



Southwest Conference  
United Church of Christ  
2011 Annual Meeting

April 29-30, 2011

First Congregational Church

2801 Lomas Blvd, NE

Albuquerque, New Mexico

IT'S ABOUT

MISSION

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Maps of First Congregational UCC and Vicinity**

**Agenda**

**Workshops**

**Friday Evening Worship**

**Biographies of our featured guests:**

Cally Rogers-Witte, Susan Sanders,  
David Coatsworth, Peter Makari

**Meet your Host Churches:**

First Congregational UCC, Iglesia Congregacional Unida,  
Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Paul's UCC

**2010 Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Reports from the SWC**

Conference Minister Report  
Moderator Report  
Committee on Church and Ministry  
Personnel  
Justice Witness Committee  
Church Growth and Development  
Partners in Education  
Youth Ministry

**Reports from our Ecumenical Partners**

Arizona Ecumenical Council  
Pacific School of Religion  
Chapman University

**Items for Vote**

Nominating Slate  
Bylaw Resolution  
United Church of Santa Fe Resolution

**Financial Pages**

**Interest Form**

**Travel Reimbursement**

**Evaluation**

**Links of Interest**

**Appreciation Page**





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## MAP OF AREA



**First Congregational Church**  
2801 Lomas Blvd. NE,  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
505-265-5749

**Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel**  
2910 Yale Boulevard S.E..  
Albuquerque, NM 87106, (505) 843-7000

**Albuquerque Intl Airport**

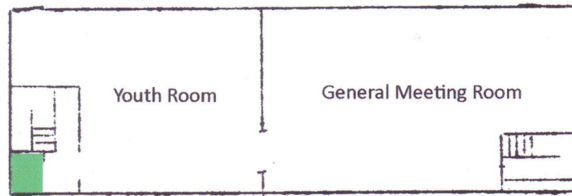




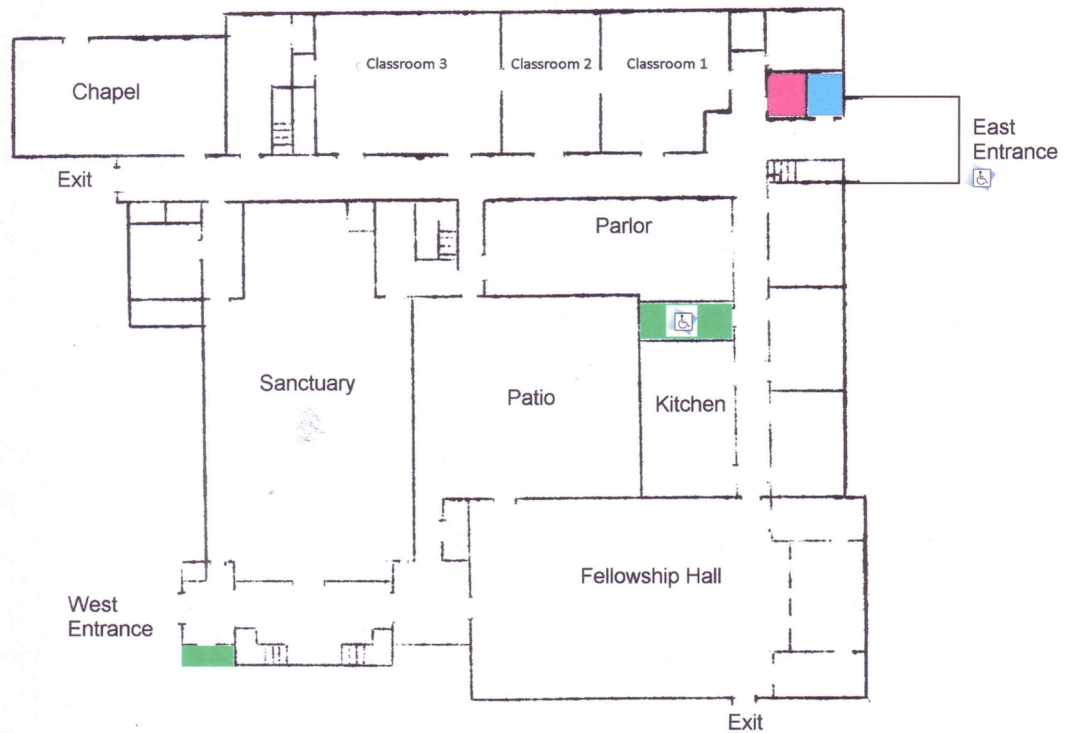
# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Map First Congregational United Church of Christ Albuquerque, New Mexico

### Second Floor



### Main Floor



Legend:

- Unisex Restroom
- Women's Restroom
- Men's Restroom
- Handicap Access







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## AGENDA

### Friday, April 29

9:00 AM	Registration begins	Narthex
9:30 AM	New Delegate Orientation Bill Ingraham & Brendan Mahoney	Sanctuary
10:30 AM	Plenary, Session 1 Welcome to Albuquerque Opening remarks & Introduction of guests Results of initial ballot- declaration of quorum <b>Reports:</b> Lay Academy Tuesdays with the SWC Financial Report, Alan Cochrane, Treasurer <b>Presentations:</b> Presentation: Larry Cummings: Text4Faith Presentation: Gordon Gilles: Cornerstone Fund <b>Report:</b> Conference Minister Report, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer	Sanctuary
Noon	Lunch (for more information from Larry Cummings, Text4Faith - eat in Parlor)	
1:00 PM	Gathering music	
1:15 PM	Wider Church Ministries (Part 1) Presented by Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte and Wider Church Ministries	Sanctuary
2:30 PM	Break	
2:45 - 4 PM	Workshops Session 1 Gordon Gilles, "Policies that Protect" Dr. Peter Makari, "Christians and the Quest for Peace" Partners in Education, "Treasure Hunt" Rev. Vy Nguyen, "Church World Service in Action" YASC, "Americorps goes Faith Based" Susan Sanders, "Got Mission?"	Fellowship Hall Sanctuary Classroom 2 Chapel Classroom 3 Parlor
4:00 PM	Break	
4:15 PM	Plenary, Session 2 <b>Reports:</b> Moderator Report, Brendan Mahoney Youth Ministry Report, Katrina Glenn <b>Introduction of Items for Future Vote</b> Bylaws Santa Fe Resolution Nominating Slate <b>Awards/Milestones</b>	Sanctuary





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

6:00 PM	Dinner	
7:00 PM	Gathering music	Sanctuary
7:15 PM	Worship and Communion	
	Offering to benefit Youth Ministries	
	Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte preaching	
8:30 PM	Closing	
<b>Saturday, April 30</b>		
9:00 AM	Gathering Music	
9:10 AM	Opening Devotions	
9:30-10:45 AM	Workshops Session 2	
	Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, "Our Global Mission"	Sanctuary
	David Coatsworth, "Mystery of Mission Funding"	Parlor
	Rev. John Dorhauer, "Revitalization Strategies for the SWC"	Fellowship Hall
	Rev. Elice Higginbotham, "Testing our Faith in the Holy Land"	Chapel
	Sandy Lueschen Sandahl, "Growing Church Funds Wisely & Faithfully"	Classroom 2
	Peggy Warner, "Climate Change, Peace & Justice, & Us"	Classroom 3
10:45 AM	Break	
11:00 AM	Wider Church Ministries (Part 2)	Sanctuary
	Presented by Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte and Wider Church Ministries	
Noon	Lunch	
1:00 PM	Gathering Music	Sanctuary
1:15 PM	Plenary, Session 3	
	<b>Reports:</b>	
	JWM Report, Rev. Phil Reller	
	Church Growth & Development Report	
	<b>Presentation of Mark Clark</b>	
	<b>Votes:</b>	
	Nominating slate	
	2012 Top Line Budget	
	Bylaws	
	Santa Fe Resolution	
	<b>Installation</b>	
	<b>Invitation to 2012 Annual Meeting</b>	
	<b>Passing of gavel to Rev. Lee Milligan, incoming Moderator</b>	
	<b>Thank yous</b>	
3:00 PM	Closing	





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## FRIDAY EVENING ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Welcome

Lee Albertson and John Dorhauer

Opening Song: Amazing Grace

A Time for Prayer

Angie Witmer

Sharing our highs and lows

Singing our Prayers

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Sung Response

Sharing our Gifts

Brendan Mahoney

Music

Sung Response

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture

Mark Clark

Sermon

Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte

Communion

Music

Blessing

Closing Song





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## ANNUAL MEETING WORKSHOPS

### **Our Global Mission UCC**

Hear first hand stories of Cally's journeys across the US and around the world to meet and engage with UCC and Global Mission partners.

**Presenter: Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte**, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive, Global Ministries

### **The Mystery of Mission (funding)**

Discover the secrets to uncovering all the resources available to fund mission.

**Presenter: David Coatsworth**, Executive for Financial Development, Wider Church Ministries

### **Christians and the Quest for Shalom/Salaam/Peace in the Middle East**

The Middle East is in the center of news. Protests and demonstrations demanding change are the main images we see. What about the Christians of the region? Who are they and how are we connected to them? This workshop will explore UCC/Global Ministries' partnerships in the Middle East, focusing on the context and witness of Christian churches and organizations, including the circumstances of conflict and the contributions they are making towards peace in the region.

**Presenter: Dr. Peter E. Makari, Ph.D.**, Area Executive for Middle East/Europe, Partner Relations Ministry Team, Wider Church Ministries

### **Got Mission?**

From Haiti to Egypt, New Orleans to East Timor, Zimbabwe to Sahuarita, you've got mission. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are transforming lives around the world, around the year - come learn how.

**Presenter: Susan Sanders**, Minister and Team Leader, Global Sharing Of Resources, Wider Church Ministries

### **Treasure Hunt: Educational Resources for Churches**

Are you seeking materials for an adult discussion group? Are you on a quest for resources for family ministry? Are you looking for curriculum for intergenerational learning? Participants will discover and explore an abundant treasure-trove of educational resources for adults, children, and youth.

**Presenters: Juanita Marken, Larry Trent and Carol Wilson**, SWC Partners in Education

### **Revitalization Strategies for the SWC**

The Southwest Conference is developing strategies to infuse new life and growth into our existing churches. If you want to hear more about how your church can partner with the Conference to try and create new life, vitality, and energy - this could be the workshop for you.

**Presenter: Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer**, Conference Minister, Southwest Conference UCC







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## **Testing our Faith in the Holy Land**

Revs. Elice Higginbotham and Max Surjadinata each served for three months as Accompaniers with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme. Their stories and photos witness to life under occupation, offering an experience of living in the Holy Land that Americans rarely see or hear, and raising questions not only about foreign policy, but about faith.

**Presenters: Elice Higginbotham & Max Surjadinata**, Ecumenical Accompanier, Global Ministries

## **Church World Service in Action**

This will be a conversation on the important work of CWS and our partners around the globe, using illustrations from work in Eastern Africa and Bosnia, where women have joined together to make meaningful improvements in their lives and the lives of their families. You will also learn about how your church is connected to this work and more"

**Presenter: Rev. Vy T. Nguyen**, Assistant Regional Director, Church World Service

## **Policies that Protect**

In addition to being a community of faith, a church is also a legal corporation. We'll explore the many ways churches must be mindful about protecting their assets, their people and their property through established policies.

**Presenter: Gordon Gilles**, President/CEO, Cornerstone Fund

## **Growing Church Funds Wisely & Faithfully**

Is your church ready to receive a large bequest? Learn a few simple ways to help members make bequests and other legacy gifts, and learn about basic policies and procedures for church investments. Our leaders are experienced in many forms of giving and gift management in the UCC and in non-profit settings, and will help you to grow your church's funds wisely and faithfully!

**Presenters: Sandy Lueschen Lindahl**, United Church Funds and **Nancy Ackley**, Ackley Consulting Group (member, Good Shepherd - Sahuarita AZ)

## **AmeriCorps goes Faith Based**

For the past two years, Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita and Church of the Beatitudes UCC, Phoenix have partnered with Wider Church Ministries UCC to host young adults, ages 21-25 who come to work in a community agency, live in community, and explore their faith. It is an exciting program with benefits to the hosting church, the community agency, and to the young adults. For less than \$10,000 for 11 months, the agency gets 30+ hours of work, the church gets 6+ hours of work, and the young adults' experience: priceless.

**Presenters: Betsy Stirbens and Liz Analla** Young Adult Service Community

## **Climate Change - 2010 Census Results - Peace and Justice - and Us**

This workshop will present some of the recent research concerning climate change near-term risk to the Southwestern states. In addition, what do the new census results mean to us? How will these areas of change become issues of peace and justice? Is the border fence part of a broader plan? What will interstate population migration and effects on personal income mean to the SWC? These topics and the findings that are presented will stimulate a follow-on group discussion.

**Presenter: Peggy Warner**, First Congregational UCC/Albuquerque





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## MEET OUR FEATURED GUESTS

### Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte

The Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte is Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries (WCM), one of four Covenanted Ministries in the United Church of Christ, and serves as co-executive of the UCC/Disciples Global Ministries. She is also a member of the United Church of Christ's five-person Collegium of Officers. Programs of Wider Church Ministries include Volunteer Ministries and National Disaster Ministries, as well as ministries of Refugee & Immigration, Health & Wholeness Advocacy, and One Great Hour of Sharing.

Wider Church Ministries is also in partnership with the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in common Global Ministries—the worldwide mission program of both denominations. The two denominations do together, in “common”, all their work in relation to mission partnerships and missionaries.

Cally has a diverse background and a commitment to international and cross-cultural issues dating back to her ordination in 1973. She was a member of the National Council of Churches' Governing Board and attended three international assemblies of the World Council of Churches, in Australia, Zimbabwe, and Brazil.

Early in her career, she served as Director of Christian Education at the American Church in Paris, France. In 2000, she spent time during her sabbatical studying Spanish and living with families in Guadalajara and Morelia, Mexico.

Prior to coming to her current position with WCM, Cally served for ten years as Conference Minister of the UCC Southwest Conference and before that was pastor of the Community United Church of Christ in Raleigh, N.C. for eighteen years.

Cally is a graduate of Mary Baldwin College in Virginia, Yale Divinity School (M.A. in Religion) and UCC-related Pacific School of Religion (M. Div.). Her husband Frank is a Clinical Psychologist currently working with Hewlett-Packard. They have two daughters, Mary Ann and Beth.



### Susan M. Sanders

Susan M. Sanders is a life long member of the UCC and a native of Ohio. She currently serves as Minister and Team Leader for Global Sharing of Resources, with the UCC Wider Church Ministries, which involves guiding international community development, refugee, disaster and volunteer ministries.

She administers the UCC One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering and serves as a member of the UCC staff Fundraising Team. Susan represents the United Church of Christ as a Board Member of Church World Service, Foods Resource Bank and Heifer International. She is the Wider Church Ministries liaison to the World Council of Churches Round Table.

Susan's ministry with the UCC has carried her to visit with partners and monitor relief and development programs in 42 countries, including Peru, Bolivia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Turkey, Israel/Palestine, China, Liberia, Zimbabwe, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti and most recently Lebanon, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Previously, Susan served as United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, (UCBHM) Minister for Volunteer Services 1991-2000. She has also served on the staff at Deaconess (St.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Louis) Hospital; the UCC Council for Health and Human Service Ministries; ACTION (Federal Volunteer Agency) and volunteered with Peace Corps in Liberia and UCBHM at Bethany Children's Home in Pennsylvania.

Susan is an active member of Pilgrim United Church of Christ, in Cleveland, Ohio where she sings in the choir and serves on the Church Council and Called to Care team. Singing, traveling, urban farming and political organizing are some of Susan's hobbies. Susan believes passionately in the ministry of hospitality and service.

## **David Coatsworth**

Mr. David Coatsworth, Wider Church Ministries Executive for Financial Development, has lived most of his life in Arizona. He graduated from Pueblo High School and University of Arizona in Tucson, and spent 6 of his 9 years in the US Air Force flying at Williams and Luke Air Bases near Phoenix. From 1983 to 2006 he lived in Chandler and Tempe while raising four daughters and working in technology sales. During that time he served as a volunteer on the staff of the Arizona Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which led to his current development role with the UCC in 2006. He's a bicycle commuter when in Cleveland and rides annually in El Tour de Tucson.



Dave's role is to help individual UCC members satisfy their philanthropic desires. Individuals' philanthropic goals sometimes result in gifts to Global Ministries or Wider Church Ministries, but they often fund mission in the local church, the Conference, or even a community charity. He also helps local churches establish planned giving programs and legacy societies.

## **Dr. Peter E. Makari, Ph.D.**

Peter has served in the capacity of Executive for the Middle East and Europe with the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since July 1, 2000. He also serves ecumenically as the Vice-Chair of the National Council of Churches' Interfaith Relations Commission.



For seven of the previous ten years, he lived in the Middle East, where he worked with the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) in Cairo, Egypt (1991-1994), and then with the Middle East Council of Churches, based in Limassol, Cyprus (1997-2000).

Peter earned an M.A. in Middle East Studies from the American University in Cairo (1993) and a Ph.D. in Politics and Middle East Studies from New York University (2003). He is the author of Conflict and Cooperation: Christian-Muslim Relations in Contemporary Egypt.

[<http://www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu/fall-2007/conflict-cooperation.html>] (Syracuse University Press, 2007).

He, his wife, and two daughters are members of Olmsted Community Church [UCC], in Olmsted Falls, OH.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



## ***First Congregational United Church of Christ***

2801 Lomas Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Email: [fcc@swcp.com](mailto:fcc@swcp.com)  
Web: [firstuccabq.com](http://firstuccabq.com)  
Telephone: 505-265-5749

**Rev. Dr. M. Lee Albertson, Senior Minister**

***Est. 1880***

Worship  
10:10 a.m.

Christian Education and Fellowship  
11:00 a.m.

**We are An Open and Affirming, Peace with Justice Congregation**

**Our Mission: "Living God's Love, Justice, and Inclusion"**







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Iglesia Congregacional Unida (United Church of Christ)

A Spanish-language ecumenical Protestant outreach began in Atrisco in 1894, and by 1910 there were missions in Atrisco, Barelás, and Arenal -- all villages that have since been absorbed into the city of Albuquerque.



In 1926 the missions joined together and moved into the building at 1701 Broadway SE to form the Spanish Congregational Church. In 2011, with a new name since the late 1980's of Iglesia Congregacional Unida (UCC), the church thanks God for 85 years of ministry at its current site.

The church has served in many ways especially through use of the annex building, added in 1972. Cuidando Los Niños (a daycare center for homeless children) and Mujeres en Acción (an economic development project) were started there. Until last summer, the annex was also home to El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos, which now organizes and advocates for immigrant and worker rights from its new (and larger) site nearby.

The church is an intergenerational mix of people whose families who have been a part of this congregation for many years and those who have joined in the past 15 years, the latter mostly first-generation immigrant families primarily from Mexico. In recent years, mission with immigrants has expanded to include non-Spanish-speaking family members from places as diverse as Holland and Norway.



Recent program additions include an early Sunday meditation service in English and renewed ministries with children and youth. A young couples' and other forms of outreach are projected as the church explores what it means to be mainly missional rather than attractional in its nature as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesús.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



## **Church of the Good Shepherd, UCC**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

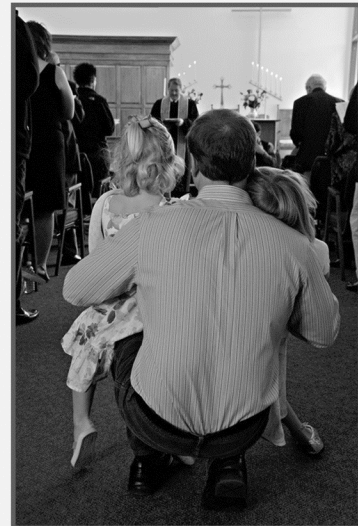
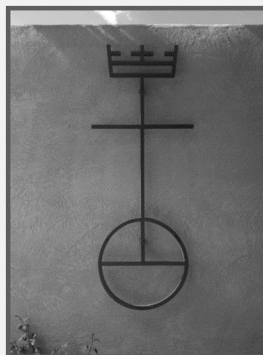
**Rev. William D. Ingraham,  
Pastor and Teacher**

*Progressive Christians  
aspiring to diversity, engaging in  
service, and sincerely friendly*

8:30 a.m. — Worship

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School for all  
ages, with Breakfast  
Club for children

10:45 a.m. — Worship



7834 Tennyson St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122  
505-856-1004 — [www.goodshepherdunitedchurch.com](http://www.goodshepherdunitedchurch.com)





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Brief History of St. Paul's United Church of Christ

In the winter of 1973, the Reverend Milton R. Murphy proposed the establishment of a church in Rio Rancho which would feature the combined efforts of the United Presbyterian Church, the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ. An initial grant of \$4000 was provided by the Board of Homeland Ministries with the understanding that there would be a self supporting community of faith within two years. The first service was held January 20, 1974. There were thirteen worshippers present.

The craft room of the Rio Rancho City Auditorium served as the first meeting site. As the congregation grew, the church moved to a larger room in the same building. On November 3, 1974, St. Paul's was received into the United Church of Christ and the Reverend Murphy was installed as minister. Education, counseling, fellowship, outreach and community service would be a significant part of both clergy and laity participation.

Following a brief period of worshipping in a revamp garage, the congregation voted on December 7, 1975 to purchase land to build a church. The purchase was finalized during the summer of 1976. A target date for actual construction was set for early 1981. The first service in the new building was held December 20, 1981. Over 300 people attended the dedication service, February 7, 1982.



St. Paul's UCC motto is: "Jesus Guided, Intentionally Inclusive, Peace Seeking, Justice Committed" This year it voted to be "Open and Affirming" and to be a "Safe Church". It is a friendly community of people who worship together, learn together and enjoy fellowship. One of its prime concerns shall always be to enable its members to grow spiritually in all facets of life. In this regard it shall continue to provide its members and friends with the encouragement, inspiration, stimulation and all the necessary components that are required for persons to become all that God created and intended for them to be.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Southwest Conference United Church of Christ  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
April 23-25, 2010  
Church of the Red Rocks  
Sedona, Arizona

## Behold: Something New

Rev. George Ault, Senior Minister of Church of the Red Rocks, welcomed delegates and visitors to the 48<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Southwest Conference.

### Business Session I

#### Call to Order

With 37 out of 43 churches represented, 189 delegates in attendance, two new churches present, two out of the four churches in formation present, 70 visitors for a total of 259 attendees and ballot items passing (110 ballots- yes; 1 abstention), the meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Moderator Alissa Marquis.

Two minute videos submitted by churches of the conference were played at various times during our time together.

#### Approval of Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting

Minutes of the 2009 annual meeting were amended to include the announcement of Katrina Glenn as Youth and Outdoor Ministries Coordinator. Minutes approved by voice vote as amended.

#### Special Guests

Special guests were recognized with voice but no vote:

Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ  
Cameron Trimble, Co-executive director of the Center for Progressive Renewal  
Gordon Gilles, Cornerstone Fund  
Priscilla Bizer, UCC Church Building and Loan Fund  
Don Hart, United Church Funds  
Tracy Hughes, Borderlinks  
Vy Nguyen, Church World Service

#### Thanks to:

Judith Glenn, Local Church arrangements  
Dan Loven, Audio Visual  
Ginger Willets, Church of the Red Rocks administrator  
Mark Clark, Parliamentarian

#### Vote to accept Black Mountain and First Christian Church into the SWC







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Lee Albertson, on behalf of CoCAM and the Board, recommended that Black Mountain Community Church, Scottsdale, Az, be accepted as a United Church of Christ congregation and that First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Las Cruces, NM, be approved for dual affiliation with the United Church of Christ. Rev. Tyler Connoley spoke to the process with the First Christian Church and Donna Gentry spoke to the process with Black Mountain Community Church.

Moved and seconded that Black Mountain Community Church be accepted as a United Church of Christ and that First Christian Church(Disciples of Christ) be approved for dual affiliation with the UCC. Motion carried by voice vote.

Pastors and delegates of these congregations have full rights and privileges for this annual meeting.

#### **Introduction and vote of National UCC Constitution change (See Appendix A)**

*Moved and seconded to approve the changes to the UCC Constitution voted by the Twenty-seventh General Synod, relating to the Pronouncement, "Ministry Issues: Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's Church," adopted by the Twenty-fifth General Synod. Motion carried by voice vote.*

#### **Introduction and vote of CoCAM resolution regarding Continuing Education**

*The Committee on Church and Ministry (CoCAM), with affirmation from the Southwest Conference Board of Directors, calls upon all active clergy (that is, all licensed, ordained, and commissioned clergy who are not retired) to meet a minimum annual goal of 15 hours of continuing education; and to report to CoCAM in their Annual Information Review how the 15 hours were used. Recommendation seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.*

#### **Introduction of Immigration Resolution (See Appendix B)**

Liana Rowe introduced the resolution sponsored by many clergy. Vote will be during Saturday afternoon business session.

Phil Reller, while endorsing the resolution, will offer two amendments to it.

It is announced that Governor Brewer has signed into law SB1070. A moment of silence and prayer is offered.

#### **Introduction of By-law Resolution**

Brendan Mahoney introduced the Board of Director's resolution calling for amending the Bylaws: *Delegates to the 2010 Southwest Conference Annual Meeting grant authority to their Board of Directors, notwithstanding Article IX, Section A of the By-Laws and during the period of April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and May 5, 2011, to prudently amend the By-Laws in those circumstances which it deems justifiable.*





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## **Introduction of the Nominating Slate**

Nancy Meister presented the slate of candidates. There is an opening in the class of 2011 on the Youth Ministry Committee. If you are interested please contact her before the vote on Saturday.

## **Financial Report**

Rita Bourgeois presented the 2010 final budget and the 2011 top-line budget that will be voted on Saturday. The 2010 budget is balanced with reduced reliance on reserves and renegotiating the office lease. With diminished OCWM funds, difficult decisions had to be made: staff cuts were necessary and the communications position has been eliminated. For the 2011 budget the youth ministry position is funded through the general funds, not reserve, and an increase of \$1/per capita is assumed.

We currently have \$30,000-\$35,000 in undesignated reserve funds.

The Conference exists through OCWM support. Moderator Alissa Marquis thanked the churches for their support.

## **Business Session in recess**

## **Program Session I**

### **Church Growth & Development Committee**

Teresa Blythe spoke of the organic development of the committee and its work: sustainable growth, revitalization and new growth. She encouraged churches to discern how they might share in this mission. Churches will be contacted to see how they can support the work of this committee.

### **Justice and Witness Committee**

Brian Frederick-Gray presented a power point video of the SWC in mission-the justice of God being played out in our churches. The Committee hosted listening sessions throughout the conference and asked:

1. What are you doing in your local community?
2. What is on your heart?

Out of these sessions four areas were defined to support the mission work of local churches:

- Facilitate
- Network
- Resource
- Communication

Information about installing solar panels on churches is available through the JWC and Conference Office.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Lay Academy

Judy Green-Davis announced the launch of the Lay Academy on September 25, 2010. There will be four sessions each year. The first session will be lead by Alyce Hunt, President of Chicago Theological Seminary. Churches are encouraged to send at least one lay person. Detailed information will soon be available on the conference website.

## Milestones:

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona, Arizona  
United Church of Sun City

Five For Five: Churches recognized for their contributions to OCWM, Strengthen the Church, OGHS, NIN and The Christmas Fund

Casas Adobes Congregational Church  
Church of the Beatitudes  
Church of the Painted Hills  
Desert View United Church of Christ  
First Congregational United Church of Christ (Albuquerque)  
First Congregational United Church of Christ (Phoenix)  
First Congregational United Church of Christ (Prescott)  
Good Shepherd United Church of Christ  
Oro Valley United Church of Christ  
Rincon Congregational Church  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ (Rio Rancho)  
Sierra Vista Community United Church of Christ  
Valley Community Church  
West Congregational Church  
Yuma United Church of Christ  
TOX Ministries

Seven for Seven: In addition to their 5 for 5 contributions, churches were recognized for their contributions to the two SWC special offerings Spread the Word Fund and Sow the Seed

Desert Palm United Church of Christ  
Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ (a tithing congregation)  
Shadow Rock Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
United Churches Fellowship

Tithing Congregations:

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ  
Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ  
Yuma United Church of Christ

Open and Affirming: First Congregational Church, Tempe

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination: Rev. Leroy Calbom  
Rev. Jud Souers





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Rev. Clint Reynolds  
Rev. Fritz Hardt

## **Business Session II**

Meeting reconvened at 9:15 by Moderator-Elect Brendan Mahoney

## **Wider Church Ministries**

Tyler Connoley noted the commemoration of 200 years of working in the world. We are working with local partners in Haiti, Turkey and other areas of the world. Giving for OGHS is down this year. The response for aid after the earthquake in Haiti impacted the OGHS offering. Churches are encouraged to have an additional offering for OGHS. The UCC responds to pleas for aid one out of every three days.

## **Church World Service**

Vy Nguyen thanks the Southwest Conference for its support of the Church World Service ministry, specifically the emergency kits destined for Haiti. More than 100 kits were donated by annual meeting attendees.

## **Young Adult Service Volunteers**

The Young Adult Service Community is a group of 3-5 young adults serving in social service or justice advocacy agencies in the local community of a Companion Communities' host church. The volunteers also form intentional community with one another, participate in activities of leadership development with the local host church and engage in faith conversations. This is a UCC sponsored program, through Volunteer Ministries.

Brendan Mahoney introduced the four community volunteers:

Jack Farrell, serving at the Beatitudes Campus  
Emily Fleissner, serving at Lutheran Social Services  
Erin O'Keefe, serving at AgeLink  
Elizabeth Koebel, serving at ICM's food bank

## **Members in Discernment**

Brendan Mahoney introduced members in discernment that were present:

Bonnee Henry  
Andy Schweibert  
Teresa Blythe  
Lorraine Cenicerros  
Judy Green-Davis  
Chris Hinkle  
Michele Mellott  
Noel Anderson

## **State of Conference Address**

Conference Minister John Dorhauer thanked Moderator Alissa Marquis and Moderator-Elect Brendan Mahoney for the countless hours they have given in service to the Southwest







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Conference. Our focus: "It's about the Mission!" What does our mission look like "on the ground"? There have been decisions made this past year that reflect this focus:

- Justice Witness Ministry have defined their role to support and facilitate local efforts; to be in partner with others as they serve to facilitate, network, resource and communicate
- Church Growth and Development has rebuilt itself organically. Thanks to the people who have worked diligently the past five years laying the foundation for the work to come. A new committee of people who feel called to this work has formed to ensure that the unique proclamation of the gospel declared by the UCC is heard in the SWC. A goal of eight new church starts by annual meeting of 2011 has been set.
- The Lay Academy will begin in September. This effort to develop lay leaders is an essential component to restoring and invigorating the church.
- Plans to expand our use of technology
- Identify a structure that does not impede our ministry
  - Assess our by-laws
  - Develop shared ministries that are enhanced by our by-laws, not impeded
  - Present a new structure at the annual meeting in 2011
- 2010 pledged income is \$88,200 less than 2007. Using figures from 2007 income, accumulated shortfalls in 2008, 2009 and 2010 total \$181,520 The first year staff reduction was not necessary, but this year it became evident there would need to be staff changes. A difficult decision to eliminate the communication director position. We are working on creative solutions to communication challenges.

Thank you to a conference staff that works tirelessly for us all: much appreciation to Holly Herman, Barbara Decker, Peggy Ice and Katrina Glenn.

### **Appeal and Challenge**

Daniel Erdman spoke of the importance of communication, especially at this time of revitalization of our conference. On behalf of the Iglesia Congregacional Unida he pledged \$500 to the SWC for the communication position and challenged other churches to make a financial commitment for this position.

### **Moderator's Report**

Alissa Marquis thanked John Dorhauer for his vision, energy and evangelistic spirit. He is a bringer of "good news." She also thanked the support staff of the Conference and the Board, noting Board members had given over 1000 hours of volunteer hours this year.

The financial health of our Conference has improved. The budget for 2011 is a balanced budget. An audit has been scheduled. We have begun planning strategically. The Board spent numerous hours on the questions, what is our vision? What is our mission? What is it the Conference can do that local churches cannot? We developed a working mission statement: As the Southwest





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Conference of the United Church of Christ, we are extravagantly inclusive and affirming followers of Christ, called to embody God's unconditional justice and love; and we identified shared values.

## **Moderator-Elect's Report**

Brendan Mahoney thanked Alissa Marquis for her leadership. It clearly is a time of change. Hopefully, after today's vote, Lee Milligan will be Moderator-Elect.

## **Financial Development Report**

Jim Briney reminded delegates that there is no virtue in being complacent about the funding of the SWC. The campaign theme is WANTED: DEAD AND ALIVE-people to fund the SWC mission.

## **Youth Report**

Katrina Glenn and members of the Youth Council reviewed the Conference activities of the past year: Super Camp and Sr. High Camp, Thanksgiving Alive, graduated Youth Retreat, Sr. Sneak Trip, and the Jr. High Retreat. Information from the Justice and Witness listening session held during Thanksgiving Alive is helping to formulate programming for the coming year. There is a need for a young adult ministry.

## **Offering Opportunity**

Rachel Chapman encouraged churches to participate in the Strengthen the Church special offering. This offering is divided between the Conference and the national church. It supports youth ministry, new church starts, the God is Still Speaking campaign, consultants for women's ministries, etc. The suggested date is May 23.

## **Business Session in recess**

### **Program Session II**

General Minister and President Geoffrey Black spoke.  
Two sessions of workshops were offered.

### **Business Session III**

Meeting reconvened by Moderator Alissa Marquis at 5:00 p.m.  
Alissa Marquis thanked her predecessor, Len Silvester.

## **2011 Budget Vote**

Moved and seconded to accept top line budget and \$1 increase per capita.  
Discussion included update on monies pledged for communications position - \$4,850.  
The Financial Oversight Team welcomes suggestions on trimming the budget expenses and increasing revenue.  
Motion carried by voice vote

## **Nominating Slate Vote**

Moved and seconded to accept the slate of the Nominating Committee with the addition of Judy Gilman serving in the class of 2011 Youth Ministry Committee.  
Motion carried by voice vote.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## **Immigration Resolution Vote (Appendix B)**

Moved and seconded to accept the Resolution; discussion ensued alternating arguments for and against the Resolution.

Amendment to the Resolution proposed and seconded.

*The Southwest Conference authorizes our Conference Minister to meet with Governor Brewer and other public officials to personally present this resolution on behalf of our Conference.*

Motion carried by standing vote with seven abstentions noted.

Amendment to the Resolution proposed and seconded. (Appendix C)

*Our Southwest Conference approves the letter dated April 24, 2010, offered by our Justice Witness Team and directs that this letter accompany our Immigration Resolution.*

Amendment to the Amendment proposed and seconded

*Replace the six bullet items in the letter with the following two bullet items:*

- *We oppose SR1070*
- *We encourage non-compliance with SB1070*

Question of legal counsel was raised. John Dorhauer stated counsel has not prepared a complete dossier but it is possible that any organization that encourages non-compliance could open itself up to prosecution. This is very unlikely as a religious organization.

Motion failed by standing vote. (Yeas-43; Nos-46+)

Amendment to the Amendment proposed and seconded.

*Omit the word "racist" in the first bullet line stating "Encouraging individuals to pledge non-compliance with the unjust and racist law SB 1070.*

Discussion ensued; Call for the question moved and seconded Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion failed by standing vote.

Vote on second amendment proposed to the Resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved and seconded to amend the Immigration Resolution.

*Strike "Be It FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod XXVI urges the Covenanted Ministries of the UCC and the various setting of the Church to seek opportunities for building and participating in existing interfaith coalitions and partnering with global and U.S. organizations/institutions that advocate for justice and provide services for those in the undocumented community most in need, e.g. abandoned immigrant children, abused women, and families facing or in the deportation process." as we cannot speak for General Synod.*

*Strike the word congregations from the statement, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in keeping with the aforementioned we give voice to our conference minister of the Southwest Conference to speak for justice regarding issues of immigration reform on*





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

*behalf of congregations of the Southwest Conference.” as we cannot speak for individual congregations, only the conference.*

Motion carried by voice vote

## **Vote on Immigration Resolution**

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

## **By-Law Resolution Vote**

Moved and seconded that:

*Delegates to the 2010 Southwest Conference Annual Meeting grant authority to their Board of Directors, notwithstanding Article IX, Section A of the By-Laws, and during the period of April 24, 2010 and May 5, 2011, to prudently amend the By-Laws in those circumstances which it deems justifiable.*

Motion carried by voice vote.

## **Plaque Drawing**

Lisa Roger won the plaque donated by Karl Hallsten. Proceeds of the raffle benefit Youth Ministries.

## **Thank Yous**

John Dorhauer, Alissa Marquis and Lisa Roger thanked Peggy Ice for her creativity and service as Communications Director.

Also acknowledgement of the honorable discussion during the votes taken.

Thanks to Alissa Marquis for her dedicated leadership this past year.

The medallion and gavel, as symbols of office, were passed to Moderator Brendan Mahoney.

## **Annual Meeting 2011**

With the agreement of Church of the Palms (hosts prior to the passage of the letter accompanying the Immigration Resolution), First Congregational United Church of Christ, Albuquerque, has offered to host the Southwest Conference Annual Meeting April 29-May 1, 2011.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

## **Program Notes**

Thanks to the Marshallese Choirs for enhancing our worship Friday evening, the Pick'n Pastors on Saturday evening and the Church of the Red Rocks Choir on Sunday morning. Offerings were designated for Marshallese Mission Trips, Church Growth and Development and Youth and Young Adult Ministry.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Appendix A

### National UCC Constitution Changes Resolution

From the Ministry Issues Implementation Committee

Changes to the UCC Constitution voted by the Twenty-seventh General Synod, relating to the Pronouncement, "Ministry Issues: Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's Church," adopted by the Twenty-fifth General Synod.

November 9, 2009

Calling forth and equipping leadership for God's Church is central to the mission and ministry of the United Church of Christ. After many years of study across the Church, the Pronouncement, "Ministry Issues: Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's Church" and accompanying Proposals for Action were adopted by the Twenty-fifth General Synod in Atlanta, Georgia. A diverse group of UCC laity and clergy were asked to guide implementation of the Pronouncement. As part of their work, and in conjunction with Parish Life and Leadership and Local Church Ministries, suggested revisions to both the UCC Constitution and By-laws were presented to and approved by the Twenty-seventh General Synod in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The proposed Constitutional amendments are now returned to Conferences for ratification before being declared effective.

Several themes included in the Ministry Issues project are reflected in the proposed changes:

- **Emphasis on authorized ministry as the way to identify the ordering of ministry in the United Church of Christ:** All Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ—ordained, commissioned, licensed—serve on behalf of the whole Church and are to be regarded by the Church and by each other with mutual respect and care.
- **Emphasis on on-going covenants of mutual accountability:** All Authorized Ministers serving on behalf of the Church are in mutually accountable covenantal relationships with an Association and a Local Church of the United Church of Christ. These on-going covenants include encouraging life long learning as well as offering on-going support from and to all settings of the Church.
- **Emphasis on the various settings of the Church as covenant partners throughout the process of discernment:** The Local Church and the Association continue to be the primary covenant partners for members discerning a call to authorized ministry in, and on behalf of, the United Church of Christ.
- **Change in terminology:** As the discernment of call is an ongoing, communal activity, and not all who are potential candidates for authorization are currently "student," the term "Member in Discernment" replaces "Student in Care" to denote a UCC member in covenant with a Local Church and Association, considering authorized ministry.

Additional information regarding the Ministry Issues Project, including the text of the Pronouncement, is available at: <http://www.ucc.org/ministers/ministry-issues-project/>. To review the work of the Implementation Committee, see especially the "Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ" and, for a fuller report, Ministry Issues, Draft 3.1. The work continues, including preparation of resources for all settings of the







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Church and training for members of Committees on the Ministry.  
Appendix B (as passed )

**A Call for a More Humane US Immigration Policy; End Migrant Deaths;  
Support Immigrant Communities  
(Resolution of Witness)**

Resolution:

WHEREAS, Jesus and the scriptures give us clear instruction on how we are to treat the foreigner and neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, the Biblical heritage of the Judeo Christian tradition specifically identifies the “stranger” in our midst as deserving of our love and compassion; and

WHEREAS, we have been called by the one God to tear down all the borders we have built between us so that we may see each person as a child of God, so that we may learn to love and welcome all God’s children as members of one family and one world; and

WHEREAS, our consciences are affronted by federal, state, and local policies and actions that detain immigrants, that prosecute undocumented workers, that fracture families and prosecute those who would give them aid; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 men, women and children have died attempting to cross the US/Mexico border since the implementation of the blockade strategy of border enforcement and there is little evidence that this policy has been effective in slowing the tide of illegal immigration; and

WHEREAS, many of us are in local churches and communities where we are aware of migrant peoples, but largely unaware of their personal, communal, and national stories; and

WHEREAS, the United States is affected by the presence of new immigrants from all over the world, and

WHEREAS, although countries have the right to control their own borders, it is not an absolute right; the Church recognizes a basic God given right for shelter, food, clean water and other basic necessities; and

WHEREAS, the blockade strategy of border enforcement has created an underground market for the smuggling of human beings which exploits its vulnerable victims, and has encouraged an upsurge in vigilante activities, fosters an anti-immigrant atmosphere and represents the potential for violence; and

WHEREAS, current immigration policy forces upon migrant families potentially deadly choices which separate and dislocate them from one another, precluding free travel and mobility to return to their families; and





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

WHEREAS, migrant workers and their families enter the United States to live and work and the current immigration policy makes that passage dangerous, illegal, disorderly, and inhumane with very few of the basic rights afforded to all workers under international law; and

WHEREAS, approximately ten to twelve million undocumented workers and their families currently living in the United States are pressured to live covertly, without rights, and in vulnerable situations all over the United States; and

WHEREAS, the root causes of this migration lie in environmental, economic, and trade inequities between the United States, Mexico, and all of Latin America, policies which reduce tariffs and taxes that would support the poor in Mexico and Latin America; eliminate agricultural subsidies and low-interest loans for the poor in Mexico and Latin America while keeping those subsidies in the United States and in Canada; reduce social spending for health care, food stamps, and welfare reform in Mexico and Latin America; liberalize land ownership policies, thus limiting the ability of the poor in Mexico and Latin America to own or share in the land; deregulate environmental and labor laws in Mexico and Latin America; and limit the rights of Mexican and Latin American workers to protest or seek remedies for wrongs done to them; and

WHEREAS, the fragile desert environment has sustained severe damage as a result of migrant and responding enforcement patrols moving through remote desert regions; and

WHEREAS, General Synod XIII of the United Church of Christ (1981) adopted a Pronouncement on Immigration calling upon all settings of the church to:

- a. advocate for the rights of immigrants;
- b. aid undocumented immigrants in attaining legal status;
- c. aid immigrants in reunification with their families and in placement in areas of the country most favorable for their productive participation in society
- d. assist in meeting the social welfare needs of immigrants; and
- e. be inclusive of immigrants in existing and new churches and

WHEREAS, General Synod XXIV of the United Church of Christ adopted a resolution supporting Humane Borders, a faith-based group that offers assistance to those in need by maintaining water stations on and near the border and recognizing that there is more that can be done within and by the United Church of Christ regarding border issues; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ proudly declares an extravagant welcome to all who seek to be in relationship with Jesus Christ;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ declares that the Militarized Border Enforcement Strategy of the United States government has been ineffective and inhumane.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest conference Minister be urged to participate in delegations and immersion programs and that Southwest Conference congregations seek out opportunities for face to face dialogue with immigrant communities.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congregations and pastors of the Southwest Conference study the immigration issue through discussion and reflection of films such as “El Norte” and “Babel” and books such as The Devil’s Highway by Luis Alberto Urrea.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations and pastors form grass roots organizations working in conjunction with but not limited to established groups such as:

- Border Links
- Samaritan Patrols
- The New Sanctuary Movement
- Center for Education and Social Transformation
- No More Deaths
- Humane Borders

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm the action of General Synod XIII on the resolution JUSTICE IN IMMIGRATION and General Synod XXIV resolution supporting HUMANE BORDERS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference calls upon leaders of the Conference and congregations to extend an extravagant welcome and radical hospitality to and continue to minister and care for all who come to our doors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in keeping with the aforementioned we give voice to our conference minister of the Southwest Conference to speak for justice regarding issues of immigration reform on behalf of the Southwest Conference.

## FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Our Conference Minister and Members of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ are requested to be the primary implementers of this resolution.

### Sponsor’s Name

Susan Martin  
 Clint Reynolds  
 James B. Nelson  
 Kenneth Heintzelman  
 Carl Schroer  
 Liana Rowe  
 Sandra Britton  
 Barbara Doerrer-Peacock  
 Kevin Brown  
 Emery Boepple  
 Lee Milligan

### Church

Casas Adobes Congregational UCC, Tucson  
 Church of the Palms, UCC, Sun City  
 Southside Presbyterian  
 Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix  
 First Congregational UCC, Tucson  
 Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix  
 First Congregational UCC, Phoenix  
 South Mountain Community Church, Phoenix  
 United Churches Fellowship-UCC, Nogales  
 Church of the Painted Hills, UCC, Tucson





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Elaine Jordan  
Fletch Wideman  
Jane Cheek  
Robert Koth  
Karen Ballou  
Rev. Pamela Gilchrist  
Leona Stucky-Abbot  
Randy Mayer  
Stacy Richards  
David Buss  
John Herman

Faith United, UCC, Dewey  
Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix  
First Congregational UCC, Prescott  
First Congregational UCC, Phoenix  
First Congregational UCC, Albuquerque  
United Church of Santa Fe, Santa Fe  
St. Paul's UCC, Rio Rancho  
Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita  
Yuma UCC, Yuma  
Church of the Painted Hills, UCC, Tucson  
Desert Palm UCC, Tempe

#### Amendment I

The Southwest conference authorizes our Conference Minister to meet with Governor Brewer and other public officials to personally present this resolution on behalf of our Conference.

#### Amendment II

Our Southwest Conference approves the letter dated April 24, 2010, offered by our Justice Witness Team and directs that this letter accompany our Immigration Resolution.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Appendix C

An Open Letter to President Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano and Governor Jan Brewer

On April 24, 2010, the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ gathered at our Annual Meeting in Sedona, Az. Our meeting was disrupted with the announcement that Gov. Jan Brewer had signed SB1070. We immediately went into a time of prayer for the soul of Arizona and all people who reside here.

As people of faith we affirm and live by the biblical imperative, "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19: 33-34)

We are profoundly disturbed by the passage of the harshest anti-immigrant legislation in the country by the Arizona Legislature. It is legislation such as this that codifies racial profiling and creates an atmosphere of suspicion, hatred, and scapegoating of immigrants and U.S. Citizens.

We celebrate the diversity of our nation and the contribution of immigrants and call for the end of the criminalization of individuals and the destabilization of our communities.

We call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform that will provide a path for legalization for people who are contributing to our society, an adequate system for future legal economic immigration and family reunification, and policies that prevent deaths in the desert. We find it morally reprehensible that 5,500 men, women and children have lost their lives in the last 16 years trying to provide a life of dignity for their families. Policies such as SB 1070 and 287(G) diminish the ability of local law enforcement to keep our communities safe.

We are dedicated to the following actions to demonstrate our solidarity and commitment to our immigrant brothers and sisters who are created equally in the image of God regardless of race or nationality. We are committed to:

- Encouraging individuals to pledge non-compliance with the unjust and racist law SB 1070
- Canceling plans to hold 2011 annual meeting in Arizona
- Relocating our next annual meeting to another southwestern state
- Encouraging our business and professional members to influence board decisions
- Direct action of prayer, study, protests, and fasting
- Mobilizing our congregations to advocate for the Dream Act, a just and fair Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the abolishment of SB 1070 and 287(G)

As people of faith and conscience rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, we hold to our UCC Statement of Faith, in declaring, "You call us into your church...to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil."

In Solidarity and Service,







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## CONFERENCE MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the third consecutive year, I had to begin the year by sitting down with staff and leadership to deliberate long and hard about budget cuts. That is not the most glamorous or uplifting item to lead with for this annual report, but it is honest, relevant, and indicative of our commitment in the Southwest Conference to steward our resources wisely for the sake of our shared mission. Having begun 2010 with significant cuts (including the loss of a critical staff person), and having announced at our Annual Meeting in April that we were going to balance this year's budget, we came to the last quarter with new, unanticipated, and significant setbacks that threatened our ability to keep that promise. But after a couple of lengthy and painful meetings with the Financial Oversight committee, some tough decisions were made and we did what we promised: balanced the budget in 2010.

What is happening in the Conference is reflective of what is happening in our churches. In one month of 2010, five churches (that is a little more than 10%) in the SWC called to tell me that they were in discussions with their pastor about either cutting their salary significantly or terminating the position because they could no longer afford to keep them. Almost without exception (and there are, to be sure, some exceptions), our churches are looking at making some painful cuts to their own budgets. We are all living in a time of diminishing resources and are doing our level best to make sound decisions about the wise stewardship and management of the gifts that we have been given.

It is for this reason that our theme for the 2011 Annual Meeting was chosen: "It's About Mission." Our call in this time is to undertake with skill, with creativity, with passion, and with zeal the mission and ministry for which the Holy Spirit calls us into being. The temptation is to internalize our fears, to focus on bottom lines and membership rolls, and to agonize over every cut and loss. Giving in to such temptations can often lead to a tendency to disable our mission and believe the most important thing is the perpetuation of our Institutional existence. By remaining focused on the mission to which we are called, we respond to these challenges with a spirit of determination and will and we find ways to accomplish those tasks with the resources we have.

Because of that, even in this time of diminishment, the SWC continues to pursue its goals, visions, and mission with great zeal and, we hope and pray, great skill.

We have articulated a clear Mission statement, a concise purpose statement, and a very helpful list of priorities upon which we will focus our time, attention, and resources in the coming year. We have prepared and now present, as a result of that work, a new set of Bylaws intended to reshape the structural life of the Conference to enhance our ability to meet and exceed our mission goals.

We find ourselves in the early stages of developing six new church starts and partnering with six





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

existing congregations to develop revitalization strategies, living out our clear call to grow the church for the sake of a Gospel that invites us to transform lives, to extend radical hospitality, and to ensure that the voice of the still-speaking God is heard. While the Church Growth and Development committee has gone through its own transformation, they have nonetheless laid the groundwork for what will be the most significant (in my humble opinion) mission of this Conference: birthing new churches and breathing new life into existing ones. Here is where some of our most exciting work is being done.

The Justice and Witness team, following a concerted effort to engage every covenant partner in the SWC in meaningful dialogue, has reshaped and refocused and redefined its ministry. They have identified five areas of concern around which they will organize their efforts: LGBT concerns, the environment, Widening the Welcome, Prison Ministries, and Immigration. They have also learned that their role is not to undertake the work of justice on your behalf, but to facilitate, coordinate, network and communicate so that partners who are a part of the Southwest Conference and partners who are not can work carefully, creatively, and cooperatively with each other to bring justice to our land.

If I were to identify our two greatest challenges right now, it would be the work that we need to do to improve our communication strategies, and to ensure continued and stable support for Youth and Outdoor Ministries. We are not idle, and are doing what we can to meet those needs. But I am aware that our current responses are at best temporary ones and do not provide the Conference with the sense of long range sustainability that we are hoping for.

I close with this: it remains my great joy and honor to serve you. I am learning that what excites me most about this setting of the church is its commitment and willingness to break new ground. It was Cally Rogers-Witte who pointed me to page 32 of our history. On that page are written these words, words that were shared with General Synod in defense of our claim to be established as an autonomous Conference: "Given our size and potency, the gift of the Southwest Conference to the wider church will be the gift of experimentation." We live in a time when the Body of Christ is crying out for just such a place. Though written almost fifty years ago, those words still serve as a reminder to us all why the Southwest Conference is not just a great place to be and serve, but remains a place that others cherish because of our willingness to be shine new light in the world. I am proud to serve on your behalf.

John C. Dorhauer  
Conference Minister  
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## MODERATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings! The past year has been a whirlwind of activity in the Conference. Change – good change – is in the air even if our present challenges sometimes appear daunting. At all levels of the Conference, churches and individuals have risen to the challenges with energy and commitment we have not seen in a very long time. A clear sense of mission has a funny way of doing that. Hence, this year's theme for the Annual Meeting – It's About Mission.

The Conference administrative structure, which had served us well for many years, over time became a major impediment to furthering our mission. As a result, the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference authorized a complete revision of the Conference bylaws for consideration at this year's Annual Meeting. The draft bylaws are complete, and the new administrative structure promises to allow us to devote much less time to administration and more time to mission work, and at the same time, consistent with our polity, create a more fully representative Conference with nimble management. The proposed new bylaws create a Mission Board comprised of delegates from every local church, whose purpose will be setting the mission goals of the Conference and overseeing their execution. The day-to-day management of the Conference will be entrusted to a small Executive Board. Ministries, such as Justice and Witness and Youth and Outdoor Ministries, will be created and dissolved when needed and will be open to all who have a passion and call to participate. The current Board of Directors sincerely believes that the new structure will create an environment and a structure in which our shared mission work can and will thrive.

Church Growth and Development has remained a key focus of Conference activity this year. The Conference entered into an agreement with the Center for Progressive Renewal to help train individuals interested in new church starts. That training has been ongoing. The Center for Progressive Renewal also will provide training to the wider Conference to help us better assess the feasibility of new church plans so we can provide constructive feedback, encouragement and support. The Conference also sponsored a focus group, using sophisticated polling techniques, to vision the future of our churches. The results affirmed many of our core values, but they also revealed some areas of disconnect between clergy and lay and between old and young. Identifying these disconnections is a necessary condition for removing obstacles to envisioning the future mission work of our churches and the Conference as a whole. Finally, the Conference began a pilot program for church revitalization, pairing several sets of local churches to work together as each faces the exciting challenges ahead. In the upcoming year, we hope to work with the Center for Progressive Renewal to provide training to leaders interested in church revitalization. We also are working on plans with another organization to provide leadership and communication training to individuals and local churches.

To say that the Justice and Witness Ministry has been busy this year is to grossly understate the work of Justice and Witness, which has been breathtaking. Justice and Witness organized UCC





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

participation in a massive immigration march, worked to register voters, has worked tirelessly on behalf of prisoners, and has been a leading voice in environmental matters, among many things. All this is important mission work. However, the most significant accomplishment of Justice and Witness is that it has reestablished the UCC as a leading voice in social justice within the community. In the space of one year, organizations that had never heard of the UCC now seek us out as a partner in social justice work. It is no exaggeration to say that as a direct result of the work of Justice and Witness, the UCC has become more connected and integrated as a partner with other social justice organizations than at any time in the past 50 years.

The Conference has received the first of two national grants to allow us to acquire sophisticated video conferencing equipment to assist our communications. Our plan is to set up four regional centers where meeting attendees can gather for joint endeavors without the need for and expense of long distance travel. The video conferencing equipment also will be available for all churches to use to communicate with other churches and other organizations. We also are redeveloping the Conference website and other communications strategies such as social media.

The Conference conducted the first complete audit of its books in quite a few years. The accounting firm found no irregularities or problems, and made a few recommendations for minor changes in control procedures, which have been adopted. As part of the audit services, the auditor produced a Manual of Best Practices for use by local churches. This manual was introduced in a recent webinar and is available to all churches on the conference website.

The Conference also agreed to be a test case with the national church to find ways to more effectively use overlapping and duplicative resources. For example, the Conference has agreed in principle to host a joint event with another conference and have the national church handle all of the planning and logistics.

Our Lay Academy began its inaugural year. The Lay Academy has presented three sessions so far and there are more to come. The feedback has been outstanding. Classes are open to all lay members of the conference and attendees do not have to have participated in earlier classes to take part.

Now, the hard part – money. The Conference literally has slashed its budget over the last several years, to the point where we must question how we can continue vital services, especially the Youth and Outdoor Ministries. Yet we pledged last year to maintain a balanced budget again, and we did that. We entered the year with a plan for a balanced budget, but three or four churches fell significantly short on their OCWM pledges. In the last quarter, with barely two months left in the year, we were predicting a critical shortfall of about \$25,000, in large part because one church informed us it would not fulfill two outstanding quarters or the final quarter pledge. The Financial Oversight Team faced the task, made necessary cuts, raised extra revenue, and we ended the year with a small budget surplus! The sacrifice and commitment of our





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Conference staff hardly ever gets noticed, but this year the Conference as a whole owes the staff a debt of gratitude for our balanced budget.

The reality we face is that we must explore alternative methods of raising money beyond per capita and OCWM contributions. With that in mind, the Conference is sponsoring a golf tournament with the hope of raising \$25,000 on one event. The price of participation in the tournament is high – only because we must raise a substantial amount of money on one event. Therefore, we are planning a broad range of other fundraisers throughout the year that will afford opportunities for everyone to participate if they wish. Our old thinking that produced the challenges we face is not likely to be the thinking that produces new solutions. We have to be creative, bold, willing to experiment and willing to risk failure if we want to be able to carry out our shared mission in the years to come.

Finally, on a personal note, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as Moderator. Working with the Conference staff –Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, Holly Herman, Barbara Decker and Katrina Glenn – the Board of Directors, the Committees, the volunteers and all the local churches has been an immense pleasure. We are blessed to have such talented people serving the Conference. I took office having to fill the very large shoes of our last Moderator, Alissa Marquis, and I could not have done that without the assistance of our able Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, and the Moderator-Elect and soon-to-be Moderator, Rev. Lee Milligan.

May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Brendan N. Mahoney  
Moderator  
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY (COCAM)

Report to 2011 Southwest Conference Annual Meeting

(Actions Taken May 2010 – March 2011)

(Decisions made at the April 2011 COCAM meeting are NOT included  
because this report was due prior to the meeting.)

### **Committee Members:**

- Rev. Dr. M. Lee Albertson, First Congregational Church Albuquerque, New Mexico, Chairperson
- Rev. Dr. Dosa Carlson, Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, Arizona
- Rev. Donna Cavedon, Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona, Arizona
- Mr. Dan Mullen, Shepherd of the Hills UCC, Phoenix, Arizona
- Rev. Dr. Bill Hershey, First Congregational Church, Albuquerque, NM
- Ms. Lisa Sampson, Scottsdale Congregational Church, Scottsdale, Arizona
- Ms. Lisa Roger, First Congregational Church, Phoenix, Arizona
- Mr. Michael Holmberg, Valley Community Church, Silver City, NM
- Rev. Dr. Abigail Atkins, Church of the Palms, Sun City, Arizona
- Rev. Dr. Tom Garrison, Sun Lakes UCC, Sun Lakes, Arizona  
Resigned in August 2010 to take a pastorate in Florida.  
Rev. Bill Ingraham was appointed to complete his term.
- Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi, Casas Adobes UCC, Tucson, Arizona
- Pastor Jessie Sustaita, Iglesia Congregacional La Trinidad, El Paso, Texas
- Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, SWC Conference Staff
- Ms. Barbara Decker, SWC Conference Staff

### ***I. Transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing from the Southwest Conference:***

- Craig Henderson to Northeast Association, Iowa Conference
- Jean Bareis to Metropolitan Denver, Rocky Mountain Conference
- Tom Garrison to Gulf Coast Region of the Florida Conference
- Jeremy Lopez to Western Association, New York Conference
- Briget Nicholson to Berkshire Association, Massachusetts Conference
- Kevin Brown to Pacific Northwest Conference
- Diane Christopherson to Minnesota Conference
- Elaine Hinnant to Rocky Mountain Conference

### ***II. Ordained Ministerial Standing (OMS) Terminated***

- The OMS of Rev. Stephanie Bikel was terminated without prejudice at her request.
- The OMS of Rev. Don Poisson was terminated because his whereabouts are unknown.
- The OMS of Rev. Leona Stucky-Abbott was terminated without prejudice at her request.
- The OMS of Rev. Walter Mohr was terminated without prejudice at his request.
- The OMS of Rev. Deborah Worley was terminated without prejudice because of expiration of leave of absence.
- The OMS of Rev. Pam Gilchrist was terminated without prejudice at her request.

### ***III. Transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing to the Southwest Conference:***

- Brian Fertig from the Gulf Coast Association of the Florida Conference
- Curtis Ackley from Western Reserve Association, Ohio Conference





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

- Diane Thomas from Northwest Ohio Association of the Ohio
- Jack Smith and Janet St. Cyr from SONKA Association of the Ohio Conference

#### **IV. Ecclesiastical Councils**

COCAM Approved for Ecclesiastical Council for Ordination

- Jeremy Lopez; outcome: approved for ordination pending a call
- Beth Frigard; no date set for Ecclesiastical Council
- Noel Andersen; outcome: approved for ordination pending a call

COCAM Approved for Ecclesiastical Council for Privilege of Call

- Jaci Meade Scott; outcome: granted Privilege of Call for one year
- Vernon Meyer; outcome: granted Privilege of Call for one year

#### **V. Ordinations**

- 7-24-10 Andy Schwiebert was ordained and installed as Assistant Pastor at First Congregational Church in Pasadena, CA. He had been in-care with the Southwest Conference, but was ordained by the So. CA/Nevada Conference.
- 8-18-10 Craig Henderson was ordained at Scottsdale Congregational Church. He received a call to Denver, Iowa.
- 1-9-11 Jeremy Lopez was ordained at the Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, AZ. He received a call to Tonawanda, NY.
- 2-27-11 Jean Bareis was ordained in the Rocky Mountain Conference on behalf of the Southwest Conference. She has been called as a chaplain with Hospice Care of Boulder and Broomfield Counties, CO.

#### **VI. 3-Way Covenants**

- Patricia Standtal Clarke with SWC and First Congregational Church of Flagstaff, AZ, as minister of Health and Healing
- Gail Joralemon with SWC and First Congregational Church, Albuquerque, NM
- Vernon Meyer with SWC and Sun Lakes United Church of Christ as pastor.
- Diane Thomas with SWC and Faith United Community Church in Dewey, AZ, as pastor
- Doyle Burbank-Williams with SWC and Scottsdale Congregational UCC as pastor
- Lee Milligan with SWC and Casas Adobes UCC, Tucson, AZ, as pastor
- Donna Cavedon with the SWC and Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona, AZ, as assistant pastor

#### **VII. 4-Way Covenants**

Tina Campbell with SWC, Scottsdale Congregational UCC, and Scottsdale HealthCare

#### **III. Ecclesiastical Endorsement for Board Certified Chaplaincy**

None May 2010 – March 2011

#### **IX. Granted Ministerial Partner Standing to Disciples of Christ clergy**

None May 2010 – March 2011

#### **X. Placed on Leave of Absence**

6-10-10 David Weaver requested and was granted a leave of absence for one year.

8-12-10 Pat Slentz requested and was granted a leave of absence for one year retroactive to





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

2009 when her call ended.

- 2-10-11 Gary Reyes was approved for a 4<sup>th</sup> year leave of absence.
- 2-10-11 Karen Negronida was approved for a 4<sup>th</sup> year leave of absence.
- 2-10-11 Dana Bender requested and was granted a leave of absence for one year.

## **XI. Licensing**

- 6-10-10 Approved Luis Gonzalez for another year of licensure to serve as pastor of TOX Ministries, Phoenix, AZ.
- 6-10-10 Approved Ellen King for licensure to serve as pastor of Encanto Community Church. License revoked 8-12-10 when she resigned the call.
- 6-10-10 Approved Diane Schrecengost for another year of licensure to serve as Licensed Minister of Care Ministries, Desert Garden UCC, Sun City West, AZ.
- 8-12-10 Approved Jessie Sustaita for another year of licensure to serve as Pastor of Iglesia Congregacional la Trinidad in El Paso, TX.
- 9-9-10 Approved Josh Whistler for another year of licensure to serve as resident chaplain at the Children's Hospital and at University of Colorado Hospital.
- 2-10-11 Approved Jane Cheek for another year of licensure to serve as pastor of First Congregational Church in Prescott, AZ.
- 2-10-11 Approved Jarrett Maupin for licensure for one year to serve at First Congregational Church in Phoenix.

## **XII. Installations**

- The Rev. William Ingraham was installed as pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Albuquerque, NM, on May 1, 2010.
- The Rev. Deborah Clugy-Soto was installed as pastor of the Desert View UCC, El Paso, TX, on May 8, 2010.
- The Rev. Stephen Van Kuiken was installed as pastor of Rincon Congregational Church, Tucson, AZ, May 9, 2010.
- The Rev. Patricia Standtal Clarke, MD, was installed as Minister of Health and Healing at First Congregational Church, Flagstaff, AZ, on September 5, 2010.
- The Rev. Lee Milligan was installed as pastor of Casas Adobes Congregational Church, Tucson, AZ, on November 7, 2010.
- The Rev. Michael-Ann Veziroglu was installed as Associate Pastor of Desert Palm UCC, Tempe, AZ, on November 14, 2010.
- The Rev. Peggy Roberts was installed as Associate Pastor of the Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, AZ, and Vice President of Spiritual Life Department at the Beatitudes Campus on February 6, 2011.
- The Rev. Vernon Meyers was installed as pastor of Sun Lakes United Church of Christ on March 6, 2011.
- The Rev. Richard Safford was installed as pastor of Angel Fire United Church on March 20, 2011.
- The Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams was installed as pastor of Scottsdale Congregational Church on April 17, 2011.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## **XIII. Taken In-Care/Discernment between May 2010 and March 2011:**

- Andria Davis, Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, AZ (Chicago Theological Seminary)
- Kelly Kahlstrom, First Congregational Church, Phoenix, AZ (Iliff School of Theology)

## **XIV. Other Actions**

- Approved Andy Schwiebert's call to Assistant Pastor at First Congregational Church in Pasadena, CA, as ordainable. His ordination was July 24, 2010, in the Central Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference.
- May 13, 2010 COCAM approved the request from TOX Ministries to begin the process of affiliating with the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ. First Congregational Church, Phoenix, agreed to be their partnering church and Lisa Roger and Dan Mullen from COCAM agreed to be their liaisons.
- October 2, 2010 Las Cruces Christian Church (DOC/UCC) conducted a covenanting service recognizing their new affiliation with the United Church of Christ as well as their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Disciples of Christ Congregation.
- October 3, 2010 Black Mountain United Church of Christ conducted a covenanting service recognizing their new affiliation with the United Church of Christ.
- The Southwest Conference received word on July 20, 2010, that Iglesia Cristiana Centro Vida, a church in formation in Sahuarita, AZ, had disbanded.
- Desert Spirit UCC ceased having services in the spring of 2010 and was officially reported to the national office as closed on April 6, 2011.

## **XV. Other Activities of the Committee on Church and Ministry**

- Conducted Boundary Training for lay leaders and their pastors in all areas of the conference February 2011. This is something new and it seemed to be well received. The facilitators were the ones below with Judy Green-Davis substituting for Tina Campbell.
- Conducted Boundary Training for clergy:  
Albuquerque, NM, Nov. 17, 2010; facilitators Lee Albertson and Sue Joiner  
Mesa, AZ, January 27, 2011; facilitators Len Silvester and Tina Campbell
- March 2011 COCAM began a clergy fitness review. To insure impartial handling of the case, was referred to another conference.
- Conducted a Situational Support Consultation.
- Conducted clergy exit interviews for the Church of the Painted Hills, Tucson, AZ. and Faith United Community Church, Dewey, AZ.
- Oversaw the distribution of scholarships to SWC seminarians. Total amount distributed during the 2010-2011 academic year was \$5,000.00.

## **Church Anniversaries (May 2010 – March 2011)**

- The Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona, AZ celebrated 50 years on September 12, 2010
- United Church of Sun City, AZ, celebrated 50 years on October 10, 2010

## **Ordination Anniversaries to be celebrated before 2012 Annual Meeting:**

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Rebecca Delzell, Pamela Hines, Diane Thomas, David Weaver

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Karen Ballou, Donna Cavedon, Kay Main, John Mansell, Bruce Turner, Karen MacDonald

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Rudolph Schnabel





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT 2010 -2011

Personnel Manual, Employee Evaluations, Conference Minister Evaluation, Getting Legal Advice, Consulting With Other Conferences Personnel Committees, Discerning, Praying, Surveying, Eating, Sharing, Laughing, and Working would be would be the accomplishments, activities and characteristics mentioned were a story to be written about the Southwest Conference's Personnel Committee.

The grand accomplishment, 2010-2011, was the completion of the new Personnel Manual, which was approved by the Board on March 5th. The new Manual contains new definitions for staff, procedures for evaluating employed staff and the conference minister, a policy against sexual harassment, clearer complaint and grievance procedures, a new personal time off policy for employees hired after March 5, 2011, and revisions in other sections taken from the 2002 Manual. Churches and individuals wishing to receive an electronic copy of the Manual should contact Barbara Decker at [BDecker@uccswc.org](mailto:BDecker@uccswc.org).

The employed staff was evaluated for the third year. This, however, is the first time Constant Contact was used to facilitate survey feedback. The participant return was excellent. For the first time the Conference Minister received feedback on his performance. Using the protocol in the Personnel Manual input was solicited from the Board and Committees of the Conference, youth, other conference ministers, and the UCC General Minister and President. It is with great pleasure that the concurrence was that the SWC-UCC has outstanding leadership and support. Hip, Hip Hooray!

After 4 years as chair of the Personnel Committee, I will be relinquishing my role to Dave Stone. I will continue to be a member of the Committee. It has been a pleasure being the chair during the past four creative years. I particularly want to thank the members of the Committee for their outstanding work - Rev. Steve Davis, Rev. Barb Doerrer-Peacock, Mr. Dave Stone, and Rev. Lee Milligan. Special thanks are also for Brendan Mahoney (past member and current Moderator) and to Conference Minister, John Dorhauer.

Grace and Peace,  
Patricia Dunn,  
Personnel Committee Chairperson  
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## SWC JUSTICE WITNESS TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

Friends and Colleagues,

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I welcome the opportunity to report on the recent activities of your Justice Witness Team.

Having heard your passion and concerns at our Justice Forum and congregational listening sessions your Justice Witness Team narrowed its focus to five issues:

Immigration Reform, Prison Ministries, Caring Community, Eco-Justice, GLBTQ Concerns.

We have a long way to go as a Conference to realize the networking and mutual resourcing potential that we say we desire. But we have generated advocates for several of the issues we endeavor to address together.

Immigration: Just 3 examples of our engagement primarily in AZ... The UCC Umbrella of OneAZ (a collaboration of non-profit organizations to register low propensity Hispanic voters) registered 230,000 voters. The SWC worked collaboratively, received a \$15,000 grant from National UCC and For Freedoms Fund, hired an organizer, canvassers, and with volunteers from Church of the Good Shepherd, Desert Palm, Shadow Rock, Jewish, Moslem, and Latino Pentecostal congregations registered over 500 voters. That umbrella is expanding under SWC UCC leadership for a broader coalition for 2011-2012 called OneAZ/Interfaith Leaders.

Shortly after Governor Jan Brewer signed SB1070 the Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita helped coordinate a Tucson area clergy and church group that has focused extensively on immigration and border issues. Some of the activities have included a press conference, an educational forum, a migrant memorial service, a day-long vigil, as well as monthly solidarity meetings. In addition, the Good Shepherd participated in the OneAZ voter registration project and registered over 350 people on the permanent early voter registry. The Green Valley Samaritan group has expanded to over 170 volunteers who are daily in the desert searching for migrants in distress, putting water on migrant trails, writing articles and letters to newspapers, working with deported migrants in Nogales, Mexico and picking up litter. In January we held our 7th Annual Border Issues Fair and Concert, which educated and inspired over 350 local residents and national visitors. This year the Good Shepherd has had 4 young adult volunteers from the UCC Volunteer Services who are working in local social service and justice based agencies and doing border work.

Rev Liana Rowe's ministry would pass for exceptional conference-wide engagement in and of itself: Secretary of the BOD for Somos America; member of the Boycott AZ committee; participated in/or facilitated numerous actions or prayer vigils around SB 1070 and continuing with current slate of anti "other" bills; coordinated testimony for public hearing on CCA prison proposal; worked with Phx area volunteers on OneAZ project; Phoenix facilitator on BOD for Humane Borders; 9 day speaking tour of NH UCC churches on "Immigration: the view from Arizona" ; started OWL program at Shadow Rock, expanding to include other churches; Collaborated with NH Conference UCC on nuclear weapons resolution going to General Synod;





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

National Trainer, Co-Facilitated Justice LED Regional Training (train the trainers) in So CA ...

Prison Ministries: Chaplain Brian Fertig has convened a ministry of volunteers. We officially established the presence of programs for prisoner and family support and made a call to churches through the SWC web page to participate in the process by becoming a part of the Life Connection (and soon to be Threshold) programs. Churches can provide mentorship for inmates when they are released. Our goal this year was mainly one of building awareness.

Called to Care: Robert Koth has convened Called to Care Coordinating Council (CCCC) Our mission is to equip our participants for ministry as care givers with the goal of creating caring congregations through education, covenant, welcome, support groups, and advocacy. Education consists of planning monthly speaker meetings on topics that develop our caregiver skills and strengthen our faith in God. Through biblical and theological discernment we covenant with God, families, and the wider world. We promote the UCC initiative called "Widening the Welcome: Inclusion for All" by suggesting ways congregations can be more welcoming to people with special needs. We encourage participation in support groups such as NAMI, AA, and NA, and the Multi-Functioning Families Group and collaboration with advocacy organizations such as the Arthritis Foundation, AZ ASSIST, PAFCO, Southwest Conference "Widening the Welcome" Inclusion Team, Children's Action Alliance, NAMI, ABIL and the Arizona Disabilities Law Center. (website: [www.CalledToCare.com](http://www.CalledToCare.com))

Eco-Justice and GLBTQ Concerns are the next proposed initiatives for SWC JW based on the expressed concerns of our covenant partners. Strong and vital ministries already thrive throughout our SWC. Speak to the youth about their eco-justice and animal rights activities. Speak to members of the United Church of Santa Fe about their creative eco-justice ministry. Speak to members of Desert View UCC in El Paso, First Congregational UCC Albuquerque, First Congregational UCC Phoenix about their ministries and advocacy with the GLBTQ communities. I could go on and list Adult Servant Leader Honoree, Rev. Daniel Erdman and Iglesia Congregational Unida, the community ministry of TOX in the midst of brutal treatment in AZ ... Justice Witness Ministry.

That's our Team. Your congregation. You. Over 125 advocates from the SWC currently engaging together. I could say more – about our participation in creating "The Seven Resolutions Against Prejudice, Hatred, and Discrimination" with Jewish, Christian, and Moslem faith leaders, 200 marchers from the SWC walking together protesting SB1070 ... we're just beginning.

Here's our core group:

Noel Anderson, Lee Clegg, Ellen Eyberg, Brian Fertig, BJ Johnston, Robert Koth, Randy Mayer, Phil Reller, Liana Rowe, Fletch Wideman

Phil Reller,  
Justice Witness Team Convener  
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 2010

Two important things happened this last year that have had an impact on the SWC and its long range Growth and Development goals. The first was that at last year's Annual Meeting, the Church Growth and Development Team felt called to challenge themselves and the Conference to initiate 8 new church starts by the next Annual Meeting. I remember sitting in the meeting room with the committee when those words were first spoken, and they were followed by a long silence. The silence reflected a little bit of fear: we can't really talk about that out loud unless we intend to do something about it. And it had been a while since we had even tried. But the more we thought about it, the more we thought – well, why not put it out there and try. And so we did. The Committee tried to communicate their passion and enthusiasm and vision for this at the Annual Meeting, and set 8 new church initiatives as our goal.

The second thing that happened came as a result of my work with a Corporate Coach – an incredible resource whose love for the church compelled her to donate her time with me for a full year. One of the things we did was analyze how my time was being used, and whether or not the current way of functioning was conducive to the Conference reaching its long range goals. In short – it was not. After a careful study of my work habits and practices, it was revealed that 96% of my time was spent doing what we called 'maintenance work,' important work, to be sure. But when the Board saw that number we all realized that if 96% of my time and effort was spent maintaining current structures, no new life was going to emerge and after 5 years of this none of our long range goals would shift. As a result, I worked with the Board to imagine a very different way of doing what I do. The goal was to get closer to a 50/50 split – 50% of my work doing maintenance strategies and 50% spent on time that would make possible our long range goals. That has made a profound difference.

The biggest difference is the time it has given me to work with both renewing churches and new church starts. As of the writing of this report, six churches in the SWC have voted to partner with the SWC to undergo strategic planning to revitalize their church, and six new church initiatives are at various stages of development. I don't know if that qualifies us for hitting our target of 8 – but I never imagined we would have come this far in one year. What is clear is that this will remain a primary focus of my time and our resources for the foreseeable future: developing strategic approaches with our partnered revitalizing churches; and working closely with the leaders of our emerging new church initiatives. Part of that will mean working closely with a new Church Growth and Development Ministry after the restructure of the Conference is complete. It will also mean training a gifted assessment team to help the Conference determine how to best utilize the resources we have for the growth and revitalization of our churches.

In January of this year, the Conference signed a contract with the Center for Progressive Renewal. That contract does a number of things, among them: allows new church start pastors to enroll free of charge in the online Church Planters 101 course; gives every new church planter





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

in the SWC access to a personal coach throughout the year; obligates the Center to provide periodic webinars for the SWC (the first of which was presented in March with our Tuesdays with the SWC, and was on using Social Networks to Grow Your Church); gives us direct access to both Cameron Trimble (who came in January to do one on one training with four of our new church planters and who is coming in June to train our assessment team), and Michael Piazza, who will do a series of training events for our Revitalizing Churches.

One final thought for the report: after the new structure is in place, the creation of a Church Growth and Revitalization Ministry will be one of the most important tasks we will face. That is an open table, and in the new way of operating we invite any and all who have a passion for breathing new life into the church to join us. We will need an array of gifts, talents, and resources. If you feel the call to join us for this very important ministry, do not hesitate to let us know. We will find a way to use your unique and remarkable abilities.

I am extremely grateful to the team that worked through the last 18 months to get us this far: Theresa Blythe, Joan Hurley, Butch Mellott, Katrina Glenn, Noel Anderson, Carlos Osuna, and Brian Frederick-Gray. Their passion and expertise has been invaluable.

John C. Dorhauer  
Conference Minister  
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION REPORT

Available to help local churches with ministries of education, the Southwest Conference Partners in Education are committed to assisting congregations plan and provide effective teaching ministries through workshops and consultation requests.

This past year the Partners have responded to a number of inquiries from local churches regarding curriculum and resources.

Larry Trent and Susan Wadell attended the Western Regional Christian Educators Annual Event where Larry and Susan co-facilitated a workshop on "Using Children's Literature to Teach the Faith." Carol Wilson, Larry Trent and Susan Wadell also introduced the new Faith Practices Resource at the Conference Annual Meeting in Sedona.

Partners in Education continue to be available to churches that have questions or are looking for resources for their educational ministry.

Larry W. Trent,  
Conference Coordinator, Partners in Education  
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## YOUTH AND OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

Firstly, let me thank all of you who make Youth and Outdoor Ministries possible! A special thank you goes out to all the Pastors, Youth Leaders, Advisors, Parents, Volunteers, Host Churches, and Youth who bless us all with their gifts, ideas, creativity, compassion, and faith at every event. We truly appreciate all the time and effort you have dedicated to making these wonderful and meaningful programs a success.

This year came with some changes especially in relation to Thanksgiving Alive morphing into a longer trip called the Winter Youth Service Trip. Youth: we heard you! Every year for the over 30 years that we have been doing Thanksgiving Alive, youth have commented “that was great, but I wish we could have done more” and requested “It should be longer”. Well, we heard you. We moved Thanksgiving Alive to the week in between Christmas and New Years, changed its name to the Winter Youth Service Trip (WYST) and extended it to four full days.

The Winter Youth Service Trip 2011 was an inaugural blast! We travelled to the heart of Los Angeles, CA to volunteer and work with the Sierra Service Project. According to Rachel Anderson, “The Winter Youth Service Trip was rewarding for me because I had the opportunity to work with the people of south-central Los Angeles and I was able to see how grateful they were for the work that I did.” The youth on the trip split into three groups and did a variety of projects around South Central Los Angeles ranging from building a hay barn for an urban equestrian camp to hanging blinds for privacy in a halfway house. The youth aren’t the only ones who return home changed from these trips, the adult advisors do as well. Weston Glenn, one of the adult advisors commented, “My life was impacted this past December when the youth were taken to LA for mission work. It was a cold rainy afternoon and we were to go visit the homeless and hand out socks, hats, and gloves. Because it was so cold and it was raining so hard we were told we should stay in. We refused. We thought what better way to experience what it is like to be homeless. When we arrived, two men were fighting bitterly over an umbrella. We were shaken by that, but began our work. I would eventually find the courage to go to the man who won the fight, and hand him the socks, gloves, and hat. He was moved by that, which I didn’t expect. He looked at me with compassion, said something about how I shouldn’t be out here in the rain, and handed me the umbrella. That act of kindness had a deep impact on me.” Truly, events like the Winter Youth Service Trip touch the youth, advisors, and all the people we meet along the way.

Senior High Sneak Trip 2011 travelled to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah. We focused on social justice issues as they affect our animal friends and companions as well as the beautiful world/environment around us. Brady Meyers came home equipped with new knowledge and tools to make positive change in his community in terms of animal rights; “Best Friends Animal Center showed us and explained to us how important animal cruelty is, as well as provided us with many ways to liberate animals from destructive homes.” Sneak Trip is fun, life changing, and powerful. Our youth return changed by this experience. They bond with new







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

friends, who often continue to support each other as they act to change their communities and the world. This powerful and experiential trip stays with all the participants long after we have returned home. In fact some youth are so impacted by the trip that they want to return back again. Tatum Covey and her peers were so excited and touched by the trip exclaiming "I had such a great time working with the animals and my peers that my church has scheduled to go back this summer."

Junior High Retreat 2011 was in Phoenix, Arizona and focused on having adventures in nature and being better stewards and shepherds of the nature surrounding us. We explored the relationship each of us has with nature and how this relationship nurtures our daily, spiritual, and religious lives. We thought and discussed nature and ourselves as creations of God and how that might affect the way we treat ourselves and how we treat nature. We also played some fun games like a sustainable fishing activity and went for a hike in the Phoenix Mountain preserve. We learned that nature not only sustains us but also can bring us great joy and fulfillment. A youth participant commented afterwards, "My eyes were opened to new knowledge about the environment and how we should protect it, all the while having an awesome time." It was a powerful and enjoyable experience.

The Youth Council met several times throughout the year. Rachel Anderson and Scott Beaudoin served as the co-moderators. Youth Council helped provide planning, inspiration, creativity, and leadership at the Winter Youth Service Trip, Senior High Sneak Trip, Junior High Retreat, and plan to provide leadership at both Super Camp and Senior High Camp. This program which deepens our Youth and Outdoor Ministry Programs is also indispensable as leadership growth, training and development for our young leaders.

2010-2011 members of the Youth Council elected this year:

Rachel Anderson, Shadow Rock UCC  
Scott Beaudoin, Shadow Rock UCC  
Alexandria Boice, Shadow Rock UCC  
Andrea Cottle, The Church at Litchfield Park  
Tatum Covey, Shadow Rock UCC  
Gabriel Johnson, Rincon UCC  
Amelia Keyes, Rincon UCC  
Brady Meyers, Shadow Rock UCC  
Tyler Ragan, Church of the Beatitudes  
Robert Ramirez, Shepherd of the Hills

The 2011 Camp season is quickly approaching! Camp is a powerful and transformative week spent up in the mountains of either beautiful Prescott, Arizona for Super Camp or gorgeous Mimbres, New Mexico for Senior High Camp. We will Take Action, by exploring how we can live out our beliefs on the center stage of life. We will be again returning to Emmanuel Pines for Super Camp, June 19-24. Senior High Camp, June 26- July 1, we will be returning to Camp Thunderbird (the location of Thanksgiving Alive! 2009). Camp is a unique place of safety and self discovery according to Tyler Ragan, "Camp provides a unique safe environment, safe from





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

judging, where you are able to explore who you are, and find truths you might not find in everyday life.” Encourage all those you know to register for camp as you don’t want them to miss out on this life-changing opportunity!

Attendance at camp and other youth and outdoor ministries events have been down as a general trend. We do such wonderful ministries and activities at the Conference level which is why I implore you to promote them in your local churches. As someone who grew up in the SWC Youth and Outdoor Ministry program I can guarantee you that the program has shaped who I am and my continued involvement with church. In fact, most youth and young adults who are active in the Conference and at local churches, came up through out SWC’s Youth and Outdoor Ministry program. Not to mention that most UCC ministers received their call to become ministers at camp. We want to encourage our continued ministry, growth, and vitalization as a denomination, Conference, and as individual churches.

Also, some of you may have noticed the changes to our website. Along with that we have been able to incorporate online registration for camp this year! Payment by credit card is available online as well. We are hoping that utilizing technology in this way will be helpful and increase the ease of reserving yourself a spot for Youth and Outdoor Ministry events.

Speaking payment, Sow the Seed, our Conference youth scholarship fund helps to make our SWC Youth and Outdoor Ministry events accessible to all. Look for some creative ways of fundraising for this essential scholarship fund in the future! In the meantime, please consider giving to this vital part of our ministry. Giving to this fund is greatly appreciated as it is the lowest we have seen it in decades. Please consider a gift to help us continue to be able to extend a welcoming hand to all youth who want to attend our transformative events.

We have many wonderful things in motion for the rest of the year and years to come. Including, but not limited to a Conference-wide mission trip to an American Indian reservation in Arizona through the Sierra Service Project and of course new and familiar twists, adventures, and excitement for our growing calendar of Southwest Conference Youth and Outdoor Ministries events. These are just a few samples of things to come. If you have any ideas or passions you wish to share with Youth and Outdoor Ministries please contact Katrina Glenn ([kglenn@uccswc.org](mailto:kglenn@uccswc.org) or 602-565-5768) as we are always looking to innovate our program and events. According to Brady Meyers, the Southwest Conference Youth And Outdoor Ministries program is essential to his spirituality, “The Youth and Outdoors Ministries impact my life because they establish my relationship with God. My involvement with the Youth and Outdoor Ministries is essential to my connection with God.” I hope we can continue doing this in many different ways long into the future!

Peace and hugs,  
Katrina Glenn  
Youth and Outdoor Ministries Coordinator  
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## ARIZONA ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Spring 2011

*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.*



I return to these words often as the churches continue to work out their common life together. It is like a light that is always shining in front of us, leading us in the work of Christian unity. Ambition and conceit can sometimes get in the way, but I find that among our member churches there is a great desire to find ways for us to pray and work together for the good of the Church and the good of all. Our people genuinely want a greater sense of unity to counteract the prevailing mood of division and partisanship.

We have needed to be much more involved in the public square as of late because there are presently a number of proposals, resolutions, and laws that directly affect the lives of people, anywhere from healthcare, to education, to the environment, to services for the poor and vulnerable. To that end our Public Policy Commission has worked hard at educating and advocating in the areas of responsible budget solutions, health care reform, prison reform, abolition of the death penalty, and comprehensive immigration reform. The voice of our faith traditions on these issues should be clear and reflect our Christian values regarding the dignity of every human being.

The Council has also become involved in inter-religious dialogue, focusing specifically on the Abrahamic religions. With the rise of religious bigotry it is incumbent on the Council to find constructive ways to help our member churches have honest and respectful conversations about our Jewish and Muslim neighbors. We have also been given a grant to develop an inter-religious youth conference on the issue of immigration which will obviously touch on the issues of how we live with people who are different than we are.

We have also been given a grant to work with our seniors to help them manage the changes in Medicare with the new Affordable Care Act. What are the real changes and what stays the same are questions that many people are asking, so we have developed a program to educate and assure people that the changes will benefit everyone. Please contact our office if you would like us to bring the program to your church.

I want to personally thank the members of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, and your Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer for both your financial support of the work we do together in the Council and your willingness to be involved. The witness you bring within and outside the church is powerful and needed. Thank you, and may God continue to bless you in the work of the Gospel.

Yours in Christ,  
Jan Olav Flaaten  
Rev. Jan Olav Flaaten, Executive Director

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# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

*Pacific School of Religion and its President Riess Potterveld send greetings to the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.*

A multi-denominational seminary of the United Church of Christ, PSR has been preparing bold leaders for historic and emerging faith communities since its founding in 1866. Our graduates are known for innovative ministries of compassion and justice around the globe—in urban and rural parishes, higher education, pastoral counseling, the arts, public policy, and many other fields. PSR is a member of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), a consortium of nine Bay Area seminaries.

This year, 248 students are studying in a variety of degree programs at PSR. 55% are female; 45% are male. 26% are under 30; 24% are over 50. 27% of our students are affiliated with the UCC, and those students have an active cohort of UCC faculty, staff, Board members and local clergy who surround and support them as they are formed for ministry.

Assistant Conference Minister Deborah Streeter teaches courses in UCC doctrine and polity. Assistant Conference Minister Carol Barriger is also on campus regularly to meet with students individually and as a group. Together with PSR's Professor Randi Walker and UCC ministers from local churches, the students gather regularly for "salons" offering theological conversation and workshops offering assistance in preparation for practical issues of ministry.

Annual tuition for a full-time student is just over \$15,000. All across the country, seminary enrollment is declining, as churches shrink and full-time positions for clergy are harder to find. While we have always been concerned about the level of student debt that PSR students graduate with, those concerns have taken on a new urgency and have contributed to lower enrollment figures for several years now.

Like many other seminaries, PSR is in the process of "right-sizing" its operations to meet these new realities. This year, some staff positions have been eliminated, and the size of the faculty has been reduced. All faculty and staff have taken reductions in the rate of pension contributions and compensation. Some programs have been modified and cut back. The Earl Lectures move to an every-other-year schedule.

These reductions will allow PSR to be a better steward of the generous support of its friends and donors. They also allow the school to move forward with a renewed vision for the future of theological education. We will move toward more collaborative work with our GTU partners, including shared faculty and administrative resources. We will be offering more classes on-line, not only to students in degree programs, but to lay persons who are seeking intellectual and academic content to bolster their spiritual lives and to enhance their leadership abilities in local churches. There will be more continuing education offerings for clergy, in a "flexible learning" environment—both in person and on-line. The Doctor of Ministry program is being substantially revised.

The challenges being faced by the seminary parallel those being faced by the church. We are together imagining new shapes for communities of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, and Pacific School of Religion takes seriously its mission of preparing leaders for those communities.

Kathi McShane

Vice President for Institutional Advancement





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Greetings from **YOUR** University! As of October 29, 2010, Chapman has been claimed as an official United Church of Christ university. We look forward to strengthening the ecumenical partnership between UCC and Disciples by what we accomplish here. **WE ARE PROUD THAT KATRINA GLENN IS AN ALUMNA AND WE HAVE 7 UCC STUDENTS FROM ARIZONA CURRENTLY ENROLLED:**

**Bryce Anderson** of Shadow Rock, Phoenix; **Lindsey Kearns** and **Annie Mellott** of Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix; **Elizabeth Parker** of First Congregational, Phoenix; **CJ Simonson** of Scottsdale Congregational; and **Trevor Stone** and **Megan Stoner** of Shepherd of the Hills, Phoenix.



### YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS ABOUT CHAPMAN:

- Chapman is a strong liberal arts university—our largest school is a film school. We also have a very highly ranked business school, an excellent program for training teachers, an inspired music conservatory and other arts programs. We currently have just over 6500 students from across the country and some 30 foreign nations. We strongly encourage undergraduates to study abroad. Check us out at [chapman.edu](http://chapman.edu).
- The Office of Church Relations offers a student ministry for UCC and Disciples students: retreats each semester, student-led worship each week, service projects, and other events designed to help students have a strong community as a base for their college years. We want to expose students to progressive Christian thinkers and prepare them for lay and ordained leadership in a changing 21<sup>st</sup> century church landscape.
- WE HAVE EXCELLENT SCHOLARSHIPS. Each participant in the student ministry receives \$2,000/year. UCC and Disciples preacher's kids and grandkids get half tuition. UCC Conference youth leaders also receive half tuition.

### YOU ARE INVITED:

- MARCH 23-23, 2012 to FOUNDERS DAY. This two-day continuing education event is a great time for prospective students and their parents to see the campus. Next year's speaker is Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. A devout Jew herself, Dr. Levine is a noted speaker and writer, helping Christians understand Jesus in his first-century context. CEU's will be offered for clergy.
- YOUR CHURCH WILL RECEIVE A PACKET IN JANUARY, 2012 with more information about Founders Day, a poster and ways to advertise this event in your congregation.



Blessings, Rev. Nancy E. Brink,  
Director of Church Relations at Chapman,  
[brink@chapman.edu](mailto:brink@chapman.edu),  
714.628.7246.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

CLASS	Continuing Member	Nominee	ASSN	CHURCH	CITY
<b><u>MODERATOR</u></b>					
2012	Rev. Lee Milligan		SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
<b><u>MODERATOR-ELECT</u></b>					
2013		Jane Cheek	NAZ	First Congregational UCC	Prescott
<b><u>TREASURER</u></b>					
2012	Alan Cochrane		CAZ	Beatitudes	Phoenix
<b><u>SECRETARY</u></b>					
2013		Barbara Nordlund	CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale
<b><u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u></b>					
2012	Rita Bourgeois		SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
	Jackie Smith		SAZ	Good Shepherd	Sahuarita
2013	Rev. Kristin Barner		CAZ	Shepherd of the Hills	Phoenix
	Rev. Jeffrey Dirrim		CAZ	First Congregational	Tempe
		Bill Hughes	CAZ	Sun Lakes UCC	Sun Lakes
<b><u>COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY</u></b>					
2012		Larry Trent	SAZ	Rincon	Tucson
	Lisa Sampson		CAZ	Scottsdale Congregational	Scottsdale
	Rev Donna Cavedon		NAZ	Red Rocks	Sedona
	Michael Holmberg		SNMEP	Valley Community	Silver City
2013	Rev. Abigail Adkins		CAZ	Church of the Palms	Sun City
		Rev. Bill Ingraham	NNM	Ch. of the Good Shepherd	Albuquerque
	Rev. Dosia Carlson		CAZ	Beatitudes	Phoenix
	Pastor Jessie Sustaita		SNMEP	La Trinidad	El Paso
2014		Pete Norum	NAZ	First Congregational UCC	Prescott
	Lisa Roger		CAZ	First Congregational UCC	Phoenix
	Dan Mullen		CAZ	Shepherd of the Hills	Phoenix
	Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi		SAZ	Casas Adobes	Tucson
<b><u>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</u></b>					
2012	Carol Wilson			SAZ	Rincon
	Rev. Ruthanne Cochrane		CAZ	Shepherd of the Hills	Phoenix
	Pastor Jane Cheek		NAZ	First Congregational UCC	Prescott
	Rev. Deborah Clugy-Soto		SNMEP	Desert View	El Paso
	Andrew Zawadski		NNM	First Congregational UCC	Albuquerque
		Pam Pruess	CAZ	Cong. Church of the Valley	Scottsdale
<b><u>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</u></b>					
2012	Rev. Steve Davis		CAZ	Shepherd of the Hills	Phoenix
	Rev. Barb Doerrer-Peacock		CAZ	South Mountain	Phoenix
2013	Patricia Dunn		NNM	St. Paul's	Rio Rancho
2014		Dave Stone	SAZ	Rincon	Tucson







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REVISED BYLAWS

In 2009, the SWC engaged in a full year of engagement to discern our shared mission and purpose, and to evaluate the extent to which our current practices were suited to help us meet our long range goals. Much came as a result of that, and one was a dawning awareness that our structure inhibited our abilities to reach those goals. A commitment was made to think creatively about how to restructure the Conference in a way that would enhance our ability to move into a better and brighter future.

As a result, the Board came to last year's Annual Meeting asking permission to amend the Bylaws if and when they felt it would enhance our operational efforts (that permission was granted); and with a promise to present a new set of Bylaws to this year's delegates. A Task Force was created, and by May 2010 wrote a document that included a Timeline; Core Concepts, Principles, and Commitments; Essential Components; What Is Broken with the Current Model; and Tasks.

I am happy to report that they hit every timeline as required, writing a first draft by December; presenting a second draft to the Executive Committee in January; a third draft to the Board in March; and a final draft to the Conference by April 1. The document that is now circulating has been reviewed by the Executive Committee and the Board, neither of which made any substantive changes to the document; both of which made necessary corrections to the document; and both of which enthusiastically and wholeheartedly recommended the passage of the new structure and Bylaws by the delegates at Annual Meeting 2011. I would add that the document has also been reviewed and edited by our legal counsel, Frank Fox.

I want to highlight the three primary bodies in the new structure, and state briefly with each one what their essential function is.

The **Mission Planning Board** (MPB) has the responsibility to discern the shared mission of the SWC, and to test whether or not our resources are being fully utilized and wisely stewarded for the sake of that mission. It will set and maintain the long range vision, plan, and mission of the Conference and ensure that we are on track to meet our long range goals. It will meet twice a year in various locations throughout the Conference. It will be a separate and independent body from the Executive Board, not a subsidiary body. It will be comprised of a representative from every church in the Conference, the officers of the Conference, and any SWC representative serving the National structure of the Church.

The **Executive Board** (EB) will manage the business of the Conference. It will be comprised of the officers and five at large members. It will be a separate and independent body from the Mission Planning Board and not a subsidiary body of the MPB, though it will take strong direction from them to ensure that the assets they manage are utilized for the purpose of our shared mission and long range goals.

**Ministry Teams** (MT) will be called for by the MPB, and will be formed in order that the Conference can live out its shared mission. The MTs will be open tables at which all who feel passionate about, called to, and qualified for that Ministry will be welcome to participate. The Bylaws will neither stipulate what teams need to exist, nor will they assume that any team currently created will be needed in perpetuity. As the mission called for by the MPB changes over time, it will be likely that new MTs will have to form while existing ones phase out.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## **Mission Planning Board – MPB**

Members for this selected by each local church; also includes officers of the SWC and SWC representatives to National Boards

Meets twice a year

### **Primary Purpose:**

To discern the mission of the SWC

### **Tasks:**

- To discern and communicate the mission of the SWC to the EB and to all covenant partners
- To become familiar with the mission goals of the denomination and evaluate the compatibility with our Conference goals
- To evaluate the manner in and extent to which our resources are being brought to bear on the mission of the SWC
- To identify what resources are currently unavailable to the Conference that might be needed in order to achieve our mission goals
- To be aware of the extent to which our long range goals are being inhibited or enhanced by our current practices
- To be fully aware of all assets and resources of the SWC
- To maintain access to database of individual gifts, talents, and resources that can be called upon to fulfill our mission goals
- To review all annual reports produced of the Conference entities and determine whether or not they are functioning to help the Conference achieve its mission
- To determine the continued utility or need of any Committee, Board, Ministries, or Task Forces
- To evaluate the purpose, need, and work of the Ministries Teams of the SWC
- To determine whether or not additional Standing Committees are needed for the sake of the Conference
- To identify for the Nominating committee the gifts, skills, and talents they feel are essential on the Executive Board
- To serve as a liaison between the Conference and the local churches, each of which will have a representative; and to communicate directly to the local churches what is happening in the Conference and Wider Church
- To gather twice a year in locations around the Conference for the purpose of completing their tasks
- To make use of developing technologies to enable consistent communication throughout the year and to keep current with Conference activities





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## **Executive Board**

Comprised of the Officers of the Conference and 5 at large members

### **Primary Purpose:**

To resource the Mission of the Conference and to manage the business of the Conference

Meets six times a year

### **Tasks:**

- Enact and maintain the policies of the SWC
- Develop priorities consistent with the mission of the SWC
- Oversee the work of the Standing Committees
- Manage the property and assets of the SWC
- Create a search committee in the absence of a Conference Minister, and hire an Interim when needed
- Establish the budget for the SWC
- Oversee the finances of the SWC
- Create and maintain any Temporary Committees or Task Forces needed to do the work of the SWC
- Determine the staffing needs of the SWC
- Coordinate the programming of the SWC
- Establish new churches

## **Ministries**

Members actively serve on a Ministry when and if they feel called, gifted, and qualified for the purpose for which it is formed

### **Primary Purpose:**

To enact the mission of the Conference

### **Tasks:**

- Meet as needed to undertake the mission goals of the Conference
- Develop networks of Mission and Covenant Partners whose resources can be utilized to fulfill the mission goals of the SWC
- Facilitate and Coordinate the work of our Covenant Partners in the fulfillment of our mission goals
- Develop a pool of available resources that can be used to accomplish our mission goals, and find creative ways both to make use of them and to empower our covenant partners to make use of them
- Discern emerging needs and communicate to the SWC and its Covenant Partners, and recommend shared responses to those needs
- Organize the work of the Ministry Team so that the efforts of all who are participating can be fully utilized and strategically orchestrated
- Report to the Mission Planning Board what they are doing to fulfill the mission goals of the Conference, and whether or not there is a continuing need for the Ministry Team to operate
- Report to the Executive Board and to the Mission Planning Board how any resources that have been allocated to them have been utilized, and what has been accomplished with those resources





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Resolution from United Church of Santa Fe concerning Fundraisers

### Summary:

To request that future fundraisers of the Southwest Conference demonstrate:

- a. an awareness of our responsibility to care for God's creation, especially the deserts in which the Conference is located,
- b. a wise use of the Southwest region's resources, particularly water,
- c. and a commitment to the inclusivity of all persons.

WHEREAS our Biblical faith identifies the desert as a sacred place of dreams and visions, where Hagar heard the voice of God, Jacob saw a ladder of angels, the Hebrew people were fashioned for freedom and Jesus himself was comforted by angels, and

WHEREAS that same faith calls us to care for creation and to love this world as our Creator God loves it; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Santa Fe strongly supports both youth and outdoor ministries, as witnessed by the congregation's long-standing commitment to youth and young adult programming on both a local and conference level; our gathering of pledges for camperships for this summer's camps; our 30-year history of caring for creation; and our Whole Earth Covenant; and

WHEREAS we also support the United Church of Christ's longstanding commitment to the "integrity of creation, justice and peace;" and

WHEREAS an important part of youth and outdoor ministry in the Southwest is education for all ages in caring for God's creation; learning to live as good stewards of the earth, and conserving the unique life and landscape of the desert; and

WHEREAS we want future generations of youth, children and adults in the Southwest to be able to enjoy the beauty and faith lessons of the desert; and

WHEREAS desert is defined as less than 10 inches of water a year and therefore water conservation is central to sustainable life throughout the Southwest; and growing grass for golf courses, even if recycled water and high-tech water systems are utilized, still requires hundreds of thousands of gallons of this precious resource; and

WHEREAS the Conference publicity for the upcoming golf tournament extols the Phoenician Resort's "lush tropical landscape," and "lush" terraced golf course, that encourages a non-sustainable and devastating lifestyle for the desert southwest; and

WHEREAS the Southwest Conference places a priority on inclusivity and the fundraiser is in





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

support of youth and outdoor ministries, but the Golf Tournament \$250 fee (plus the cost of equipment) excludes youth and other persons who can't afford it or who don't know how to play golf, and there are multiple examples of highly-successful, more inclusive and less environmentally damaging fundraisers held through Arizona and New Mexico;<sup>1</sup> THEREFORE the United Church of Santa Fe asks that the Southwest Conference adopt a policy that future fundraisers for any cause, but especially those supporting "youth and outdoor ministries" be examples of caring for the outdoors, be more environmentally sound; show a better commitment to sustaining life in the desert; and be inclusive of as many and diverse people as possible;

FURTHER, the United Church of Santa Fe asks that the Southwest Conference adopt a "Whole Earth Covenant"<sup>1</sup> that commits us to being good stewards of God's creation in all aspects of our life together and that the Conference also encourage local churches to adopt similar covenants so that future generations can not only live on this good earth but can also experience God's presence in the beauty and power of this Southwest landscape.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the recent "Nun Run" – a combination of 1-K, 5-K and 10-K walk/runs held at Tempe's public Kiwanis Park that raised over \$50,000 for a Roman Catholic order and included people of all ages, physical ability and skill.

<sup>1</sup> A copy of the United Church of Santa Fe's Whole Earth Covenant is attached as an example.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## United Church of Santa Fe Whole Earth Covenant (Adopted June 21, 2009)

*Included in the founding Covenant of the United Church of Santa Fe is this pledge: "We endeavor to live in harmony with all creation as stewards of the earth." In keeping with this, and in the face of a changed world, we propose this Whole Earth Covenant.*

*We live and move and have our being in God, Creator of the cosmos.*

*God's creation is seamless. It births and sustains all life, together.*

*The lesson of creation's seamlessness is clear: planetary health is primary, human well-being is derivative. If the rest of nature does not thrive, neither do we.*

*Yet now we are altering the conditions for life as we know and cherish it. The same achievements that have taken some across the threshold of abundance have brought much life to the brink of ruination. We are at a turning point of our own making and the future of Earth's community of life is uncertain.*

*Accelerated climate change increases planetary uncertainty. Yet Christian faith prepares us for an uncertain world. Forged in turbulent times, Christian faith has again and again sustained and renewed people of many cultures, races, and regions amidst uncertainty and danger. As we practice vigilance to emerging needs Christian faith may call us to even more radical action than we presently envision.*

*Signs of peril are also tests of faith. The immensity and uncertainty pertaining to climate change and the eco-crisis dare not sever bonds between persons or with the rest of life. Solidarity and justice are imperatives. This means that the moral and spiritual climate is as vital to sustainability as the physical climate is cause for concern and sometimes despair.*

*In sum, God calls us to dedicate ourselves anew to an Earth-honoring faith.*

***Accordingly, we commit ourselves to the following actions:***

As a Congregation:

- Develop through worship, education and our interpretation of Christian traditions, a spirituality that reflects our home in the desert and our respect for all of creation in all its diversity. We learn from the desert, its peoples and their heritage; and we celebrate its life.
- Model institutional practices that sustain and restore resources. We will be vigilant to emerging needs and challenge ourselves to continually seek deeper and more effective responses.







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

- Promote justice for humanity and for the rest of creation through education and outreach to the wider community and through support of governmental laws and policies that insure economic and ecological security. Peace and justice *to* creation, as well as *in* creation, is the extension of our ongoing commitments as a community of faith and as leaders in the wider Christian community.

## As Individuals:

- Deepen our spiritual awareness of the sacredness of all creation and of God's call to us to live in harmony with the natural world of which we are a part.
- Change our lifestyle and consumption patterns to become more responsible guardians of God's creation, which sustains us and which we hold in trust for future generations.
- Engage the issues threatening our planet while understanding the limits of our comprehension in the face of the complexities of both the problems and their solutions.
- Recognize that as desert dwellers we have a special responsibility to protect its delicate ecosystems, and not least, to wisely use water which is precious to all life.



**Final 2011 Budget & 2012 Top Line Proposed Budget for Southwest Conference UCC**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Budget</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Budget</b>	<b>2012 Top Line</b>
OCWM (Pledged)	355,982	337,680	320,371	288,500	341,325
Per Capita (Pledged)	74,594	71,695	70,492	73,500	75,000
Annual Meeting	20,195	22,000	23,593	22,000	22,000
Interest (Banks, Conerstone, UCF)	4,165	4,500	895	1,000	1,000
Undesignated Use	7,139	3,000	13,255	15,000	15,000
Miscellaneous Revenue				3,700	
Fundraisers: Golf Tournament and others				25,000	25,000
Strength Contribution	4,014	4,000	2,697	3,000	3,000
Transfer from New Church Starts Reserve	2,500	5,000	0	10,000	10,000
Transfer from Undesignated General Fund	12,702	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Youth ministries reserve	24,383	30,000	30,965	0	0
<b>Conference Income</b>	<b>505,674</b>	<b>477,875</b>	<b>462,268</b>	<b>441,700</b>	<b>492,325</b>
<b>Committees for Conference Ministries</b>	11,575	11,600	11,738	9,200	#REF!
<b>Conference Life and Ministries</b>	41,886	39,000	35,961	37,168	#REF!
<b>Church &amp; Ministry Operations Programs</b>	2,921	4,000	5,176	4,500	#REF!
<b>National &amp; Regional Expense</b>	5,515	5,200	5,109	4,200	#REF!
<b>Mission</b>	108,133	103,200	95,975	88,075	#REF!
<b>Administration &amp; Communication</b>	34,541	32,350	29,326	39,700	#REF!
<b>Building &amp; Equipment Operation</b>	36,221	29,000	27,518	26,500	#REF!
<b>Called Ministerial Compensation &amp; Benefits</b>	104,064	106,556	105,060	107,221	#REF!
<b>Office Staff Compensation &amp; Benefits</b>	160,818	146,969	142,097	125,136	#REF!
<b>Conference Expenses</b>	<b>505,674</b>	<b>477,875</b>	<b>457,960</b>	<b>441,700</b>	<b>#REF!</b>
<b>Total Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,308</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	2009 Actual	2010 Budget	2010 Actual	2011 Budget
<b>Committees for Conference Ministries</b>				
Church Growth & Development Committee	2,465	2,500	3395	1500
Justice Witness Ministries Committee (Includes ONA & Border Task Force)	1,732	1,900	1942	2000
Youth Ministry Committee	764	500	362	500
Youth Council	366	500	467	500
Stewardship/Mission Interpretation	0	0		
Board of Directors & Executive Council	4,212	4,200	5200	4200
Financial Oversight & Endowment Committees	145	500		0
Nominating Committee	676	750		0
Personnel Committee	1,215	750	372	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,575</b>	<b>11,600</b>	<b>11,738</b>	<b>9,200</b>
<b>Conference Life and Ministries</b>				
Annual Meeting	16,129	17,000	16534	17000
Clergy Retreat	0	0		
Conference Minister's Discretionary Fund	0	1,000	101	500
Staff Development & Travel	2,068	1,500	448	500
Conference Minister's Expenses	16,730	18,000	18259	12000
Youth Ministry/Camp Travel	1,503	1,000	556	750
Partners in Education	50	0		
Search & Call		0	63	255
Contract Workers	4,560	0		6163
Leadership Events/OWL	846	500		
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,886</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>35,961</b>	<b>37,168</b>
<b>Church &amp; Ministry Operations Programs</b>				
Committee on church & Ministry Meetings	2,469	3,000	4307	3500
COCAM Issues/Training Boundary/Polity	452	1,000	869	1000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>5,176</b>	<b>4,500</b>

	2009 Actual	2010 Budget	2010 Actual	2011 Budget
<b>National &amp; Regional Expense</b>				
Council of Conference Ministers (Dues)	1,143	1,200	1109	1200
General Synod Reserve Expense	0	4,000	4000	0
General Synod Expense (Actual)	4,372	0		3000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,515</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>5,109</b>	<b>4,200</b>

<b>Mission</b>				
<b>National contribution (25% OCWM)</b>				
Campus Ministry/Conference Pledge	1,800	1,800	1238	1200
Pacific School Of Religion	500	500	375	250
Arizona Ecumenical Council	6,000	6,000	6000	6000
New Mexico Conference of Churches	6,000	6,000	4500	4500
Ecumenical Delegates' Expense	1,088	1,000	270	500
Interchurch Resource Center	3,500	3,500	3500	3500
WHEAT	250	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>108,133</b>	<b>103,200</b>	<b>95,975</b>	<b>88,075</b>

<b>Administration &amp; Communication</b>				
Accountant Tax Preparation	300	300	300	300
Accounting/Payroll Service	16,030	12,700	12515	12000
Books for Office Use	184	100	147	150
Miscellaneous	367	500	395	500
Bank Fees	0	0	218	250
Audit Reserve Funding	0	0	0	2000
Office Supplies	3,396	4,000	2880	3500
Postage	4,126	4,000	3807	4000
Newsletter	380	0	0	0
Telephone & Internet	3,775	4,000	3968	4000
Legal Expenses	0	1,000	0	0
Copier	4,518	4,500	3981	4500
Fax Machine..Net of Income	225	250	402	250
Other Printing	1,240	1,000	713	750
Sabbatical Reserve				7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,541</b>	<b>32,350</b>	<b>29,326</b>	<b>39,700</b>

	2009 Actual	2010 Budget	2010 Actual	2011 Budget
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**Building & Equipment Operation**

Insurance (Liability/Auto/Work Comp)	2,597	2,500	4340	4500
Repair & Equipment	1,523	1,500	264	1000
Computer Equipment	1,309	2,000	76	1000
Office Rent	30,792	23,000	22838	19000
Car Maintenance				1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,221</b>	<b>29,000</b>	<b>27,518</b>	<b>26,500</b>

**Called Ministerial Compensation & Benefits**

Conference Minister				
Base Salary	45,000	45,000	45000	45000
Housing	25,000	25,000	25000	25000
		0	0	0
Wage Sub-Total	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000

Called Ministerial Benefits-CM

Health/Dental	17,859	18,851	18855	21016
Pension/Life & Disability Ins(Pen 14% Dis 1.5%)	10,850	10,850	10850	10850
Professional Expenses (Bks, Subs, CE)	0	500	0	
Continuing Education	0	1,000	0	
Social Security Offset (7.65%)	5,355	5,355	5,355	5355

Benefits Sub-Total	34,064	36,556	35,060	37,221
<b>Total Called Ministerial Staff</b>	<b>104,064</b>	<b>106,556</b>	<b>105,060</b>	<b>107,221</b>

**Office Staff Compensation & Benefits**

Office Administrator	39,462	39,312	39312	39312
Asst to Conference Minister	30,726	30,576	30576	30576
Communications Director	35,094	14,560	13104	0
Youth Person	14,437	22,000	23001	23000
Salary Camp Assistant	0	0	0	0
Staffing Contingency				0
Wage Sub-Total	119,719	106,448	105,993	92,888

**Staff Benefits**

Health/Dental	14,083	12,774	12140	11,333
Pension/Life & Disability Ins(Pen 14% Dis 1.5%)	17,857	16,499	15854	13809
Employer Fica (7.65%)	9,159	8,143	8110	7106
		0		0
<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>41,099</b>	<b>143,864</b>	<b>142,097</b>	<b>125,136</b>

Historic 2010 Pledges 2011

Church #	Church Name	10 EOY Mem	09 OCWM Actual	10 OCWM Pledge	10 OCWM Actual	11 OCWM Pledge	10 Actual v 11 Pledge	10 Per Cap Paid	11 Per Cap Pledge	11 Trvl Pledge	11 SWMF Pledge	11 Sow/Seed Pledge
15	Sin Fronteras		556	355	355	0	-355	0	0			
30	First Cong Flagstaff	69	500	0	100	0	-100	747	690	69		
35	The Good Shepherd, Sah	300	31,373	31,300	31,399	33,372	1,973	2,430	2,700	300		
50	Desert Heritage	162	1,200	600	600	600	0	600	600			
60	Nogales	36	1,475	1,000	481	1,000	519	287	380	38		
70	Oro Valley	134	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	0	1,161	1,161			
75	TOX		350	600	400	400	0	0	0			
80	Encanto	74	4,197	4,000	4,010	3,900	-110	376	610			
90	First Cong Phoenix	430	10,500	11,000	11,000	11,500	500	3,699	4,300	430		
100	South Mountain	27	3,659	3,400	3,400	3,400	0	270	270	27		
110	Beatitudes	863	36,006	38,500	38,510	38,500	-10	8,772	8,000			
115	Shadow Rock	501	40,968	40,891	34,890	13,200	-21,690	4,860	4,800			
120	Shepherd of the Hills	380	25,000	21,170	21,170	9,000	-12,170	3,574	4,180			
130	First Samoan CCC	67	500	500	500	1,000	500	576	670	67		
140	West Congregational	76	1,080	1,020	1,020	780	-240	711	0			
150	First Cong Prescott	119	1,665	1,000	1,041	1,500	459	1,071	1,190			
155	Faith United Dewey	33	295	0	0	0	0	379	330	33		
157	Black Mountain	60	0	0	0	40	40	0	600	60		
158	Cong'l Ch of Valley	85	6,050	6,450	6,150	7,065	915	900	850	85		
160	Scottsdale Cong'l	133	23,187	14,518	14,518	14,043	-475	2,320	1,330		2,900	
170	Red Rocks	596	18,000	18,000	18,890	18,000	-890	5,416	5,960	596		
180	Sierra Vista	92	200	350	350	350	0	900	900			
185	Church of Palms	314	13,850	13,810	13,810	14,546	736	2,871	3,140	314		
190	United Ch Sun City	307	10,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	2,457	3,070	307		
193	Desert Garden	300	10,000	10,000	7,500	7,500	0	3,762	3,000	300	750	
195	United Ch Sun Lakes	205	10,248	8,456	8,956	8,456	-500	1,890	2,050	205	206	
200	First Cong Tempe	82	625	1,500	0	0	0	0	0			
205	Desert Palm	251	9,090	9,900	9,900	12,500	2,600	2,430	2,510	251	1,000	1,500
207	Marshallese Ministry Tempe		0	25	87	100	13	165	150			
210	Tombstone	79	600	700	775	700	-75	315	300			
220	Casas Adobes	357	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	3,213	3,570			
223	Painted Hills	147	6,084	5,500	6,005	4,725	-1,280	1,369	1,200			
230	First Cong Tucson	25	225	0	360	475	115	250	250	25		250
240	Rincon	300	13,350	14,500	14,500	14,500	0	2,556	3,000		1,000	
245	Marshallese- Tucson	177	400	400	400	800	400	75	0			
260	First Cong Albuq	383	8,300	8,400	8,400	9,000	600	2,000	2,000	300		
270	Ch of Good Shep Albuq	170	19,235	18,482	18,181	19,500	1,319	1,427	1,700	170		
280	Iglesia Cong Unida	20	1,289	900	825	900	75	165	200	20	267	
290	Angel Fire		274	0	0	0	0	548	0			
308	First Christian	126	0	0	0	1,074	1,074	1,050	630	63		
310	Los Alamos	301	0	0	1,500	0	-1,500	0	1,500			
315	St. Paul's	98	1,337	1,200	1,378	1,200	-178	900	900	100		
318	Santa Fe	335	17,415	14,745	3,636	0	-3,636	3,071	3,360			
320	Valley Comm Silver City	45	1,000	1,000	2,012	1,950	-62	280	450	45	315	
325	Desert View EP	44	653	760	760	922	162	377	440	44		
330	Iglesia La Trinidad	24	0	0	0	120	120	0	240		120	
400	Yuma	28	1,105	1,200	1,200	1,000	-200	270	270	28		
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8,355</b>	<b>354,841</b>	<b>337,132</b>	<b>319,969</b>	<b>288,618</b>	<b>-31,351</b>	<b>70,490</b>	<b>73,451</b>	<b>3,877</b>	<b>6,558</b>	<b>1,750</b>





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## 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 an officer on the Board of Directors: \_\_\_\_\_ (office)

\_\_\_ on the Executive Committee

\_\_\_ as a General Synod Delegate

\_\_\_ as an Annuitant Visitor

\_\_\_ as an Office Volunteer

\_\_\_ as a Committee member (please indicate which committee, if you have a preference)

\_\_ Justice and Witness Ministries

\_\_ Church Growth & Development

\_\_ Nominating

\_\_ Stewardship & Mission Interpretation

\_\_ Youth and Outdoor Ministry

\_\_ Personnel Committee

\_\_ Committee on Church and Ministry

\_\_ Other area of interest \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to: SW Conference, 4423 N. 24<sup>th</sup> St, #600, Phoenix, AZ 85016

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. Some committees 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!





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FOR TRAVEL TO THE SWC ANNUAL MEETING

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

OR

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

OR

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form plus any required receipts to: SWC UCC  
4423 N. 24th St., Suite 600,  
Phoenix, AZ 85016







# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

STAY CONNECTED ❖ GET INFORMED

## Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

Website: [www.uccswc.org](http://www.uccswc.org)

Events and news from the Conference & churches, SWC churches directory, resources for clergy, churches, 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:

Sign up for SWC E-News  
Privacy by SafeSubscribe<sup>SM</sup>



Southwest Conference page on Facebook, on the SWC home page select:



## United Church of Christ

Website: [ucc.org](http://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](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.





# SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION

### SWC Officers 2010-2011

Brendan Mahoney, Moderator, First Congregational UCC, Phoenix, AZ  
Rev. Lee Milligan, Moderator Elect, Casas Adobes UCC, Tucson, AZ  
Alan Cochrane, Treasurer, Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, AZ  
Susan Wadell, Secretary, Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix, AZ

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

- The Planning Committee: Brendan Mahoney (Moderator), Rev. Lee Milligan (Moderator Elect), Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, Rev. Lee Albertson, Paul Hook and Andy Zawadzki (Local Arrangements), Holly Herman (office), Peggy Ice (Communications), Barbara Decker (office), and Katrina Glenn (Youth),
- Matt Smith (Audio/Visual), Adam Dorhauer (Calligraphy), Rev. Bill Ingraham (New Delegate Orientation), Lisa Roger (graphic design), Meth Norris (minding the "store")
- The host churches: First Congregational, Iglesia Congregacional Unida, Church of the Good Shepherd, and St. Paul's-for all their volunteers and assistance in a hundred ways
- Mark Clark, Parliamentarian
- Joanne Vredenburg, our volunteer Secretary for this Annual Meeting
- Angie Witmer, worship coordinator
- Our SPECIAL guests: Cally Rogers-Witte, David Coatsworth, Susan Sanders, and Peter Makari, Wider Church Ministries
- Gordon Gilles (Cornerstone), Sandy Lueschen Sandahl (United Church Funds), Nat'l UCC reps, Elice Higginbotham and Max Surjadinata (World Council of Churches) and Vy Nguyen (Church World Service), our mission partners
- Betsy Stirbens and Liz Analla (YASC), Larry Cummings (Text4Faith), and Peggy Warner
- Musicians: Holy Water and Whiskey, Russ Parker (organist/accompanist)

**All of YOU who attended the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference.  
Without you there is no conference!**

Sincere apologies to anyone I have missed. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!**

