phone or by Skype, to make their acquaintance, introduce my role as CG Coordinator, become acquainted with their church's history, blessings to share with others, and needs for assistance from the larger body. To date, I've connected with approximately half of SWC ministers. Preparing video and Pecha Kucha format presentations for annual meeting.

Priorities for Remainder of 2015:

- Follow-through on both ***Triad*** and ***Resource Partnership*** initiatives, to see those in place before CM transition.
- ***Delivery system for resource materials***
- ***Plan a SWC event focused on emerging strategies***



Committee on Church and Ministry A Report

~~ Donna Cavedon

The statistics in this report reflect the activity of COCAM A this past year. The responsibility of COCAM A is primarily with clergy and Members in Discernment, while COCAM B's work focuses on Congregations.

Significant issues are raised before our Committee. The process and deliberation of each situation is weighed carefully and prayerfully. No step is taken lightly.

I have felt fortunate to serve in the position of Chair for the past four years. When I have looked around the table I am assured that there is much wisdom that surrounds each question and decision the women and men make, lay and clergy, on behalf of the United Church of Christ.

As my term comes to an end, I ask for your prayers to continue to surround the work of the Committee and its new Chair, David Huisjen.

Committee Members:

- Rev. David Buss, Rincon Congregational Church, Tucson, AZ
- Rev. Dr. Donna Cavedon, Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona, AZ,
- Rev. Ken Heintzelman, Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix, AZ
- Rev. Jayne Hubbard, Black Mountain UCC, Scottsdale, AZ
- Mr. David Huisjen, Casas Adobes UCC, Tucson, AZ
- Rev. Bill Ingraham, Church of the Good Shepherd, Albuquerque, NM
- Pastor Jessie Sustaita, Iglesia Congregacional La Trinidad, El Paso, TX
- Mr. Pete Norum, First Congregational Church, Prescott, AZ
- Ms. Lori Ramsey, Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, AZ
- Rev. Tina Squire, Community Congregational Church, Tombstone, AZ
- Rev. Theresa Stirling, Congregational Church of the Valley, Scottsdale, AZ
- Ms. Diana Winston, Scottsdale Congregational Church, Scottsdale, AZ
- Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, SWC Conference Staff
- Ms. Barbara Decker, SWC Conference Staff

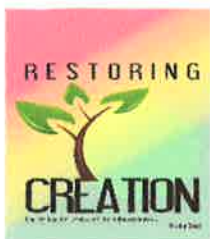
Actions of COCAM A taken between March 2014 and March 2015

Ordinations

- 5-18-14 Beth Frigard ordained in NY Conference
- 9-14-14 Andria Davis, Church of the Beatitudes

4-Way Covenants

- 5-19-14 Rock Fremont, Sun Lakes U.C.C., AZ Dept of Corrections, SWC
- 10-9-14 Sandi Britton, Scottsdale Cong. Ch, St. Joseph's Hospital, SWC
- 12-11-14 Rock Fremont, So. Mtn. Community Church, Justa Center, SWC



Committee on Church and Ministry A Report

Continued

Transfers of Standing FROM SWC:

Name	To:	Date
▪ Lark Hapke	NW Association, Indiana-Kentucky Conference	11-8-13
▪ Beth Frigard	Susquehanna Association, New York Conference	5-18-14
▪ Mary Harris	Western Association, Missouri Mid-South Conference	2-24-14
▪ John Mansell	California Nevada Northern Conference	8-5-14
▪ Phil Reller	Oahu Association, Hawai'i Conference	8-11-14
▪ Rebecca Delzell	Central Pacific Association, Central Pacific Conference	10-9-14

Transfers of Standing TO SWC:

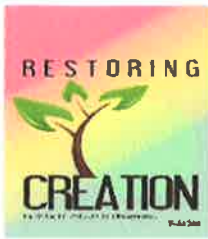
Name	From	Date
▪ Laura Folkwein	Denver Metro, Rocky Mountain Conference	4-26-14
▪ James Pennington	Minnesota Conference	4-10-14
▪ Carl Eschenbrenner	Detroit Association, Michigan Conference	8-14-14
▪ John Indermark	Pacific NW Conference	8-14-14
▪ James Scovil	Barnstable Association, Mass. Conference	8-14-14
▪ Matthew Baugh	Eastern Association, Illinois Conference	10-9-14
▪ Leah McCullough	Western NC/So. Conference	12-11-14
▪ Tom Lewis	Rocky Mountain Conference	12-11-14
▪ Don Longbottom	Living Waters Association, Nebraska Conference	2-12-15
▪ Tracy Hughes	NW Ohio Association, Ohio Conference	2-19-15

Leave of Absence

- 6-12-14 Karen McDonald's LOA renewed for 2nd year
- 8-14-14 Sandi Anthony approved LOA
- 2-12-15 Ute Molitor's LOA renewed 2nd year

Licenses Granted

- 4-10-14 Pastor Tarbij Charley to serve the First Tempe Marshallese Ministry; renewed
- 4-10-14 Rev. Ken McIntosh license renewed, POC 6/14 to serve First Cong Ch, Flagstaff
- 12-11-14 Pastor Jessie Sustaita's license renewed to serve Iglesia Cong. La Trinidad, El Paso
- 12-11-14 Pastor Luis Gonzalez' license expired without request for renewal
- 2-19-15 Bonnie McNair granted first time license to serve as pastor of Yuma U.C.C.



Committee on Church and Ministry A Report

Continued

Taken into Discernment

- 6-12-14 Derrick Elliott received as a member in discernment for ordination
- 10-9-14 Jim Alexander received as member in discernment for commissioned ministry
- 12-11-14 Joyce Schneider received as member in discernment for ordination

Installations

- 4-26-14 Laura Folkwein, Sabbatical Pastor & Asst. Minister, The Good Shepherd
- 5-10-14 James Pennington, Pastor, First Congregational Phoenix
- 6-20-14 Carter Hilai recognized as Pastor, Phoenix Marshallese Church
- 9-14-14 Andria Davis, Associate Pastor, Church of the Beatitudes
- 10-12-14 Tarbwij Charley recognized as Pastor, First Tempe Marshallese Ministry

Retirements

- Kyle Kneen Jan. 18, 2015
- Len Silvester, Dec. 31, 2014

Clergy Deaths

- Norman Helm, retired clergy living in Maryland, February 2014
- Irene Edman, retired clergy, March 2014
- Charlotte Mangan, retired clergy living in Massachusetts, March 2014
- Harold Behle, retired clergy, November 2014
- Asora Panama, active Samoan Pastor, December 2014
- Ray Plumlee, retired clergy, February 2015



Committee on Church and Ministry B Report

~~Diane Thomas

Over the past year the members of COCAM B continued their ministry and mission as they visited with most of the congregations throughout the Southwest Conference. COCAM B is responsible for helping our local congregations maintain a meaningful and positive relationship with the Southwest Conference. In addition, it is the ongoing task of the committee to provide guidance and support for all of our congregations.

As our committee members visited with representatives from local congregations, they were able to have some truly lively conversations as folks shared their enthusiasm and excitement surrounding their congregations. Congregations throughout the conference are creating new ways of worship and community outreach and mission. We have discovered that no matter the size of the congregation, members are dedicated to the health and vitality of their faith community, in spite of ongoing financial and membership challenges.

Yet we have also discovered that from time to time congregations can find themselves experiencing some sort of discord or conflict. Restoring positive relationships within congregations is also the mission of COCAM B. Over the past year, committee members have been invited to help congregations resolve conflicts through conflict support consultations. Committee members have provided "listening ears" which have proved to be helpful for congregations as they explore paths to satisfactory conflict resolutions.

Another mission of COCAM B is to provide support and guidance for new church starts in our conference. Committee members have been in conversations with our congregations in formation as they explore the possibility of joining our denomination and the Southwest Conference. Members of our committee help our newest congregations meet the requirements for joining our conference and the United Church of Christ.

This year COCAM B is recommending three of our new church communities for approval at the Annual Meeting. They are Peace U.C.C., El Paso, TX; Silver City U.C.C., Silver City, NM; and a new Samoan congregation, EFKAS Phoenix (meaning Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa, Phoenix).

The members of COCAM B are dedicated to helping every congregation in the Southwest Conference continue to grow in covenant relationship with each other as well as the wider church.

Committee Members:

- Ms. Mary Benin, Shepherd of the Hills United Church of Christ
- Rev. Ric Brightman, First Christian Church UCC/DOC
- Ms. Margaret Douglas, Oro Valley United Church of Christ
- Rev. Diane Thomas, Faith Community Church, Chairperson
- Ms. Cindy Walley, Encanto Community Church
- Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, SW Conference staff
- Ms. Barbara Decker, SW Conference staff



Immigrant Care Coordinator Report

~~ Tyler Connoley

I can't even begin to express what a pleasure and honor it has been to serve alongside the folks who are doing work with immigrants and for immigrant justice in the Southwest Conference and across the UCC. I began working as the Southwest Conference Immigrant Care Coordinator in August 2014, and have been constantly awestruck by the Spirit at work through the Church embodying God's unconditional justice and love. Here are highlights of *new things you have been doing* the past year:

Yuma UCC partnered with the Yuma Interfaith Coalition to begin serving families who have been released by ICE in Yuma. Their work in sheltering, clothing, and feeding immigrants was also supported by Allin Church in Dedham Massachusetts.

Shadow Rock in Phoenix joined the 2014 Sanctuary Movement when they took Misael Perez (pictured, right) into their protective embrace, and saw him through to his six-month stay of removal on March 2nd of this year.

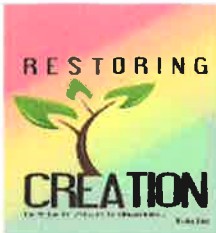


First Congregational in Albuquerque joined the Sanctuary conversation, and used this opportunity to educate themselves and their community about the need for immigrant justice, and to strengthen their connections with the New Mexico Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice. **Silver City UCC** and **Good Shepherd in Sahuarita** joined the Sanctuary 2014 Movement as supporting churches, and continue to support Rosa Robles Loreto in sanctuary at Southside Presbyterian in Tucson.

First Congregational in Phoenix led the way in SWC churches providing legal services for immigrants, opening a clinic called Keep Phoenix Together, patterned after the Keep Tucson Together clinic at Southside Presbyterian (supported by members of UCC churches there). **Good Shepherd in Sahuarita** followed suit, adding an informational clinic to their many projects.

Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona hosted a conversation with the other UCC churches of northern Arizona, and with the Northern Arizona Interfaith Council. That conversation sparked a movement toward more immigrant justice work in northern Arizona, which will certainly bear fruit in 2015. Likewise, **Silver City UCC** joined with their local UU Fellowship to form the Immigrant Justice Network of Grant and Luna Counties. Through the IJN, they've educated people in their part of the world about DACA and DAPA, and about the need for justice regarding family detention.

Casting the net wider, **Iglesia La Trinidad in El Paso** hosted a delegation from the Immigration Task Force in Minnesota who were inspired by the work La Trinidad does with immigrants in their neighborhood. The Minnesotans took new ideas back to Minneapolis where they're working to better connect with people in their hometown. Churches in **El Paso** and **Sahuarita** hosted a delegation from the Italian Federation of Protestant Churches and the Waldensian Church in Italy. That delegation formed the basis for an ecumenical partnership that will see an Italian intern coming to the Southwest Conference this winter and a U.S. intern going to Italy in the near future to document the global story of immigrant justice and the needs of immigrants in Europe and the United States. The work continues. Thank you for embodying God's unconditional justice and love.



Lay Academy Report

~~Rock Fremont, Lay Academy Coordinator

The 2014-2015 year has been the best yet for the Southwest Conference Lay Academy! We started off in September at First Congregational Church in Albuquerque, NM with renowned author and speaker Megan McKenna. This session was immediately followed by a very special presentation by Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer; "Why the United Church of Christ." This "Taste of the Lay Academy" was presented and recorded at Casas Adobes Congregational Church, UCC in Tucson, AZ. The recording is available on DVD and through our YouTube channel.

Our next session, "Religions of the World in Our Backyard," was a multiple-site tour of the temples and customs of local Vedic religions. Our evening started at the Southwest Conference office in downtown Phoenix, which also happened to be the site of a door-busting media event that evening as marriage equality had just been announced in Arizona. Local news trucks whirred in the background and cameramen swooped in and out of the crowd as we were treated to a delicious meal by our friends from ISKCON (Hare Krishna). We then walked down the street to the Sikh Gurdwara for a service and more delicious food. On Saturday we toured the Hindu and Jain temples before gathering at South Mountain Community Church for another wonderful meal provided by the Hare Krishna, wrapping up our journey with an experience at the Buddhist monastery.

We gathered again in January for Rev. Dr. Vernon Meyer's "Was Paul Misunderstood?" It was the first Lay Academy session ever to be held at Yuma United Church of Christ, where we all got to experience the radical hospitality that the UCC is known for. Pastor Vernon will be presenting a workshop of this session at this year's Annual Meeting. The fourth and fifth sessions of the 2014-2015 season, "Lost in Translation: The Hebrew Bible" with Rev. Dr. Nancy Bowen, and "God & Science" with Dr. Hester Oberman, brought several first-time attendees to Lay Academy, and our sixth and final session of the year, "Privilege," at First Congregational Church Prescott May 15-16, is shaping up to be very popular with first-timers as it is being facilitated by our very own conference minister Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, candidate to become the ninth leader of the United Church of Christ.

Our 2015-2016 season will feature five weekend sessions in addition to a very special sixth session that will take 10 attendees to the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City, UT, where the scheduled keynote speakers include the Dalai Lama, among others. Be sure to mark your calendars for Sep. 11-12, 2015, Nov. 13-14, 2015, Jan. 8-9, 2016, March 11-12, 2016, and May 13-14, 2016.

Once again, I'd like to thank Rita Bourgeois, Conference staff and the congregations of each and every church that have hosted us throughout the year for all their efforts and support, but especially, I'd like to thank our attendees themselves for their commitment to lifelong learning.

If you'd like to experience a taste of Lay Academy first-hand, we encourage you all to attend Rev. Dr. Vernon Meyer's presentation "Was Paul Misunderstood?" right here at Annual Meeting. To learn more about Lay Academy, please stop by our table, or visit our website at www.LayAcademy.org.

Lay Academy
**SOUTHWEST
CONFERENCE**



Widening the Welcome Report

Submitted by Michael Curry, Secretary, SWC UCC Widening the Welcoming Inclusion Team

It has been a busy year for the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ Inclusion Team. We had our first meeting at the conference office on Saturday January 29, 2015. Churches that were present at this meeting were First Congregational UCC, Phoenix, Scottsdale Congregational UCC, Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix, and members of the Multi-Functioning Families group.

During the meeting we developed a steering committee for the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ. Members of the steering committee are:

Rev. Robert Koth: Coordinator First Congregational Church: Phoenix, AZ

Michael Curry: Secretary Shadow Rock UCC: Phoenix, AZ

Rev. Sandi Britton: Scottsdale Congregational UCC: Scottsdale, AZ

Deni Nordmeyer, Multi-Functioning Families

Rev. Judy Green-Davis, Church of the Palms: Sun City, AZ

The vision statement for the Southwest Conference UCC Widening the Welcome Inclusion team is, "We covenant with God and one another to extend welcome and Christian Fellowship to all the followers and seekers of Christ without fear, prejudice, or discrimination in regards to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, age, ethnicity nationality, **physical, mental, or emotional condition**, education, financial situation or biblical or theological interpretation.

Our proposed mission statement of the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ Widening the Welcome Inclusion Team was adapted by the National office of the United Church of Christ whereas, **"We are all ministers of Jesus Christ following His example in the world by loving one another, protecting the vulnerable, and working for justice for all people."** We commit to educate, advocate, and gather resources and skills to equip congregations to widen the welcome, accommodate and include all God's people in the life of the church.

For more information please contact Robert Koth, coordinator, at robertkoth1@cox.net or 602-459-0638.



Youth Ministry Report

Camp ~~Michele Mellott

Thanksgiving Alive! ~~ John Angiulo

Super Fun Super Hero Camp

We again combined both Senior High Camp and Super Camp last summer— 2nd graders through graduated high school youth all shined as super heroes with capes and outfits and super powers. They were encouraged and supported by incredible counselors, deans, program staffers, guest artists, archery specialists, nurses, craft helpers and snack experts.

Each day the youth spent about two hours with their counselors looking at stories and scripture passages that helped them see how to hone their own special powers. This is the meat of camp! Deep sharing, greater understanding of themselves and others, and the undivided attention of counselors really made this time special.

They played super hero games, explored super hero comics, and sang super hero songs. The high school groups were able to get off campus and do some good mission projects throughout Prescott thanks to the leadership of Rob Simonson and his counselors.

It was truly a special week. Friendships were renewed and newly formed. Talents were shared. Our conference is lucky to have so many generous adults and young adults who give up a week of their time to be with the campers. Here's hoping the next time you meet one of them you could give them a much deserved pat on the back!

Michele Mellott, Camp Director

Thanksgiving Alive

The **Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, Arizona** hosted 27 youth and adult leaders from the SWC last Thanksgiving weekend. The theme was from Romans 12:13, "*give hospitality to the stranger.*" We began by discussing the traditional Pilgrim story and asked the question, "Who shared with whom?" The history of this holiday is based on Native peoples showing hospitality and kindness to strangers. Other than native peoples, we are all migrants and strangers bound to show hospitality to all. This was reinforced by the experiences of the weekend:

☞ We saw artifacts left by migrants crossing the desert. It was very moving to see a purse left behind containing make-up and a dancing shoe, vials of insulin and baby clothes.

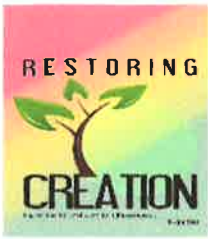
☞ We visited a community center run by "Hogar de Esperanza y Pa'z" (Home of Hope and Peace), where we learned about their projects and learned to make finger knit bracelets and necklaces.

☞ We went on a desert walk led by the Green Valley Samaritans and stopped at memorials erected in spots where human bones were found. We prayed and left small memorial scrolls at each spot.

☞ We went to the Border Wall in Nogales, where we happened upon a family who were sharing a meal and visiting with each other. They explained that they do this every year, with their families traveling several hours from locations in Arizona and Mexico. They visited, but they were not allowed to touch each other or share their food. It was quite an eye-opener to see this family.

This Thanksgiving Alive retreat was a little different in that there were not physical service projects; instead, we were learners and our service project was to go back to our home churches, families and friends and talk about what we experienced during our time on the border. Thanks to all who attended and made Thanksgiving Alive so meaningful.

John Angiulo, TA! Coordinator



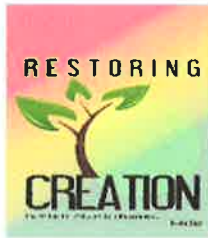
New Mexico Conference of Churches adapted from a letter from Donna McNeil, Executive Director

2015 marks NMCC's 50th anniversary! The work of unity, peace, and justice has been the hallmark of the New Mexico Conference of Churches. Thank you to the Southwest Conference for its support through the years.

The Congregational Vitality Series was the highlight of the year, with two visits from Dr. Diana Butler Bass. She encouraged and challenged us to step into the transformative work of this time with enthusiasm and confidence. In 2015 the series will continue in the spring with Rev. Robin Meyers, Ph.D., from Mayflower United Church of Christ. He is a national speaker and author on Christian life. In the fall, the Rev. Scott Anderson from the Wisconsin Council of Churches will lead a workshop on HOW to lead transformation in our congregations.

In 2014, we worked closely with the New Mexico Interfaith Coalition on Immigrant Justice to respond to the refugee crisis during the summer. At our annual meeting in Las Cruces, the board was impressed to learn more about the heroic support provided by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces to women and children escaping violence in Central America. We continue to advocate with legislators in Santa Fe and Las Cruces for due process for all people entering the U.S. and that women and children not be detained.

In the spring of 2014 we joined a coalition of organizations that formed *APD Forward* to help end the rash of unjustified killings and excessive use of force, as documented by the Department of Justice, by the Albuquerque Police Department. That process is encouraging and we will be watching closely to ensure that the newly appointed federal monitor is listening to the concerns of the community. The lessons learned in Albuquerque are applicable in communities across the state.



Arizona Faith Network prepared by John Dorhauer, former AEC board president

Formerly known as the Arizona Ecumenical Council, the Arizona Faith Network began its work in January 2015. The new structure, new name, and new mission are the result of an organization that shut down for almost two years to discover if there was a missional imperative that would drive new energy, and if such a missional imperative could be articulated, would there be enough partners to fund it.

After two years, the organization now known as the Arizona Faith Network was born with two missional imperatives. The first was to engage the community in meaningful **dialogue** in a way that maintained respect for all participants while welcoming all voices. The second was to engage community partners in meaningful **action** that has the potential to meet some need and change the circumstances. Toward that end, AFN has called the Rev. Erin Tamayo to be its Executive Director. AFN is no longer an Ecumenical organization, but has decided to become an Interfaith organization.



Beatitudes Campus Report

Fifty years ago, Beatitudes Campus was built on the vision of the people of the Church of the Beatitudes and it continues to be a wonderful resource to all congregations in the United Church of Christ and beyond. When the visionaries from Church of the Beatitudes broke ground for Beatitudes Campus on a hot summer day in July 1964, even they could not fully fathom what Beatitudes Campus would become. Their vision was clear – to build a comfortable, caring, affordable retirement living community where people could live, learn and grow through all the days of their lives. We hold tight to that vision today. Every day, we are focused, as our founders were, on being the best community we can – not only for the people who live at Beatitudes Campus today, but for the generations that will follow. Our enduring mission to serve older people and their families is at the core of the Beatitudes Campus, and we continue to commit to a model of wellness that focuses on soundness of mind, spirit and body. Although the “ways” we serve have changed over time, the “whys” have not.

Much has happened at Beatitudes Campus in 2014. During 2014-2015, the campus is celebrating the 50th anniversary of our founding at many events. Last June, we held a 50th anniversary event to commemorate our groundbreaking. We have celebrated our legacy and envisioned our future with our staff, campus residents and our greater community. Michelle Just became the president and CEO in January 2014. Her commitment to lead Beatitudes Campus with the spirit and commitment of our founders is palpable. Michelle was consecrated as a Diakonal Minister by the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries (CHHSM) of the United Church of Christ. The designation was bestowed upon Just after she completed a year-long leadership program focusing on connecting professional excellence with faith-based purpose.

Beatitudes Campus has accomplished much this past year. Our dementia care and education program, Comfort Matters, continues to receive accolades and this year they began offering the educational program to other hospitals and facilities throughout the country. This year, with the help of a grant, we launched our new Success Matters program, directed by an occupational therapist, to offer a variety of programs and activities that promote social, physical, mental and spiritual engagement among our residents. Our Music & Memory program, where we offer our residents in our memory care neighborhoods therapeutic therapy with music, was the subject of several videos and media coverage. Beatitudes Campus was featured in a documentary called “Backing Out of Time” (www.backingoutoftime.org), which will have an Arizona premier in March 2015.

The Beatitudes Elders for a Sustainable Future continue to be active and involved in matters of protecting the earth’s resources. One of the members of the Elders for a Sustainable Future, a retired minister, even went on the Climate Train to New York City to demonstrate with thousands of others in front of the United Nations. The Beatitudes Community Garden, which is resident inspired and managed, has grown by leaps and bounds. Located on the east side of the campus, it has transformed into an oasis, with a vegetable garden, an orchard of dwarf trees, a flower garden and waterfall. They glean their produce and provide it to Interfaith Cooperative Ministries.

If you would like more information please contact Rev. Peggy Roberts, (phone 602-995-6109 or email proberts@beatitudescampus.org).

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Peggy Roberts, Sr. Vice President of Spiritual Life



Chapman University Report

Greetings from your United Church of Christ university in Southern California—Chapman University.

Chapman is a comprehensive liberal arts and pre-professional undergraduate school and offers advanced degrees in law, education, physical therapy, pharmacy, film and other areas of study. We have just over 8,000 students.

We are proud to have a staff of 3 full time people to nurture approximately 100 UCC and Disciples students from across the country. We offer weekly student led worship, a retreat each semester, opportunities for service and fun all within an environment of leadership mentoring. Our goal is to graduate students who continue to remain church connected in their adult lives.

Our scholarships are exceptional for undergraduates. If you are related to a minister (child, grandchild, niece, or nephew) or if you have served the Conference in a youth leadership role, you automatically are granted half tuition. Every UCC student who participates in the student ministry gets \$2,000 annually. On top of that, Chapman has an exceptional needs-based scholarship program that stacks on top of the church-related money.

Chapman is looking for exceptional students. The average GPA is currently 3.77 and we are selective in our admissions process.

You are invited to our Annual Founders Day Education event, March 12-13, 2016. Our speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, talking about the challenges of veterans, many of whom suffer from moral injury—the struggle to make sense of all that they have seen and perhaps done while in the service.

I look forward to talking with you in our exhibit space during the SWC Annual Meeting. I have admissions and scholarship information that you will find helpful! Come and learn and see all that Chapman has to offer!

Blessings,
Rev. Nancy E. Brink
Director of Church Relations



Pacific School of Religion Report

Pacific School of Religion and its new President, Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy, send greetings to the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, March 2015.

Sitting at the intersection of faith communities, higher education, and the world, Pacific School of Religion is committed to providing strong academic training for leaders of existing and emerging faith communities, and preparing spiritually rooted leaders to respond to the call for social transformation.

On January 29th, 2015, PSR entered a new era with the Inauguration of its 12th President, Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy. He is the first Lutheran and the first Latino to lead the seminary and at age 45, he is one of the youngest to do so.

A multi-denominational seminary, PSR has been preparing bold leaders for historic and emerging faith communities since its founding in 1866. PSR has formal relationships with three denominations: the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and over half of PSR's students come from these three traditions. Other PSR students come from faith traditions as diverse as Quaker, Unitarian Universalist, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and several other mainline denominations and new religious movements.

This year, PSR is pleased to announce a new degree program. The Master of Arts degree in Social Transformation (MAST) equips students to think critically about socio-political dynamics and reflect constructively on the role played by religion and theological traditions in movements for social change. This academic program combines the tools and methods of social theory and constructive theology for a distinctive blend of spiritual leadership skills in a rapidly changing world.

PSR's online and evening offerings continue to grow to allow for more flexible learning options for students. This includes the Theological Education for Leadership (TEL) program, offering 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.

This summer, PSR will be holding a number of compelling, transformative courses, including:

- **Faith Rooted Organizing** with Alexia Salvatierra
- **Howard Thurman: Disciplines of the Spirit** with Liza Rankow
- **Rethinking Faith in Lockdown America** with Mark L. Taylor
- **Womanist/Mujerista/Feminist Liturgies for Transforming Churches**, a collaborative study & work group with Rita Nakashima Brock and Sylvia Thorson-Smith
- **Preaching Liberation** with Donna Allen

If you are an alumni/ae of PSR, I'd love to talk with you, to hear your story, and hear about how PSR prepared you for the work you are doing today. Please feel free to call me, 510-849-8260, or email me, janey@psr.edu. We are grateful for PSR's long partnership with the United Church of Christ in the formation of progressive Christian leaders.

John Aney, Associate Advancement Director
Alumni/ae and Church Relations



Nominating Slate

CLASS CONTINUING MEMBER	NOMINEE	ASSN	CHURCH	CITY
<u>MODERATOR</u>				
2016 Rev. George Ault		NAZ	Church of the Red Rocks	Sedona
<u>MODERATOR-ELECT</u>				
2017	Rebecca Glenn	CAZ	Scottsdale Cong. UCC	Scottsdale
<u>TREASURER</u>				
2016 Phil Ward		CAZ	First Congregational/Phoenix	Phoenix
<u>SECRETARY</u>				
2017	Karen Richter	CAZ	Shadow Rock	Phoenix
<u>EXECUTIVE BOARD (At-Large)</u>				
2016 Rev. Tyler Connoley		SNM/EP	Silver City UCC	Silver City
Rob Cass		SAZ	Community Congregational	Tombstone
2017	Rev. Sharon Littrell	NNM	St. Paul's UCC	Rio Rancho
	Rev. Brady Abel	CAZ	United Church of Sun City	Sun City
	Emily Marderness	SAZ/CAZ	Sacred Space/Scottsdale	Tucson/Scottsda
<u>COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY- Section A</u>				
2016 Rev. Bill Ingraham		NNM	Ch. of the Good Shepherd	Albuquerque
Pastor Jessie Sustaita		SNMEP	La Trinidad	El Paso
Diana Winston		CAZ	Scottsdale Cong. UCC	Scottsdale
Rev. Jayne Hubbard		CAZ	Black Mountain	Scottsdale
2017 Pete Norum		NAZ	First Congregational/Prescott	Prescott
David Huisjen		SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
Rev. David Buss		SAZ	Rincon UCC	Tucson
Lori Ramsey		CAZ	Beatitudes	Phoenix
2018 Rev. Tina Squire		SAZ	Community Christian	Tombstone
Rev. Ken Heintzelman		CAZ	Shadow Rock	Phoenix
Rev. Theresa Stirling		CAZ	Cong. Church of the Valley	Scottsdale
	Rev. David Cooper	NAZ	First Cong./Flagstaff	Cottonwood
<u>COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY- Section B</u>				
2016 Margaret Douglas		SAZ	Oro Valley UCC	Oro Valley
	Rev. Sue Joiner	NNM	First Congregational/Alb	Albuquerque
2017 Rev. Ric Brightman		SNMEP	First Christian	Las Cruces
Cindy Walley		CAZ	Encanto	Phoenix
2018	Marlene Auburn	NAZ	Church of the Red Rocks	Sedona
	Rev. Paul Whitlock	CAZ	Desert Heritage	Mesa
<u>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</u>				
2016 Alan Mong		SNMEP	Silver City UCC	Silver City
Anita Curtis		NNM	St. Paul's	Rio Rancho
Rev. Alberta Wallace		SAZ	Yuma UCC	Yuma
Debe Knaack		CAZ	First Congregational/Phoenix	Phoenix
Barbara Nordlund		CAZ	Scottsdale Cong. UCC	Scottsdale
Sandy Znetko		NAZ	First Congregational/Flagstaff	Flagstaff
<u>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</u>				
2016 Rev. Dalene Fuller Rogers		SNMEP	First Christian DOC/UCC	Las Cruces
2017 Ron Shilling		CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale
2018	Roxanne Maloney	CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale
	Karyn Hott	CAZ	Desert Palm	Tempe



2014/2015 Church Pledges

#	Name	2014 Pledge	2014 Members	2014 Per Cap	2015 pledge	2015 members	2015 per cap
30	First Cong'l Church of Flagstaff	1050	83	830	1050	79	790
35	Good Shepherd UCC	28000	300	2850	29050	307	3070
50	Desert Heritage	1200	154	1200	1200	155	1200
60	United Churches Fellowship	1000	28	280	500	20	200
70	Oro Valley UCC	9000	118	1180	9000	116	1160
80	Encanto Community Church	3380	68	680	2816	68	680
85	KTIZO	8000	81	810	7000	95	950
90	First Congregational UCC/Phx	12000	231	2310	13000	243	2430
95	Rebel & Divine	800	30	0	850	98	0
100	South Mountain Community Church	2784	20	200	2835	15	150
110	Church of the Beatitudes	3000	678	3000	4000	662	3000
115	Shadow Rock UCC	14520	448	4480	14920	408	4080
120	Shepherd of the Hills Congregationa	9500	262	2620	9500	258	2580
130	First Samoan Cong'l Christian Chuc	2100	70	700	0	67	670
140	West Congregational Church	600	49	490	600	43	430
150	First Congregational UCC/Prescott	1000	128	1280	1000	120	1200
155	Faith United Community Church	0	43	410	0	43	430
157	Black Mountain Community	565	63	560	1600	56	560
158	Cong'l Church of the Valley	1500	69	690	1500	60	600
160	Scottsdale Congregational UCC	15328	121	1250	14847	98	980
170	The Church of the Red Rocks	19500	590	5900	20000	588	5890
180	Sierra Vista Community UCC	0	85	850	0	77	100
185	Church of Palms	14446	314	3140	14359	331	3310
190	United Church of Sun City	10000	277	2400	11000	269	2472
193	Desert Garden United Church of Ch	0	262	2620	0	241	2410
195	Sun Lakes United Church of Christ	8500	145	1450	8500	99	990
200	First Congregational Church/Tempe	1000	63	630	2000	46	460
203	Marshallese Ministry of Phoenix	0	35	0	300	35	0
205	Desert Palm UCC	18000	219	2190	15660	224	2240
207	Marshallese Ministry UCC/Tempe	200	100	200	100	100	0
210	Community Cong'l	700	69	300	700	67	300
220	Casas Adobes Cong'l	14000	291	2910	14000	290	2900
223	Church of the Painted Hills	4800	93	900	6600	93	970
240	Rincon Congregational Church	16000	248	2480	16000	257	2510
243	Sacred Space		0		0	0	0
245	Marshallese Ministry inTucson	600	190	0	0	209	0
260	First Congregational UCC/Alb	9000	214	2000	9000	226	2000
270	Church of the Good Shepherd	22234	209	2090	16545	224	2270
280	Iglesia Congregacional Unida	500	14	140	50	14	100
290	United Church of Angel Fire	300		300	0	134	0
308	First Christian, Las Cruces	1500	125	625	1680	125	625
310	United Church of Los Alamos	3000	274	1500	2000	267	1250
315	St. Paul's UCC	1500	35	350	1800	28	280
318	United Church of Santa Fe	0	249	2490	0	266	2660
323	Silver City	500	20	200	500	19	200
325	Desert View UCC	400	48	220	800	18	180
330	Iglesia Congregacional la Trinidad	60	19	200	0	15	150
335	Peace	0	0	0	2700	22	220
400	Yuma UCC	2000	24	240	1850	24	240
	TOTALS	264067	7256	62145	261412	7319	59887



Final 2015 Approved Budget 2016 Top Line Budget

	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	Final 2015 Budget	2016 Top Line
Income					
OCWM (Pledged)	269,103	264,167	266,951	261,412	268,000
Per Capita (Pledged)	60,628	62,265	62,110	58,887	59,000
Annual Meeting	17,957	18,000	20,550	21,000	18,000
Interest(Banks, Conerstone, UCF)	3,651	4,000	3,454	3,500	3,500
Undesignated Use/gifts to conference	16,031	18,000	18,686	20,000	18,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	4,722	0	0	0	0
Fundraisers	4,937	12,000	1,337	25,000	10,000
Strength Contribution	3,731	5,000	4,298	5,000	5,000
Transfer from New Church Starts Reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Transfer from Undesignated General Fund	4,752	0	14,687		
Rental Income	16,026.00	18,000	16,618.00	18,000	18,000
Conference Income	411,538	411,432	418,691	422,799	409,500
Committees for Conference Ministries	3,762	6,950	6,656	6,500	6500
Conference Life and Ministries	34,117	36,270	38,371	48,200	36000
Church & Ministry Operations Programs	3,936	3,750	3,059	3,500	3500
National & Regional Expense	7,541	5,000	6,895	6,500	6500
Mission	75,402	75,041	74,687	73,600	75000
Administration & Communication	34,111	37,400	37,299	34,250	33500
Building & Equipment Operation	25,214	27,500	31,531	34,000	32000
Called Ministerial Compensation & Benefits	113,233	113,927	112,040	112,523	113000
Office Staff Compensation & Benefits	112,807	105,587	105,192	103,549	103500
Depreciation			2,961		
Conference Expenses	410,123	411,425	418,691	422,622	409500
Total Income Less Expenses	1,415	7	0	177	0



2015 Budget Details

Detailed Expenses	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	Adj etc
--------------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	---------

Committees for Conference Ministries

Church Growth & Development Committee	1525	1000	1000	1000	
Justice Witness Ministries Committee	37	500	100	250	
Youth/Young Adult Ministry Team	25	750	286	250	
Youth program Misc. Exp	0	200	0	0	
Mission Planning Board/Executive Board	2175	4000	5009	4750	
Nominating Committee	0	0	0	0	
Personnel Committee	0	500	261	250	

Total	3,762	6,950	6,656	6,500	
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--

Conference Life and Ministries

Annual Meeting	14448	15000	16469	16000	
Conference Minister's Discretionary Fund	165	500	556	500	
Staff Development & Travel	51	200	50	200	
Conference Minister's Expenses	11611	12000	10115	12000	
Search & Call/ New CM	0	0	0	15000	
Contract Workers	7800	8320	8948	4000	
Small SWC-sponsored Events	42	250	2233	500	
Total	34,117	36,270	38,371	48,200	

Church & Ministry Operations Programs

Committee on Church & Ministry Meetings	2697	2500	3217	3000	
COCAM Issues/Training Boundary/Polity	1239	1250	-158	500	

Total	3,936	3,750	3,059	3,500	
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--

National & Regional Expense

Council of Conference Ministers (Dues)	1454	1500	1460	1500	
General Synod Reserve Expense	0	3500	3500	0	
General Synod Expense (Actual)	6087	0	1935	5000	

Total	7,541	5,000	6,895	6,500	
--------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--

2015 Budget Details *continued*

Detailed Expenses	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	Adj etc
Mission					
National contribution (25% OCWM)	67276	66041	66737	65350	25% of OCWM
Campus Ministry/Conference Pledge	975	1000	200	250	
Pacific School Of Religion	188	250	250	250	
Arizona Faith Network	4500	4500	4500	4500	
New Mexico Conference of Churches	3063	3000	3000	3000	
Ecumenical Delegates' Expense	110	250	0	250	
Interchurch Resource Center	-710	0	0	0	
Total	75,402	75,041	74,687	73,600	

Administration & Communication

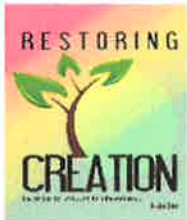
Accountant Tax Preparation	300	300	300	0	
Accounting/Payroll Service	13200	13,200	14250	13,200	
Books for Office Use	211	200	99	200	
Miscellaneous	462	500	76	250	
Bank Fees	1021	1000	301	300	
Audit Reserve Funding	2000	2000	2000	0	
Office Supplies	3409	3500	3862	3500	
Postage	2877	3000	2704	3000	
Telephone & Internet	3592	3500	3890	4000	
Copier	5581	5500	5121	5000	
Website re-build	0	0	0	4000	
Other Printing	258	500	496	500	
Advertising/Promotion	1200	1200	1200	300	
Sabbatical Reserve	0	3,000	3,000	0	
Total	34,111	37,400	37,299	34,250	

Building & Equipment Operation

Insurance (Property/Liability/Auto/Work Comp)	5859	6000	8323	8500	
Furnishings & Repair	170	0	0	2000	
Computer/Office Equipment & Repair	3813	2000	3766	3500	
Utilities	8353	12,000	9959	10,000	
Property Maint. (Landscape, janitor, upkeep)	6651	6500	9483	9000	
Car Maintenance	368	1,000	0	1,000	
Total	25,214	27,500	31,531	34,000	

2015 Budget Details *continued*

Detailed Expenses	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	Adj etc
Called Ministerial Compensation & Benefits					
Conference Minister					
Base Salary	48,500	48500	48500	48500	
Housing	25,000	25000	25000	25000	
		0	0	0	
Wage Sub-Total	73,500	73,500	73,500	73,500	
Called Ministerial Benefits-CM					
Health/Dental	21,814	22000	21,525	22000	
Pension/Life & Disability Ins(Pen 14% Dis 1.5%)	11,104	11104	11,392	11400	
Professional Expenses (Bks, Subs, CE)		500	0	0	
Continuing Education	1,192	1,200	0	0	
Social Security Offset (7.65%)	5,623	5623	5,623	5623	
Benefits Sub-Total	39,733	40,427	38,540	39,023	
Total Called Ministerial Staff	113,233	113,927	112,040	112,523	
Office Staff Compensation & Benefits					
Office Administrator	41434	41184	41184	41184	(36 hrs/w @ 22/hr)
Asst to Conference Minister	32282	32032	32032	32032	(28 hrs/w @ 22/hr)
Camp Leadership	8000	8000	5500	4000	
Salary Camp Assistant	1,350	0	2,143	2,000	
Wage Sub-Total	83,066	81,216	80,859	79,216	
Staff Benefits					
Health/Dental	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	
Pension/Life & Disability Ins(Pen 14% Dis 1.5%)	10,731	10731	10,731	10731	15.5% of Salary
Employer Fica (7.65%)	5,370	5640	5,602	5602	7.65% of Salary
	5640	0		0	
Total Staff	112,807	105,587	105,192	103,549	



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.

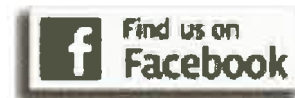
E-newsletter: *In the Loop*

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:



National 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.



In Appreciation and Recognition

SWC Officers 2014-15

Dana Bender, Moderator, Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix, AZ

Rev. George Ault, Moderator Elect, Church of the Red Rocks

Phil Ward, Treasurer, First Congregational UCC, Phoenix, AZ

Rev. Rich Doerrler-Peacock, Secretary, South Mountain Community Church, Phoenix, AZ

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

- The Planning Team: Dana Bender (SWC Moderator), Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer (Conference Minister), Rev. George Ault (Pastor, Church of the Red Rocks), Judith Glenn (Local Arrangements Chair), Ginger Willets, Sue Gregory, and Bill Albanese (Church of the Red Rocks), Holly Herman (SWC), and Barbara Decker (SWC)
- Michele Mellott, Scottsdale Cong. UCC Youth Director and coordinator of Annual Meeting Youth Event
- Revs. John Herman and Barb Doerrler-Peacock (New Delegate Orientation), and Lisa Roger (graphic design)
- Church of the Red Rocks musicians: John McDougald, "Harmony on the Rocks", CRR Hand Bell Choir, Mary Rubel, and Suzanne Moore
- Host church: Church of the Red Rocks, "UCC Store" minders, AV technicians, custodians, all the cookie bakers, servers, drivers, singers, poster makers, and go-fers that make the Annual Meeting run smoothly.
- Carlos Osuna, A/V, and the Church of the Red Rocks technical team
- Molly Dorhauer, babysitter
- Office helpers: Doris Jeppe, Phil Ward, Kitty Byrne and her team from First Congregational Phoenix, Jim and Carol Gross, and others I may have missed.
- Mr. Mark Clark, 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. Jim Antal (Conference Minister, Mass), Rev Doug Bland and Sister Joan Brown (Directors, AZ/NM Interfaith Power and Light)
- Rev. Donna Cavedon, Assistant Pastor, Church of the Red Rocks, for all the behind the scenes help.

All of YOU who attended the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference.
Without you there is no Conference!

Sincere apologies to anyone inadvertently missed. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.
A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!