

Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

2016 Annual Meeting
April 22-23, 2016
Shadow Rock United Church of Christ
Phoenix, Arizona





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AGENDA	Where	Who
FRIDAY, April 22		
9:30	Registration Opens	
9:45	New Delegate Orientation	Sanctuary
10:30	Business Session #1	Sanctuary
	Welcome by SWC	George Ault
	Welcome by Pastor of Shadow Rock	Ken Heintzleman
	Introduction of Guests	George Ault
	Rev. Cameron Trimble- Center for Progressive Renewal	
	Rev. Lee Milligan- Parliamentarian	
	Rev. Steve Davis- AZ Interfaith Power and Light	
	Rev. Peggy Roberts- Beatitudes Campus	
	Matthew Wagner- UC Funds	
	Jake Pomeroy & Gordon Gilles- Cornerstone	
	Michelle Deyoe- Insurance Board	
	Kari Kempf- Chapman Univ	
	Rev. John Aney- Pacific School of Religion	
	Rev. Kathleen Day- Chaplain, NAU	
	SWC Officers: Rebecca Glenn, Karen Richter, Phil Ward	
	SWC Contract Staff: Ken McIntosh, Rock Fremont	
	Ernie Gregg, Wende Gonzalez	
	SWC Staff: Sheri Slaybaugh, Holly Herman, Eli Johnson	
	Results of written Ballot and Declaration of Quorum (need 50% of churches-23)	Lee Milligan
	Nominating Report	George Ault
	Intro to Bylaw change	Dave Huisjen & Margaret Douglas
	Bill's Journey to the SWC	Bill Lyons
11:50	Earth Day prayer outside sanctuary	Nancy Elsenheimer
noon	Lunch, Speakouts, Recess	
1:00 PM	Circle time with Cameron Trimble	Sanctuary
2:00	Play time (see following page for activities and locations)	
3:15	Break	
3:30	Show & Tell- New Ministries	<u>Rooms</u>
	(See the number on your nametag for Group Assignment)	
	Group 1	Classroom 1
	Group 2	Classroom 2
	Group 3	Multi-purpose
	Group 4	Chapel
	Group 5	Lime
	Group 6	Turquoise
4:45	Play dates	<u>Rooms</u>
	(See following page for description of each play date)	
	Mission Planning Board	Classroom 1
	Non-Parish Clergy	Classroom 2
	PSR, Chapman, NAU	Multi-Purpose
	Cameron Trimble	Chapel
	New Church Starts	Lime
	Lay Academy	Jr Hi Youth
	National Staff	Purple
	Justice Workers	Turquoise
6:00	Dinner	
7:15	Worship- Celebration of Covenant	Sanctuary
8:30	After hours	
	on-site: Patio is open to those that want to linger & visit, snacks	
	off site: North Mountain Brewery, 522 E. Dunlap, Phoenix, AZ	

SATURDAY

9:15	Morning Worship	Sanctuary	Rock Fremont
9:30	Show & Tell- Innovation lab (See the number on your nametag for Group Assignment)	<u>Rooms</u>	
	Group 1	Classroom 1	
	Group 2	Classroom 2	
	Group 3	Multi-purpose	
	Group 4	Chapel	
	Group 5	Lime	
	Group 6	Turquoise	
10:45	Break		
11:00	Business	Sanctuary	
	Vote: Nominating Slate		George Ault
	Top Line Budget		Phil Ward
	Bylaw changes		George Ault
	Moderator Report		George Ault
	DCM Report		Bill Lyons
	Raffle drawing		Lee Milligan
	Gifts and passing of the gavel		Bill Lyons/George Ault/Rebecca Glenn
	Announcement of next year's Annual Meeting, April 28/29		Rebecca Glenn
noon	Lunch, speakouts, Recess		
1:15	Worship and Installation of Nominating Slate	Sanctuary	
2:30	Break		
2:45	Ecclesiastical Council- Bonnie McNair	Multi-purpose room	
3:45	Depart		

Explanations and Locations for Play Time and Play Dates

Play Time- 2 PM on Friday

Take an hour to “play” and find joy, refreshment, and spiritual connection.

Spiritual Direction- Speak to a Spiritual Director to get a sense of what spiritual direction is and how it can enrich your life. Begin a conversation, start a journey. Sign up for a time slot at the Registration Table. **-Sanctuary**

Chair Yoga- For all ability levels. **-Classroom 1**

Tai Chi- For all ability levels. **-Chapel**

Labyrinth- Ken McIntosh will give you some history and instruction before you take your journey around the labyrinth. **-The labyrinth is located between the sanctuary and education building.**

Prayer flags- Create your own prayer flag and send your prayer on the breath of God. **- Near the Labyrinth.**

Drum Circle- Beat your own drum! Hear the sounds of creation and the rhythm of your own heart. **-Patio**

Just Sing! Enjoy an old fashioned sing-along. **-Multi-Purpose**

Coloring, Chalk Board, White Board- Relieve stress and be colorfully creative. **-Classroom 2**

Card Making- Materials and patterns are available or use your own imagination. **-Classroom 2**

Just have fun- with hula hoops, pool noodles, bubbles, and more. **-Playground**

Festival Garden- Need some quiet time? **-The Garden is located to the left as you approach the sanctuary.**

Voluntary Time Out- Just want to visit with old friends? **-Find a bench or patio and enjoy**

Play Dates- 4:45 PM on Friday

Have a conversation with people you would like to know better. Share ideas, ask questions, make connections, hear stories, learn something new.

Mission Planning Board- hosted by Moderator Elect Rebecca Glenn. Are you on the MPB? Do you want to know more about it? Each church gets one representative to this SWC board. See if this might be an opportunity that you would like. Thank those already on the board.

Non-Parish Clergy- Hosted by incoming Moderator-Elect Liana Rowe. If you are clergy serving outside the local church, get together and share ideas and stories. Renew friendships. If you are interested in finding out more about chaplains, spiritual directors, and counselors, come and visit.

Educators/Chaplains/Colleges/Seminaries- Hosted by John Aney (PSR), Kari Kempf (Chapman Univ.) and Kathleen Day (NAU) Hear more from university chaplain Kathleen Day as she worked with the family of terrorist captive Kayla Mueller. Discuss the advantages and opportunities of attending a UCC affiliated university or seminary. Gain insight into the intersection of religion and education.

Cameron Trimble – Did Circle Time with Cameron bring more questions to mind? Continue the conversation.

New Church Start members- Hosted by Ken McIntosh. You just spent some Show and Tell time with six new churches. Any ideas that might work with your church? Continue the conversation with them and with the SWC Church Growth and Renewal coordinator.

Lay Academy- Hosted by Rock Fremont. For those that have attended the Lay Academy and those who want to know more. Meet some of the best theology educators in the area and from across the country. Discuss your interest with Rock and with those who have attended the Lay Academy.

UCC National Staff- Hosted by Gordon Gilles, Jake Pomeroy, Michelle Deyoe and Matt Wagner. Ask questions and learn more about the programs and opportunities available to your church from the Cornerstone Fund, United Church Funds, and the Insurance Board.

Justice Workers- Hosted by Andria Davis. Do you work with justice ministries at your church? Immigration, homelessness, GLBT, Widening the Welcome, community gardens, children's issues, legislative initiatives, others? Come and network with others involved in the same passions.

Join The Nationwide Climate Prayer April 22, Noon your time

Climate Blessing

We Hold the Earth

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities. . .

so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children.

May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.



Find more Climate Blessings for different faith traditions at Faith Climate Action Week

Sign up at FaithClimateActionWeek.org to help us reach the biggest participation yet. When we stand together and raise up our voices we can have the power to change hearts and minds.



Faith Climate Action Week

Brought to you by Interfaith Power & Light



Meet Shadow Rock UCC

Our hosts in Phoenix Arizona

Shadow Rock United Church of Christ

It's hard sometimes to describe who we are. We are a religiously diverse congregation that honors the many different paths you might be on in your life. Some Shadow Rockers were raised in conservative churches, others in liberal ones, and still others raised in no church at all. Some of us have wide-ranging definitions of God, and still others declare themselves atheists or

humanists. But we have all found a home at Shadow Rock, united by our core values of justice, inclusion and spirituality. We each bring our own unique spiritual gifts and share them at One Great Table.



Shadow Rock is a part of the United Church of Christ, a progressive denomination of about 5,600 congregations. The UCC is a national leader on social and economic justice issues.

We believe God's love embraces all, regardless of gender, race, age, ability, or sexual orientation and that every person is unique and unrepeatable.

We know that to understand the Bible means taking it seriously but not literally.

We understand what Jesus had to do with justice.

We nurture children through innovative teaching and action and help adults expand their faith.

As a community we strive to be on the cutting edge.

We voted to be an Open and Affirming Church in 1999. We voted to be an Economic Justice Covenant Church in 2014.



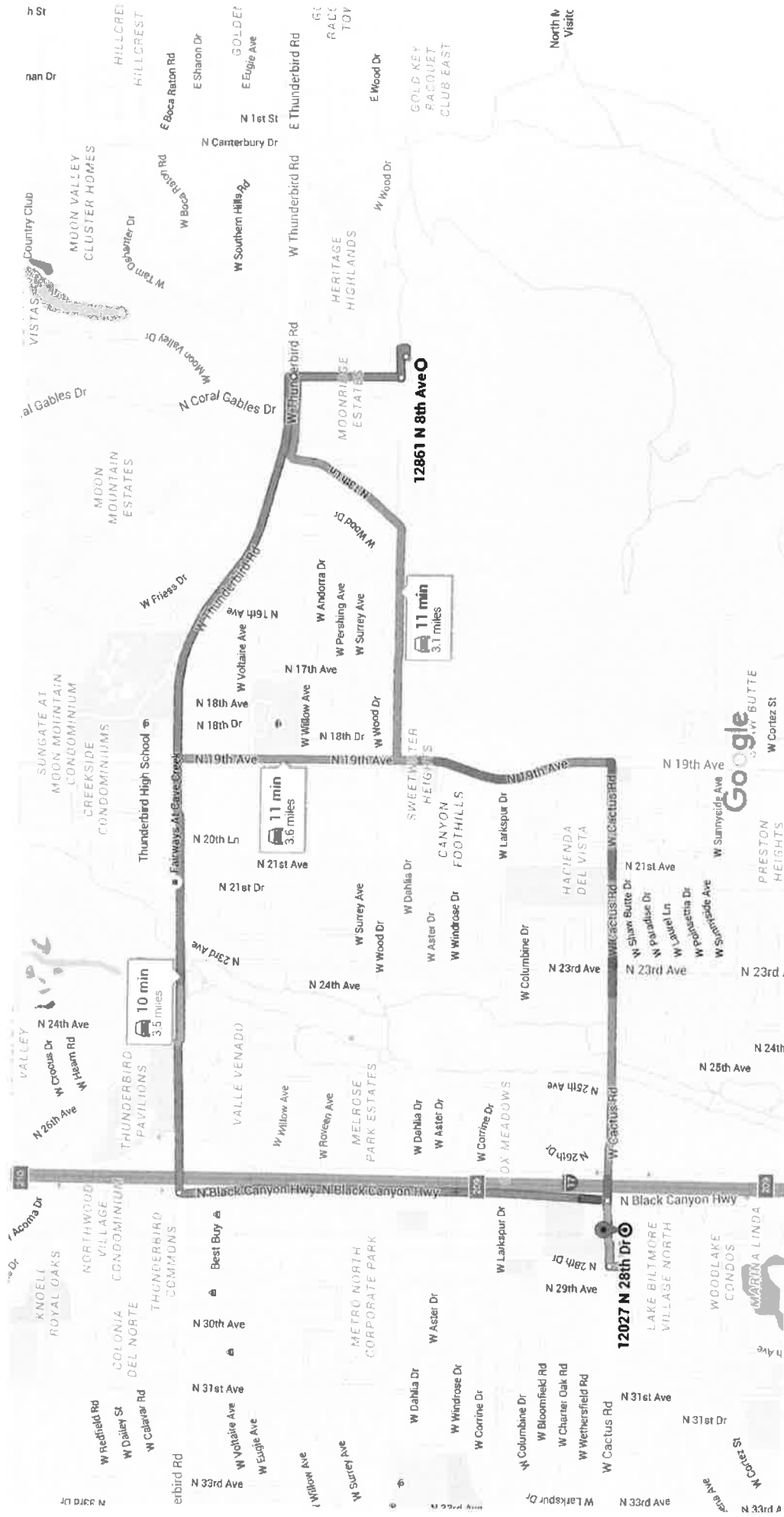
Special Guest...

Rev. Cameron Trimble



Rev. Cameron Trimble is the Executive Director of the Center for Progressive Renewal. She most recently served as an advisor to the Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Team of Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ and as Associate Conference Minister of Church Development in the Southeast Conference of the UCC. In her ministry in the national setting, Rev. Trimble was responsible for the development of national strategy for birthing new churches. In her conference setting, she directly oversaw the birthing of churches throughout the Southeast Conference. Each setting has given her a unique perspective on the challenges of cultivating leaders equipped to meet the needs of the future of mainline Protestantism. Rev. Trimble is an adjunct professor teaching church planting and renewal with the Pacific School of Religion and Chicago Theological Seminary. She has co-authored the book "Liberating Hope" in 2011. With this wide experience and exposure, Rev. Trimble is convinced that the future of the progressive mainline Church is dependent upon our ability to cultivate the highest quality of leadership in both ordained and lay leadership

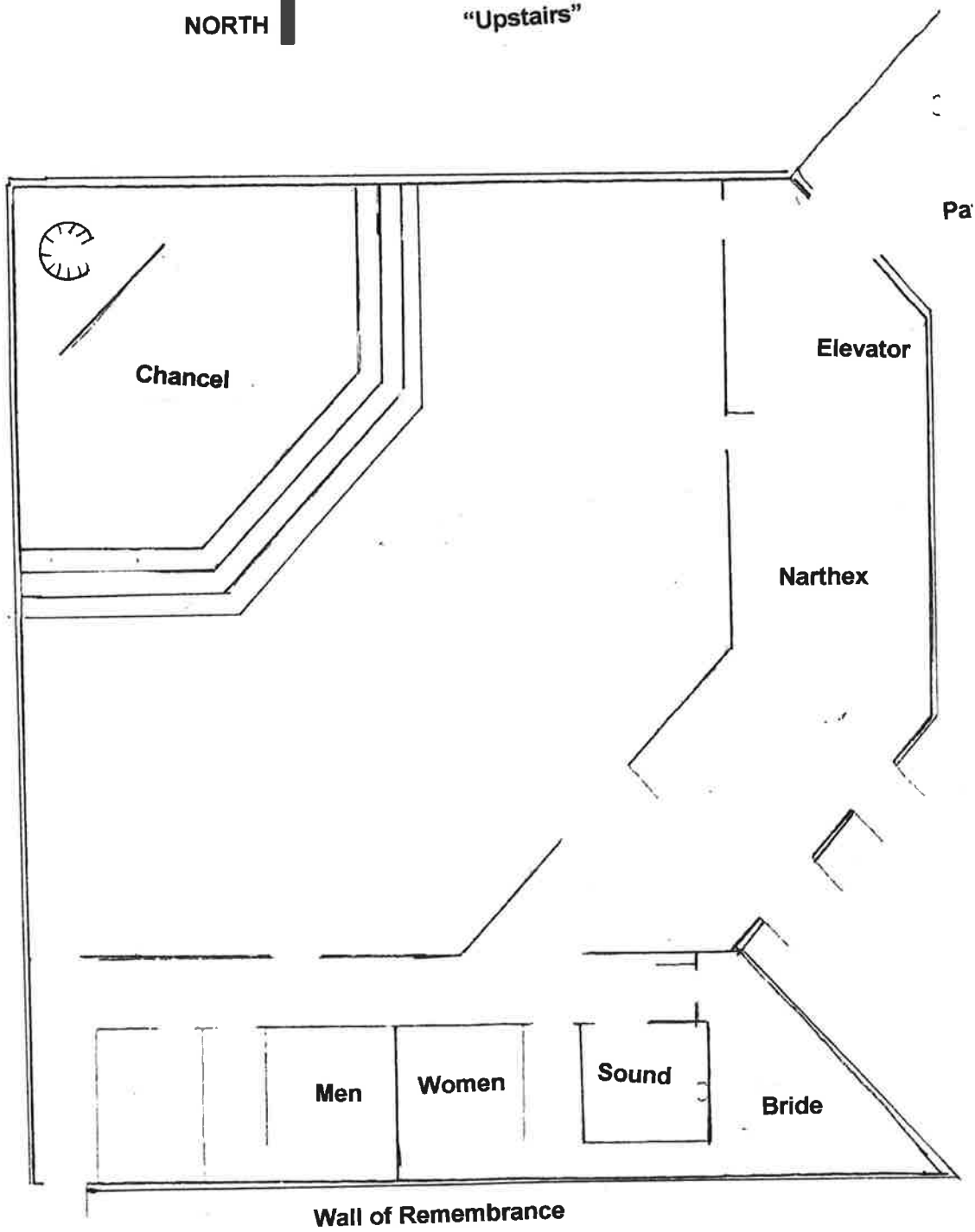
Holiday Inn to Shadow Rock UCC



NORTH ↑

Sanctuary

"Upstairs"



Pa

Elevator

Chancel

Narthex

Men

Women

Sound

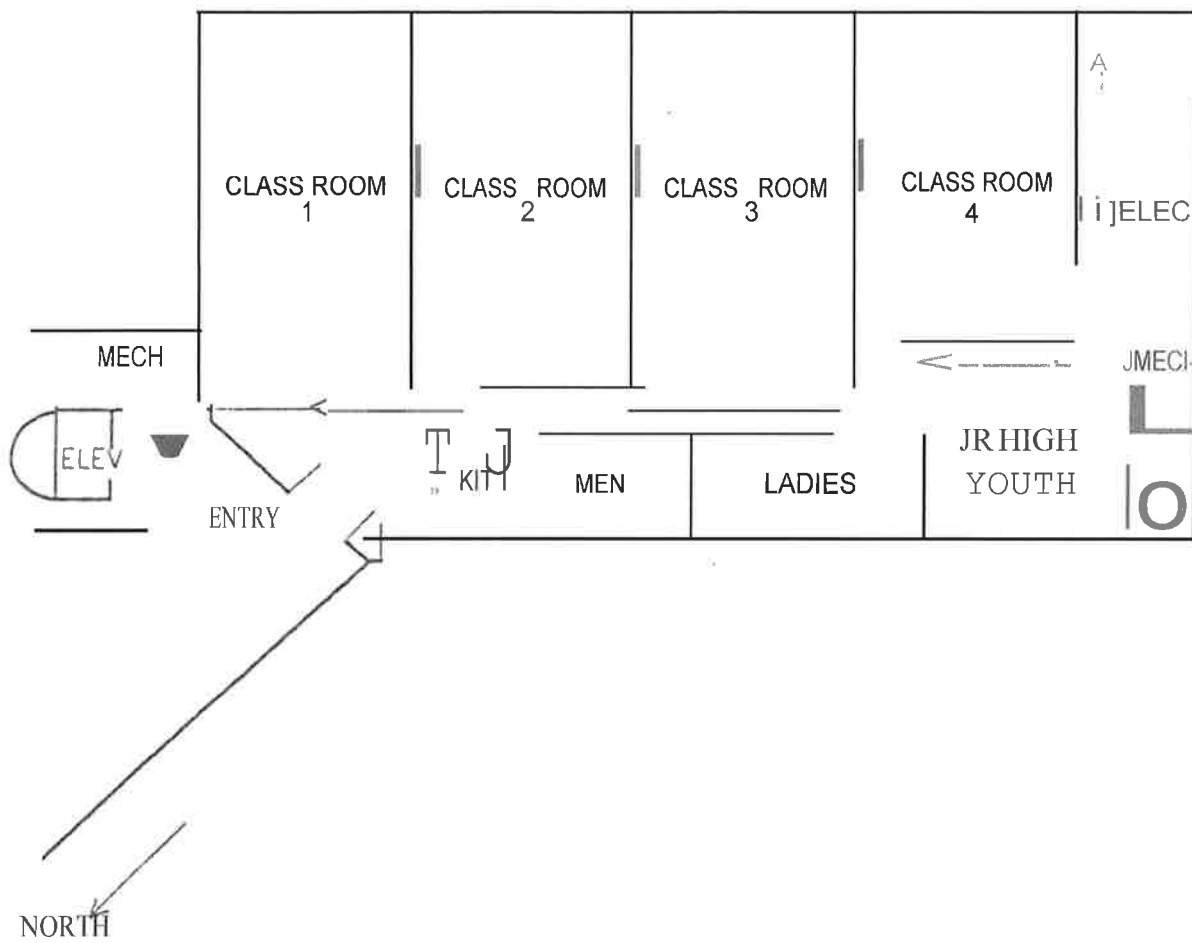
Bride

Wall of Remembrance

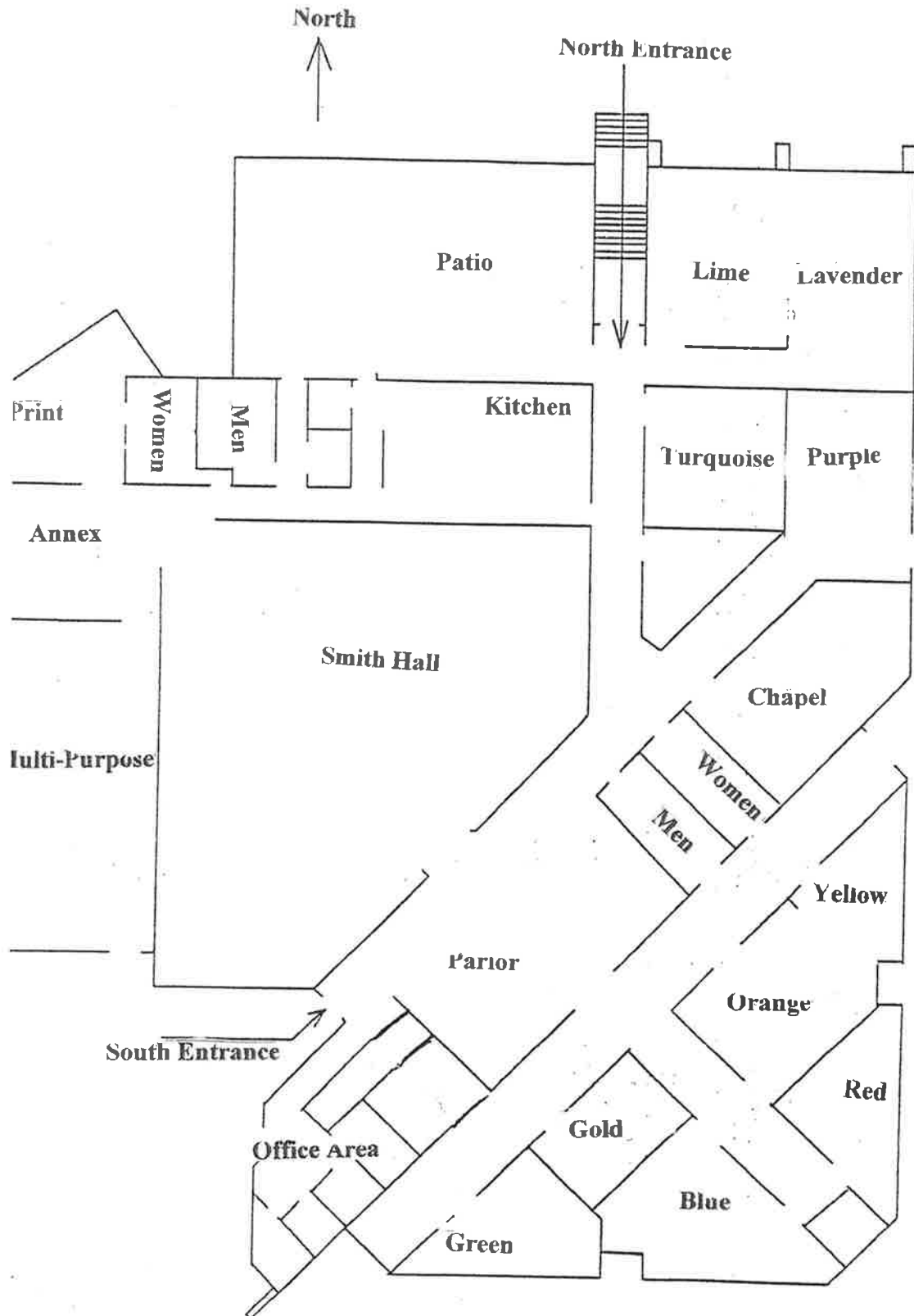
Festival C

Sanctuary Building Basement

Kreider Center



Shadow Rock Education Building Map





SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Friday April 22, 2016

7:15 PM

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law; this is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another. James Vila Blake, 1894

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

The Gathering
by don-E Merson and Sean Elliott

Welcome and Announcements

+Choral Introit

You Are Welcome Here
by Gerald DeMan

+Call to Worship

Gather us in Creator God.

That being close to your heart we will understand your intention for creation.

Weave us into one, Sweet Savior of All.

That living your ways we will create communities of faith and peace.

Gather us in, Powerful Spirit of Renewal.

That treasuring the past we will boldly shape the future.

Weave us into one, Holy One in Three.

That your church may be a sign of your presence,

the weavers of your communities and the witnesses to your coming.

Gather us in this day so that we might gather strength from you.

AMEN

+Hymn

#421 We Gather Together

Prayer of Confession and Restoration

We gather in God's name.

We claim Christ's promised presence.

Friends, not out of dread and fear but believing that God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.

Eternal God, maker of the skies above, lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth,

Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters, in earth and sky, you are there.

O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul behind all souls, in everything we touch, in everyone we meet, your presence is around us, and we give you thanks.

But when we have not touched but trampled you in creation, when we have not met but missed you in one another, when we have not received but rejected you in people-made-poor, forgive us, and hear now our plea for mercy.

Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives: your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and follow me.

Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries Glory! In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Covenant Moment

Anthem

I Hope
by the Dixie Chicks

Covenant Moment

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Readings

Isaiah 55: 1-9 (The Inclusive Bible)
Ruth 1:15-19

Message

Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons

Instrumental Music

Stranger

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Covenant Moment

Sharing Our Gifts for Ministry and Mission

Call to Offering

Offertory

Speak Life
by Toby Mac

+ Doxology

Covenant Moment

Sharing the Table

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We have shared bread many times in our lives, in many places, for many reasons. The bread we now break is a sharing in the life of Christ. *Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.*¹ May our acceptance of it today be a sign of our faith in the ongoing goodness of a God who journeys with us.

But how can we break bread and not remember those who have no bread? How can we share the cup and not remember ones who have been excluded from the table?

God of human experience, born in a stable and executed on a cross, Holy Spirit alive in us today, we give thank for you as we eat this bread and drink this cup. They are for us body of Christ, bread of heaven, blood of Christ, cup of salvation. Nourish us for extravagant welcome, deep sharing, and a willingness to enter into the suffering of our world, remembering the hope of your Shalom. In the Spirit of Christ Jesus let us pray:

Our Mother/Father/Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.¹⁵

Jesus' Words at the Table

Let us share the bread and cup as Jesus taught us, celebrating that we are one, forever changed, called to change the world. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready!

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

+Hymn

#76 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

+Benediction

Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons

+Postlude

One of Us
by Joan Osborne

+ Please stand in spirit or in body

¹ 1 Corinthians 10:17

We Gather Together

*Netherlands folk hymn, 16th century**Transl. Theodore Baker, 1894**Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992*

- 1 We gath-er to-geth-er
to ask for God's bless-ing,
to live in com-mu-ni-ty,
seek-ing God's will.
We come now, as sis-ters
and broth-ers, con-fess-ing
the sins that di-vide
and the wrong in us still.
- 2 Be-side us, for-giv-ing,
en-a-bling, sus-tain-ing,
you call us, O Sav-ior,
to life that is new.
You draw us a-way
from self-cen-tered com-plain-ing.
You lead us and guide us
in ways that are true.
- 3 All praise to the Spir-it,
pro-vid-er, de-fend-er.
You of-fer us free-dom,
to fol-low or stray,
Em-pow-er-ing all by
the hope you en-gen-der.
Grant wis-dom and cour-age
to fol-low your way.

The original text of this hymn was one of thanksgiving for The Netherlands' independence from Spanish domination in the sixteenth century. It has been reinterpreted for contemporary congregations by United Church of Christ minister and writer Lavon Bayler.

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.
16th-century Dutch melody
Arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Descant

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
 tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
 shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in People's Mass Book, 1964, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.
 Welsh folk melody
 Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972
 Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

Southwest Conference Annual Meeting
Closing Worship
April 23, 2016



Gathering Music
Shared by Our Great Band

Gathering Song

No Matter Who

**No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life.
You're welcome, welcome here in this place.
No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life
Accepted, welcomed by God's grace.**

1. For we are family, meant to be
Purposed for eternity
Born in love, from above; God's community

Chorus

2. And in diversity, unity,
Harmony for all to see
Justice and equality; God's community.

Chorus

3. Together we will sing, worship bring
Hands and hearts outstretched to all
Jesus praise, hearts a-blaze; listen to God's call.

Chorus

4. The God who spoke through Christ, speaks to us
Listen to our Savior's call
Welcome home, welcome in; the Table's set for all



Call to Worship and Opening Prayer
Shared by Sue Joiner

Singing Our Faith

God Is Still Speaking

**God is still speaking, blessed invitation,
God is still speaking listen and draw near,
God is still speaking, see a new creation,
God is still speaking, stand and do not fear.**

All creation groans and yearns.

God is still speaking.

Seek the way that life returns.

listen and draw near.

Through our broken, wounded earth,

God is still speaking,

God can bring new seeds to birth.

stand, and do not fear.

Refrain

To the ones enslaved, oppressed,

God is still speaking.

God is here in human dress.

Listen and draw near.

When the poor and lost are found.

God is still speaking.

When the mighty are cast down.

Stand, and do not fear.

Refrain

In the bleak and hopeless hour,

God is still speaking

Love is telling truth to pow'r.

Listen and draw near.

Tho' the nations rage and fight:

God is still speaking.

Hear the Word of breaking light;

Stand, and do not fear.

Refrain

Adult Time

Shared by Marilyn Rampley

Faithfully, playfully trust fall

Faithfully, playfully free fall

Faithfully, playfully covenant

Into meaningful, buoyant life

Scripture

II Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2) We have renounced the shameful

things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. 3)And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. **4)In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5)For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. 6)For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Message

Shared by Cameron Trimble

Our Best Days Are Ahead

Singing Our Faith

Weavers
by Sharon K. Youngs

**We are weavers of today
With a vision for tomorrow.
Hoping for the time when we shall overcome
Injustice and oppression, hatred and distress,
Workin' for the day when we shall all be one.**

1. There are many threads of us, each with a different name,
Some are strong, some are frayed, no two are the same,
Yet we each have something special to weave in God's tapestry,
Our backgrounds and our talents, our cultures and our creeds.
Chorus
2. These gifts we bring together are pieces of the whole;
Each one is important, but none can stand alone.
We must unify our vision toward the kingdom with no end,
Become one in God's creation, weaving all our pieces in.
Chorus
3. Well, the weaving's never finished nor the needle work complete
Until all people everywhere are cared for and are free.
Together let us be united, trusting God's love as our loom,
Praying that God's tapestry will be finished soon.
Chorus

Prayer and Installation of Conference Leadership

Led by Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons, Designated Conference Minister and
Rev. Dr. George Alt, Moderator of the Southwest Conference UCC

Offering and Offertory

Our offering goes to offset costs for our Innovation Lab which
encourages tactics and strategies for congregational revitalization.
Thank you for being the Conference.

Sharing At the Table of Jesus

Led by Rev. Sue Joiner

Singing Our Faith

Build Us A Table

Walls mark our bound'ries and keep us apart;
Walls keep the world from our eyes and our heart.
Tables are round, making room for one more,
Welcoming friends we had not known before.

Chorus

***So build us a table and tear down the wall!
Christ is our host. There is room for us all!***

Walls make us sure who is in and who's out
Walls keep us safe from all question and doubt,
But at a table in open exchange
New ties are formed as our lives rearrange

Chorus

Once we were strangers, divided, alone.
Hate and distrust built a wall stone by stone.
Now at a table the bread that we share.
Joins us to Christ in a circle of care.

Chorus

Benediction

Led by Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons



2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

Reclaiming Creation

Church of the Red Rocks

Sedona, Arizona

Friday, April 17th

10:30 a.m. First Business Session: The meeting was called to order by Moderator Dana Bender

A Welcome by George Ault, Sr. Pastor of Church of the Red Rocks

Introduction of Guests by Dana Bender

- Judith Glenn – Local Arrangements Coordinator
- Eunice Hill and Norma Gibson – Designed and quilted the banners for our theme
- Carlos Osuna – Audio Visual Support Person
- Molly Dorhauer – Child Care Provider
- Rev. Jim Antal – Massachusetts Conference Minister and Keynote Speaker
- Rev. Doug Bland- Director of AZ Interfaith Power and Light and Keynote Speaker
- Sister Joan Brown – Director of NM Interfaith Power and Light and Keynote Speaker
- Gordon Gilles – Cornerstone Fund
- Don Hart – United Church Funds
- Revs. Peggy Roberts and David Ragan – Beatitudes Campus of Care
- Mark Clark – Parliamentarian
- Rev. Nancy Brink – Chapman University
- Rev. Erin Tamayo – Director of Arizona Faith Network
- SW Conference Officers: Rev. George Ault (Moderator-Elect), Phil Ward (Treasurer) and Rich Doerrer-Peacock (Secretary)
- SW Conference Contract Staff: Rev. Rock Fremont (Lay Academy), Rev. Ken McIntosh (Church Growth and Renewal), Rev. Tyler Connoley (Immigrant Care Coordinator), and Wende Gonzales (Communications)
- SW Conference Staff: Barbara Decker (Assistant to John Dorhauer) and Holly Herman (Office Manager)

Results of Written Ballot

Holly Herman reported: We currently have 190 people attending representing 38 churches. We have a quorum.

Nominating Committee Report



Holly Herman referred the delegates to the Nominating Report on the first of the salmon colored pages in the booklet for the Annual Meeting. An election will be held tomorrow. Holly thanked the Nominating Committee: Alan Mong, Anita Curtis, Rev. Alberta Wallace, Debe Knaack, Barbara Nordlund, and Sandy Znetko.

Financial Reports

Phil Ward referred to the financial reports on the salmon colored pages in the Annual Meeting booklet. In particular, he referred to the third page which lists the 2013 Actual (income and expenses), the 2014 Actual (income and expenses), the Final 2015 Budget, and the 2016 Top Line Budget which will be voted on tomorrow.

Welcome Three New Churches

Peace UCC Representatives – Revs. Ric and Lynn Brightman, Maria Elena Barron and Stan Roberts

Motion: To receive Peace United Church of Christ (El Paso, Texas) as a Local Church of the of the Southwest Conference. Approved

Silver City UCC Representatives: - Rev. Tyler Connoley, Alan Mong, Dallas and Barbara

Rychener

Motion: To receive Silver City United Church of Christ (Silver City, New Mexico) as a Local Church of the Southwest Conference. Approved

EFKAS Representatives: - Rev. Esera Tavai, Joanna Tavai, Thomas and Carol Fuiga, Marlowe and April Rasing

Motion: To receive Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa / EFKAS (Phoenix, Arizona) as a Local Church of the Southwest Conference. Approved

Reports:

Mission Planning Board Report and Executive Board Report by Rev. George Ault

Cornerstone Fund Report by Gordon Gilles

United Church Fund Report by Don Hart

Justice Witness Ministry Report by Logan Marshall, Andria Davis, and Karen Richter

Gift to UCC Coalition from Casas Adobes UCC presented by Rev. Lee Milligan and Moderator



In appreciation of all that has been done by the UCC Coalition and in honor of Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer \$1000 was given to the UCC Coalition.

1:00 p.m. Keynote Address by Rev. Doug Bland and Sister Joan Brown

2:00 p.m. Workshops

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

“Investing from the Heart, Building for the Future” by Gordon Gilles

“Church Management for Sustainability” by Rev. Gloria Smith

“Arizona Faith Network: New and Improved” by Rev. Erin Tamayo

“A Taste of Lay Academy: Was Paul Misunderstood?” by Dr. Vernon Meyer

“Welcome the Stranger: Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation” by Dr. Randy Mayer

“Justice Witness Storytelling Project” by Rev. Andria Davis and Logan Marshall

3:00 p.m. Second Business Session moderated by Rev. George Ault

Reports:

Immigrant Care Coordinator Report by Rev. Tyler Connoley

A written report is in the Annual Meeting booklet (green sheets)

Beatitudes Campus of Care Report by Rev. Peggy Roberts, Rev. David Ragan, Dr. Dosithea Carlson, and Bob and Lee Hardy

An EPIC Report (Education, Participation, Innovation, and Communication Strategic Plan)

by Rev. Dr. Gloria Smith

Lay Academy Report by Rev. Rock Fremont

A written report is in the Annual Meeting booklet (green sheets)

Conference Minister Transition Plans by Dana Bender

Conference Minister Report by Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer

A written report is in the Annual Meeting booklet (green sheets)



11:00 a.m. Keynote Address by Rev. Jim Antal

1:30 p.m. Fourth Business Session

Reports

Church Growth Ministry Team by Rev. Ken McIntosh

Widening the Welcome by Michael Curry

A written report is in the Annual Meeting booklet (green sheets)

Rebel and Divine by Rev. Jeffrey Dirrim

Elections

MOTION: To adopt the nominating slate as presented on the salmon colored page in the Annual Report booklet - Approved

2016 Top Line Budget

MOTION: To adopt the 2016 Top Line Budget as presented on the salmon colored page in the Annual Report booklet - Approved

Presentations:

Introductions of New Pastors serving the SW Conference

James Pennington: First Congregational UCC (Phoenix)

Matthew Baugh: Iglesia Congregational Unida (Albuquerque)

Leah McCullough: Good Shepherd UCC (Sahuarita)

Transfers of Standing into the SW Conference

Tracy Hughes, Don Longbottom, Laura Folkwin, Carl Eschenbrenner, John Indermark, James Scovil, Tom Lewis

Ordinations

Beth Frigard and Andria Davis

Installations

James Pennington, Carter Hilai, Andria Davis, Tarbwij Charley, Sue Joiner

Church Anniversaries

Desert Heritage (Mesa) - 25 years



Ordination Anniversaries

Don Arey (50), Elizabeth Youngberg (25), Lynn Hinton (25), Janet St. Cyr (25),
Dalene Fuller Rogers (25), Judith Hambleton (25)

“Five for Five” - 27 churches were recognized for donating the 5 special offerings of the UCC

“Seven for Seven” - Of those 27 churches, 9 gave additional gifts to the 2 special offerings of the SW Conference.

“Our Church’s Wider Mission”

The church that gave the most – Good Shepherd UCC (Sahuarita)

Highest per Capita contributors – South Mountain Community Church (Phoenix)

And Scottsdale Congregational UCC

“Open and Affirming” – new congregations are: Church of the Palms (Sun City), Sun Lakes, and Congregational Church of the Valley (Scottsdale)

The SW Conference celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer presented some history and a video remembrance.

Gifts:

To Rev. Jim Antal for his leadership at this Annual Meeting

To Dana Bender for her leadership as Moderator this past year.

The new Moderator Rev. George Ault announced that next year’s Annual Meeting of the SW Conference will be at Shadow Rock UCC in Phoenix

3:00 p.m. Worship Service

Offering for the Conference Minister Search Fund

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer was the preacher.

The SW Conference officers and committee members were installed

Tracy Hughes was commissioned to begin her work in Colombia.

Ktizo Youth Choir and Rev. John Herman offered special music

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Doerrer-Peacock

Secretary, Southwest Conference United Church of Christ



Conference Minister's Report

Designated Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. William Lyons:

Four months ago I arrived in a place I had never lived, to do a job I had never done. Your extravagant welcome and caring have made our transition as pleasant and painless as possible for Ron, my partner, and I. Thank you so very much!

My six months ministry goal is to meet all of the conference congregations, and to visit our active clergy in their ministry settings. I am on pace to meet that goal. Their stories have filled me with hope and joy! One congregation has been a beacon for environmental justice since before we had a term for it. One congregation in covenant development offers belonging to young people who experience few, if any, safe places in their lives. One congregation in transformation is reenergized over a more-than-tripled worship attendance, pledges (many of which have been prepaid) far exceeded their goal, and a generative conversation about who God is calling them be in the next chapter of their life together. And your stories are being told in print¹ and on the airwaves,¹ a testimony that confirms how you are changing the world!

Meeting the SWC's friends and partners in mission and ministry has also been a joy these last few months. Allow me to give a shout out to my new friends and colleagues at BERT, One Community, Islamic Community Center of Tempe, Southern Arizona Gender Alliance, State Senator Martin Quezada, State Representative Stephanie Mach, ACLU, AZIPL, NMIPL, AFN, and the national UCC staff. What comfort and joy come from realizing that none of are doing this work alone! You will be hearing more stories from new church starts, first round innovation lab congregations, and conference leaders that I hope will energize and inspire you. I lead from the perspective that "we can never grow less of what we do not want; we can only grow more of what we do want." Getting to know you, our congregations, our clergy, and our ministry partners more deeply, we equip me to begin doing just that in the year ahead. Here's to the beginning of a faithful and playful covenant together!

Acting Conference Minister's Report, Rev. Lee Albertson:

I served as Acting Conference Minister, Southwest Conference, United Church of Christ from August 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. During those five months, it was a privilege to be in ministry with all of you who carry out the vital work of the conference in the various settings that make us who we are. It was also an honor to serve on staff with Holly, Barbara, Sheri, Ken, and Rock.

As I met with church councils, search and call committees, laity, clergy, and others during those five months, it became clear to me that we are uniquely equipped, as covenantal partners in the Southwest Conference to be the United Church of Christ. In our diverse settings I witnessed hope, yes hope being lived out through your ministries of God's inclusive love.

We now welcome our new designated conference minister, Rev. Bill Lyons into our midst. What a gift he is to us! May God bless each of you and the Southwest Conference!!



Moderator's Report

George Ault

"This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

This special day "that the Lord has made" has been repeated well over 300 times since our last Annual Meeting. Each one of these days has been a day of transition. Each day has been a day of change and growth and becoming. Each day has been a day to experience faith and strengthening of our beloved Southwest Conference. Transition is a word sometimes associated with death, but it can also refer to newness of life. I lean toward the latter in reference to our conference experience since we last met.

This has been a year of transition on so many levels. The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer transitioned into the office of President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ.

The Rev. Tyler Connoley completed a year as the Immigrant Care Coordinator on behalf of the national church for the Southwest Conference, the Southern California-Nevada Conference and the South Central Conference.

We bid farewell to Barbara Decker, our SWC Assistant to the Conference Minister, a position in which she selflessly served for fifteen years.

On behalf of the SWC, I want to extend our gratitude to each one of these fine leaders for jobs well done in service of our God.

We welcomed Sheri Slaybaugh to our SWC staff as Administrative Assistant.

On January 1, we also welcomed the Rev. Dr. William M. Lyons as our Designated Conference Minister.

Each time a person leaves or joins a conference staff, all the cards of the conference are re-shuffled. The cards of our conference have been shuffled again and again during this past year. But we have survived and thrived, and we will continue to do so into this year and beyond.

A word of thanks is due to those who have managed our transition. Each one was the right person at the right place and the right time. The Rev. Dr. Lee M. Albertson served as our Acting Conference



Minister. Dana Bender, our immediate past Moderator, was the chairperson of our Conference Search Committee. Holly Herman, our SWC Office Manager, did her usual incredibly fine job of coordinating details, arranging meetings and handling all manner of office paperwork.

The Conference Search Committee spent countless hours deliberating, reviewing profiles, calling references and interviewing candidates. The Search Committee included Dana Bender, Rebecca Glenn, Phil Ward, Andria Davis, Brendan Mahoney, Frank Fox, and Sue Joiner. To these we offer our thanks for lifting up a vision to our conference.

The SWC Executive Board did an extraordinary job in providing insight and discernment as we moved through the weeds and wilderness of the last year. The Executive Board included: Rebecca Glenn, Moderator-Elect, Karen Richter, Secretary, Phil Ward, Treasurer, Tyler Connoley, Dax Franklin-Hicks, Brady Abel, Sharon Littrell, and Emily Marderness.

I would be remiss if I did not thank you, the members and friends of the SWC, for your faithful support of the SWC and its leadership. Without trusting and faithful members and friends, the SWC would just be another conference. With trusting and faithful members and friends, we are a witnessing force proclaiming the Good News.

Paralleling our transitioning and searching was our ongoing program. This part of our conference work was anything but boring as EPIC (Educate, Participate, Innovate and Communicate) completed its second of a three-year program; our Camping Program, Clergy Retreat and Lay Academy flourished: our Personnel Manual was revised; the Mission Planning Board wrestled with its purpose for being; a SWC Blog was established; our new churches faced their start-up challenges; a Media Workshop was held; and Justice Witness continued to point the way. In addition, the SWC was tapped to be one of a half dozen conferences to lead the way in the test phase of Still-Speaking 2.0.

The year went by very quickly. In fact, I sometimes wonder where it went. But it was a most productive year for the SWC. It was my honor and privilege to serve as your Moderator. As this Conference Year comes to an end, and we look forward to our open future with renewing leadership and Bill Lyons at the helm, I am delighted to hand the symbolic gavel of leadership to Rebecca Glenn. Rebecca brings many skills and talents to the table. She, too, is the right person at the right time to provide the kind of leadership our conference needs and deserves as we peer over the horizon.

As we step into the future, may we do so with the faith that God is already there ready to greet us in the Spirit of the One from another desert province from another day.



Church Growth and Development Coordinator Report 2016

Kenneth McIntosh

I've been working half-time for Southwest Conference for the past 14 months (I'm also pastor at First Congregational UCC in Flagstaff) **connecting existing congregations that desire to revitalize with necessary resources to do that, and assisting persons wishing to start new churches.** I'm especially interested in new models of faith communities that are relevant to our rapidly shifting, post-institutional culture.

If your church wants to change—or if you have a dream of starting a new faith community ---I am here to serve you. Please contact me! I can meet with your pastor and leadership to **brainstorm new mission directions, and suggest resources** that might help you become more effective. Have you thought about **your congregation “birthing” a new church?** New churches are the most effective way to reach un-churched persons in a neighborhood.

The More Detailed Report: Activities over the past Year

Online Resources for Use by SWC members and Churches

Over the past year, I developed an extensive resource list that can be accessed from the SWC website: on the front page, see “Growth and Vitality.” Click on that and you get a dropdown menu that includes: liturgical and worship resources, print resources, SWC expertise, online resources and new church start/ legal resources. I especially recommend the “Video Resource” section, which lists videos produced by Center for Progressive Renewal. These would be helpful to watch with your church leaders, small group, or church gathering.

Church Triad Partnerships for Growth and Renewal.

This was an experiment, conducted with three clusters of three churches each, over the past year. I designed the program, invited churches, facilitated meetings, and did follow-up. Some of the participating churches were hampered by significant transitions and thus were unable to complete their commitment to the process. Churches that completed the Triad process saw positive results. Churches in one triad reported the following: Prescott church launched PIE program (Play, Inspire, Eat) a weeknight program that integrated new church families, made new contacts in the community, and inspired changes in worship and learning. Dewey church launched a “Comfort and Healing” ministry to address church and community members undergoing grief, along with a number of other creative ministries. Flagstaff church launched a series of community interfaith panel discussions, with over a hundred visitors from the community attending. Participants in the Triad felt there was a



definite advantage in working with other churches for growth and renewal. There will be improvements made to the Triad process as a result of lessons learned and **I'd urge your church leaders to consider engaging in a Triad for church growth: contact me if you're interested in learning more about this.**

Maintaining the Health of our Six "3.0" churches.

Part of my mandate is working with churches in the SWC that have been variously termed "Postmodern," "Out of the Box," or "3.0" churches. I've done this by facilitating monthly Zoom meetings, visits, and correspondences. Silver City has gone through an innovative and exciting change; after Tyler Connoley (their founding pastor) left the area, they opted to call Tina Squire, on a "Designated" basis, to serve as "distance" pastor (she lives several hours away) cooperating with church leadership to maintain Silver City's relevant and dynamic ministries.

Innovation Workshop and Follow-Up

I assisted Rebecca Glenn (Consultant and presenter), Holly Herman, and an ad-hoc committee to prepare, invite, conduct and follow-up with Zoom conferences, for the Design thinking workshop that was held on October 3 at the SWC office. As a result of that, the Encanto, First Albuquerque, Flagstaff, Painted Hills, Scottsdale and Silver City Churches have each initiated a number of innovation thinking courses, leadership changes, worship changes, and new ministry initiatives—over three-dozen ministry innovations in total!! **There will be a "Round Two of this highly effective Innovation Workshop in 2016—your church will want to participate!**

Birthing the Journey Church in Sierra Vista

Serving as "midwife" for new faith communities has been one of the most fulfilling things I've done with my life, and currently I'm working with Tina Squire and a fine set of folks in Sierra Vista, encouraging and informing them as they navigate the waters of beginning a new, progressive faith community and guiding that toward formal affiliation with the SWC.

I love what I Do...

Working with our pastors and laypeople, helping existing churches to revitalize, and seeing new churches come into existence. It's been a blessing working alongside John Dorhauer when he served as our conference minister, and now learning valuable new lessons with Bill Lyons in that position. **I would be delighted to help your congregation to grow or start a new faith community. Please don't hesitate to contact me: journeyfriend51@gmail.com, or 928-699-7384, or Kenneth R McIntosh on Facebook.**



COCAM A Report

Committee Members:

- Mr. David Huisjen, Casas Adobes UCC, Tucson, AZ, Chairperson
- Rev. Ken Heintzelman, Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix, AZ
- Rev. David Buss, Rincon Congregational UCC, Tucson, AZ
- Ms. Lori Ramsey, Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, AZ
- Rev. Jayne Hubbard, Black Mountain UCC, Scottsdale, AZ
- Ms. Diana Winston, Scottsdale Congregational Church, Scottsdale, AZ
- Pastor Jessie Sustaita, Iglesia Congregacional La Trinidad, El Paso, TX
- Rev. Tyler Connoley, Silver City UCC, Silver City, NM (thru Dec. 2015)
- Mr. Pete Norum, First Congregational Church, Prescott, AZ
- Rev. David Cooper, Flagstaff First Cong Church, Flagstaff, AZ
- Rev. Tina Squire, Community Congregational Church, Tombstone, AZ
- Rev. Theresa Stirling, Congregational Church of the Valley, Scottsdale, AZ (thru Jan 2016)
- Rev. Dr. William Lyons, SWC Conference Staff
- Ms. Barbara Decker & Ms. Sheri Slaybaugh, SWC Conference Staff

Report from the Chairperson of COCAM A, David Huisjen:

Committee on Church and Ministry "A" is made up of laity and clergy from all areas of the Southwest Conference. While statistics alone cannot tell the full story of COCAM "A," please take a moment to review the information in this report to get a strong sense of the enormity of the work that comes before the committee.

We thank local churches that find ways to attend Ecclesiastical Councils and encourage all churches to please take seriously the gathering of such events in your Association. The importance of the gathering of local churches and your representation at these events cannot be stressed enough.

The work of COCAM "A" is often demanding, yet is it also a privilege to serve on behalf of the United Church of Christ and the Southwest Conference.

COCAM acted on behalf of the Southwest Conference and the wider church in the following actions:

- I. ***Transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing from the Southwest Conference:***
 - Laura Folkwein to MT-No Wyoming Association



- Tracy Hughes to Fairfield East Assoc., Connecticut Conference
- Bill Ingraham to Shenandoah Assoc., Central Atlantic Conference
- Charles Aurand MT-N Wyoming

II. Transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing to the Southwest Conference:

- William Lyons from Grand West Association, Michigan Conference
- Tom Martinez from Metropolitan Association, New York Conference

III. Actions on Persons in Discernment

- Sean Raghhighigh discernment for ordination
- Michael Whitlock discernment for ordination
- Robin Greentigerman discernment for ordination
- Jim Crary requested to withdraw from discernment

IV. Ecclesiastical Councils

COCAM Approved Ecclesiastical Councils for Ordination

- Derrick Elliott; outcome of EC: approved for ordination.
- Bonnie McNair; EC will be held 4/23/16

V. Licensing

- Talosaga Seumanutafa to pastor the First Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Arizona
- Pastor Tarbwij Charley license renewed for another year at First Tempe Marshallese Ministry
- Jessie Sustaita license renewed for another year as Pastor of Iglesia Congregacional la Trinidad in El Paso, TX.
- Pastor Bonnie McNair license renewal affirmed at Yuma UCC
- Gerald "Butch" Slicker is in the process of becoming licensed at Community Congregational Church

VI. 4-Way Covenants

- Teresa Blythe, First Congregational UCC Phoenix, Redemptorist Renewal Retreat Center, SWC
- Abby Atkins, Church of the Palms, Boswell Hospital, SWC
- Joyce Buekers, Church of the Beatitudes, Harp Foundation, SWC

VII. Installations

- 5/17/15 Damond Jackson, Pastor, First Congregational Church, Tempe, AZ
- 8/18/15 Jay Wilcher, Pastor, First Cong. Church, Prescott, AZ
- 8/29/15 Pastor Talosaga Seumanutafa, Pastor, First Samoan Cong. Christian Church,



Phoenix, AZ

- 10/11/15 Sarah Tevis Townes, Pastor, Church of the Good Shepherd, Albuquerque, NM

VIII. Leave of Absence

- 6-11-15 Karen MacDonald renewed for 3rd Year
- 8-13-15 Sandi Anthony Renewed for 2nd Year*
- 11-2-15 Pamela Hines Long term Medical Leave of Absence

IX. Ordained Ministerial Standing (OMS) Terminated

- The OMS of Dennis Weaver terminated at his own request without prejudice.

X. Ordained Ministerial Standing Reinstated

- * Sandi Anthony status changes from Leave of Absence to Active Clergy

XI. Commissioned Ministerial Standing Terminated without Prejudice

- Dana Bender LOA expired

XII. Other Actions and Activities

Jan 2016 Tina Squire resigned at Community Congregational Church, Tombstone
Tyler Connoley moved out of the SWC area
Theresa Stirling resigned from Congregational Church of the Valley, Scottsdale
Tina Squire was called by Silver City UCC, Silver City

Feb 2016 Patti Aurand resigned from Shepherd of the Hills Cong, Phoenix

Mar 2016 Donna Cavedon's position was eliminated at Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona
Tina Campbell resigned from Desert Garden UCC, Sun City West

Sandi Anthony is acting pastor at Congregational Church of the Valley

Pamela Hines is acting pastor at West Congregational Church

XIII. Church Anniversaries

- United Church of Angel Fire, 20 years
- Iglesia Congregacional Unida, 90 years
- South Mountain Community Church, 100 years

XIV. Ordination Anniversaries

- Abby Atkins 15 years



- Rebecca Delzell 15 years
- Pamela Hines 15 years
- David Weaver 15 years
- Sandra Britton 20 years
- William Guise 20 years
- Ann Hanna 25 years
- Lee Milligan 25 years
- Paul Whitlock 25 years
- Donna Cavedon 30 years
- Kay Main 30 years
- Ed Church 40 years
- Roberta Kreider 40 years
- Jim Meadows 40 years
- Roy Eberbach 50 years
- Tracy Floyd 50 years
- Frank Sherman 50 years
- William Smith 60 years
- John Felible 70 years

XV. Retirements

- George Ault June 2015
- Carol Wilson March 2016

XVI. Deaths

- Dwight Cumbee, May 21, 2015
- David Simpson, June 14, 2015
- Wendell Langrine, July 26, 2015
- Edward Dodge, February 26, 2015
- John Hollowell, July 9, 2015
- James Nelson, October 15, 2015
- Edwin Mendenhall, October 27, 2015
- James Riggins, Pastor, West Congregational Church, December 26, 2016



COCAM B Report

Committee Members:

- Ms. Margaret Douglas, Oro Valley United Church of Christ, Chairperson
- Rev. Ric Brightman, First Christian Church UCC/DOC
- Rev. Sue Joiner, First Congregational Church (Albuquerque)
- Rev. Paul Whitlock, Desert Heritage Church
- Ms. Marlene Auburn, Church of the Red Rocks
- Ms. Cindy Walley, Encanto Community Church
- Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer & Rev. Lee Albertson & Rev. William Lyons, SW Conference staff
- Ms. Barbara Decker & Ms. Sheri Slaybaugh, SW Conference staff

Report from the Chairperson of COCAM B, Margaret Douglas:

Throughout the past year, the members of COCAM B have been visiting with members and congregational leaders of several local churches in the Southwest Conference. The purpose of these visits is to reach out to local congregations and to become acquainted with our Southwest Conference congregations.

The members of COCAM B spend time with folks from congregations talking over joys and celebrations as well as challenges and concerns. We have developed some standard questions that often spark enthusiastic conversations. It has been gratifying for our committee members to participate in these conversations about our relationships with other congregations as well as the Southwest Conference.

The past year has taught us that many of our congregations are experiencing the same challenges and concerns, involving aging church populations, financial stress and declining attendance. All of these visits with local congregations have enabled COCAM B members to inform people about the Southwest Conference and to establish very real connections between local congregations and the conference. We found that in some cases, local congregations have not always felt that sense of connection. It's all about the **interdependence** that we are striving to achieve as the Southwest Conference.

In addition to meeting on a basis with leaders and members of local congregations, COCAM B has also been involved in several support consultations when called upon. This committee is a valuable resource to our churches as the Southwest Conference provides support when difficult or complex situations arise.

It has been a gratifying experience for our members to establish ongoing covenant connections with the congregations in the Southwest Conference.



Youth Ministries – Katrina Glenn

Super Camp 2015 was a huge success! The theme was hashtag Your Life and the campers came up with wonderful ideas on what they want their lives to stand for. We hope they continued their growth and self-exploration towards who they want to be when they returned home and into the school year. The campers also provided beautiful affirmations for themselves and each other, which help to sustain higher self-esteem during the school year before they can return to camp for another boost. Camp would not be possible without all our wonderful volunteers: camp nurse, counselors, and program staff. We are very lucky to have dedicated volunteers who come back every year! Plus our amazing first time volunteers who rocked it out and we hope to turn into regular camp staff volunteers as well. These amazing people help make camp a fantastic experience for all their campers every year! Also, thank you to all the generous individuals and churches who donate to Sow the Seed. This scholarship fund ensures that camp is affordable for any camper who wants to enjoy this fabulous opportunity! We hope to see you at camp this year!



Lay Academy Report-

Rev Rock Fremont

It has been a wonderful season of growth and learning in this, our fifth year, of The Southwest Conference Lay Academy. One of our highlights was taking a group up north to attend the Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City, Utah; a gathering of nearly 10,000 attendees, volunteers and performers from over 70 countries. 30 Major Religions and 548 Sub-Traditions were represented, and the plenary session topics were as varied as they were plentiful. We were especially proud to be able to attend a session featuring the conference's very own Teresa Cowan Jones! We also got to see keynoter Dame Jane Goodall, who appeared on stage and, after a series of hoots and grunts, proclaimed "that's 'Jane' in Chimpanzee!" to a wildly enthusiastic audience! Our first session of the year, Rev. Dr. Vernon Meyer's "Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven, But Do You Want To Go



Today?" was scheduled to take place in El Paso, TX, but was, out of necessity, postponed until a later date. We will be revisiting this session in the future, in a format that will allow for distance attendance, so stay tuned. Our second session was a tour of the Abrahamic Faiths, which took us to Temple Kol Ami Reformed Jewish Synagogue in Scottsdale for Friday night Shabbat services. On Saturday, we gathered for a hearty breakfast at Congregational Church of the Valley before a visit with our friend Father Chris Salamy at St. George Antiochian Church. We then went on to visit the Scottsdale Baha'i Center. After meeting once again for lunch at CCOV, we gathered for a tour and afternoon prayer with our friends at the Islamic Community Center of Tempe. Based on attendee feedback alone, our third session was one of the most moving and affecting in the entire five-year history of Lay Academy. Titled simply "How Extravagant IS Our Welcome?", this session took us to Sahuarita, AZ and the epicenter of the immigration crisis. On Friday evening, we were shown a collection of items left in the desert by people coming to the United States from Mexico and beyond. Labeled 'garbage' by some, the water bottles, shoes, pocket combs, and family pictures told an entirely different story. On Saturday, we travelled several miles down the highway to hike into the mountainous desert of Southern Arizona. There, we visited several migrant memorials, offering prayers at each stop. We finished the day with songs from local musicians and a session led by an immigrant advocate visiting from Italy. No matter where you stand on the issue, being witness to the reality of immigration does lead one to ask the question "what could be so terrible that could force so many people to make what is consistently the most perilous journey currently known to mankind?" Our fourth session took place at Desert Heritage Church in Mesa, AZ. Led by the renowned UCC Process Theologian and Publisher Rev. Dr. Jeanyne Slettom, this session, titled "We Evolve, Does God?", deconstructed our image of God and defined Process Theology in practical terms. I'd like to thank each of our speakers and our host churches for all of the hard work they put into the planning and execution of this year's sessions thus far; Rev. Dr. Vernon Meyer and the United Church of Christ congregations of El Paso, TX; Rev. Theresa Stirling at CCOV in Scottsdale, AZ for hosting our meals for the tour of Abrahamic Faiths; Rev. Dr. Randy Mayer and his many gifted colleagues at Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita, AZ, and Rev. Dr. Jeanyne Slettom, Rev. Paul Whitlock, and the volunteers of Desert Heritage, UCC in Mesa, AZ. In closing, I'd like to make a personal appeal to each and every pastor in the conference. At the beginning of this year, we offered a scholarship to every congregation that had never sent an attendee, but only one church took us up on it. We've also heard from a few attendees that their pastors have cautioned them *against* attending our sessions, but we promise that there is nothing to be afraid of! Please encourage your congregations to attend Lay Academy!



Immigrant Care Coordinator Final Report Tyler Connoley

The purpose of this document is to provide our next Conference Minister with some of the institutional knowledge I gained during my year working as Immigrant Care Coordinator for the Southwest Conference. I did not provide contact information, since most of the people and churches listed in this report are part of the SWC, and should be available to the office staff already.

Background

In 2012, at the Annual Meeting in Sahuarita, the delegates to the SWC voted to declare immigration the main justice focus of the conference. As I recall, the thinking was that while churches are certainly focused on other justice causes -- such as ending for-profit prisons, lgbtq rights, and earth justice -- the rest of the denomination looks to the SWC for leadership on immigration issues, because of our proximity to the southern border.

Then, in June of 2014, the country was riveted by news reports of unaccompanied minors being apprehended at the border. People wanted to know what they could do, and One Great Hour of Sharing established a special fund. Using some of that money, Justice and Witness decided to establish a coordinator position to help churches and individuals working for Immigrant Welcome and Immigrant Justice. Linda Jaramillo suggested to John Dorhauer that the position be housed in the SWC, and I was contracted in August of 2014 for a one-year grant. The grant was not renewed in 2015.

Part of my duties involved working with churches around the country, but a good deal of my time was spent learning what our SWC churches were doing, and how they could be supported in their work for Immigrant Welcome and Immigrant Justice. Immigration and Border Issues

Early in my tenure, I discovered that I needed to make a distinction between border work and immigration work. The two overlap, but are not the same. Our border communities have particular needs that have to do with the militarization of our borders, the so-called "constitution-free zone" within a hundred miles of the border, and cross-border relationships. However, welcoming immigrants and seeking justice for immigrants is work that every Christian community in the country is called to. As I like to say, "Every person who comes across the border is going somewhere."

I soon learned that immigration was a large enough issue to take up all of my contracted twenty-hours-a-week. That said, I did learn much about the needs of border communities, and have some recommendations based on things I learned in my work as Immigrant Care Coordinator.



The SWC is made up of six distinct regions, each with its own flavor and needs.

Southern Arizona is dominated by its identity as a border region. It is the part of the SWC that is most affected by the militarization of the border, and political disputes over immigration policy. However, Tucson is also thought of as the liberal region of the state.

Churches in Phoenix have only recently begun to do work on Immigrant Welcome and Immigrant Justice. The churches in central Arizona tend to think of themselves as progressive bastions in a deeply conservative area dominated by Sheriff Arpaio and his supporters. In the past that has meant spending a good deal of energy on private prisons, and LGBTQ rights. Immigration didn't become a hot topic until HB-1070, and Arpaio's subsequent crack down on immigrants.

Churches in Northern Arizona expressed feeling left out of many justice conversations. They seem to feel that most of the activity happens in the southern and central parts of the state, without much thought for how they can help.

New Mexico

We only have two churches in Southern New Mexico, although we have several clergy.

One of those churches is our DOC/UCC church in Las Cruces, and the other is in Silver City. Since First Christian in Las Cruces is only recently affiliated with the UCC, and

Silver City is remote, there is not much coordination in this region. As pastor of Silver City UCC, I've tried to build bridges with Las Cruces and with Tucson (which is almost as close).

The churches in Northern New Mexico are dominated by Albuquerque, although they also have very little in the way of coordinated efforts. I think the pastors in Albuquerque are beginning to try to work together and support one another more, but our outpost churches tend to be connected to multiple denominations and therefore less-connected to the UCC.

People like to lump El Paso in with Southern New Mexico, and the clergy of the defunct SNMEP Association do maintain connections with each other. However, El Paso must be thought of as its own entity with its own needs. In some ways, El Paso has more in common with Southern Arizona, since it is heavily influenced by its proximity to Juarez.

Finally, we must always remember that in the SWC we are dealing with three distinct states with their own cultures and politics. New Mexico is much more progressive than either Texas or Arizona, and is always a purple swing state. El Paso as a city is deeply Democratic and pro-immigrant, but has



to deal with the Texas legislature. Arizona, of course, has established itself as a testing ground for some of the most anti-immigrant policies this country has seen.

The rest of this document will talk about what some of the individual churches in the SWC are doing around the issues of immigrant welcome and immigrant justice. I've chosen to organize the churches based on geographical region. I don't include every church in the region, but only those of note. I also include information about some of the individual members and non-UCC organizations that I think the Conference Minister should be aware of. Northern Arizona

Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona has a strong Social Justice Committee that meets monthly and works to educate the church on different issues. They have tried to find a good Immigrant Justice project to get behind, but have not settled on anything in particular. Joan Scott was my main contact at CRR, and is a go-getter.

The Northern Arizona Interfaith Council (NAIC) has been around for a number of years, and is an important organization for social justice in northern Arizona. Church of the Red Rocks is an active member, and may have been one of its founders. Phoenix

Shadow Rock began its involvement with Immigrant Welcome and Immigrant Justice when it offered sanctuary to Misael in 2014. Ken Heintzleman says that Shadow Rock is "a church that offers sanctuary" and not a "Sanctuary Church." This is an important distinction to him, and language I try to always use when talking about Shadow Rock's involvement in the Sanctuary Movement. Although Misael was released from sanctuary in mid-2015, Shadow Rock continues to stage monthly actions at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office. They have worked hard to develop a relationship with ICE officials, and continue to stand ready to offer sanctuary when needed. Besides Misael, they've had two non-publicized cases in which their willingness to offer sanctuary to an individual has been enough for ICE to offer a stay of removal. Ken has spent a lot of time thinking deeply about sanctuary, its uses and its limitations, and is a great asset on this issue.

First Congregational Phoenix declared itself an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation a while ago, so James Pennington was surprised in 2014 when they refused to offer sanctuary to someone who needed it. After some conversations within the congregation, they decided their best way forward was to offer a monthly legal clinic for immigrants. Keep Phoenix Together, modeled after the Keep Tucson Together clinic offered by Southside Presbyterian in Tucson, has been a good success and has given them a way forward that didn't ruffle the feathers of those who were troubled by the idea of offering sanctuary.

Southern Arizona



The Immigrant Justice and Border Justice work of southern Arizona is dominated by Good Shepherd of Sahuarita and the Samaritans who go out into the desert every day, dropping water and looking for people to help. Randy Mayer is our godfather of all things related to Border Justice and Immigrant Justice. However, because he's a doer and not a talker, his influence in the SWC is sometimes overlooked. Randy mentored Noel Anderson, who is now our only national staff person assigned to Immigrant Justice (1/4 of his salary with Church World Service is paid by Justice and Witness). Randy is also a respected member of the ecumenical Immigrant Justice and Border Justice community in southern Arizona, which is well-organized and includes a monthly minister's meeting. The Good Shepherd in Sahuarita also sponsors three weekend events that many in the conference have attended or attend regularly. One is the Border Issues Fair (always MLK Weekend). The second is Common Ground on the Border. The third is a writing and art workshop focused around border experiences.

Recommendation: As soon as possible, I would recommend that you join one of the immersion trips at the Good Shepherd of Sahuarita. They regularly offer immersion experiences to UCC folk from across the country, and I'm sure they'd be happy to let you join one. This is the best way to learn about all the things the Good Shepherd is involved in, and the many justice issues related to our southern border. It will also give you a good feeling for what life is really like in southern Arizona, in a way that no amount of reading or talking ever could. I would also recommend the book *A Land of Hard Edges* by Peg Bowden, who is a member of the Samaritans in Sahuarita.

Needles for Nogales (N4N) is a project of Casas Adobes. It began out of a desire of the women of Casas Adobes to do something for the children of Nogales. They began by knitting and crocheting things to keep the children warm in the winter. However, they now support a women's cooperative in Nogales where women learn to knit and crochet, and are able to support themselves. Grace Bunker, a member of Casas Adobes, is involved with this, and is also the person tasked with keeping the document *Come and See* (available on the SWC Web site) up-to-date.

Note: I think Casas Adobes and N4N may now be the SWC's only connection to the

Global Ministries Partner in Nogales, Hogar de Esperanza y Paz (Home of Hope and Peace, also known as HEPAC). There has been some kind of major break between our clergy in southern New Mexico, and Scott Nicholson, the Global Ministries staff in Nogales. I know it involves Randy Mayer, who used to serve on HEPAC's Board, and perhaps Delle McCormick at Rincon.

Operation Streamline is one of the great social justice tragedies in the southwest. It's a program in which ICE, in cooperation with the DOJ, holds mass hearings for immigrants to plead guilty and be sentenced to prison time. Every day of the week, seventy people are processed in Tucson and



funneled into the prison system. Similar programs occur in Las Cruces and El Paso, but none is as big or well-oiled as Tucson. I really hope the

SWC can organize to cast a light on this program. This could be a cause that unites AZ, NM, and ELP, since it is happening in all three states. If you can, please attend one of the hearings in Tucson, and recommend that other church members from around the Conference do so as well.

Yuma UCC was one of the most-active churches helping during the 2014 immigration crisis. They worked with the Yuma Interfaith Alliance to open a shelter for families. Their former pastor, Alberta Wallace, is still involved in the work of that shelter, and the shelter continues to receive families released on their own recognizance (something that is not publicized, and doesn't happen as much in other parts of the border). Yuma UCC has stepped back from the work, as they've had their own problems to deal with since Pastor Alberta resigned.

Northern New Mexico

Noel Anderson and I did a lot of work with the Justice Committee at First

Congregational in Albuquerque. The Committee and the Board at First Congregational were hoping the church would declare itself a Sanctuary Church and offer sanctuary to a person in the community. However, the church fell into conflict over the perceived illegality of offering sanctuary. A couple of the church's members serve on the board of the New Mexico Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice, which is one of the most influential Immigrant Justice organizations in New Mexico. However, the church is still wrestling with how they want to be involved in Immigrant Welcome and Immigrant Justice.

I think some of the folks at Church of the Good Shepherd would like to do work with

Immigrant Welcome and Immigrant Justice. However, one of their board members is a former Immigration Judge, and does not want the church to move in that direction. For the time being, members of that church volunteer with the NM Interfaith Coalition. The church also has a strong relationship with La Trinidad in El Paso, started by their last pastor and continuing today.

I did my best to connect with folks at United Church of Santa Fe, and could make no in-roads there. My sense is that they are deeply invested in their identity as an Earth Justice church. So, any attempt to connect them to the justice work being done in the SWC will need to be connected to Earth Justice. I see a strong connection between immigration and global warming, and think this could be an in for the folks of Santa Fe to do work on Immigrant Justice. Southern New Mexico



First Christian has had a long involvement with Immigrant Welcome and Immigrant Justice. They were a Sanctuary Church in the 1980s, and very involved with the Dreamers movement in 2012-2013. Lately, they've been focused on other issues. However, they sponsored a month of Immigrant Justice workshops in October of 2015, and are working on a Web video series, which will be a great resource when it's completed.

Silver City UCC first got involved with Immigrant Welcome during the summer of 2014, by supporting the shelters that were opened in El Paso and Las Cruces. They have been an active member of the Immigrant Justice Network of Southwest New Mexico, which I helped to found. It's unclear whether they will continue their involvement with Immigrant Justice and Immigrant Welcome after I leave.

The Southern Border Communities Coalition is based in Las Cruces. However, Randy Mayer is our most-active clergy member. They do a lot of lobbying around issues of Border Justice, and have a strong arm in DC. If I were continuing as an Executive Board member, I would explore the possibility of the SWC becoming a member organization of the Coalition. They seem to be the group doing the most around public policy and border issues. Brian Erickson (berickson@aclu-nm.org) at the ACLU-NM office in Las Cruces is part of this organization, and is one of the best minds I know regarding border issues and border policy. El Paso

Iglesia Congregacional La Trinidad (Trinity Church) is our church that has been most-affected by the government's iron-fisted border and immigration policies. La Trinidad sits blocks from the border, and used to draw most of its membership from

Juarez. Their pastor, Jessie Sustaita, has had too much on her plate to participate in wider Immigrant Welcome and Immigrant Justice programs. However, she is known in her community as someone who can help immigrants navigate the system to "fix their papers."

Side Note: My understanding is that La Trinidad is the birthplace of the Chicano Rights movement. People in El Paso claim the struggle for Latino Civil Rights started in El Paso and not Southern California, and La Trinidad was the building where many of those early meetings were held with Cesar Chavez and other Chicano Rights activists.

Another Side Note: When you moved to the southwest, your race changed from White to Anglo. Many people coming from the Midwest fail to notice how important the AngloHispanic divide is to people of the southwest. It is the most-important divide. Arizona is thought of by New Mexicans as the racist Anglo state. New Mexico is thought to be dominated by Hispanics. And El Paso is deeply divided along Anglo-Hispanic lines. (In this system, African Americans live in Anglo spaces, and are



afforded many of the privileges of Anglo people, especially in El Paso and Sierra Vista where they're associated with the military bases.) No church in the SWC feels the Anglo-Hispanic divide as deeply as La Trinidad. In the early days there were two Congregational churches in El Paso. According to Jessie, the now-defunct Anglo church was deeply racist toward La Trinidad, and those wounds still sting.

Annunciation House is one of the longest-running shelters for undocumented people in the country, founded in the 1970s. They have had a longstanding adversarial relationship with ICE in El Paso, were raided in the 1990s and one of their guests killed by Border Patrol in the early 2000s. However, when the immigration crisis happened in 2014, the local ICE office turned to Annunciation House for help. It was Ruben Garcia (rubengarcia@annunciationhouse.org), Annunciation House's founder, who established twelve faith-based shelters in El Paso and Las Cruces to help house families and children during that time. If you ever get a chance to visit Annunciation House and meet Ruben Garcia, it is well worth your time. He is an amazing, fiery individual with a vast knowledge of immigration history in El Paso.

Revolution UCC has been trying for a couple years to start an lgbt-friendly church group in Juarez. They have good contacts in Juarez, and Deborah Clugy-Soto speaks Spanish fluently. However, they haven't been able to get this off the ground yet. The Waldensian Church of Italy one of my great pleasures as Immigrant Care Coordinator was getting to be part of the opening of a relationship between the Waldensian Church of Italy and the SWC. The Waldensians fund and coordinate the work of Mediterranean Hope, a organization that rescues people from the sea south of Italy, and helps them immigrate to the north. In January of 2014, they sent a delegation to the southwest to see what similarities there are between the work we do in our southern border, and the work they do in southern Italy. Their constant refrain was, "You have a desert, and we have a sea, but the work is the same." In late 2014, Randy Mayer made a trip to the Island of Lampedusa in Italy. And the Waldensians now have an intern assigned to The Good Shepherd in Sahuarita who is tasked with documenting the story of global migration. I hope this relationship will continue, and will continue to bear fruit.



Widening the Welcome

Robert Koth

The Southwest Conference (SWC) United Church of Christ Widening the Welcome Team Ministry recently formulated our **mission statement** "We are all ministers of Jesus Christ following the vulnerable, and working for justice for all people." Our **vision statement** is an implementation of the SWC UCC Open and Affirming Statement: In the 2015 Annual Meeting Report Michael Curry wrote: "We covenant with God and one another to extend welcome and Christian Fellowship to all the followers and seekers of Christ without fear, prejudice, or discrimination in regard to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, age, ethnicity, nationality, **physical, mental or emotional condition**, education, financial situation or biblical or theological interpretation." "We commit to educate, advocate, and gather resources and skills to equip congregations to widen the welcome, accommodate and include all God's people in the life of the church"

The Widening the Welcome Team Ministry conducts monthly meetings for the purpose of education and support with representatives of Desert Palm UCC, First Congregational UCC Phoenix, Shadow Rock UCC, Scottsdale Congregational UCC, Church of the Palms UCC Sun City, Primera Iglesia, and the Multi-Functional Families Group. We invite speakers to make presentations on topics that equip us for assisting congregations to be more welcoming of people who are differently gifted such as: the aging process, substance abuse, Accessible to All, challenges faced by care givers, ministry to a predominantly Latino congregation, Stephen Ministry, congregational justice and witness programs, peer support counseling program, servant leadership, and fundamentals of disability ministry.

Our monthly meeting encourages our Widening the Welcome participants to share stories about their experiences with overcoming personal challenges as differently abled people, care giving including raising children with special needs and senior care, teaching children with special needs in church school, reports from congregations about particular inclusion programs such as usher training, peer support counseling program, Accessible to All program, congregational justice and witness and mental health programs.

We utilize collaboration to bring people together to advocate with Southwest Conference UCC congregations to include people who are differently abled into the full fellowship of the church. Through representatives from Southwest Conference UCC congregational representative we plan advocacy projects ecumenically through: participation in the Arizona Faith Network including speakers in a Public Policy Commission meeting and a panel member for the Economic Inequality Community Conversation on Living Wage, Presidents' Day at the Capitol with the Unitarian Universalist congregations and the National Council of Jewish Women, the Multi-Functional Families Group consisting of seven families raising children with special needs recruited young adult members to form a panel discussion after the film, "Autism in Love," speaking engagements and workshops organized at participating congregations, led workshops and made a presentation at the Southwest Conference Annual Meeting, and publicized our advocacy projects in the "In The Loop" newsletter. Our vision is that with our efforts the differently abled community will be able to completely access spiritual training and be a full participant in the church community.



New Mexico Conference of Churches Report

Rev Dr. Donna L. McNeil

Before this new year gets too far along I want to take this moment to thank you for your support of the New Mexico Conference of Churches (NMCC) during 2015. You have helped to make Jesus' command that 'we all may be one' a reality in our state.

In NMCC's 50th anniversary year, we continued the Congregational Vitality Series with the Rev. Robin Meyers, Ph.D., from Mayflower United Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, and the Rev. Scott Anderson from the Wisconsin Council of Churches. These speakers helped us think together about how we are being called to proclaim our shared faith in Christ in the 21st century.

The advocacy work of NMCC continues in partnership with Lutheran Advocacy Ministries and Interfaith Power & Light. On your behalf, I attended hearings at the Roundhouse, meetings of the Public Regulation Commission, and met with members of our Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. We worked hard during the 2015 legislative session to limit cuts to critical programs that help those in need. We urged PNM to increase their use of renewal energy. And we asked our Senators and Representatives to support limits on methane emissions to protect the health of New Mexicans. This work continues as the 2016 legislative session is beginning.

In 2015 we celebrated our partnership with the New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice (NMFCIJ) and the receipt of their own 501(c)3 designation. We will continue to provide a partial subsidy for their work through June 2016. And we will continue to partner with NMFCIJ in advocating for just immigration policies in our state and nation.

Finally, please mark your calendar for March 5th and plan on joining us for *Circafor the Community* at St. John's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque. We are currently partnering with several organizations for a fundraising event featuring the Albuquerque Aerialist Collective. It will be a night unlike any other! We will also be presenting the Turquoise Chalice award to Archbishop Emeritus Michael Sheehan for his many years of ecumenical engagement as the leader of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. More information and tickets are available at nmchurches.org.

Blessings for this New Year,
The Rev. Dr. Donna L. McNeil
Executive Director



Arizona Faith Network - Executive Director's Report

Rev. Erin Tamayo

In the first year as Arizona Faith Network, we have undergone many exciting changes. We have built upon our decades as a Christian Ecumenical organization and now are eager to welcome partners from different faiths. Our new partnership model invites faith communities, organizations, ministerial groups and individuals as well. In addition, our focus as an overall organization has been centered on a single Missional Imperative topic, while we remain open to responding to other timely matters and efforts. Our initial efforts have focused on collaborating around the Municipal ID project and this year we are devoted to the topic of Economic Inequality. We have begun to offer educational events around this topic that will guide us toward more partnership and collective action for social change. Our model reflects that of "reflection" and "action" which continues in a virtuous circle, each feeding the other in our ministry and mission.

In regards to our governing board, we are blessed to report that we have welcomed representation from the Muslim and Jewish Faiths as well as members who serve some of our partner organizations. The Bishop's and Executive's Round Table has begun to meet on a quarterly basis including our historical denominational judicatory leadership. Our overall Partnership has grown to include: 2 New Denominations, 2 New Faith Communities, 1 New Ministerial Organization, 13 New Organizations, and 29 New Friends. .

Our three commissions: Public Policy, Earth Care and Theological Dialogue have rewritten their mission statements in light of the changes of AFN and have also lifted up new leadership from within our commissions. Commission work supports their respective goals but also strongly supports the overall Missional Imperative topic we have selected for this year.

Unfortunately, we have had to respond to strong sentiments and actions against many of our community members this year following Anti-Islam rallies, actions, and written communication. We have partnered with many faith and secular groups to respond to these issues by showing our support for the Muslim Community.

Overall, AFN is blessed by your continued support and involvement. We look forward to another year of "Being Together, Talking Together, and Acting Together."



Chapman Report

Nancy Brinks

Life has been good at Chapman in the past year. We have done two big projects to enhance life for the entire university. First, we purchased a 36' Chartres replica canvas labyrinth for use with students, faculty and staff. It was delivered in January and we have had 5 group walks and have it up on Wednesdays for personal walks. It is a joy to see students finding their way here. We hope to build the interest in labyrinths as we make a case for a permanent outside labyrinth on campus.

Secondly, we paid for and participated in a major three day training for 19 people on campus called Stop the Hate. This program gives tools for educational events to counter bias incidents and hate crimes. We will not only use this with our UCC and Disciples group, but with other groups across the campus. It was good that Church Relations could give this gift to the community. I traveled with the Chapman University Singers in January, this time to Northern California. It was great to connect with Chapman alumni along the way.

Founders Day was a great success this year. I invite you to think of coming to Chapman next year for Fear Not! Our speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon who will be addressing the culture of fear pervasive in media and politics right now and how our faith speaks to fear. This event will be March 10-11 and you may receive CEU credit for coming

A great deal of our time is spent recruiting students from UCC churches across the country. This past year, for the first time, we had more incoming UCC students than Disciples. We treasure this partnership.

If you are ever in our neck of the woods (we are 4 miles from Disneyland) please come for a campus tour. Come see YOUR UCC CAMPUS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.



Beatitudes Campus Report

Rev. Peggy Roberts

When Beatitudes Campus was founded by Rev. Dr. Culver "Bill" Nelson and the congregation of Church of the Beatitudes, it was conceived to be a place where older adults could live, learn and grow through all the stages of their lives. Fifty-one years later, our commitment to serve older adults in our community is as vibrant as ever. Our alliance with the faith community 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.

During 2015, Beatitudes Campus held a year-long celebration of our 50th anniversary. Our neighbors, the greater community, residents, staff and volunteers all celebrated our legacy and envisioned our



future. From pancake breakfasts to galas, we paid tribute to our past and laid the groundwork for our future.

Our enduring mission to serve older people and their families is at the core of the Beatitudes Campus, and we continue to commit to a 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. During 2015, we saw an emerging strength of the Design Studio, a resident group that is redefining aging and informing leadership exactly what aging is all about. Their mantra is “We’re not retired, we are *re-fired*.” The Lifelong Learning program, run by residents, offers a variety of learning and enrichment courses – and now nearly 200 residents attended the 20 class offerings this past semester. A new learning opportunity – English Language Assistance (ELA) – began last year, with residents teaching English to elders in the immigrant community that surrounds Beatitudes Campus. A group of residents is engaging with community groups affected by the expansion of the light rail in the community to help the businesses and neighbors affected by the light rail expansion. Beatitudes Campus residents are engaged in a robust sustainability initiative. These “Elders for a Sustainable Future” are active with the City of Phoenix and have facilitated many changes in how we recycle and use our natural resources at the campus.

Our dementia education and care program, Comfort Matters, is growing across the country. Our dementia experts have contracted with 12 facilities from New York to Washington, to teach about our evidence-based philosophy of person-directed care for people diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. In addition, health care professionals from around the world visit Beatitudes Campus to learn about Comfort Matters. A new program called Success Matters was launched one year ago, and 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. which serves older adults living at the campus provides Medicare-certified, licensed home healthcare, including skilled nursing, nursing aid and social work, as well as occupational, speech and physical therapy. This year, our Health Care Center and our Assisted Living received deficiency free ratings from the State of Arizona. This survey demonstrates the level of care that Beatitudes Campus provides our residents. Our staff not only meets state standards, but exceeds them, which is something we strive to do each and every day.

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).



Nominating State

<u>Class</u>	<u>CONTINUING MEMBER</u>	<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>ASSN</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>CITY</u>
<u>MODERATOR</u>					
2017	Rebecca Glenn		CAZ	Scottsdale Cong. UCC	Scottsdale
<u>MODERATOR-ELECT</u>					
2018		Rev. Liana Rowe	CAZ	Shadow Rock	Phoenix
<u>TREASURER</u>					
2018	Phil Ward		CAZ	First Congregational/Phoenix	Phoenix
<u>SECRETARY</u>					
2017	Karen Richter		CAZ	Shadow Rock	Phoenix
<u>EXECUTIVE BOARD (At-Large)</u>					
2017	Rev. Sharon Littrell		NNM	St. Paul's UCC	Rio Rancho
	Rev. Brady Abel		CAZ	United Church of Sun City	Sun City
	Emily Marderness		SAZ/CAZ	Sacred Space/Scottsdale	Tucson/Scottsdale
2018		Dax Franklin Hicks	SAZ	Rincon UCC	Tucson/Scottsdale
		Wendy Spurgeon	SNM/EP	Silver City UCC	Silver City
<u>COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY- Section A</u>					
2017	Pete Norum		NAZ	First Congregational/Prescott	Prescott
	David Huisjen		SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
	Rev. David Buss		SAZ	Rincon UCC	Tucson
	Lori Ramsey		CAZ	Beatitudes	Phoenix
2018	Rev. Tina Squire		SAZ	Community Christian	Tombstone
	Rev. Ken Heintzelman		CAZ	Shadow Rock	Phoenix
		Margaret Douglas	SAZ	Oro Valley UCC	Oro Valley
	Rev. David Cooper		NAZ	First Cong./Flagstaff	Cottonwood
2019	Diana Winston		CAZ	Scottsdale Cong. UCC	Scottsdale
	Rev. Jayne Hubbard		CAZ	Black Mountain	Scottsdale
		Rev. Ernie Dunn	NNM	St. Paul's UCC	Rio Rancho
		Marcia Harris	NNM	First Cong. UCC	Albuquerque
<u>COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY- Section B</u>					
2017	Rev. Ric Brightman		SNMEP	First Christian	Las Cruces
	Cindy Walley		CAZ	Encanto	Phoenix
		Joyce Schneider	CAZ	Shadow Rock	Phoenix
2018	Marlene Auburn		NAZ	Church of the Red Rocks	Sedona
	Rev. Paul Whitlock		CAZ	Desert Heritage	Mesa
		Jessie Sustaita	SNM/EP	Iglesia La Trinidad	El Paso
2019	Rev. Sue Joiner		NNM	First Congregational/Alb	Albuquerque
		Mike Holmberg	SAZ	Rincon UCC	Tucson
		Rev. Barb Doerrer-Peacock	CAZ	Scottsdale UCC	Scottsdale
<u>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</u>					
2018		Rev. Rich Doerrer-Peacock	CAZ	Scottsdale UCC	Scottsdale
		Kim Johnston	CAZ	First Congregational UCC	Phoenix
		John Leung	NAZ	First Congregational UCC	Flagstaff
		Maria Elena Barron	SNM/EP	Peace UCC	El Paso
		Susan S. Whitney	SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
		Gordon Nelson	NNM	St. Paul's	Rio Rancho
<u>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</u>					
2017	Ron Shilling		CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale
2018	Roxanne Maloney		CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale
	Karyn Hott		CAZ	Desert Palm	Tempe
2019		Beth Gordon	NAZ	Faith United Community Church	Dewey



2015/2016 Church Pledges

#	Name	15 pledge	15 Pledge	15 Actual	15 Actual	2016 Pledge	16 Pledge	16Mem
		OCWM	Per Capita	OCWM	Per Capita	OCWM	Per Capita	
30	First Congregational UCC/Flagstaff	1050	790	1050	790	1050	770	77
35	Good Shepherd UCC	29050	3070	29050	3070	31000	2950	295
50	Desert Heritage	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	147
60	United Churches Fellowship	500	200	777	200	500	200	17
70	Oro Valley UCC	9000	1160	9000	1160	9000	1180	118
80	Encanto Community Church	2816	680	3408	680	2800	680	55
85	KTIZO	7000	950	5559	950	5400	650	65
90	First Congregational UCC/Phx	13000	2430	13000	2430	13500	1940	194
95	Rebel & Divine	850	0	1000		1000	0	0
100	South Mountain Community Church	2835	150	2831	155	2835	140	14
110	Church of the Beatitudes	4000	3000	4060	3000	4000	3000	619
115	Shadow Rock UCC	14920	4080	14919	4081	15390	3610	361
120	Shepherd of the Hills Congregational	9500	2580	9500	2580	9000	2560	256
130	First Samoan Cong'l Christian Chuch Az	0	670	500	700	500	700	66
140	West Congregational Church	600	430	450	380	600	430	43
150	First Congregational UCC/Prescott	1000	1200	1596	1200	2000	1200	120
155	Faith United Community Church	0	430			0	360	36
157	Black Mountain Community	1600	560	1600	560	1760	860	81
158	Cong'l Church of the Valley	1500	600	1500	600	0	560	56
160	Scottsdale Congregational UCC	14847	980	15000	727	14000	727	99
170	The Church of the Red Rocks	20000	5890	20345	5060	20000	5420	542
180	Sierra Vista Community UCC	0	77		770	0	770	268
185	Church of Palms	14359	3310	14359	3310	6898	2820	282
190	United Church of Sun City	11000	2472	12504	2472	11508	2472	271
193	Desert Garden United Church of Christ	0	2410	20	2410	0	2230	223
195	Sun Lakes United Church of Christ	8500	990	8500	990	8640	940	94
200	First Congregational Church/Tempe	2000	460	2000		3000	500	50
203	Marshallse Ministry of Phoenix	300	0	110		300	0	40
205	Desert Palm UCC	15660	2240	15660	2244	17300	2290	229
207	Marshallse Ministry UCC/Tempe	100	0			0	0	100
210	Community Cong'l	700	300	700	300	700	300	64
220	Casas Adobes Cong'l	14000	2900	14000	2900	14000	2560	256
223	Church of the Painted Hills	6600	970	6600	970	6600	970	76
240	Rincon Congregational Church	16000	2510	16000	2510	16000	2510	270
243	Sacred Space	0	0			5	5	0
245	Marshallse Ministry in Tucson	0	0			600	0	212
260	First Congregational UCC/Alb	9000	2000	9000	2000	9000	2000	238
270	COGS/Alb	16545	2270	16296	2270	16900	1850	185
280	Iglesia Congregacional Unida	50	100	21	10	0	0	20
290	United Church of Angel Fire	0	0	1157	710	500	0	
308	First Christian, Las Cruces	1680	625	1680	625	1730	600	98
310	United Church of Los Alamos	2000	1250	3250		2000	1250	258
315	St. Paul's UCC	1800	280	1800		1800	400	30
318	United Church of Santa Fe	0	2660		2660	0	2780	278
323	Silver City	500	200	247	80	120	120	12
325	Revolution	800	180	800	180	800	190	19
330	Iglesia Congregacional la Trinidad	0	150		150	60	140	14
335	Peace	2700	220	2700	220	2700	240	24
400	Yuma UCC	1850	240	1380	240	1210	220	22
1000	EFKAS				350	500	570	
	TOTALS	261412	59864	265128	57894	258406	57864	6894



Final 2016 Approved Budget

2017 Top Line Budget

2016 Budget for Southwest Conference UCC

Income	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	Final 2016 Budget	2017 Top Line
OCWM (Pledged)	266,951	261,412	265,128	259,000	270,000
Per Capita (Pledged)	62,110	58,887	57,894	58,500	58,000
Annual Meeting	20,550	21,000	21,206	21,000	21,000
Interest(Banks, Conerstone, UCF)	3,454	3,500	2,617	2,600	2,600
Undesignated Use/gifts to conference	18,686	20,000	9,414	15,000	15,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	0	0	224	0	
Fundraisers	1,337	25,000	11,507	12,000	15,000
Strength Contribution	4,298	5,000	4,348	5,000	5,000
Transfer from New Church Starts Reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Transfer from Undesignated General Fund	14,687		9,386	0	7,400
Rental Income	16,618.00	18,000	19,306.00	20,200	21,000
Conference Income	418,691	422,799	411,030	403,300	425,000
Committees for Conference Ministries	6,656	6,500	3,322	3,225	5000
Conference Life and Ministries	38,371	48,200	54,115	40,200	45000
Church & Ministry Operations Programs	3,059	3,500	4,884	5,500	5000
National & Regional Expense	6,895	6,500	5,503	5,500	6000
Mission	74,687	73,600	74,282	72,000	75000
Administration & Communication	37,299	34,250	34,211	23,450	25000
Building & Equipment Operation	31,531	34,000	32,346	34,400	40000
Called Ministerial Compensation & Benefits	112,040	112,523	92,757	107,325	112000
Office Staff Compensation & Benefits	105,192	103,549	109,610	111,539	112000
Depreciation	2,961				
Conference Expenses	418,691	422,622	411,030	403,139	425000
Total Income Less Expenses	0	177	0	161	0



2016 Budget Details

Detailed Expenses

2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	Adj etc
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Committees for Conference Ministries

Church Growth & Development Committee	1000	1000	1004	500	
Justice Witness Ministries Committee	100	250	200	125	
Youth/Young Adult Ministry Team	286	250	0	0	
Mission Planning Board/Executive Board	5009	4750	2118	2500	
Nominating Committee	0	0	0	0	
Personnel Committee	261	250	0	100	

Total	6,656	6,500	3,322	3,225	
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Conference Life and Ministries

Annual Meeting	16469	16000	18047	17000	
Conference Minister's Discretionary Fund	556	500	98	500	
Staff Development & Travel	50	200	0	200	
Conference Minister's Expenses	10115	12000	10430	16000	
Search & Call/ New CM	0	15000	21963	0	
Contract Workers	8948	4000	3440	6000	
Small SWC-sponsored Events	2233	500	137	500	

Total	38,371	48,200	54,115	40,200	
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Church & Ministry Operations Programs

Committee on Church & Ministry Meetings	3217	3000	3859	3500	
COCAM Issues/Training Boundary/Polity	-158	500	1025	2000	

Total	3,059	3,500	4,884	5,500	
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National & Regional Expense

Council of Conference Ministers (Dues)	1460	1500	1457	1900	
General Synod Reserve Expense	3500	0	0	3600	
General Synod Expense (Actual)	1935	5000	4046	0	

Total	6,895	6,500	5,503	5,500	
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Detailed Expenses

	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	Adj etc
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Mission

National contribution (25% OCWM)	66737	65350	66282	64750	25% of OCWM
Campus Ministry/Conference Pledge	200	250	250	250	
Pacific School Of Religion	250	250	250	250	
Arizona Faith Network	4500	4500	4500	4000	
New Mexico Conference of Churches	3000	3000	3000	2500	
Ecumenical Delegates' Expense	0	250	0	250	

Total	74,687	73,600	74,282	72,000	
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Administration & Communication

Accounting/Payroll Service	14550	13,200	13644	6,600	
Books for Office Use	99	200	85	200	
Miscellaneous	76	250	46	250	
Bank Fees	301	300	386	400	
Audit Reserve Funding	2000	0	0	0	
Office Supplies	3862	3500	3486	3500	
Postage	2704	3000	2905	3000	
Telephone & Internet	3890	4000	3893	4000	
Copier	5121	5000	4680	5000	
Website re-build	0	4000	4200	0	
Other Printing	496	500	586	500	
Advertising/Promotion	1200	300	300	0	
Sabbatical Reserve	3,000	0	0	0	
Total	37,299	34,250	34,211	23,450	

Building & Equipment Operation

Insurance (Property/Liability/Auto/Work Comp)	8323	8500	7421	8500	
Furnishings & Repair	0	2000	422	1000	
Computer/Office Equipment & Repair	3766	3500	6499	3500	
Utilities	9959	10,000	8050	9,000	
Property Maint. (Landscape, janitor, upkeep)	9483	9000	11743	12400	
Car Maintenance	0	1,000	211	0	
Sale of Car			(2,000)	0	
Total	31,531	34,000	32,346	34,400	



Detailed Expenses

	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	Adj etc
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Called Ministerial Compensation & Benefits

Conference Minister

Base Salary	48,500	48500		40000	
Housing	25,000	25000		30000	
Combined CM Salary/Housing		0	69,788	0	
Wage Sub-Total	73,500	73,500	69,788	70,000	

Called Ministerial Benefits-CM

Health/Dental	21,525	22000		21000	
Pension/Life & Disability Ins(Pen 14% Dis 1.5%)	11,392	11400		10850	
Social Security Offset (7.65%)	5,623	5623		5475	
Combined CM Benefits			22969		
Benefits Sub-Total	38,540	39,023	22,969	37,325	
Total Called Ministerial Staff	112,040	112,523	92,757	107,325	

Office Staff Compensation & Benefits

Office Manger/Herman	41184	41184	36608	18304	\$22/hr
Asst to Conference Minister/Decker	32032	32032	28695	0	\$22/hr
Asst to Conf Minister/Slaybaugh			12168	37440	\$18/hr (2015): \$20/hr (2016)
Admin Asst./2016 new hire			0	22464	\$18/hr
Camp Leadership	5500	4000	4000	5000	
Salary Camp Assistant	2,143	2,000	2,000	1,000	
Wage Sub-Total	80,859	79,216	83,471	84,208	

Staff Benefits

Health/Dental	8,000	8,000	8,760	9,500	
Pension/Life & Disability Ins(Pen 14% Dis 1.5%)	10,731	10731	11,452	11848	
Employer Fica (7.65%)	5,602	5602	5,927	5983	
		0		0	
Total Staff	105,192	103,549	109,610	111,539	

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws are in Italics and Bold

Section III.G

9. Committee on Church and Ministry, Section A- Pastoral Authorization
 - a. The Conference shall elect to the Committee on Church and Ministry, Section A, twelve (12) members. There shall be at least four (4) lay members on the committee. There shall be at least two (2) members from the Central Arizona Association, and at least one from the other four Associations. Each Association shall be represented by at least one (1) clergy.
 - b. The Committee on Church and Ministry, Section A, shall handle matters of ministerial authorization according to the policies, practices and recommendations of the United Church of Christ as well as its own rules, so long as they are consistent with those of the United Church of Christ. Terms of office shall be three (3) years. Terms shall be staggered such that members are elected in three (3) classes, each with four (4) members. One successive term is permitted. The Committee shall select its own chairperson annually.
 - c. *Anyone asked to fill an unexpired term, and who serves less than 1.5 years in that position, is eligible to serve a full term following that partial term, if nominated and elected at the Annual Meeting, and to serve one successive full term, if nominated and elected at the Annual Meeting.*
 - d. Oversight actions that result in the change of ministerial authorization by the Southwest Conference (SWC) Committee on Church and Ministry A (CoCAM A) are subject to appeal. The appeal will be made to and heard by the Executive Board (EB). The only grounds upon which an appeal can be made will be regarding whether CoCAM A materially departed from the process adopted by the SWC so as to guarantee consistency of policy implementation, control access to confidential and sensitive material, promote information sharing, and minimize politicization of an ecclesiastical authorization matter. Only the minister under review whose authorization status changed as a result of the Committees deliberations may file the appeal. An appeal must be filed within 30 days of CoCAM A's decision. The EB must undergo a full orientation to the process prior to hearing the appeal. Only those members of the EB who are present for the orientation and for the entirety of the hearing for the appeal may vote on the outcome of the appeal. Possible outcomes of the vote include: affirmation that the process used was sufficiently consistent with the one adopted by the SWC; acknowledgement that the process used was in a sufficient way not the one adopted for use by the SWC. If the latter, the EB will direct CoCAM A to reconsider the action, without materially departing from the adopted process, policies, and procedures of the SWC.

10. The Committee on Church and Ministry, Section B

- a. The Conference shall elect to the Committee on Church and Ministry, Section B, ~~six (6)~~ **nine (9)** members. There shall be three (3) lay members on the committee. There shall be at least two (2) members from the Central Arizona Association, and at least one from the other four Associations.
- b. The Committee on Church and Ministry, Section B, shall handle matters of church standing and covenant relations according to the policies, practices and recommendations of the United Church of Christ as well as its own rules, so long as they are consistent with those of the United Church of Christ. Terms of office shall be three (3) years. Terms shall be staggered such that members are elected in three (3) classes, each with three (3) members. One successive term is permitted. The Committee shall select its own chairperson annually.
- c. ***Anyone asked to fill an unexpired term, and who serves less than 1.5 years in that position, is eligible to serve a full term following that partial term, if nominated and elected at the Annual Meeting, and to serve one successive full term, if nominated and elected at the Annual Meeting.***



Scholarship Request for Travel

to SWC Annual Meeting

_____ I would like to apply for a Mileage travel Scholarship at the rate of \$0.14 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_____.

Name:

Address

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send this form plus any required receipts to:

Southwest Conference UCC

917 E Sheridan,

Phoenix, AZ 85006



Volunteer Opportunities

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR SERVING IN THE CONFERENCE?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Local Church: _____

Please indicate where you would consider serving on behalf of the Southwest Conference:

- _____ as a member of the Mission Planning Board
- _____ On the Executive Board (Position: _____ At Large or _____ Officer)
- _____ as an Annuitant Visitor
- _____ as an Office Volunteer
- _____ Annual Meeting Planning Team

On an elected committee (please indicate which committee)

- _____ Nominating
- _____ Personnel Committee
- _____ Committee on Church and Ministry 'A'
- _____ Committee on Church and Ministry 'B'

Other area of interest _____

Please return this form to: Southwest Conference UCC, 917 E Sheridan, Phoenix, AZ 85006

Because the committees are formed to be diverse in composition, not everyone who volunteers for a committee may be asked to serve in the next round of nominees, but it helps future nominating committees to know of your interest. Ministry Teams are not elected, but rather recruit members based on interest. Your names will be passed on to the chairs of those committees.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!



SWC Annual Meeting 2016 Evaluation

Please rate the following elements of the 2016 Annual Meeting on a scale of 1-4:

1=Poor 2=Fair 3=Good 4=Excellent

Please continue comments and suggestions on the back if necessary.

FACILITIES	Hotel Accommodations	1	2	3	4
	Shadow Rock UCC	1	2	3	4

Comments: (Please identify hotel, if you make a comment)

Worship Services	1	2	3	4
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Comments:

Meals/Snacks	1	2	3	4
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Comments:

Program	1	2	3	4
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Comments:

Business Sessions	1	2	3	4
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Comments:

THIS YEAR I ESPECIALLY LIKED:

NEXT YEAR I WOULD LIKE TO SEE:

Your Name and Church:

Please return to the Southwest Conference staff at the end of the annual meeting or mail to:

Southwest Conference UCC, 917 E Sheridan, Phoenix, AZ 85006



Communication

STAY CONNECTED • GET INFORMED

Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

Website: www.uccswc.org

Events and news from the Southwest Conference, our churches, the national UCC, a church directory, resources for clergy and church lay leaders, adults & youth, and more.

E-newsletter: *In the Loop*

Delivered to your inbox – news to keep you connected. To subscribe, on the SWC home page select:



[Southwest Conference facebook page](#)

On the SWC home page select:



National United Church of Christ

Website: ucc.org

UCC email newsletters: Choose only the emails (below) that you would like to receive at: http://act.ucc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=UCC_Signup

Keeping You e-Posted:

UCC's weekly, coordinated e-zine distributed each Tuesday.

Stillspeaking Daily Devotional:

Brief uplifting thought, prayer and scripture to begin your day.

Weekly Seeds:

Devotions on Sunday's lectionary readings distributed each Monday.

Justice and Peace Action Network:

Legislative alerts on public policy; news and event opportunities.

Congregational Vitality:

Tips, resources and events for vital congregations.

OGHS Updates:

News from UCC's One Greater Hour of Sharing; disaster updates.

Called Out:

News from the UCC's office for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns.

UCAN Stop AIDS E-News:

News from the UCC HIV and AIDS Network.



In Appreciation and Recognition

SWC Officers 2015-6

Rev. George Ault, Moderator, Church of the Red Rocks
Rebecca Glenn, Moderator Elect, Scottsdale Congregational UCC
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 Planning Team: Rev. Dr. George Ault (SWC Moderator), Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons (Conference Minister), Rev. Ken Heintzelman (Pastor, Shadow Rock UCC), Linda Merritt (Local Arrangements Chair), Lois Beberniss (Shadow Rock UCC), Rev. Delle McCormick (Rincon UCC), Rev. Sue Joiner (First Congregational UCC/Albuquerque), Holly Herman (SWC), Sheri Slaybaugh (SWC) and Eli Johnson (SWC)
- Revs. Rich and Barb Doerrer-Peacock (New Delegate Orientation), and Lisa Roger (graphic design)
- Bands from Rincon UCC and Shadow Rock UCC
- Host church: Shadow Rock UCC, "UCC Store" minders, custodians, all the cookie bakers, servers, drivers, singers, poster makers, ushers, playtime coordinators, table and chair setter-uppers and tear-downers, and go-fers that make the Annual Meeting run smoothly.
- Ernie Gregg, A/V, and the Shadow Rock technical team
- Communion Servers, worship leaders, vendors
- Office helpers: Kitty Bryne, Kathy Creswell, Pat Quinnett, Gail Bird, Barbara and Don Nordlund, Ray and Donna Gentry, Mike Murray, and any others I've missed
- Rev. Lee Milligan, Parliamentarian
- All the nominees who have graciously agreed to serve the SWC in the coming years
- All the presenters- Innovation Lab participants, New Churches, playdate leaders-thank you, thank you!
- Our SPECIAL GUEST: Rev. Cameron Trimble (Center for Progressive Renewal)
- Our guests from UCC national settings, Chapman University, Pacific School of Religion, NAU Campus Ministry, and Beatitudes Campus
- Rev. Dosa Carlson, for her hymns and prayers on Thursday evening at the Pastor/Moderator dinner, as well as the Scottsdale Jazz Band, for their entertainment.

All of YOU who attended the 2016 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!!