



In the Loop with the Southwest Conference UCC May 11, 2012

In This Issue

- Register for camp today!
- Annual Meeting News
- Transitions
- Area Events
- National News & Events
- Calendar

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Time is running out! Register by May 21st

Camp brochures have been mailed to your churches and online reservations are open through the SWC website. Remember, even if you reserve your spot online, you still need to return all paperwork to the SWC office.

[Find out more about camp and register your child cb 'H Y'GK 7 'K YVgJh'hcXUm](#)



Churches: help your kids afford camp!

The SWC can scholarship up to 1/3 of camp fees for your campers if the local church can match those funds. (SWC funds are need based.) We don't want any child to miss camp - so try to come up with some fun fundraisers to help pay their 1/3 and yours, too.

National Youth Event- Join the ROADTRIP



NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT
JULY 10 - 13, 2012
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana



The SWC is putting together a **Roadtrip** to the National Youth Event July 9-15. [Information is on the SWC website.](#) You may register for NYE through the conference by sending in your forms by May 21st. Cost for the Roadtrip, including NYE costs, is \$650. If your church is registering a group for the event, please inform the SWC office. We want the SWC contingent to be cohesive and together (as much as possible given this collection of folks!)

Sow the Seed scholarship money is available for up to 1/3 of

the fees. Churches will need to sponsor an additional 1/3. Get a friend who has never been to a SWC event to sign up and get \$50 off your registration fee.

Questions about camp or NYE?

Call the SWC office at 602-468-3830.

Annual Meeting was Awesome!

[Check out our pictures from the meeting!](#)



Did you miss the 2012 Annual Meeting? Find out what happened!

Within minutes of opening the meeting, delegates voted to authorize any UCC Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) agency that operates within the SWC region to elect a representative to the Mission Planning Board. They also approved ... [Visit the SWC website to read more](#)

Marshallese Ministry of Tucson welcomed into the SWC

The Marshallese Ministry of Tucson, after being examined and subsequently recommended by the Committee on Church and Ministry, was granted covenant membership by the 2012 Annual Meeting by acclamation.

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

Immigration issue chosen as focus for JWM

The SWC Justice Witness Team brought several options to the Annual Meeting asking the delegates to help choose the major area of interest for the next year. Although all causes are worthy, our limited resources could not be spread among every area of concern. So, while various causes will be supported and addressed by the JWM Team, its major focus will be on Immigration initiatives.

[Watch the JWM page on the SWC website for updates and opportunities to become involved.](#)

Prison Reform Resolution passed by Annual Meeting Delegates

Delegates to the Annual Meeting passed a Resolution calling for reform of the private prison industry.

[Read the resolution: Advocating for Justice in the Prison Industrial Complex on the SWC website.](#)



Three upcoming Ecclesiastical Councils

Churches are invited to attend and send delegates to the following Ecclesiastical Councils:

- Ecclesiastical Council for Commissioning to Ministry of Faith and Money: **Nancy Ackley**,
May 12, Good Shepherd, Sahuarita, 11:00 am
- Ecclesiastical Council for Commissioning to Ministry of Congregational Care: **Susan Aurich**,
June 3, United Church of Sun City, 3:00 pm
- Ecclesiastical Council for Ordination: **Lorraine Cenicerros**,
June 9, Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona, 1:00 pm

Regional News and Events

Arizona Ecumenical Council News

AEC has a new address!

1550 E. Meadowbrook Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85014
602-468-3818
aec@aecunity.net - www.aecunity.net
Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM

Retirement Banquet for Rev. Jan Olav Flaaten

Tuesday, June 5, 2012, 6 to 9 PM,

St. Paul's Catholic Church, 330 W. Coral Gables, Phoenix, AZ 85023

After nearly 10 years as the first full time Executive Director of the Arizona Ecumenical Council and 30 years of parish ministry, Rev. Jan Olav Flaaten is retiring. To honor him and the achievements of the AEC under his guidance, a banquet is planned. We hope many of you can attend and convey your appreciation for his years of service.

For more information, visit [the AEC website](#)



Harp Foundation sponsoring Celebration of AZ Women

On May 20, 2012, The Harp Foundation is hosting an inspirational afternoon experience at the State Capitol --Celebrating Significant Women of the Centennial with the theme, "Living Well into Century Two." We are honoring five women who have had a significant impact in our great state. The event takes place from 4pm-7pm.



This year's honorees are Sandra Day O'Connor, Rose Mofford, Stevie Eller, Maxine Lakin and Patty Simmons. We will be featuring Dr. Gladys McGarey, the Mother of Holistic Medicine or "Living Medicine" who will be engaging our five honorees in a town hall discussion of "Living Well into Century Two." Each woman has made a significant contribution to the growth and well-being of Arizona and the nation. For more information, visit the [Harp Foundation website](#).

Interchurch Resource Center hires new Resource Assistant

The Interchurch Resource Center (IRC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Debra Avery to the position of Resource Assistant, effective May 1, 2012. Debra received her BA from the University of Northern Iowa, her MS in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and her Masters of Divinity at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. She has served congregations in Yonkers, NY, Springfield, IL and Paradise Valley, AZ. Debra is currently seeking full-time ministry in the greater Phoenix area.



While serving on several important committees, she has recently been elected as a Teaching Elder Commissioner to the denomination's 220th General Assembly, PCUSA by the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon. Debra is very familiar with on-line and printed Christian publications and sources, and as an active pastor has often sought out and used these resources in serving her congregations.

She brings excellent computer skills to her IRC assignment that will enhance the stated direction of our shared ministry in the Resource Center. We are confident that Debra will be a valuable asset as we transition our center to better serve the needs of all of our people.

IRC hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00AM to noon

Address: Interchurch Center, 4423 N. 24th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Telephone number: (602) 468-3810

National News and Events

Young Adult Service Communities- openings available

Positions are still available for 2012-2013 with:

First Congregational UCC, Saginaw, MI - Host Church emphasis on the arts

Lansing Area UCC, Social Justice Intern

Pilgrim UCC, Carlsbad, CA - Host Church emphasis on progressive theology and the world

JOB (Justice Overcoming Boundaries), Community Organizer

Solutions for Change, Educator

Keystone UCC/All-Pilgrims UCC-DoC, Seattle, WA - Host church emphasis on Justice

Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH), Organizer

Housing, Food, Health Insurance provided. Possibility of a part-time AmeriCorps Education Grant.

Applications requested immediately for September 2012 start. [Apply online](#)

Questions or Inquiries - contact Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Exec for Volunteer Ministries: blaufusm@ucc.org

You can be the change you want to see in the world!



UCC Coalition National Gathering

We hope you'll join us at this historic event on June 25-28 in Chicago--marking two milestones for LGBT ministry and advocacy in the UCC: our 40th anniversary, and our celebration of Open and Affirming congregation #1,000.

Supporting ministry in ONA churches is a particular theme this year: invite members of your congregation to join us for workshops on LGBT evangelism, support for LGBT youth threatened by bullying and suicide, care and advocacy for LGBT seniors, advocacy for marriage equality and LGBT family rights, sanctuary for LGBT asylum-seekers from other countries--and much more. You'll learn how to revive and re-energize your ONA ministry!

[Find out more and register today!](#)

The UCC
Coalition
for LGBT
Concerns



God's Extravagant Welcome

UCC Musicians National Network gathering

The United Church of Christ Musicians National Network (UCCMNN) will be holding their 2012 biennial conference "Renew, Refresh, Re-imagine" from June 22-25, 2012 at the Country Club Congregational Church in Kansas City, Missouri. This event is for musicians, pastors, liturgical artists, worship planners, and anyone interested in the worship life of the church! The 2012 conference will feature Maren Tirabassi, Paul Hobson Sadler, Christopher Grundy, and composer and guest artist Craig Courtney.

The UCCMNN is sponsored by Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ thanks to your generous support to Our Church's Wider Mission.

[Visit the UCCMNN website for complete information](#)



Pension Board to offer Long Term Care Insurance

Enrollment for long-term care benefits begins May 7, 2012. Active and retired UCC employees and their family members may purchase quality long-term care coverage at discounted rates.

The long-term care program, offered by LTC Financial Partners, can help educate you about how to protect yourself and your family against financial loss that may not be covered through government programs or traditional benefit plans.

Informational webinars will be scheduled in June and July.

[Visit the Pension Boards website for dates and times](#)



Pacific School of Religion to offer summer courses!

Come to Berkeley this summer! Pacific School of Religion is a progressive Christian graduate institution with strong ties to the United Church of Christ. This summer we are offering more than twenty courses from July 2 to August 10 online or at our campus in Berkeley, California. Study faith and politics, preaching, church leadership, and more. The program is designed with the needs of laypeople, practicing clergy and seminarians in mind. Courses may be audited, taken for clergy continuing education units (CEUs) or academic credit. We hope to see you in summer 2012!

[Visit PSR's website for more information](#)



Calendar of Events

May 10 COCAM meeting
May 12 Ecclesiastical Council for Nancy Ackley, at the Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita, 11 am
June 3 Ecclesiastical Council for Susan Aurich, at United Church of Sun City, 3 pm
June 9 Ecclesiastical Council for Lorraine Cenicerros, at Church of the Red Rocks, 1 pm
Oct. 20-24 Clergy Retreat 2012, Spirit in the Desert, Carefree, AZ

Summer Camp dates:

June 17-22 Super Camp
June 24-29 Senior High Camp
July 10-14 National Youth Event

This communication is made possible by your contributions to
Our Church's Wider Mission.

Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

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