

Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

2018 Annual Meeting
April 20-21, 2018
Rincon Congregational UCC
Tucson, Arizona



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All information and additional materials for the Annual Meeting 2018 can be accessed at the SWC Annual Meeting webpage <http://www.swcucc.org/annualmeeting/>

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Southwest Conference UCC
Annual Meeting 2018
Business Agenda & Event Schedule

[Printable]

Thursday, April 19th

10:00am-12:00pm	Faith Rooted Organizing Workshop Part I	Rincon Congregational UCC
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch	
1:00-4:00pm	Faith Rooted Organizing Workshop Part II Dinner/Break	
6:30-9:00pm	Faith Rooted Organizing Workshop Part III	
	Early Annual Meeting Check-in Available between 12:00pm-4:00pm	

Friday, April 20th

8:00 AM	Church opens for vendor setup	Rincon Congregational UCC
9:00 AM	Annual Meeting Check-In Opens (Fellowship Hall)	
9:15-10:15 AM	New Delegate Orientation (Sanctuary) & SWC 101	(Rm 9/10)
10:30 AM	Opening Worship (Sanctuary)	Guest Speaker Rev. Alexia
11:30 PM	Lunch & Conversation (Fellowship Hall/Courtyard)	Salvatierra
1:30 PM	Business Session #1 (Sanctuary) Welcome & Call to Order Announcements Welcome by Host Church Introduction of Guests Introduction of SWC personnel Declaration of a Quorum (need 50% of churches) Results of the Written Ballot Nominating Committee Report Introduction to the FY 2018-2019 Budget Introduction to the SWC bylaws changes Introduction to the Resolution Introduction to UCC Constitution ratification recommendation	
2:15 PM	Break	
2:30pm-3:30pm	Workshops/Breakouts A Discerning Your Kairos Issue (Rm 7/8) Spirituality of Activism (Rm 5/6) 7 Proven Ways to Increase Giving (Rm 9/10) SWC Resolution, UCC Constitution (Sanctuary) Faith Rooted Organizing Q&A (Fellowship Hall) Grassroots Resistance & Our Congregations (Rm 1A)	Teresa Blythe Vernon Meyer Andy DeBraber SWC Executive Board Alexia Salvatierra Nathan Watts
3:45pm-4:45pm	Workshops/Breakouts B ALICE Training (Sanctuary) 3:45-5:15pm Discerning Your Kairos Issue (Rm7/8) Spirituality of Activism (Rm 5/6) 7 Proven Ways to Increase Giving (Rm 9/10) Widen the Welcome (Rm 1A) Budget Q&A (Fellowship Hall)	Marc Gerardis, Phil Shea Teresa Blythe Vernon Meyer Andy DeBraber Robert Koth Phil Ward, Cynthia VerDuin

5:15 PM Rest/Free Time
 5:45 PM Move location to Hotel Shuttle Bus to Hotel available...
 6:00 PM Cocktail Hour **Radisson Suites Tucson**
 6:30 PM Banquet

Saturday, April 21th

7:45 AM Pastor Moderator Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) **Rincon Congregational UCC**

9:15 AM Business Session #2 (Sanctuary)

Moderator's Report

CM Report

Prayer

Vote on the nominating slate

Slate is moved for approval by the nominating committee. No second is needed.

THE MOTION: The Nominating Committee moves that the nominating slate be approved. *

Vote on the FY 2018-2019 Budget

Budget is proposed as a recommendation from the Executive Board. No motion is needed. THE MOTION: The 2018-2019

Southwest Conference Budget shall be adopted as proposed.³

Vote on the SWC bylaws changes

Changes are moved by the Executive Board. No second is needed.

THE MOTION: The changes to the Southwest Conference Bylaws made by the Executive Board and presented at this annual meeting are affirmed. *

Vote on the Resolution – “Examining, Articulating, and Resourcing ... ‘the basic unit of life and organization of the United Church of Christ’ for the Twenty-first Century.”

Resolution is moved by the hearing committee; no second is needed.

Vote on the UCC Constitution ratification

Item is moved by the Executive Board. No second is needed.

THE MOTION: The Southwest Conference shall not ratify the series of amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution as adopted by the Thirty-first General Synod. *

Presentations

Announcing next Year's Annual Meeting

Adjourn

11:45 PM Worship & Install SWC Officers

12:45 PM Depart Shuttle Bus to Hotel available

* indicates an anticipated action by a committee. Motions are not made until voiced in the business session.

Meet Our Host Church – Rincon Congregational UCC



Founded in 1957 at the far limits of Tucson’s eastern border, RCUCC came into being at the same time the UCC denomination was formed. The historic moment of Congregational, Evangelical, Christian, and Reformed Churches coming together to be church under the umbrella of the United Church of Christ marked a commitment to pluralism and ecumenism that resounded in the new Rincon Congregational United Church of Christ. The combination of English Puritanism, American frontier revivalism, Swiss and German Reformed private piety and plain liturgy made for an engaged and engaging experience of church.

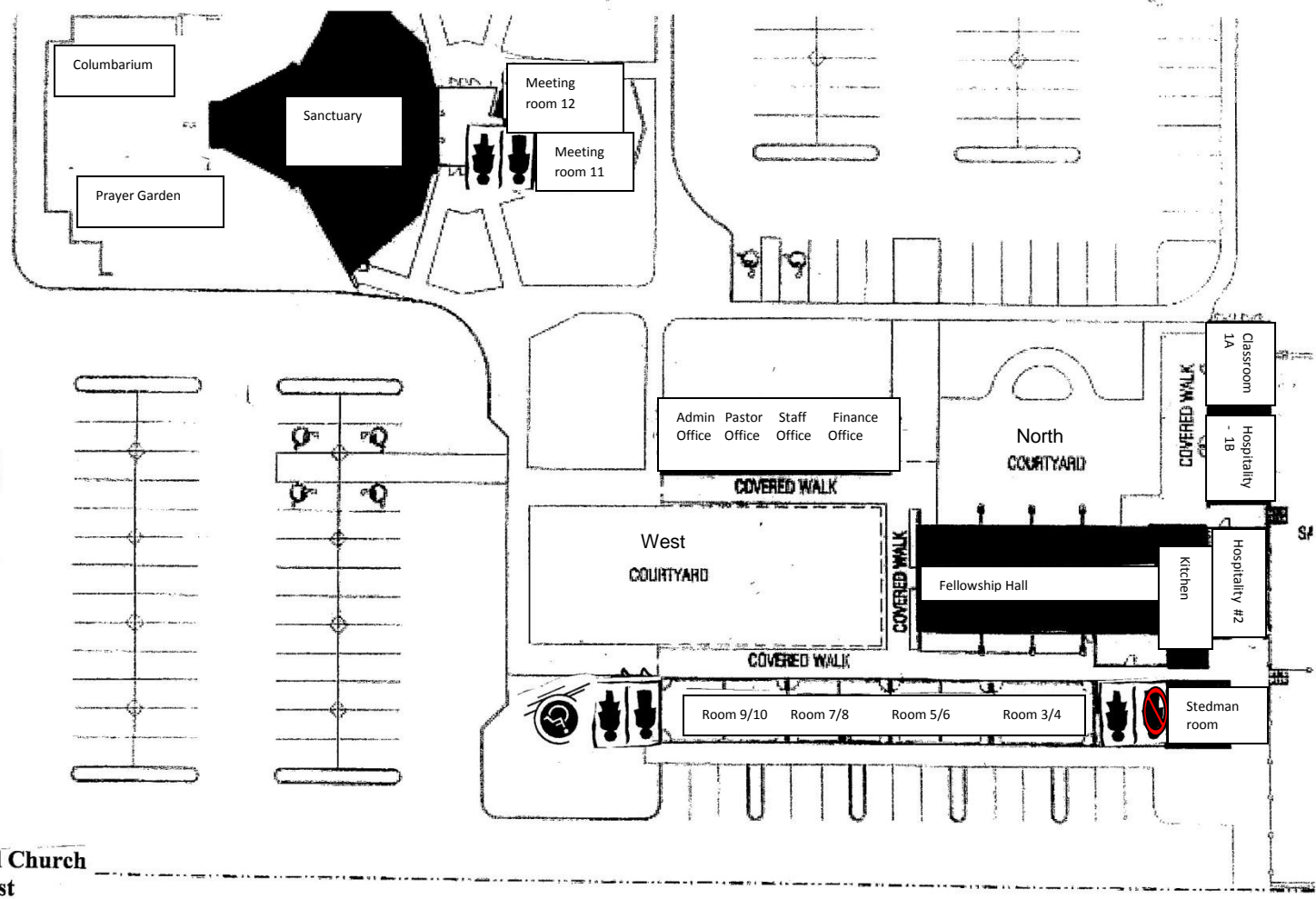
Committed to both the practice of *autonomy* - so important to our Congregational-Christian roots, and *covenant* - from our Evangelical-Reformed predecessors, the new church family found strength in the tension between the two.

RCUCC remembers, celebrates, and lives out of our combined histories of inclusion, welcome, and justice. From its inception in October 1957, RCUCC was envisioned as a church that offered a progressive approach to religion and spirituality. By that we mean that we take the Bible seriously, but not literally. We don’t claim to have all the answers but embrace the questions. We are a non-doctrinal church, gathered around a generous statement of faith but open to emerging theologies and understandings of church. We seek to love the world and to embrace others as Jesus did. Everyone is invited into full membership regardless of age, race, ethnic origin or worldly condition. We are an Open and Affirming congregation, accepting and valuing people regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. We also are a Just Peace Church, committed to naming and boldly proclaiming a public identity as a justice-doing, peace-seeking church. Our history demonstrates our love of art and music, our compassion for each other and the members of the wider community, our desire to fight for social justice and our willingness to support each other on our spiritual journeys.

RCUCC is a church in the borderlands of the U.S. and Mexico, holding all the ancient conflicts of this geographic and historical context, yet daring to go beyond the centers of conservative and fundamentalist religious, political, economic, and military power, to stand among those who are adversely affected by policies and practices of exclusion, discrimination, and domination. An offshoot of the First Congregational Church of Tucson, RCUCC was purposely situated on the farthest eastern corner of Tucson between the city and the surrounding desert. The name “Rincon” is Spanish for “corner” – which denotes its geographic location in “the corner” of in the city. The Rincon Mountains are just east of the church. While development rapidly enveloped our church, RCUCC has maintained a strong sense of being a church in ministry and mission in the borderlands, breaking down walls of ignorance and prejudice, bringing people together around a table open to all, and intentionally building bridges of connection between people and place.



We welcome you to our campus! Nuestra casa es su casa!
Pastor Delle McCormick



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United Church of Christ
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Annual Meeting Minutes May 5-6th, 2017

The United Church of Christ, Southwest Conference gathered for an Annual Meeting May 5 and 6 at the Sheraton Airport-Albuquerque and First Congregational UCC Albuquerque in New Mexico. The meeting materials that contain information about actions taken by the Annual Meeting (top line budget, nominating slate, and bylaws changes) should be considered addenda to these minutes.

FRIDAY

Southwest Conference Moderator Rebecca Glenn called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm at the Sheraton. Rebecca asked delegates for a motion naming Brendan Mahoney (First Congregational Phoenix) as Annual Meeting Parliamentarian. James Clark (Church of the Palms) made this motion; Susan Stephens Whitney (Casas Adobes) seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

Rebecca welcomed guests of the Conference: Stacey Pettice, UC Funds; Jake Pomeroy, Cornerstone Fund; Nancy Brink, Chapman University; Leslie Taylor, Pacific School of Religion; and Kathleen Day, Northern Arizona University. Rebecca introduced officers of the conference board and the staff. One staff change was announced: Wende Gonzales is moving from a contract position to Relational Communications Coordinator and Eli Johnson is transitioning to Assistant to the Conference Minister.

Rebecca announced the result of opening ballot measures, all of which passed. The Annual Meeting has 119 attendees, 96 of which are delegates representing 32 churches. A quorum was declared; official business of the conference may proceed with full force and effect.

Susan Whitney, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers and standing committee members, the full list of which was included in meeting materials.

Wendy Spurgeon provided an introduction of the by-laws changes that are on the Saturday agenda. Wendy expressed appreciation for the work of the Mission Planning Board (to be renamed Mission and Church Vitality Committee upon approval of by-laws changes) and for the appreciative inquiry process that the group used to discern the scope of their work together.

Treasurer Phil Ward introduced the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget and financial statement. The conference's auditor has recommended rearrangement of several accounts, using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, which will make the conference's finances more accurate and more transparent.

Rebecca Glenn introduced the recommendation from the Executive Board to call Bill Lyons as our settled Conference Minister. Rebecca noted that Bill is supported unanimously by the Executive Board and that he has shown himself to be a transparent and hardworking learner while working among us.

Friday's business session concluded at 2:40 pm.



SATURDAY

Moderator Rebecca Glenn called the session to order at 9:10 am. She expressed great appreciation for the Annual Meeting planning committee and those who worked to make the meeting run smoothly. Following announcements, Rebecca shared her moderator report, the written portion of which is in the meeting materials.

Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons gave his Designated Conference Minister report which included appreciation for the unpredictable yet joyful work so many are called to participate in.

Rev. Sue Joiner led delegates and guests in prayer.

The following agenda items come to the Annual Meeting as recommendations from the Executive Board or from standing committees. As such, they do not require a motion or second. Votes (written ballot or voice) follow discussion.

Susan Stephens Whitney expressed appreciation for the nominations committee and invited those interested in conference service to put their names forward for consideration. Recommendation from the nominating committee – the slate of officers, at-large members of the Executive Board, and standing committee members – passed without opposition.

Rebecca Glenn led deliberations and discussion regarding calling Bill Lyons as settled Conference Minister. Members of the Executive Board came forward to deliver brief statements of support. Many delegates offered their opinions and statements about Bill's work over the last 16 months.

Following much discussion, Joyce Buckers moved to approve Kelly Kahlstrom and Julie McCurdy as non-delegate tellers for vote counting. Sue Joiner provided a second. This motion passed and written balloting commenced.

Business continued as votes were tallied.

Treasurer Phil Ward led discussion on the 2017 budget. Phil noted the trust and investment income from the closure of First Church Tempe. Phil also noted the increased expenses for an Associate Conference Minister which will allow regular staff to fulfill duties instead of grant-funded and contract employees. Executive Board member Nancy Ackley spoke to the provided narrative budget as a visual representation of the conference's financial priorities and decision-making process. Others noted the continuing importance of strong support to the conference via Our Church's Wider Mission.

Phil Ward called for the question; the budget passed without opposition.

Wendy Spurgeon led discussion regarding by-laws changes. John Leum (First UCC Flagstaff) offered an amendment from the floor, adding the language "to expire every year" to the nominating committee section on page 10. Donna Gentry (Scottsdale UCC) seconded. This motion to amend passed.



Rebecca Glenn interrupted discussion of the by-laws changes to announce results of the vote on a call for Bill Lyons. This recommendation passed with 1 nay vote and 1 abstention. Bill expressed his confidence in the conference and appreciation those present. He expressed his desire to serve as Conference Minister “for the whole conference.” He also took this opportunity to welcome Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, United Church of Christ General Minister and President.

Discussion on the by-laws continued. Wendy Spurgeon (Silver City UCC) moved to amend changes, replacing ‘Mission Planning Board’ with Mission and Church Vitality Committee throughout the document. Additional amendments from Wendy are as follows:

In lines 11-14, under Definition of Community, change which exist(s) and that has active standing

In line 17, under standing committees, add the newly formed Endowment Fund Management Committee.

Jennifer Smith (First UCC Phoenix) seconded these amendments offered from the floor. Amendments passed.

Voting on the by-laws changes began via written ballot.

Danny Rodriguez (First UCC Phoenix) spoke with energy and passion to the resolution regarding sanctuary. Rev. James Pennington (First UCC Phoenix) introduced a friendly amendment that came out of the resolution hearing on Friday. The amendment from the hearing is as follows: deleting language re. agitating, replacing with ‘prophetic action.’

Resolution regarding Sanctuary passed on a voice vote with some nay votes.

Rebecca announced the results of the by-laws vote: passed with 1 nay and 3 abstentions.

Rebecca passed the cross and gavel to incoming moderator Rev Liana Rowe (Shadow Rock UCC). Liana noted with much appreciation Rebecca’s patient leadership and care for the conference during a busy and often trying year of ministry.

Liana announced the 2018 Annual Meeting: April 20-21, 2018 at Rincon UCC in Tucson AZ.

Susan Stephens Whitney moved to adjourn; Grace Bunker seconded. Motion to adjourn passed at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richter,
Secretary, Southwest Conference UCC



- **7 Proven Ways to Increase Giving – Rev. Andy DeBraber**

A United Church of Canada study showed an 82% increase in giving per capita over 6 years for churches that engaged these seven practices and, by so doing, created a culture of generosity. Come and learn how your church or ministry organization can implement these practical, high-impact actions to boost giving and grow greater gifts!

- **Spirituality for Activism- Rev. Vernon Meyer**

What kind of spirituality do we need as activists that will keep us engaged and keep us from falling into burnout? I will suggest that it is a spirituality rooted in the practice of Sabbath. This presentation will consider the works of Abraham Heschel, the great Jewish writer, and Walter Bruggemann and his book, *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No To The Culture of Now*. He writes: Sabbath is an act of resistance and alternative. It is resistance because it is a visible insistence that our lives are not defined by the production and consumption of commodity goods. It is an alternative to the demanding, chattering, and pervasive presence of advertising and its great liturgical claim of professional sports that devour all our "rest time." The alternative offer is the awareness and practice of the claim that we are situated on the receiving end of the gifts of God. A good spirituality around Sabbath would give a good framework for resistance in the current world we live in.

- **Discerning the Kairos Issues - Rev. Teresa Blythe**

"Discerning the Kairos Issue" will help your church take the next step on its spiritual journey of faith-rooted service to the world. Rev. Teresa Blythe, a spiritual director and discernment coach, will explain concrete and time-tested spiritual practices and tools that the Christian church has used for centuries to help congregations discover their unique call. You will leave with a basic overview, resources and encouragement for entering into your own season of discernment.

- **Grassroots Resistance and Our Congregations: Bridging the Gap – Nathan Watts**

As the UCC we are accustomed to responding to justice issues based on our values and identity. But sometimes in our anxiety to do the next best thing we overlook the legacy of work that people of color led organizations and campaigns have been working on for years and therefore can unintentionally cause more harm than good. In this workshop we'll examine what motivates us as people of faith to participate in social change initiatives and learn more about grassroots level work that is being done in our communities outside of church structures that we can participate in and amplify. Nathan Watts and Organizing Friends.

- **ALICE Training – Marc Gerardis & Phil Shea**

ALICE ([Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate](#)) Training instructor led classes provide preparation and a plan for individuals and organizations on how to more proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter event. Whether it is an attack by an individual person or by an international group of professional's intent on conveying a political message through violence, ALICE Training option based tactics have become the accepted response, versus the traditional "lockdown only" approach. (***Prior registration required.** To signup visit the SWC Website under Conference News & Events)



- **Faith Rooted Organizing Q&A – Rev. Alexia Salvatierra**

Q&A with Rev. Alexia Salvatierra - This workshop will provide participants a more intimate venue to ask *Faith Rooted Organizing* author Rev. Alexia Salvatierra questions following her Thursday training and Friday sermon. She might even sign your copy of her book!

- **Budget Q&A – Phil Ward & Cynthia Verduin**

SWC Treasurer Phil Ward and incoming treasurer Cynthia VerDuin will answer questions and present the rationale for the 2018-2019 SWC Budget. The new SWC Endowment Policy Statement will also be presented. A line item and narrative budget are available in your annual meeting packets.

- **Resolutions Q&A – SWC Executive Board**

Members of the SWC Executive Board will guide discussion of three items of business in advance of voting on Saturday morning. Delegates will consider the Executive Board's recommendation **NOT to ratify changes to the UCC Constitution and Bylaws** adopted at General Synod 31 in 2017. The Executive Board is recommending adoption of **SWC Bylaws changes** that clarify references to the Mission and Church Vitality Committee. And the Executive Board is recommending adopting a resolution titled "**Examining, Articulating, and Resourcing the Nature, Purpose, Composition, Covenantal Autonomy and Definition of 'the basic unit of life and organization of the United Church of Christ' for the Twenty-first Century.**" Copies of these documents are available on our Annual Meeting webpage.

- **Widening the Welcome – Robert Koth**

The SWC Widening the Welcome Team Ministry workshop will discuss two important outreach programs to help congregations to become more welcoming to people who are differently abled. A2A Accessible to All offers congregations a two-step program thereby indicating a commitment to be physically and attitudinally welcoming of people with disabilities. The first step is to complete a Church Accessibility Audit and the second step is to complete the A2A checklists. This workshop will also introduce congregations to W.I.S.E. A W.I.S.E. congregation has joined the mission in being Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged in the mental health in the community and wider world.



Meet Rev. Alexia Salvatierra

Rev. Alexia Salvatierra is the author with Dr. Peter Heltzel of “Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World” (Intervarsity Press) and the founder of the Faith-Rooted Organizing UnNetwork.. She is a Lutheran Pastor with over 35 years of experience in community ministry, including church-based service and community development programs, congregational and community organizing, and legislative advocacy. In addition to coordinating the Welcoming Congregations/Guardian Angels Network for the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA, she currently serves as a consultant (training, facilitating, organizing and leading strategic planning) for a variety of national/international organizations, including World Vision USA/World Vision International/Women of Vision, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and the Christian Community Development Association. She has been a national leader in the areas of working poverty and immigration for over 20 years, including the co-founding of the national Evangelical Immigration Table (a very broad coalition of evangelical leaders and institutions advocating for immigration reform.).



She is adjunct faculty for the Micah Doctorate of Ministry for the New York Theological Seminary, Spanish MDiv and School of Intercultural Studies for Fuller Theological Seminary, Masters in Urban Studies at Eastern University, Maestria at Universidad Teologica de la Iglesia Apostolica, MDiv at the New Theological Seminary of the West, Haiti Partners Interseminary Micah Program, Duke Divinity School Summer Intensive, and has taught at Vanguard and Biola Universities as well as lecturing at a variety of academic institutions, including the University of Southern California and UCLA. From 2000 to 2011, she was the Executive Director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice—beginning as the director of CLUE in Los Angeles and then as the first CLUE-CA director. CLUE-CA is a statewide alliance of organizations of religious leaders who come together to respond to the crisis of working poverty by joining low-wage workers in their struggle for a living wage, health insurance, fair working conditions and a voice in the decisions that affect them. Under Alexia’s leadership, CLUE-CA became known for its young leaders’ project, the New Sanctuary Movement (in which congregations in 37 cities around the country accompanied immigrant workers and their families facing deportation), and the “Our Children” project in Orange County which engages immigrant and non-immigrant evangelical congregations in joint ministry to immigrant youth facing deportation.

For more Information or to invite Alexia to speak, teach or train in your community visit her website at <http://www.alexiasalvatierra.com/>



Thinking about 2017 and the year ahead brings Psalm 47:5 to my mind.

You, Sovereign God, have done many wonderful things,
and you have planned marvelous things for us. (CEV)

God indeed called us together to accomplish wonderful things in 2017.

We've welcomed several new staff members to our SWC team. The Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock is now our settled Associate Conference Minister. Barbara brings judicatory experience, wisdom, creativity and balance to our staff. "She's just really solid," one of our clergy said upon hearing the news of Barb's call. I am glad to be working with Barb because we compliment each other's leadership styles and we just have fun working together. You will hear more about Barb's vision for her work during the annual meeting.

Rev. Liana Rowe resigned as conference moderator to become our part-time administrative assistant for finance and facilities. Liana brings an MBA, judicatory experience, a passion for social justice, deep understanding of the SWC and the requisite attention to detail required in our finance work. In just the few weeks she has been part of our staff, Liana she has proven she can get the job done. With Eli Johnson serving as assistant to the Conference Minister and Wende Gonzales serving as relational communications coordinator our employed staff is complete. We are grateful to be working with a number of contractors including Ernie Gregg (Web site and special events), Kristen Wetzel (housekeeping), Carmelo Rivas (maintenance).

Shifting to a part-time finance staff position opened the door to a partnership with Financial Services at Church House (national setting). Financial Services provides bookkeeping and reporting services, check writing, and payroll processing. Their team, including CFO Stephen Jones, is available for consultation and guidance on all things financial. This partnership has proven beneficial and efficient in the four months since its inception.

At our 2017 annual meeting a vision to establish a SWC Endowment was cast. Since then our Endowment Fund Management Committee has developed an endowment policy, a major gifts policy, and an investment strategy. Those documents are available in your annual meeting book or upon request from the conference office. The committee recommended and the executive board approved Bernstein Private Wealth Management, a unit of AllianceBernstein L.P, as our Endowment Fund investment manager. This month the SWC Endowment Fund was established with an initial balance of \$3,556,772.27. That amount includes legacy gifts received from South Mountain Community Church, the First Congregational Church of Tempe UCC, and interest earned prior to permanent investment.

My work with our interreligious and ecumenical partners has been a joy. Arizona Faith Network continues to evolve and has announced a new organizational structure that will accommodate its numerical growth and its understanding of interreligious partnership. With this project nearly

completed my time working with AFN's think tank will diminish. Other wider church efforts are waiting in the wings including a project for the Council of Conference Ministers, AM21 planning committee, and a joint project among the Western Region UCC conferences that has denominational implications. I can hardly wait until I can share those details with you!

Our SWC trip to March for Our Lives (MFOL) in Washington, D.C. was a highlight for me, for the conference, and for the teens and sponsors who made the pilgrimage. I am so proud of our youth, their home churches, and our congregations and individuals who supported this witness for the value of human life and for gun safety. SWC members donated money, SkyMiles, and even metro cards to support our teens. The cost of the trip not covered by these generous donations will be paid from the SWC Youth Reserve account, a fund generously support by a designated legacy gift from South Mountain Community Church. You will hear from our teens about their experiences during Friday night's banquet.

Rev. Dr. Gloria Smith welcomed MFOL teens who could go to Washington into her building during a local empowerment rally she and Encanto Community UCC sponsored in collaboration with our Unitarian Universalists friends. Emerys Staton, Director of Pastoral Care and Justice Ministries told me how grateful he was for that gathering and how energizing it was to see and hear from our delegation in Washington D.C. as people in Phoenix prepared for the Phoenix MFOL. And how exciting it was for our Washington delegation to receive messages from people all over the conference marching in their towns – Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Tucson, and more. We can truly accomplish great things when we plan and organize together!

Not all of my goals for last year were accomplished. It was an ambitious agenda. Maybe too ambitious. Heart surgery last June also had an impact. My endurance and stamina aren't quite 100% yet, but they are better each week. And lingering memory issues are frustrating but also improving. Your prayers and encouragement in the recovery journey have made all the difference. Thank you!

Through the next year the conference leadership team will engage in strategic conversations and work toward several goals.

New generation church is filled with possibilities. Outdoor Ministry for children and youth has long been a passion for the Southwest Conference. While we celebrate everything that camp has meant to us in past decades, we wonder if a new, yet unimagined paradigm for youth and outdoor ministry awaits the future church. Could it be interfaith peace camps in the heart of our cities? Could it be intergenerational mission camps in rural and underserved communities? Why not lend your imagination and energy to our youth and outdoor ministry? We will also be working toward new partnerships with our ecumenical partners to improve the experience and efficiency of our camp ministry.

I continue to envision progressive Christian ministry on the campuses of Arizona State University, New Mexico State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of New Mexico. This year a conference think tank for university ministry will be convened to begin making our vision real. And another opportunity has presented itself. There are part-time pastoral positions available in our university communities. We will be working with these congregations, who are all currently in search and call, to imagine ways the SWC can partner with them to meet the needs and vision of both their congregations and the conference.

Taos UCC under the leadership of Rev. Pamela Shepherd is off to a terrific start. What a joy it was to worship with them during their first weekly Sunday gathering. A ministry plan benchmarks evaluation will take place soon and as a result we anticipate Taos UCC will continue to receive new church start funding. The 2018-19 budget includes funding for an additional new church start if a viable proposal is received.

Three of our progressive congregations need bi-lingual, bi-vocational pastors. Two of them are in Spanish-as-a-first-language, borderlands communities. One of them is in a university town. The budget includes draws from our designated reserve accounts to support these projects as pastors are identified who can fill the positions. Trips to two more UCC seminaries are planned to look for possible candidates and plant seeds for new ministries in the SWC.

My travel in and on behalf of the SWC covers a wide variety of purposes. In June Rebecca Glenn and I will travel with another delegation of SWC teens to the Western Region Youth Event in Honolulu. I will be a guest of the Montana/Northern Wyoming Conference for their annual meeting. Workshop and preaching dates at several of our conference churches are on my calendar. Search and Call, leadership training, and generosity workshops took me to several of our churches to work with the many gifted and visionary leaders we have among us. There are dates available yet this year for me to visit your congregation!

Community organizing is presenting itself as a critical ministry tool in the Church of the twenty-first century. And the Southwest Conference is now positioned to take full advantage of faith rooted organizing as a ministry strategy. Increased military engagement in our borderlands means the conference will focus more attention on awareness and action there. The work of our sanctuary churches and other local church projects will receive conference support financially and through the ministry of presence. And our vision for a new way of doing youth ministry will intersect our justice and witness work.

This past year has demonstrated that when the work of the conference aligns with values of our member churches and individuals, generosity results. The Executive Board and I are committed to implementing donor-centered strategies in the conference's philanthropy ministry. A Friends of the Conference initiative will launch at this annual meeting to grow the SWC endowment so

that we can develop financial capacity to assist local churches with innovations in their ministries and fund congregational revitalization efforts.

What tells me the SWC is on the right track are the stories I hear wherever I visit. Not long ago a support staff member pulled me aside and said of their new pastor, "He's the best thing to hit this place in years!" validating the extra effort that search and call journey required. Last Sunday I heard David's story. Before he and his wife became members of First Congregational UCC in Albuquerque he went to a church where he learned about Jesus. David now tells people he goes to a church where people live the values of Jesus. He tells that story with conviction and tears that betray a transformed life. His is just one of the many stories of how our congregations and our clergy are changing people's lives. I hope you will take a moment at this year's annual meeting to ask someone to tell you a story about the best time they have had in their church in the last year. Maybe you will hear about the Unity Rally Against Hate and Bigotry at First Church/Phoenix, or Shadow Rock's Safe Sanctuary Zone outside the Trump Rally, or the evening with Tess Julianna at Church of the Palms, or what offering hospitality has meant to Rincon Congregational UCC, or how United Church of Sun City became our newest O&A congregation, or what happened at Church of the Good Shepherd after their generosity workshop, or Los Alamos's 70th anniversary story, or... What's your story?

A year from now we will convene again for the 2019 SWC annual meeting. That gathering will focus on local church, and in particular on strategies for growing local churches. Since 2016 many of our congregations have experienced significant growth. We will convene in Phoenix and will be hosted by First Congregational UCC. God continues to have great plans for our conference and for your local church. May we be a community of empowerment, courage, and collaboration as we seek to live into our mission of being extravagantly welcoming and affirming followers of Christ called to embody God's unconditional justice and love. Please keep the staff and leadership team of the conference in your prayers as we work together to equip congregations and clergy for excellent ministry.

Moderator's Report

“Small membership does not mean small goals or small work! Moved by the Spirit and our passion for a Just World for All, our work together is forward-looking, expansive, and full of hope. Southwest Conference staff collaborate with the Executive Board and Standing Committees toward a goal of equipping Leaders from all corners of the Southwest Conference to do excellent ministry.

We have done some very good work revising Church 2.0 models of ministry while offering an inclusive theology and sense of radical community. We are in conversation about future ministry models for churches, camp, and life-span spiritual formation.

Standing committees are accessible, service-oriented, and strive for transparency and information sharing. Standing Committees wrestle with all of the 'isms' of our society: moving to require anti-racism training for authorized ministers, looking at how to address sexism, and responding to the General Synod resolution implementing diversity training for clergy as a condition of standing.

The year has been filled with challenges and achievements, with times of grief and of celebration. We celebrated welcoming Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons as our settled Conference Minister, and supported him with our prayers during his heart surgery. We were grateful for the presence of Barb Doerrer-Peacock as she effectively carried on the work of the Conference during Bill's recovery. The sadness of the demise of two of our congregations is mixed with gratitude for the financial resources that they gifted to the Conference, resources which will strengthen the future of the Conference in many ways.

Finally, the ACM Search Committee unanimously recommended Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock for the position of Associate Conference Minister, and the Executive Board voted to accept this choice, with thanks for the service of the committee, and with joy at welcoming Barbara to the SWC staff.

Nancy Ackley,
Southwest Conference Moderator



Associate Conference Minister Report

June 2017 was a tumultuous month with Conference Minister Bill Lyons taking an emergency medical leave of absence. The Acting Associate Conference Minister position began in the Conference as I stepped into cover the Conference Minister duties in his absence. I am grateful to Desert Heritage UCC/DOC in Mesa, where I was serving as the intentional interim minister, for their understanding of my quick and early departure, which I know was difficult for them.

Most of those early weeks were spent acclimating and getting ready for General Synod in Baltimore. It wasn't long after I returned from Synod that Bill was able to begin transitioning back to work, and I began "living into" what a possible new Associate Conference Minister role might look like. Bill and I developed a working job description and division of duties that we thought might best fit our skills and working relationship. Over the rest of the second half of 2017, we continued to adapt and define the description that seemed to work well, resulting ultimately in the job description posting for the settled ACM position.

Life-Span Spiritual Leadership Formation

This description seemed to capture for me the big picture vision and purpose of the tasks ascribed to the ACM position. From youth finding nurture and leadership development at camp, through equipping churches for healthy ministries, and overseeing discernment, authorization, and ongoing training of professional ministers, they all could be seen as a part of nurturing a life-span of spiritual leadership formation.

Staff and Administrative Support to Committee on Church and Ministry -A

COCAM-A oversees the discernment path toward ministry, and the authorization of ministers for the United Church of Christ and the Southwest Conference. To staff and offer administrative support to this committee involves keeping track of all actions of COCAM-A, updating ministerial files, correspondence, setting up interviews, working with Members in Discernment, training local church committees, working with the chair to set agendas, consulting with the committee and conference minister to create and uphold policy positions, working with the national UCC Datahub record system, and engaging currently the ongoing changes and conversations nationally around the Manual on Ministry.

Health Ministry Training: Boundary Awareness and Anti-Racism/Diversity

As part of authorizing ministry, clergy are required to keep up to date on Boundary Awareness Training, and last year a requirement was added to attend a day-long anti-racism class. At General Synod, a resolution was also passed that all clergy be required to take Diversity Training. We continued the old pattern of day-long boundary training during 2017, and the day-long anti-racism event that had been designed early in 2017. I also began working with the

ORGANIZE!

Boundary Trainers on a new modular format call “Health Ministry Modules,” which essentially broke the topics covered in clergy boundary training down into four 3-hour modules, which would allow for smaller groups, more and deeper discussion, more flexibility for scheduling and adaptation. During 2018, we will develop two more modules: 1. Prejudice and Discrimination, and 2. Diversity training. These are under development.

Clergy are required to take each of the six modules during a 5-year period. All clergy are now on the same 5-year cycle of every year ending with a “3” and an “8” will start a new cycle (i.e. 2018, 2023, 2028 etc.)

Youth and Outdoor Ministries

I began the same month that camp was held, so I did not take part in Camp 2017. The conversations around issues of moving into the future of youth and outdoor ministries are described under that report.

EVERYTHING ELSE....

One of the main things that has been readily apparent to me from Day One is how many TRANSITIONS the Southwest Conference has been going through in the last couple of years! And, it continues... first with me coming on, then the departure of Sheri Slaybaugh, and now with Liana Rowe in the administrative assistant role. It is amazing to watch each member of the staff navigate these tumultuous waters with their own energy (and exhaustion!), abilities, and creativity. One of the transitions that is not always readily seen but dominates the culture of the conference is the transition from paper to digital in everything. From records and files to communication and program planning...all of us do the work of the Conference while navigating daily through some of the old systems we still need, while creating new digital systems simultaneously. It's required for the time in which live moving into the future, but it also requires a level of dexterity that is a bit unbelievable to me...and to do it with grace and compassion combined with a solid framework of accountability. I feel privileged to be part of this balancing act with this amazing staff!

Respectfully submitted by,

Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock



Committee on Church & Ministry A

April 2017 – March 2018

Current Committee Members:

Rev. Ken Heintzelman, Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix, AZ
Rev. David Buss, Rincon Congregational UCC, Tucson, AZ
Rev. Jayne Hubbard, Black Mountain UCC, Scottsdale, AZ
Ms. Diana Winston, Scottsdale Congregational UCC, Scottsdale, AZ, Chair
Rev. Tina Squire, Community Congregational Church, Tombstone, AZ, Secretary
Marcia Harris, First Congregational UCC, Albuquerque, NM
Rev. Gail Joralemon, First Congregational UCC, Albuquerque, NM
Christine Sternberg, Casas Adobes UCC, Tucson, AZ
Rev. David Cooper, First Congregational UCC, Flagstaff, AZ
Margaret Douglas, Oro Valley UCC, Oro Valley, AZ
Ex officio, Rev. Barb Doerrer-Peacock, Acting Associate Conference Minister

Other Members resigning terms during 2017:

Ernie Dunn, St. Paul UCC, Rio Rancho NM
Rev. Cindy Parker, Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona AZ

Report from the Chair of COCAM A, Diana Winston

COCAM A, when fully staffed, comprises 12 clergy and laypersons from all areas of the Conference. In addition, SW Conference Staff, including the Conference Minister, meet with and advise the committee as needed. The Acting Associate Conference minister is designated to work most closely with the committee.

The work of the Committee is both joyful and agonizing. It is joyful when we welcome persons who are called to ministry as members in discernment, follow them through their periods of discernment, and ultimately celebrate with those whom we approve for ordination on behalf of the entire United Church of Christ. We suffer when a clergy person's fitness for ministry in and on behalf of the UCC is called into question and we ultimately have to decide whether and under what circumstances the clergy person may continue to enjoy standing within our conference and denomination.

We strive to apply the UCC Manual on Ministry fairly and consistently, holding all who enjoy the privilege of ministerial standing to accountability and high standards of behavior. This past year we made a number of policy decisions to this end: We voted to use all sections of the draft new UCC Manual on Ministry (MOM) which are marked "ready for use" and to consider using all other sections on a case by case basis. As such we are something of "test conference" for new ministerial policies in the larger church.

We decided "that the policy of the SW Conference is that group boundary training is the preferred venue and one-on-one boundary training will be acceptable only in extenuating circumstances." We decided that it is the policy of the SW Conference when a covenant lapses



Committee on Church & Ministry A

[clergy] standing will continue for 12 months, after which the clergy person will automatically be placed on a leave of absence.

We also decided that going forward candidates to become Members In Discernment will complete a psychological evaluation before the committee decides whether to grant MID status.

We approved changing the format of the required Boundary Awareness and Anti-Racism Trainings from one day events to be taken every five years, to a modular system of four 3-hour modules on boundary awareness training, plus two modules of prejudice/discrimination and diversity training, a total of 6 modules to be accomplished in a 5-year period by every active clergy.

COCAM A acted on behalf of the Southwest Conference and the wider church by taking the following actions:

- I. Transfers of Ordained Ministerial Standing from the Southwest Conference:
 - Ken McIntosh, to New York Conference
 - Nancy and Ted Elsenheimer, to the Southeast Conference (pending)
- II. Transfers of Ordained Ministerial Standing to the Southwest Conference:
 - Carol Reynolds, from the Massachusetts Conference
 - Cindy Parker, from Pennsylvania West Conference
 - Don Deweese, transferred Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing from the Southern Ohio Northern Kentucky Association
 - Cari Jackson, from the New York Conference pending 4-way covenant
- III. Changes in Ordained Standing
 - Don Deweese, changed from Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to Seeking Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.
 - Amy Piatt, granted Seeking Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing
- IV. Ecclesiastical Endorsements:
 - Abigail Adams for hospital chaplaincy
- IV. Actions on Persons in Discernment:
 - Pastor Talo Seumanufafa, granted MID Status with Limited Standing
 - Kelly Kahlstrom, granted MID status with Limited Standing, contingent on forming a local church discernment committee
 - James Alexander, granted MID status with Limited Standing
 - Debby Stinton, granted MID status with Limited Standing
 - Michael Curry, resigned MID status.
 - Sean Raghailigh, resigned MID status



Committee on Church & Ministry A

- Michael Whitlock, granted temporary MID status with Limited Standing through August 31, 2017
- Michael Whitlock, MID status withdrawn with bias.
- Rebecca McElfresh granted MID status

V. Approved for Ecclesiastical Council; subsequently approved for ordination:

- John Anguilo – EC 9/17/17
- James Alexander – EC 11/19/17
- Jeanna Kozak – EC 1/14/18

VI. Ordinations with Installations:

- John Anguilo, Casas Adobes UCC 10/29/17
- James Alexander, Church of the Palms UCC 1/7/18
- Jeanna Kozak, chaplain, Mayo Clinic, Phoenix AZ 2/18/18

VII. Licensure Granted:

- Esera Tavai, EFKAS Phoenix Arizona UCC
- Butch Sliker, Community Congregational Church, Tombstone

VIII. Leave of Absence:

- Alberta Wallace

X. Installations:

- Anthony Minear, Church of the Beatitudes UCC 6/11/17
- Bill Lyons, Southwest Conference Minister 10/15/17
- Carol Reynolds, Scottsdale Congregational UCC 10/22/17

XI. Action on 4-Way Covenants

- Alberta Wallace, SWC, Oro Valley UCC and R.A.L.P.H. Coaching Ventures
- Cari Jackson, SWC, First Church UCC-Phoenix and Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

XII. Retirements:

- Rich Doerrer-Peacock

XIII. Deaths:

- Tracy Floyd 6/17/2017
- Ernie Dunn 2/25/18
- Lionel Miles 3/26/2018





Following are Significant Milestones Marked this Year by Clergy:

Ordination Anniversaries:

5 Years: Judy Green Davis
Teresa Cowen Jones

50 Years: Dennis Copan Jr.

10 Years: Lynn Holloway

60 Years: Kenneth H.
Buckwald
Donald D. Rowland
John R. Thompson

15 Years: Dave Jernigan
Denise Thompson

20 Years: Lynn Brightman
Joyce Buekers
Bill Dunbar
Thomas Lewis Sr.
Delle McCormick

25 Years: Tony Minear
Gloria Smith

30 Years: John C. Dorhauer

40 Years: Rich Doerrer-Peacock



Committee on Church & Ministry B

Current COCAM B Members:

Rev. Paul A. Whitlock, The Church of the Palms, Sun City, Chair

Rev. Sue Joiner, First Congregational Church, Albuquerque

Brendan Mahoney, First Congregational Church, Phoenix

Rev. Sharon Littrell, St. Paul's UCC, Rio Rancho

Nora Roberts, Peace UCC, El Paso

Rev. Diane Thomas, Faith United Community Church, Dewey

Joyce Schneider, Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix

Mike Holmberg, Rincon Congregational Church, Tucson

I am deeply grateful for the wisdom from our committee members and conference staff. We are a team with diverse skills and abilities that is devoted to serve the church at the conference level. Sometimes we are about the joyful business of the church: visiting, listening, and sharing. Other times, we journey with the church through the valley of deep shadows. Together, blessed by our loving God, we explore how we can help churches be a stronger, enlivening presence of God.

We are here to help churches within the SWC. Members of the COCAM B have visited with congregational leaders within our churches. The purpose of these visits is to reach out to the churches and have them become acquainted with the SWC.

COCAM B has also been involved in several congregational support consultations within the SWC. This committee is a valuable resource to churches as the SWC provides support when difficult or complex situations arise. We are here to help!

The work we do is not always quick, easy, or fun. But, it is gratifying to know that we play a vital role for the SWC connecting with our congregations. As representatives of the SWC, we are striving to achieve interdependence. Together, we are the church.

Submitted by Rev. Paul Whitlock, chair, COCAM B



Announcement – ACM Position

Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock Called as the Southwest Conference UCC Associate Conference Minister

Acting on the recommendation of the Associate Conference Minister Search Committee, the Executive Board has called Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock as Associate Conference Minister for the Southwest Conference.

Profiles were received during the month of February. Search committee members Wendy Spurgeon (NM), Janet Leung (NAZ), Rev. Rock Freemont (CAZ), Rebecca Glenn (CAZ), Rev. Dr. Randy Mayer (SAZ) considered eight applicants. Zoom and in-person interviews were held in March and April. The committee was unanimous in its recommendation.



Dr. Doerrer-Peacock brings deep knowledge of the Southwest Conference, creativity, and a new vision for spiritual formation and leadership development to her position. Her portfolio will include Committee on Church and Ministry A, and the ministry of spiritual leadership formation including camp and transformational experiences for all ages (mission trips, immersion experiences, and more).

Upon learning of her call, Dr. Doerrer-Peacock said, “I am deeply grateful and humbled for the opportunity to continue my ministry in this way in the conference I have served and loved so much! I look forward to the ways God will lead us and create leaders of us to serve the world.”

During this year’s SWC Annual Meeting delegates and participants will welcome Dr. Doerrer-Peacock to her new ministry, and will learn more about her vision for spiritual leadership formation and youth and outdoor ministry. She will be preaching Saturday morning worship.



Youth & Outdoor Ministries

Southwest Conference UCC Summer Camp, of 2017- “True Colors” was held June 18 to 23 at Emmanuel Pines Camp in Prescott AZ. The registration was up a bit from last year with a total of 89 campers in the four age groups, and 30 youth and adult staff. Brenda Hensley and Dana Bender were co-directors this year.

During the fall of 2017, as camp was evaluated, there were some notable areas of concern:

- Financially camp has not been self-sustainable and is becoming less and less so. Over the course of the last 10 years, when camp has undergone a number of transitions, it appears that registration fees have not kept up with the rising costs of doing camp.
- The Sow the Seed fund contributions for summer camp scholarships have also decreased.
- The pattern of our responsibility for campsite fees is not in sync with how people register. This always makes it a gamble and risk that we will meet the number of camp participants that we contract for. (We begin in March to guarantee a particular number of campers, and each of the next months we could lose a larger percentage of money if we cancel that amount. By the middle of May, we are responsible for the whole cost whether we cancel or not. The vast majority of our camper registrations and our counselor recruits come in DURING MAY, thus making it always a risk)
- In past years, the Youth and Outdoor Ministries of the conference were overseen by a committee of adults and youth invested in the programs offered. When that ceased, the oversight of the programs fell to Conference staff, either those seasonally employed to direct the camp, or to regular staff that could only be peripherally involved. Without the investment of representatives from churches, fundraising and recruitment and more importantly a “corporate memory and tradition” that gave camp and youth ministry some momentum seemed to decline.
- Many fewer clergy (none in 2017) take part in the leadership of camp than in previous decades. While the adult-youth relationships are strong and nurturing at camp, we observed this may be contributing to a less spiritually grounded program curriculum and ability to articulate spiritual themes for daily experiences.
- Our churches generally have fewer youth and less youth programming. Professional adult youth ministers and leaders are also fewer.
- A wonderful attempt was made to draw youth together during the year in 2016 to reenergize the program. This provided some strong youth leadership at camp in 2017. However, a number of that core group were graduating seniors. While we have some strong potential for younger youth leaders coming up, in 2018, there are not many who will be seniors.
- It’s been complicated and not always accurate in our registration process to offer one-third scholarship, trusting that congregations will also offer a one-third scholarship to their youth that apply. Sometimes communication breaks down. It is important going forward that a scholarship system be in place that is easier to track.

While there is no doubt that camp has played a vital spiritual role in the lives of those who participate, and it is excruciating to have to ask the hard questions of whether camp is a viable form of ministry going into the future, these are the discussions we are having. Is summer camp a paradigm that has fed the “Church 2.0” wonderfully well, but a new paradigm now needs to be explored? Or, have we just hit some rough years, and need to reinvigorate some foundational systems and ways of doing things that can help to support it?



We're also discerning other creative ideas: an urban, interfaith peace camp, having a series of mission retreat experiences in different parts of the Conference, merging camps with the Disciples of Christ.

There are fundamentally three arenas that we – churches, members, and clergy – that make up the Southwest Conference need to be willing to invest in for the continuance of camp as we have it now, OR in new forms:

- Financial gifts – to assist scholarships for Sow the Seed and OCWM, Leadership
- Youth and Adult leadership – to staff the camp adequately
- Children and Youth participation

We've been walking through a series of steps in 2018 to “test the waters” of what the actual ability of the Southwest Conference is to support camp. In December we re-constituted a Youth and Outdoor Ministry Team of both youth and adults to help oversee this exploration process and help to raise funds and interest. We've set a goal to raise \$12,000 for Sow the Seed Fund. We are now recruiting both campers and counseling staff for Camp 2018! We will continue this evaluative conversation and see where God may be leading us in the future.

Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrler-Peacock
Acting Associate Conference Minister



Personnel Committee Annual Report

The SWC Personnel Committee had a rather busy year in 2017, with a conference minister being called and changes to staff.

With Rev. Bill Lyons being called to become SWC's Conference Minister at last spring's SWC Annual Meeting, there were several items in which this Committee became involved. We assisted with the written call agreement, including the area of salary and benefits. When Rev. Lyons needed to take a medical leave, we worked on how that leave would be implemented, including what compensation would be arranged.

For other staff issues, the Committee helped review the draft call agreement for the new Acting Associate Conference Minister, as well as the job description and salary for the revamped administrative assistant position at the Conference office. Other staffing issues included helping with reclassification of employment of staff, an "offer letter" template, conducting an exit interview with Sheri Slaybaugh and participating in interviews with administrative assistant candidates.

Another task that started last year was the refining of the SWC Personnel Manual: updating materials, and striving for consistency with other policies/documents. This task will continue in 2018.

Thanks to Roxanne Gentry, John Pestle and Karyn Hott for their assistance on this committee!

Submitted by,

Ron Schilling, Chair

February 15, 2018



Thank you again to the Southwest Conference of the UCC for your generous grant of \$20,000 per year, and for your prayers, your wise counsel, and your support. We are grateful.

As we approach the 4th quarter payment of our first year grant on May 20th, we would like you to know what we've been up to this year, and what we hope to accomplish in the next year.

We began seven months ago with a church launch plan to meet once per month for seven months before launching as a weekly worship community. This allowed us to build up our numbers in worship from month to month. Our numbers moved from 21 to 41, before the flu kicked us back a bit, and we had 31 people for our KickOff service.

In addition to the monthly worship (now every Sunday) we added a weekly Wednesday evening group which varies from 6—15 people depending on the focus that week. Our current study group on nonviolence has averaged 10-15 during the last four weeks. We have also added a weekly silent meditation group that meets for 30 minutes just before the Wednesday group. This is new and so far it is only 3-4 of us, but I expect it will grow over time.

We launched with a Taos UCC 3-year plan that would seek financial help from 5 sources: the SWC, the Pension Boards, a national new church grant, help from a neighboring local church, and local fundraising and pledging. Three of our prospective sources came in, and two didn't (help from a neighbor church and national church-start grant), but our local fundraising has met expectations, the SWC grant and Pension Board grants have been generous, and as our numbers continue to slowly grow, we are keeping our intention to be locally self-supporting by the end of year three when these grants end. This is more of a reach than I hoped for, but we think if we continue to work our church-start plan that we will still find ways to do it.

Our commitment to earth justice has led us to partner with Interfaith Power & Light and local environmental groups on climate care issues. We were a runner-up this year for Interfaith Power & Light's Cool Congregation award for our work partnering with Taos Initiative for Life Together (TILT), Interfaith Power & Light, First Presbyterian Church, and the Taos community for a community-wide "We're Still Here" celebration of our town's commitment to the Paris Climate Accords.

Our commitment to immigration justice led us to declare ourselves a Sanctuary Church, even though we own no building and cannot actively house people yet. Our church



leadership council is exploring with local immigration leaders the ways we can live into that commitment. Our first monthly worship service focused on the issue of immigration justice, and we collected new clothing, shoes, and day packs to provide over 60 men being deported from the for-profit Stewart Detention Center. We sent three giant boxes of clothing to our friends and partners at Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia, and they packed each individual pack and delivered them to men being deported. We are grateful for our friends at United Church of Angel Fire for collecting clothing and packs from their side of the mountain and bringing them for blessing at our first service.

Our commitment to economic justice has led us into northern New Mexico leadership in the national Poor People's Campaign as we work to make our state better for poor children. Our volunteer Associate Minister for Social Justice, Todd Wynward, serves on the state organizing committee for New Mexico, and has organized and led three Poor People's Campaign events in northern New Mexico.

Our commitment to LBGTQ and Gender Justice is so deep in our bones we forget to mention it. But like many UCC churches, we are Open & Affirming and committed to inclusive language in our worship and diverse leadership in our community. We are also committed to working for Women's Rights and LBGTQ rights nationally, internationally, and in our community.

Thank you again for your support and for your prayers. We would like to especially thank the local congregations who have generously offered financial start-up support. First Congregational UCC-Albuquerque, Rincon Congregational-Tucson, the Church of the Red Rocks-Sedona, United Church of Sun City, and United Churches Fellowship-Nogales all stepped out in faith with us this year. Their generosity and trust in us has made all the difference. Thank you to everyone who has helped us on this journey.

Grace and Peace to You,



Rev. Pamela Shepherd,
on behalf of Taos UCC

**Annual Report from Beatitudes Campus for
United Church of Christ Southwest Conference
March 2018**

When Rev. Dr. Culver “Bill” Nelson and the congregation of Church of the Beatitudes founded Beatitudes Campus, it was conceived to be a place where older adults could live, learn and grow through all the stages of their lives. More than fifty years have passed and our commitment to serve older adults in our community is as vibrant as ever. We have been able to serve not only the people who call Beatitudes Campus home, but also to open the doors and share our successes with the world.

Our commitment to serve older adults in our community is as vibrant as ever. Our alliance with the faith community as a ministry of Church of the Beatitudes has been transformational for older adults, as we are bound together by our shared call to serve others in faith. We are able to serve not only the people who call Beatitudes Campus home, but we open our doors wide and engage with our community.

Our enduring mission to serve older people and their families is at the core of the Beatitudes Campus, and we continue to commit to focus on a whole person approach that focuses on soundness of mind, spirit and body. Although the “ways” we serve have changed over time, the “whys” have not. We hold tight to our mission as a faith-based community to offer a wide spectrum of services for older people.

Today, we continue to be a center of excellence, offering a wide spectrum of services for older people including independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, memory support and home health services. The campus uses a person-directed approach to provide the most successful living experience possible; resident empowerment and purposeful living is everyone’s primary concern.

Beatitudes Campus is involved in many community groups. Residents and staff have been particularly active in 19 North Alliance, a community collaboration of faith communities, Washington Elementary School Districts, elected officials, the City of Phoenix, local businesses and neighborhood associations all working together to make our community “A Safe, Walk-able Community for All to Enjoy.” The 19 North Alliance promotes and reimagines established neighborhoods and businesses along the light rail line going north on 19th Avenue. Beatitudes Campus residents and staff helped sponsor and volunteer for a neighborhood clean-up day and street fair and we provide much volunteer help and expertise to 19 North.

Beatitudes Campus provides much-needed meeting space and campus amenities to more than 50 community groups who meet with their constituents on a regular basis. These groups are diverse – LGBTQ groups, caregiving organizations, political and religious assemblies, social groups, health and patient groups, music organizations and professional organizations and schools. Our staff and residents are also heavily involved with other nonprofit organizations, such as Hospice of the Valley, Area Agency on Aging, Alzheimer’s Association, Arizona Leading Age, Mayor’s Ad Hoc Committee on Age Friendly Phoenix, the Blue Ribbon Business Board and the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. Michelle Just, president and CEO, leads the way with her involvement in aging services industry as well as the community. She is an active member of the board of CHHSM as well as the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce.

Beatitudes Campus residents embrace their responsibility to the community beyond our walls in many ways. Residents tutor children at local elementary and middle schools, mentor students at local high schools, provide English Language Assistance classes to the refugee population in north central Phoenix, fund scholarships for graduating students at the high school, glean produce from the Beatitudes Community Garden and donate to local food banks. Campus volunteerism amounts to more than 1,000 hours per year.

Being a leader in the field of aging services calls us, more than ever, to be innovative and flexible. When the campus began more than 50 years ago, the need for older adult living encompassed a different landscape than what is in place today and undoubtedly what it will be during the next 50 years. We have a strong commitment to educating and mentoring tomorrow's aging services leaders.

Beatitudes Campus' award-winning dementia education and care program, Comfort Matters®, is growing across the country. The campus is the only life plan community in the country that offers a national credential for nursing homes and other retirement communities. Communities from New York to Washington state have earned the Comfort Matters® credential. In addition, health care professionals from around the world visit Beatitudes Campus to learn about Comfort Matters. Another program called Success Matters, now three years old, has shown early success – its purpose is to keep our residents living independent for as long as possible through social, physical, mental and spiritual engagement. Our two home service programs, Beatitudes at Home and Beatitudes Home Health, continue to thrive and offer much needed companion and medical services. These programs serve older adults living at the campus and beyond our campus walls and provide companion services as well as Medicare-certified, licensed home healthcare, including skilled nursing, nursing aid and social work, as well as occupational, speech and physical therapy.

Beatitudes Campus continues to expand its leadership in the field of aging services. In the past year, the campus and the staff were recognized and honored with seven different awards in recognition of our service to older adults. Beatitudes Campus is also working on a master plan of redevelopment and has secured \$70 million for refinancing of debt and redevelopment costs. In the first phase, the campus will add 33 Patio Homes to serve even more seniors. We continue to encourage a culture of innovation and have embedded this culture throughout our organization – from the residents we serve to our management team to our front-line staff to our board of directors.

Beatitudes Campus is grateful for the support and confidence that our community of faith has in us. This community has been part of making our success possible, and, more importantly, this community will be instrumental in building our next generation of success as well. We invite you to visit and experience Beatitudes Campus and feel the sense of a vibrant community. Please contact Rev. Peggy Roberts, senior vice president of Spiritual Life at Beatitudes Campus (phone 6702-995-6109 or email proberts@beatitudescampus.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Peggy Roberts



Welcome Partners

2018 Annual Partner and New Friends Gathering

Come join us to cast the vision for uniting people of faith and goodwill to create positive change for all Arizonans

May 1st, 2018 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, St. Mary's Basilica Hall
(231 N. 3rd St. Phoenix AZ 85004)

The Hall is located underneath St. Mary's Basilica. Limited parking will be available at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Carpooling is encouraged.

9:00AM Registration, Networking and Continental Breakfast

REGISTER NOW at: <https://afn-2018-annual-gathering.eventbrite.com>



Deadline to register is April 24th, 2018

Questions? Email ContactUs@AZFaithNetwork.org

or call at 602-468-3818

Lift your voice...
create positive change

Nominating Slate 2018-2019

CLASS	CONTINUING MEMBER	NOMINEE	ASSN	CHURCH	CITY
<u>MODERATOR</u>					
2019	Nancy Ackley		SAZ	The Good Shepherd	Sahuarita
<u>MODERATOR-ELECT</u>					
2019					
<u>TREASURER</u>					
2020		Cynthia VerDuin	SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
<u>SECRETARY</u>					
2019	Karen Richter		CAZ	Shadow Rock	Phoenix
<u>EXECUTIVE BOARD (At-Large)</u>					
2019	Rev. Donna Cavedon		NAZ	Church of the Red Rocks	Sedona
	Rev. Rock Fremont		CAZ	Desert Heritage	Mesa
	Jeremy Bailey		CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale
2020		Kyle Koch	SAZ	Oro Valley UCC	Oro Valley
		Rev. Sarah TevisTownes	NNM	Church of the Good Shepherd	Albuquerque
<u>COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY- Section A</u>					
2019	Diana Winston		CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale
	Rev. Jayne Hubbard		CAZ	Black Mountain	Scottsdale
	*Rev. Cari Jackson		CAZ	First Congregational UCC	Phoenix
	Marcia Harris		NNM	First Congregational UCC	Albuquerque
2020	Rev. David Buss		SAZ	Rincon	Tucson
	Christine Sternberg		SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
	Rev. Gail Joralemon		NNM	First Congregational	Albuquerque
	*Rev. Jay Wilcher		NAZ	First Congregational UCC	Prescott
2021		Rev. Brady Abel	CAZ	United Church of Sun City	Sun City
		Rev. Jim Alexander	CAZ	Church of the Palms	Sun City
		Rev. Derrick Elliot	SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
		Rev. Lynn Brightman	SNM/EP	Peace UCC	El Paso
<u>COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY- Section B</u>					
2019	Rev. Sue Joiner		NNM	First Congregational	Albuquerque
	Mike Holmberg		SAZ	Rincon	Tucson
	*John Smith		CAZ	Desert Garden UCC	Sun City
2020	Joyce Schneider		CAZ	Shadow Rock	Phoenix
	Brendan Mahoney		CAZ	First Congregational	Phoenix
	Rev. Diane Thomas		NAZ	Faith United Community Church	Dewey
2021		Rev. Sharon Littrell	NNM	First Congregational	Albuquerque
		Nora Roberts	SNM/EP	Peace UCC	El Paso
		Susan Stevens Whitney	SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

2019		Gordon Nelson	NNM	St. Paul's	Rio Rancho
		John Leung	NAZ	First Congregational UCC	Flagstaff
2020		Rev. Judy Green-Davis	CAZ	Church of the Palms	Sun City
		Rev. Jim Meadows	CAZ	Shepherd of the Hills	Phoenix
		Rev. Curt Ackley			
		Stanley Roberts	SNM/EP	Peace UCC	El Paso

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

2019	Beth Gordon		NAZ	Faith United Community Church	Dewey
2020	Ron Schilling		CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale
2021		Janet Leung	NAZ	First Congregational UCC	Flagstaff
		Rev. Randy Mayer	SAZ	The Good Shepherd	Sahuarita

ENDOWEMENT COMMITTEE

2019		Rev. George Ault	NAZ	Church of the Red Rocks	Sedona
2020		Holly Herman	CAZ	Desert Palm UCC	Tempe
2021		Rev. Gloria Smith	CAZ	Encanto Community Church	Phoenix
				Community Church of the	
		Scott Greenwood	CAZ	Valley	Scottsdale

* indicates a nominee who is filling an unexpired term

KEY: ASSN = Association - This indicates where the person lives geographically in the SW Conference:

CAZ - Central

NAZ - Northern Arizona

Arizona

SAZ - Southern Arizona

NNM-Northern New Mexico

SNM/EP - Southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas

Executive Board Recommends FY 2018-2019 Budget

The SWC Executive Board is recommending approval of a balanced budget for FY 2018-2019 which begins July 1.

Money follows mission. The proposed budget reflects a strong emphasis on strengthening local churches through revitalization efforts, money to support our new church start in Taos and for an additional new church start, and what Conference Minister Bill Lyons calls "futuring the church." A printable copy of the [Mission Spending Plan or narrative budget](#) [PDF] is available to share with your church.

Our Mission Spending Plan categorizes expenses in 5 areas.

-) *Equipping Covenant* reflects the cost of doing business as a conference and is projected to increase by 2.75%. Elimination of a copying machine lease and contracting with the National Setting for bookkeeping services kept this increase low.
-) *Supporting Leaders* includes COCAM A expenses. Increases in last year's budget associated with implementation of the new Manual on Ministry and associated team travel travel, and our new anti-racism training were backed out of these expenses resulting in a 6.6% decrease.
-) *Nurturing Local Churches* covers search and call expenses. Nearly half of our churches completed search and call in the last two years. The remaining congregations are not likely to enter search and call in the coming fiscal year given the tenure of their current pastor and other factors, resulting in a 10.6% reduction in anticipated expenses.
-) *Next Generation Church* realized the largest increases in the proposed budget. Up 75% this increase reflects anticipated earned income draws from designated funds for new church starts and local church revitalization. Subsidies for youth ministry/camp from the reserve fund are also included here.
-) *Uniting for Mission* reflects costs for social justice actions, wider church/National setting involvement and strengthening our relationships with our ecumenical and interfaith partners. The 18% increase reflects re-attributing conference minister travel for these purposes to this category.

Separating expenses associated with support for local church leaders from nurturing local churches is difficult. Together those expenses account for more than 37% of the conference's budget. That total investment jumps to 57% when we add the dollars we will spend on revitalization of congregations with opportunities for a stronger future, for birthing new churches, and for reinventing our ministry for youth. A [line item budget](#) is also available for review.



We, the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, are extravagantly welcoming and affirming followers of Christ called to embody God's unconditional justice and love.

Contact Us

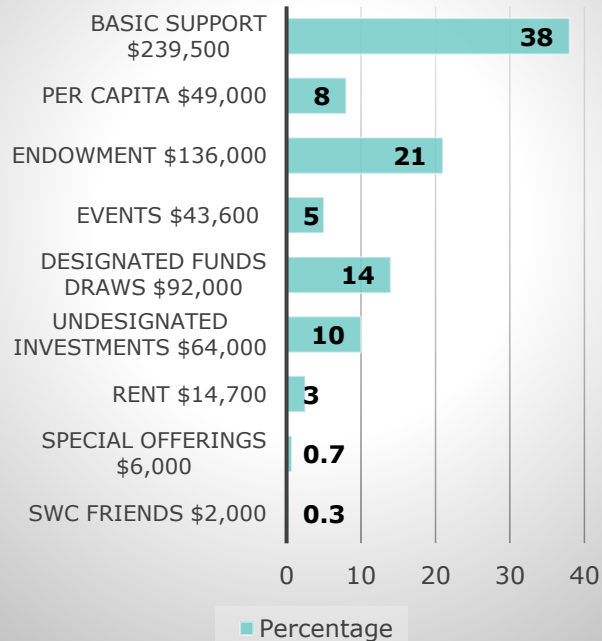
Southwest Conference UCC
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602-468-3830

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uccswc.org

FY 2018-19 Revenue \$635,200



Nearly 60% of our financial resources support congregations and clergy. One third of those dollars are focused on the health and vitality of our shared future – future leaders, future churches, and our youth. Thank you for your generous support of the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ.

Organize!



Mission Spending Plan
FY 2018-2019
Southwest Conference UCC



Equipping Covenant

\$130,262.47

Events & Gatherings
Annual Meeting
Philanthropy & Stewardship
Communications Networks
Technology
Personnel Committee
Executive Board

New Generation Church

\$134,211.38

Youth & Outdoor Ministry
National Youth Event
Western Region Youth Event
New Church Starts
Camp
Campus Ministries
Nominating Committee

Uniting for Mission

\$132,123.87

National Setting Basic Support
General Synod
Arizona Faith Network
New Mexico Conference of Churches
Council of Conference Ministers
Social Actions/Justice & Witness
Staff visits

Supporting Leaders

\$127,351.32

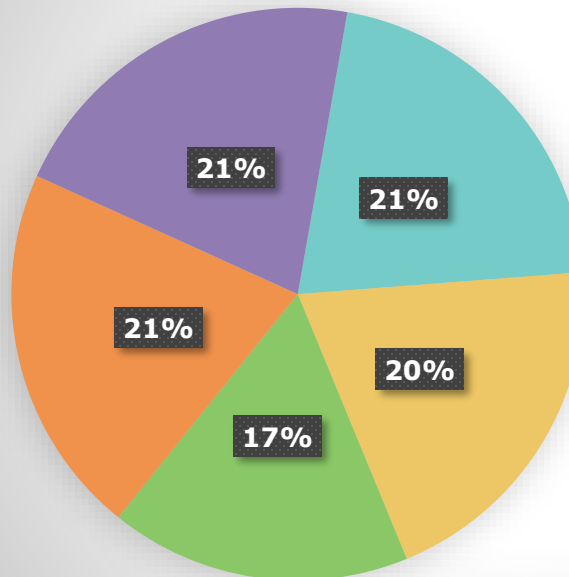
Committee on Church & Ministry A
Education/Training
Consulting & Support
Retreats
Staff visits

Nurturing Local Churches

\$111,250.96

Search & Call
Mission & Church Vitality Committee
Committee on Church & Ministry B
Consulting & Support
Staff & Committee visits

Total Operating Budget: \$635,200



- Equipping Covenant
- Supporting Leaders
- Nurturing Churches
- Uniting for Mission
- Next Generation Church

SWC Budget FY 2018 to 2019

Ordinary Income/Expenses	FY July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 Actual	FY July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 Approved	FY July 1, 2018 to June 30 2019 Proposed
INCOME			
OCWM Total	\$ 264,253.98	\$ 240,371.00	\$ 239,500.00
Per capita	\$ 56,253.63	\$ 52,921.00	\$ 49,000.00
Mission	\$ 2,020.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Other Income			
Rental-Disciples	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 13,200.00
Rental- Misc	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL RENTAL	\$ 13,550.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,700.00
INVESTMENT INCOME			
Chris Harri Trust	\$ 32,224.78	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Tempe Trust (Hedvig Peterson)	\$ 14,149.73	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Endowment (South Mountain/Tempe)		\$ 150,000.00	\$ 136,000.00
other investments	\$ 2,542.98	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
TOTAL INVESTMENT	\$ 48,917.49	\$ 239,000.00	\$ 225,000.00
Annual Meeting Registration	\$ 19,914.92	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Clergy Retreat			\$ 12,000.00
Sow the Seed Offering	\$ 5,988.40	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Youth Ministry Reserve Draw	\$ 20.00	\$ 6,665.00	\$ 7,000.00
Super Camp Registrations	\$ 5,988.40	\$ 22,600.00	\$ 10,000.00
Transfers from reserves	\$ 19,412.16		\$ 20,000.00
other	\$ 1,445.50		
Total	\$ 52,769.38	\$ 51,265.00	\$ 65,000.00
Transfers from New Church starts Fund	\$ 138,955.97	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 576,720.45	\$ 617,957.00	\$ 635,200.00
EXPENSES			
Conference Life Ministry			
Council of Conf Ministers Dues	\$ 1,950.56	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
OMA Dues	\$ 50.00		
KTIZO Distribution	\$ 100,000.00		
La Trinidad	\$ 2,140.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Taos	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Sacred Space	\$ 14,474.97		
Church Start Revitalization	\$ 7,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
Conference Life & Ministries			
Conference Minister's Discretionary	\$ 468.42	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Conference Minister's Travel	\$ 17,801.93	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 18,000.00
Associate Conf Minister's Travel		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Staff Training & Development	\$ 1,289.36	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$ 155,175.24	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 74,500.00

MISSION			
United Christian Ministries	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Pacific School of Religion	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Arizona Faith Network	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Contributions National Mission	\$ 67,826.10	\$ 59,226.00	\$ 60,000.00
New Mexico Conf of Churches	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00
Sow the Seed Exp		\$ 7,500.00	\$ 12,000.00
Immigration	\$ 1,000.00		
Seminary Scholarship	\$ 2,012.38		
Disaster Preparedness	\$ 511.60		
TOTAL MISSION	\$ 78,350.08	\$ 73,726.00	\$ 78,000.00
COMMITTEES & MEETINGS			
Executive Board	\$ 3,884.61	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 100.00
Mission and Church Vitality Comm.			\$ 3,400.00
COCAM Meetings	\$ 5,281.63	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
COCAM Issues/Training	\$ 3,456.82	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Church Growth/ Dev Com	\$ 588.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Anti-Racism Training	\$ 3,486.54		\$ 1,500.00
Boundary Training	\$ 6,559.51		\$ 1,500.00
Committee Meetings	\$ 1,466.94		\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 24,724.05	\$ 23,800.00	\$ 19,600.00
PROGRAMS & EVENTS			
Event Expenses			
Annual Meeting	\$ 22,968.79	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Clergy Retreat	\$ 5,668.84	\$ 125.00	\$ 12,000.00
Small SWC Sponsored Events	\$ 1,790.04	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
General Synod Expense	\$ 1,891.30	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Youth Ministry/Camp Exp	\$ 1,268.08	\$ 25,125.00	\$ 23,000.00
Camp Assistant		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Camp Director	\$ 6,638.07	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 40,225.12	\$ 57,250.00	\$ 56,000.00
ADMINISTRATION			
Conf Minister -Lyons			
Base Salary & Housing	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 72,660.00	\$ 81,750.00
Health/Dental Ins	\$ 16,208.20	\$ 16,183.68	\$ 19,000.00
Pension/Life/Disability	\$ 8,137.50	\$ 10,850.00	\$ 10,900.00
SS offset	\$ 5,354.88	\$ 5,354.88	\$ 6,255.00
Continuing Ed	\$ 10,216.58	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
TOTAL	\$ 109,917.16	\$ 105,548.56	\$ 118,505.00
Associate Conf Minister			
Base Salary & Housing	\$ 1,445.08	\$ 42,016.74	\$ 55,870.00
Health/Dental		\$ 12,137.76	\$ 19,000.00
Pension/Life/Disability		\$ 5,470.50	\$ 5,500.00
Cont Ed		\$ 375.00	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,445.08	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 80,870.00
Administrative Assistant			
Salary	\$ 42,126.88	\$ 43,180.80	\$ 16,000.00

Health/Dental/Med Reimb	\$	4,537.91	\$	8,091.84	\$	15,000.00
Pension/Life & Disability	\$	4,110.60	\$	6,477.12	\$	4,000.00
TOTAL	\$	50,775.39	\$	57,749.76	\$	35,000.00
Assistant to CM						
Salary	\$	34,170.24	\$	38,875.20	\$	41,184.00
Health/Dental/Med Reimb	\$	3,275.19	\$	8,091.84	\$	8,000.00
Pension/Life & Disability	\$	3,481.92	\$	5,831.28	\$	6,000.00
TOTAL	\$	40,927.35	\$	52,798.32	\$	55,184.00
Communications						
Salary	\$	4,872.00	\$	26,090.00	\$	36,275.00
Health/Dental/Medical Reimb			\$	5,000.00	\$	1,796.00
Pension/Life & Disability			\$	3,652.60	\$	4,000.00
TOTAL	\$	4,872.00	\$	36,737.00	\$	42,071.00
Staff Payroll Tax	\$	8,255.91	\$	8,095.78	\$	6,000.00
TOTAL Personnel	\$	216,192.89	\$	320,929.42	\$	337,630.00
ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATION						
Accounting/Payroll	\$	564.75	\$	500.00	\$	11,750.00
CPA Review	\$	7,357.50				
Legal Fees	\$	951.37				
Bank Fees-Paypall Leap	\$	783.46	\$	400.00	\$	400.00
Books office use			\$	200.00	\$	200.00
Copier	\$	4,865.59	\$	5,000.00	\$	-
Misc	\$	54.45	\$	250.00	\$	250.00
Misc printing	\$	582.23	\$	150.00	\$	150.00
Office Supplies	\$	2,449.67	\$	2,000.00	\$	3,000.00
Postage	\$	1,832.12	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
Telephone/Internet/Web	\$	7,673.89	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00
TOTAL	\$	27,115.03	\$	14,500.00	\$	21,750.00
Computer Equipment	\$	1,646.89	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
Furnishing & Repairs	\$	610.44	\$	3,500.00	\$	1,000.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$	658.79	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,000.00
Insurance	\$	5,956.42	\$	7,400.00	\$	7,500.00
Property Maintenance	\$	3,532.97	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,500.00
Utilities	\$	8,601.65	\$	9,000.00	\$	9,000.00
TOTAL	\$	21,007.16	\$	25,900.00	\$	23,000.00
Website (Gregg)	\$	5,840.00	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
Social Media (Gonzales)	\$	2,980.00				
Property Maintenance (Rivas)	\$	10,752.39	\$	8,500.00	\$	8,500.00
IT	\$	3,004.22	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
Contract Labor	\$	3,976.95				
TOTAL CONTRACT LABOR	\$	26,553.56	\$	15,500.00	\$	15,500.00
TOTAL Overhead						
TOTAL Overhead	\$	74,675.75	\$	55,900.00	\$	60,250.00
TOTAL Administration	\$	290,868.64	\$	376,829.42	\$	397,880.00
Depreciation	\$	10,828.00	\$	10,828.00	\$	9,220.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	600,171.13	\$	596,433.42	\$	635,200.00
INCOME OVER EXPENSES	\$	(23,450.68)	\$	21,523.58	\$	-

2017-2018 Pledges

#	Church Name	2017 Actuals					2018 Pledges				
		OCWM	Per Cap	Special Offerings	TOTAL	Members	Pledge	Per Cap	Special Offerings	Total Pledge	Members
157	Black Mountain Community	2153	611	118	2882						
220	Casa Adobes Congregational	14100	2520	300	16920	249	14000	2440		16440	244
110	Church of the Beatitudes	4035	3000	0	7035		4000	3000		7000	288
223	Church of the Painted Hills	7000	970	100	8070		3500	660	66	4226	
185	Church of the Palms	15426	2340	1434	19200	234					
210	Community Congregational	500	150	120	770	72					
158	Congregational Church of the Valley	1500	560	0	2060	56	1500	560		2060	158
193	Desert Gardens UCC		950	98		190					
50	Desert Heritage	650	650	0	1300	65	450	450	45	945	45
205	Desert Palm UCC	16600	2290	2630	21519	229	15140	2600	260	18000	260
1000	EFKAS	175	310	60	545						
80	Encanto Community Church	3418	680	187	4284	68					
155	Faith United Community Church			0							
308	First Christian, Las Cruces	880	610	60		120					
30	First Congregational of Flagstaff	1155	730	73	1958	73					
260	First Congregational UCC/Abq	9000	2000	250	11250	249					
90	First Congregational UCC/Phoenix	14000	2050	205	16255	205	14500	2410	241	17151	241
150	First Congregational UCC/Prescott	2500	1020	0	3520						
130	First Samoan Congregational	84	400	0	484	50	200	400	40		
270	Good Shepard UCC/Abq	16502	2134	0	18636	194	19000	1910	190	21100	191
35	Good Shepard UCC/Sahuarita	33476	2960	296	36732	296	35000	3000	300	38300	295
330	Iglesia Congregacional la Trinidad	50	130	120	300						
280	Iglesia Congregacional Unida										
85	Ktizo										
245	Marshallese Ministry in Tucson										

* Special Offerings include Travel Pool, Sow the Seed, and Spread the Word (SW Mission Fund)

** Figures reflect Church Pledges and Annual Church Reports received as of 4/1/18

203	Marshallese Ministry of Phoenix											
207	Marshallese Ministry of Tempe											
70	Oro Valley UCC	9000	1180	0	10180	114						
335	Peace	1200	210	121	1531	20						
95	Rebel & Devine	50		50	100							
325	Revolution/Desert View	50		0	50	26						
240	Rincon Congregational	14575	1450	750	16775	292	18000	2900	1790	22690	290	
160	Scottsdale Congregational UCC	13308	727	2610	16645	89	13308	727	2410	16445		
115	Shadow Rock UCC	15850	3150	0	19000							
120	Shepard of the Hills Congregational	10000	2120	212	12332	212	10000	2030	503	12533	203	
180	Sierra Vista Community UCC	27	700	70	797	62						
323	Silver City	250	120	202	572	12						
315	St Paul's UCC	2300	400	0		28	2300	500			27	
195	Sun Lakes UCC	3520	880	488		96						
100 5	Taos	500		0	500							
170	The Church of the Red Rocks	6854	4240	1424		420						
290	United Church of Angel Fire		274	0	274							
310	United Church of Las Alamos	2000	1250	200	3450		2000	1250		3250	260	
318	United Church of Santa Fe	2000	3003	273		273						
190	United Church of Sun City	12000	2700	687	15387	272						
60	United Churches Fellowship	500	117	278	914	24						
140	West Congregational	750	340	84	1174	34						
400	Yuma UCC	1113	200	70	1383							
	TOTALS	239051	50126	13568	274785	4324						

* Special Offerings include Travel Pool, Sow the Seed, and Spread the Word (SW Mission Fund)

** Figures reflect Church Pledges and Annual Church Reports received as of 4/1/18



Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ

Endowment Fund Investment Policy Statement

Objectives & Guidelines: Investment Policy Statement Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ – Endowment Fund Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

Executive Summary of Investment Policy Statement

Type of Plan: Endowment Current Assets: \$3,200,000 (at October 31, 2017)

Time Horizon: Perpetuity

Expected Return: Nominal 3-5% (net of fees and expenses)

Risk Tolerance: Moderately Aggressive

Spending Policy: See separate Spending Policy section of Endowment Policy Statement

Asset Allocation: Minimum Maximum Preferred

1. Return Seeking Assets Domestic 45% to 75%
 - a. Large Cap Equities 70% to 90%
 - b. Domestic Small/Mid Cap Equities 10% to 30%
 - c. International Equity 20% to 40%
2. Risk Mitigating (Fixed Income, Bonds, Cash, and CD's) 20% to 40% can be domestic or international
3. Diversifying Assets 0-20%
4. UCC Investments 0% to 10%

Overlay Portfolios: The “Long-Term Strategic Asset Allocation Target,” described above, permits investments in overlay portfolios to complement the long-term strategic asset allocation. Portfolio overlay strategies are designed to manage short-term portfolio risk and mitigate the effect of extreme outcomes. The Overlay Portfolios may be regulated mutual funds.

Investments in the Overlay Portfolios may cause the Fund’s overall exposure to return-seeking, risk-mitigating, and diversifying asset categories and classes to vary from the target allocations specified above, when deemed appropriate by the Investment Manager in order to protect against sustained market risks, and may give the Fund exposure to asset classes not contemplated above. The Overlay Portfolios’ potential holdings are limited in their prospectus.

Rebalancing: The Investment Manager will rebalance among the above asset categories solely in accordance with its own rebalancing rules: internal rebalancing rules in effect from time to time which may result in portfolio exposure to an asset category that may be above or below the above stated maximum/minimum target range.

Commingled Vehicle Guidelines: Investments in mutual funds, hedge funds, other alternative investments, and other commingled investment vehicles are permitted. It is understood that assets invested in such commingled vehicles will be managed solely in accordance with the investment policies, procedures, and guidelines set forth in the prospectus or other relevant document for such commingled vehicle, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Statement of Investment Policy.

Investment Advisory Fees: For services rendered as detailed in this IPS, the Fund has agreed to compensate the Investment Manager

Performance Evaluation: The Investment Committee will evaluate the performance of the Fund and the Investment Manager in accordance with the Fund's stated time horizon. It will evaluate both the overall allocation advice and each asset category's returns.

In evaluating allocation advice, the Investment Committee will examine the performance of the Fund relative to appropriate benchmarks as well as to a risk-weighted allocation benchmark. The Fund has a Target Risk-Weighted Allocation of 67% global stocks/33% taxable bonds, when "Diversifying Assets" are assigned pro rata to "Return-Seeking" and "Risk-Mitigating" categories. Accordingly, the Risk-Weighted Allocation benchmark is 67% ACWI/33% USBAB. The benchmarks for each asset category are as follows: return seeking assets – All Country World Index and risk mitigating assets – US Barclays Aggregate Bond Index and diversifying assets – MSCI ACWI Commodity Producers Index and the HFRI Fund of Funds Composite. The Investment Committee and the Investment Manager will review the choice of benchmarks for each asset category at least annually.

Statement of Investment Policy, Objectives, and Guidelines

GENERAL INFORMATION

Trust Fund name: Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ Endowment Fund

Trust Fund's mission: The Southwest Conference United Church of Christ Endowment Fund is a nonprofit organization authorized to receive gifts, bequests and devises of real or personal property to be administered according to the terms of the United Church Endowment Policy Statement. The Conference is a non-profit religious organization exempt from income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and contributions to the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ qualify as charitable contributions. The Fund's investment mission is to preserve real value of assets, grow the value over time and pay a reasonable (3-5%) and stable current income which increases over time at least at the rate of inflation.

Trust Fund's adoption date: Endowment Fund, established on April X, 2017.

SCOPE OF THIS INVESTMENT POLICY

This statement of investment policy reflects the investment policy, objectives, and constraints of the Southwest Conference of The United Church of Christ Endowment Fund.

PURPOSE OF THIS INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

This statement of investment policy is set forth by the Executive Board of the Southwest Conference of The United Church of Christ in order to:

1. Define and assign the responsibilities of all involved parties.
2. Establish a clear understanding for all involved parties of the investment goals and objectives of Trust Fund assets.
3. Establish a basis for evaluating investment results.

4. Establish the relevant investment horizon for which the Trust Fund assets will be managed.

In general, the purpose of this statement is to outline a philosophy and attitude which will guide the investment management of the assets toward the desired results. It is intended to be sufficiently specific to be meaningful, yet flexible enough to be practical.

GOAL OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Executive Board feels that this Endowment Fund will serve the Southwest Conference best by emphasizing distributions to be made in the future as being as important as distributions made today. This is consistent with our philosophy that this Endowment Fund is to exist in perpetuity. The Endowment Fund's purchasing power may be subject to erosion unless the investment strategy implemented can support the current and future levels of spending. That is, net of spending, the aggregate portfolio must grow at a rate equal to or in excess of the rate of inflation in order to avoid real principal invasion.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Executive Board of the Southwest Conference of The United Church of Christ is a fiduciary, and is responsible for directing and monitoring the investment management of Trust Fund assets. As such, the Executive Board is authorized to delegate all responsibilities for the Endowment Trust Fund to its Endowment Fund Committee (ECF), created under its bylaws. The EFC shall have the authority created by the bylaws and further enumerated here. The Executive Board remains the legal fiduciary for the assets of the Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Committee shall exercise the authority delegated to it by the Executive Board as follows. It will: direct and monitor the Endowment Trust Funds review investment policy, objectives, and guidelines; selecting investment managers; review such managers over time; measure and evaluate investment performance; and other tasks as deemed appropriate. The ECF is authorized to retain professional experts as follows:

1. Investment Manager. Each investment manager has discretion to purchase, sell, or hold the specific securities that will be used to meet the Trust Fund's investment objectives, as long as all investments are in compliance with the guidelines outlined in this Statement of Investment Policy.
2. Custodian. The custodian will physically (or through agreement with a sub-custodian) maintain possession of securities owned by the Trust Fund, collect dividend and interest payments, redeem maturing securities, and effect receipt and delivery following purchases and sales. The custodian may also perform regular accounting of all assets owned, purchased, or sold, as well as movement of assets into and out of the Trust Fund accounts.
3. Additional specialists such as attorneys, auditors, actuaries, retirement plan consultants, and others may be employed by the Endowment Fund Committee of the Executive Board to assist in meeting its responsibilities and obligations to administer Trust Fund assets prudently.

The Endowment Fund Committee will not reserve any control over investment decisions, with the exception of specific limitations described in these statements. Managers will be held responsible and accountable to achieve the objectives herein stated. While it is not believed that the limitations will

hamper investment managers, each manager should request modifications which they deem appropriate.

ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility of the Investment Manager(s) Each Investment Manager must acknowledge in writing its responsibility as a fiduciary pursuant to the Act (title). Each Investment Manager will have full discretion to make all investment decisions for the assets placed under its jurisdiction, while observing and operating within all policies, guidelines, constraints, and philosophies as outlined in this statement. Specific responsibilities of the Investment Manager(s) include:

1. Discretionary investment management including decisions to buy, sell, or hold individual securities, and to alter asset allocation within the guidelines established in this statement.
2. Rebalance investment holdings annually such that they remain accordance with the guidelines established in this statement.
3. Monitor investments for continuing adherence to socially responsible guidelines established in this statement.
4. Reporting, on a timely basis, quarterly investment performance results.
5. Communicating any major changes to economic outlook, investment strategy, or any other factors which affect implementation of investment process, or the investment objective progress of the Trust Fund's investment management.
6. Informing the Endowment Committee of the Southwest Conference regarding any qualitative change to investment management organization: Examples include changes in portfolio management personnel, ownership structure, investment philosophy, etc.
7. Voting proxies, if requested by the Endowment Fund Committee, on behalf of the Trust Fund, and communicating such voting records to the Endowment Fund Committee on a timely basis.

Responsibility of the Investment Consultant(s)

The Investment Consultant's role is that of a non-discretionary advisor to the Endowment Fund Committee of Executive Board of the Southwest Conference of The United Church of Christ. Currently, the Endowment Fund Committee is functioning as the Investment Consultant. Investment advice concerning the investment management of Trust Fund assets will be offered by the Investment Consultant, and will be consistent with the investment objectives, policies, guidelines and constraints as established in this statement. Specific responsibilities of the Investment Consultant include:

1. Assisting in the development and periodic review of investment policy.
2. Providing "due diligence", or research, on the Investment Manager(s). Recommend hiring, retention, change or termination of the Investment Manager to the Board at least annually. Conducting investment manager searches when requested by the Executive Board.

3. Monitoring the performance of the Investment Manager(s) to provide the Executive Board with the ability to determine the progress toward the investment objectives.
4. Communicating matters of policy, manager research, and manager performance to the Executive Board.
5. Reviewing Endowment Fund investment history, historical capital markets performance and the contents of this investment policy statement to any newly appointed members of the Executive Board.
6. Perform the duties associated with Socially Responsible Investing as set forth on the next page.

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT POLICY

Risk Aversion - Understanding that risk is present in all types of securities and investment styles, the Endowment Fund Committee of the Executive Board recognizes that some risk is necessary to produce long-term investment results that are sufficient to meet the Trust Fund's objectives. However, the investment managers are to make reasonable efforts to control risk, and will be evaluated regularly to ensure that the risk assumed is commensurate with the given investment style and objectives.

Adherence to Investment Discipline - Investment managers are expected to adhere to the investment management styles for which they were hired. Managers will be evaluated regularly for adherence to investment discipline.

Socially Responsible Investing

1. Restrictions. In its selection process, the Investment Manager should avoid securities of companies which derive a significant portion (as defined in the table below) of their revenues from the manufacture, sale or distribution of alcohol, gambling, tobacco or weapons.
 - a. Alcohol 10%
 - b. Gaming 10%
 - c. Tobacco no tolerance
 - d. Defense Contractors and firearms no tolerance
 - e. Private Prison no tolerance

At the end of each financial year of the Endowment, each Investment Manager shall certify that these restrictions have been adhered to, or alternatively explain any deviations and the steps taken to redress the situation as well as to ensure compliance in future. These certifications and explanations shall be presented to the Endowment Fund Committee by the Investment Consultant.

2. Community Investing. The Endowment Fund Committee seeks, subject to availability of suitable investments, to invest 1% of current assets in companies and organizations which provide access to credit, equity, capital or basic banking products to communities which would otherwise lack such access.
3. Proxy Voting. The Investment Consultant will instruct the various Investment Managers to vote proxies in line with management's recommendations as explained in the proxy materials, unless it appears that Management is proposing something that is clearly self-serving and in management's interest rather than in the best interest of the shareholders. Investment Managers are, however, to be instructed to vote in favor of any proposal to 1) separate the functions of Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, and 2) require that the Chairperson of the Board of Directors be an independent (non-employee) director. Investment Managers are to report to the

Endowment Fund Committee, through the Investment Consultant, when they have voted in opposition to management's recommendation.

INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

Allowable Assets and Transactions

1. Cash Equivalents
 - a. Treasury Bills
 - b. Money Market Funds
 - c. Certificates of Deposit
2. Fixed Income Securities
 - a. U.S. Government and Agency Securities
 - b. Corporate Notes and Bonds (BBB or better)
 - c. Fixed Income Securities of Foreign Governments and Corporations
 - d. Municipal Bonds
 - e. High Income Bonds with Committee approval
3. Equity Securities
 - a. Common Stocks
 - b. Convertible Notes and Bonds
 - c. Convertible Preferred Stocks
 - d. American Depository Receipts (ADRs) of Non-U.S. Companies
 - e. Stocks of Non-U.S. Companies (Ordinary Shares)
4. Mutual Funds / Co-mingled funds
 - a. Mutual Funds which invest in securities as allowed in this statement.
5. UCC Investment Funds

Prohibited Assets and Transactions

Prohibited investments include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Private Placements
2. Direct Real Estate Investments
3. Any use of margin credit

Asset Allocation Guidelines Investment management of the assets of the Southwest Conference of The United Church of Christ shall be in accordance with the preceding asset allocation guidelines.

1. The Endowment Committee of the Executive Board may employ investment managers whose investment disciplines require investment outside the established asset allocation guidelines. However, taken as a component of the aggregate Trust Fund, such disciplines must fit within the overall asset allocation guidelines established in this statement. Such investment managers will receive written direction from the Endowment Fund Committee regarding specific objectives and guidelines.
2. In the event that the above aggregate asset allocation guidelines are violated, for reasons including but not limited to market price fluctuations, the Endowment Fund Committee will instruct the Investment Manager(s) to bring the portfolio(s) into compliance with these guidelines as promptly and prudently as possible. In the event that any individual investment

Manager's portfolio is in violation with its specific guidelines, for reasons including but not limited to market price fluctuations, the Endowment Fund Committee expects that the Investment Manager will bring the portfolio into compliance with these guidelines as promptly and prudently as possible without instruction from the Endowment Fund Committee.

INVESTMENT MANAGER PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Performance reports generated by the Investment Consultant shall be compiled at least quarterly and communicated to the Endowment Fund Committee for review. The investment performance of total portfolios, as well as asset class components, will be measured against commonly accepted performance benchmarks. Consideration shall be given to the extent to which the investment results are consistent with the investment objectives, goals, and guidelines as set forth in this statement. The Endowment Fund Committee of the Executive Board intends to evaluate the portfolio(s) over at least a three year period, but reserves the right to terminate a manager for any reason including the following:

1. Investment performance which is significantly less than anticipated given the discipline employed and the risk parameters established, or unacceptable justification of poor results.
2. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this statement of investment policy, including communication and reporting requirements.
3. Significant qualitative changes to the investment management organization. Investment managers shall be reviewed regularly regarding performance, personnel, strategy, research capabilities, organizational and business matters, and other qualitative factors that may impact their ability to achieve the desired investment results. Every five years, the Endowment Committee shall interview two independent investment management firms and compare the opportunities found with the current investment manager to determine the best investment management firm for the next five years.

INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEW

To assure continued relevance of the guidelines, objectives, financial status and capital markets expectations as established in this statement of investment policy, the Endowment Committee plans to review investment policy at least annually and report to the Executive Board of the Southwest Conference

This statement of investment policy is adopted on February XX, 2018 by the Executive Board of the Southwest Conference of The United Church of Christ. Attest: William M. Lyons _____,
Conference Minister On Behalf of the Executive Board of The Southwest Conference.

Recommendation Regarding UCC Const.

Delegates to the SWC Annual Meeting will be asked to consider ratification of changes to the UCC Constitution. The Executive Board voted not to ratify the changes and is recommending that delegates also vote not to ratify the changes. Writing for the Executive Board, secretary Karen Richter explains the Executive Board's rationale.

Per the motion of the board, our Nay recommendation is warranted due to 3 factors:

- 1. The package of 3 different sections of amendments (clarity and inclusion language in the ministerial authorization section, full communion with UC-Canada, and governance changes) were sent to conferences with a single up-or-down vote required even though they were approved separately at GS17.*
- 2. Transparency and communication around the documents, their purpose, and their enactment in advance of ratification are all problematic.*
- 3. The changes may represent a decreased commitment to Local Church (in that, under the proposed changes, there is no longer a requirement for the national setting to have an executive minister for Local Church Ministries).*

These are all good reasons, but my primary reason is that hierarchical governance is not our polity. Democratic polity is evident at each setting of the UCC. At the microcosm, that means that a person is not ordained until some part of the church affirms their call. It's clumsy and frustrating. At the macro level, our polity means that a single person does not have authority. Decisions are always worked out in community. It's clumsy and frustrating! But it is who we are. John Dorhauer taught me this. I have developed a passion for the UCC, as a truly democratic institution, with every setting of the church talking with and to every other setting, from a lay member in a pew to the GMP.

When times are tough (and there's no denying that it's a difficult time to be the church), it's tempting to resort to "cut to the chase" "fish or cut bait" "the buck stops here" or some other leadership figure of speech. In challenging situations, we want to lean on strong, decisive leaders. Indeed, some of those from our own SWC delegation to General Synod who voted to approve these changes referenced their comfort and familiarity with corporate/business structures. It's the kind of leadership we expect... the kind of leadership that our culture teaches us is right. But the church is called to be something different. We are called to mutuality, to covenant, to community - not to hierarchy. We are not a business, and our leadership and decision-making structures need to reflect our identity and our core values.

The Executive Board is also asking this year's annual meeting delegates to approve a prudential resolution to the General Synod asking that Article V of the UCC Constitution be revised. It seemed contradictory to ask delegates to ratify a Constitution that the board is already suggesting needs changed.

Please be in prayerful discernment regarding these recommendations. May the Church, and particularly local congregations, be strengthened by our decisions at our annual meeting.

For more information or questions please visit the SWC website or join the Board at the Annual Meeting Workshop Breakout A for the SWC Resolution Q&A.



1 **Examining, Articulating, and Resourcing the Nature, Purpose, Composition, Covenantal**
2 **Autonomy and Definition of ‘the basic unit of life and organization of the United Church of**
3 **Christ’ for the Twenty-first Century**

4 Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

5 A Prudential Resolution

6 Submitted by the Southwest Conference Board of Directors

7 Summary:

8 Based on the biblical pattern for the continuing growth of the Church as the Body of Christ, and
9 our history as a reformed and reforming Church, this resolution calls for a UCC-wide
10 discernment process regarding the nature, purpose, composition, covenantal autonomy, and
11 definition of “Local Church” as “the basic unit of life and organization of the United Church of
12 Christ.” The resolution also calls for articulation of revisions to the Constitution of the United
13 Church of Christ predicated on that discernment process’s outcome, and the production of a
14 resource to help the Local Churches live more fully into the obligations of covenantal autonomy
15 articulated in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ. If adopted, this resolution will
16 require the Southwest Conference Board of Directors and staff to engage our covenant partners
17 in conversation and action designed to accomplish the desired outcomes of the resolution.

18 Biblical, Theological and Historical Grounding:

19 The Book of Acts bears witness to the newly formed Church engaging self-defining questions
20 regarding its nature, purpose, composition, covenants, autonomy, from almost the very
21 beginning of its existence. In Acts 6 and 15, the early Church met to discuss and settle concerns
22 about covenantal relationships. In Acts 10-16 the earliest Christians wrestled with extravagant
23 welcome, redefining covenant, and holding one another accountable.

24 Our ancestors in the Reformed tradition continued to discern God’s calling as Church, the
25 history of which need not be recited here.

26 The Twenty-Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Grand Rapids,
27 MI, adopted Article V of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ as it reads currently.
28 During the hearing regarding that action, process rules prohibited changes to the language of
29 Article V. This resolution continues the struggle to overcome systemic sexism and to adopt
30 language that is consistent with previous General Synod resolutions regarding inclusive
31 language.

32 As a living Body, the Body of Christ, the Church is ever-growing and becoming new. It has been
33 said that we do not know what the Church of the future will be. Ongoing dialogue like the
34 conversation called for in this resolution will help us discern and shape of our future Church.

35 Practices within the United Church of Christ related to admitting Local Churches into the UCC,
36 what constitutes a Local Church, and who, beyond Local Churches, may be members of
37 associations and conferences continues to evolve. This resolution will open conversation across
38 the denomination regarding those evolving practices.

39 The Text of the Resolution:

40 WHEREAS Article V, paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ
41 employ sexist language; and

42 WHEREAS Article V of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ met with criticism during
43 the hearing preceding its adoption at the Twenty-Seventh General Synod, but rules prevented
44 changes in the language of the Article that delegates found objectionable; and

45 WHEREAS the Bylaws adopted by the Thirty-First General Synod contain that same
46 objectionable language; and

47 WHEREAS General Synods 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 17 have affirmed the use of inclusive language;
48 and

49 WHEREAS Article III of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ describes the ideals of
50 covenantal relationships but does not describe or provide for the accountability necessary to
51 living into these covenantal relationships; and

52 WHEREAS Article V, paragraph 10, of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ limits to
53 three the purposes for which a Local Church may be organized: Christian worship, for the
54 furtherance of Christian fellowship, and for the ongoing work of Christian witness; and

55 WHEREAS Article V, paragraph 10 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ omits as a
56 purpose for which a local church may be organized creating a just world for all;¹ and

57 WHEREAS Article V of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ does not include the word
58 “covenant;” and

59 WHEREAS Article V, paragraph 17 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ uses the
60 word “fellowship” instead of the word “covenant;” and

61 WHEREAS Article V, paragraph 16, of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ singles out
62 Congregational Christian local churches and prohibits them from a dual affiliation with the UCC,
63 calling into question the UCC value of extravagant welcome; and

64 WHEREAS the current practice of conferences and associations is to “admit, or continue to
65 fellowship with” Local Churches from other denominations² and affiliations as well as faith

¹ The words “Christian witness” and “creating a just world for all” are not synonymous.

² For example, New York Conference admits to membership in a non-geographical association, local churches that maintain dual standing with the United Church of Christ and the Reformed Church in America.

66 communities³ that do not identify as a church in the spirit of the UCC value of extravagant
67 welcome; and

68 WHEREAS the words “to formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit
69 members in its own way” in paragraph 18 seem to conflict with paragraph 11 which prescribes
70 three methods for being admitted to a Local Church belonging to the UCC;

71 THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Conference calls on the United Church Board
72 and the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to convene a working group
73 representative of the whole of the United Church of Christ to:

- 74 1. lead the United Church of Christ in a process of discernment regarding Article V of the
75 Constitution of the United Church of Christ; and
- 76 2. recommend revisions to Article V in accordance with the working group’s perspicacity,
77 including, but not limited to, equal clarity about Local Church covenant and autonomy,
78 parameters for local church accountability and overseeing congregations, a provision for
79 releasing congregations from the United Church of Christ, and amendments to Articles
80 III and VIII and other sections of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ so that
81 the whole of the document is consistent; and
- 82 3. produce a *Manual on the Local Church* for use by all settings of the Church akin to the
83 Manual on Ministry, purposed to equip the Local Church to fully live into its covenantal
84 responsibilities and privileges under the Constitution of the United Church of Christ,
85 including but not limited to a Congregational Code, Marks of Faithful and Vital
86 Congregations, and processes for birthing, admitting, strengthening, revitalizing,
87 dismissing, and laying to rest congregations; and
- 88 4. report its progress along with its recommendations for revising Article V of the to the
89 next General Synod; and

90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if adopted, the Southwest Conference staff is directed to share
91 this resolution with United Church Board and the Officers of the United Church of Christ, our
92 covenant partners, with an invitation to accomplish its outcomes in advance of General Synod
93 in 2019.

94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if adopted, the Southwest Conference staff is directed to seek
95 conversation partners among the Council for Conference Ministers and our sister Conferences
96 to advance the resolution’s intended outcomes.

³ For example, Southwest Conference will admit “a network of people organized around the presence of Christ, which embraces a United Church of Christ identity and the values of the Southwest Conference, which exists within the geographical boundaries of the Conference” into the Conference with voice and vote.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Executive Board of the Southwest Conference,
98 in prayerful discernment and dialogue with our covenant partners, to put this resolution into a
99 form appropriate for consideration by the Thirty-Second General Synod;

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on all covenant partners of the Southwest Conference to
101 continuing conversation and prayerful support for this resolution's intended outcomes.

Communications & Information

Annual Meeting materials and information are available on the Southwest Conference website. Stay up-to date by visiting <http://www.swcucc.org/annualmeeting/>

Whether you're a seasoned Twitter user or are brand new to social media, you can follow and contribute to the conversation about (and during) the Annual Meeting!

Follow the Southwest Conference social media accounts and join the conversations:

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

The hashtags are #SWCUCC18 #onlyintheSWC #lovemySWCUCC

Tag the Southwest Conference in your photos at the events: @swcucc on all platforms.

If you are new to live-tweeting a conference, check out these helpful articles:

-) [5 Things You Need to Know to Successfully Live-Tweet an Event](#)
-) [How to Tweet Your Way Through a Conference](#)

Conference Leadership

Do you have a passion for serving in the conference or interested in knowing more about our committees and boards? Visit the Southwest Conference [committee's web page](#) to learn more, and click the link below to indicate your interest in volunteering for a SWC committee.

[VOLUNTEER NOW](#)

SWC Annual Meeting 2018 Evaluation

Take a moment to tell us about your experience at the 2018 SWC Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona. Fill out this form online by visiting the SWC website Annual Meeting Page or clicking the link here

[EVALUATION FORM](#)



Scholarship Request for Travel to the SWC Annual Meeting

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

_____ I would like to apply for a **mileage** travel scholarship at the rate of \$.14 per mile up to a maximum of \$125. I drove _____ miles.

OR

_____ I drove a **car-pool** and would like to apply for a travel scholarship of up to \$200 for actual travel expenses. *My gas receipts are attached* and total \$_____.

OR

_____ I **flew** to Annual Meeting and would like to apply for a travel scholarship to offset my plane fare up to \$125. *My ticket receipt is attached* and totaled _____.

Conference Delegates and eligible* Clergy with Standing may apply for travel reimbursement of up to \$125 (*Pastors who have travel reimbursement in their Call Agreement are not eligible to apply for Conference travel reimbursement).

Submit this form plus any required receipts to:

Southwest Conference UCC 917 E. Sheridan St, Phoenix, AZ 85006
or email Rev. Liana Rowe at rowe@uccswc.org

In Appreciation and Recognition

SWC Officers 2017-2018

Nancy Ackley, Moderator, Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita, AZ

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

Karen Richter, Secretary, Shadow Rock UCC

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

- The Local Planning Team: Rev. Delle McCormick (Pastor, Rincon Congregational UCC, Tucson), Linda Johnson (Local Arrangements Co-Chair), Pam Smith (Local Arrangements Co-Chair), Nancy Congdon (Local Facility Arrangements), Rincon Congregational UCC Volunteers
- Host church: Rincon Congregational UCC, Tucson AZ, "UCC Store" minders, custodians, all the cookie bakers, servers, drivers, singers, poster makers, ushers, coordinators, table and chair setter-uppers and tear-downers, and go-fers that make the Annual Meeting run smoothly.
- Friday's Worship: Martha and Matthew Tucker, Rev. Sara Tevis Towns, Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, Black Mountain UCC members: Derris, Marilyn, Jeanna, Barbara.
- Communion Servers, worship leaders, vendors
- Rev Len Silvester (New Delegate Orientation)
- Brendan Mahoney, Parliamentarian
- All the nominees who have graciously agreed to serve the SWC in the coming years
- All the presenters - thank you, thank you!
- Our SPECIAL GUEST: Rev. Alexia Salvatierra
- Our guests from UCC national settings, Chapman University, Insurance Board, Rainbow Acres, Duet AZ, Global Ministries, Church Building & Loan, Arizona Faith Network, OneCommunity, Widening the Welcome, Disaster Ministries.

All of YOU who attended the 2018 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!!