

NOMINATING COMMITTEE BIOS

Bios requested	Bios submitted
<p>Brendan Mahoney – Moderator-Elect</p>	<p>Brendan Mahoney is a member of First Church Phoenix UCC and by profession is an attorney. Brendan is a former moderator of the Southwest Conference and his home church and has served in many other capacities for both.</p> <p>Brendan has long been a community activist. He served as chair of the Phoenix Human Relations Commission and many other non-profit boards and organizations.</p> <p>Brendan was a founding member and chair of the State Bar Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, where he worked to revise ethical rules to prohibit discrimination against LGBT in the practice of law. Brendan worked for former Phoenix Mayor Stanton's and wrote Phoenix's LGBT non-discrimination ordinance. He also worked to enact Phoenix Equal Pay Ordinance. He was recognized for his work in historic preservation, receiving the third City of Phoenix Friend's of Historic Preservation Award. He also is the recipient of Phoenix Pride's Phil Gordon Spirit of Phoenix Award, Equality Arizona's William McDonald Lifetime Achievement Award, Echo Magazine Hall of Fame 2014, Center for Neighborhood Leadership Unsung Heroes Award, and was Grand Marshall for the 2015 Phoenix Pride Parade.</p> <p>Brendan lives in Phoenix with his husband of more than 28 years, Gordon P. Street, III and their two undisciplined and much-loved beagles. In his spare time, he plays the harpsichord (especially 16th century English and Spanish works)</p>
<p>Ed Street – Treasurer</p>	<p>Ed is a member of First Congregational UCC in Albuquerque (since 1984). He currently serves on the Finance Committee and over</p>

	<p>the years has served as Treasurer and on other committees. Ed grew up on a farm in South Dakota, near the border with Minnesota. He attended the Congregational Church in Marietta, Minnesota from an early age until coming to New Mexico during college. Ed has been a CPA in Albuquerque for over 40 years with experience in audit, tax, business valuation and forensic accounting. He has worked with entities that hold investments on behalf of individuals, businesses, governmental and Tribal organizations. Ed has also served on the Boards and Finance Committees for the YMCA of Central New Mexico, the UNM Anderson School of Management Foundation, and Sandia Preparatory School in Albuquerque. Ed is married to Jennifer and has a son (Jeremiah) and daughter (Christa). When time (and the weather) permits, he enjoys hiking, bicycling, snow-skiing and a good book.</p>
<p>George Ault – Executive Board</p>	<p>Member: The Church of the Red Rocks Serving Black Mountain UCC as Designated Pastor Just moved to Sun City Up to my eyeballs in moving boxes Just found the coffee pot last night</p>
<p>Stephanie Mack – Executive Board</p>	<p>Dr. Stephanie Mack is a lifelong learner and 52 year UCC member, having been baptized at birth at Fremont UCC in 1971. She has lived (and attended school) in Houston Texas /majority of her life. She brings a fresh perspective and prides herself on being versatile and flexible. Dr. Mack earned her BS at the University of Houston, MPA at Texas Southern University and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Mary Hardin Baylor. Presently she lives and serves in the Albuquerque area, primarily in Tribal Communities and is a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ. She has served in many capacities in UCC churches in Texas and currently, New Mexico. She and her family live in Corrales, NM., a horse town outside of Albuquerque. In her spare time, she enjoys outdoor events, exercise and gardening.</p>

<p>Louis Mitchell – COCAM A</p>	<p>Rev. Louis J. Mitchell is a father to Kahlo and many chosen sons around the country.</p> <p>He serves as the Senior Pastor of Rincon UCC in Tucson Arizona. He is a co-founder of Transfaith with Mx. Chris Paige.</p> <p>Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 2023 National Black Justice Coalition, James Baldwin Legacy Award</li> <li>· 2022 I Am Human Foundation, Lifetime Achievement Award</li> <li>· 2017 International Jose Julio Sarria Civil Rights Award from the Imperial Court of Western Massachusetts</li> <li>· 2015 Claire Skiffington Vanguard Award from the Transgender Law Center for his long-time advocacy for the disenfranchised</li> <li>· 2011 Haystack Award from the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC for work in Social Justice and Social Ministry · Honored by Black Trans Advocacy Conference with a Foundation Award in 2013. The "Louis Mitchell Foundation Award for Empowerment" acknowledges those who increase spiritual, political, or social strength through service, personal encouragement, and availability to the Black Trans Community.</li> </ul> <p>Louis has also had the fun experience of being on two nationally televised game shows!</p>
<p>Ric Brightman – COCAM A</p>	<p>The Rev. Ric Brightman is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and received his doctorate from Eden Theological Seminary. With his spouse, Lynn, he co-pastors Peace UCC in El Paso, Texas on a part time basis and provides pulpit supply for St. Timothy ELCA and Peace ELCA, both in El Paso, Texas. Ric is a member of First Christian Church DOC/UCC in Las Cruces,</p>

	<p>NM. A trained Interim Pastor, he has served interims in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Illinois, and Missouri. He has worked with churches varying from 110 to 1800 members in size. Ric has chaired both Association and Conference Church and Ministry Committees. He served on the Missouri Mid-South Conference Board of Directors chairing the Social Action Committee. In the Southwest Conference, Ric has served on the 2023 Annual Meeting Planning Committee and COCAM B. With a background of over 50 years of ordained ministry, Ric looks forward to bringing his experience in both settled and interim ministry and as a retired pastor to COCAM A.</p>
<p>Julie Parmenter – COCAM A</p>	<p>I am a second career pastor who transferred into the SWC in 2019. I am a member of Taos United Community Church and was asked to serve as a designated term pastor for this small but vital congregation for 2 yrs from October of 2021 to October of 2023. I have been a member of COCAM B since 2019. I had served in a variety of ways for 15 years on the Metropolitan Denver Association's Committee on Church and Ministry before my transfer to the SWC. I am a huge Dr. Who fan!</p>
<p>Kathryn Andrews – COCAM A</p>	<p>Kathryn Andrews is a graduate of Stanford University and Arizona State University's College of Law. Kathryn has been practicing law in Arizona for 33 years. She is the mother of two adult children and lives with her husband in Tempe, Arizona. Kathryn has held various positions at Desert Palm UCC, including as a Sunday School teacher, a member of the Church Council and W.I.S.E. Committee, chair of the Inclusion Team, and a delegate to the Southwest Conference's Annual Meeting. She is a major fan of beagles, rhythm and blues music, and historical fiction.</p>
<p>Bonnie McNair - COCAM A</p>	<p>I am Bonnie McNair living in Yuma Arizona. I am the pastor at Yuma UCC. Fun fact: my ordination ceremony was held at the Yuma Regional Medical Center chapel, and the reception was held at the Yuma UCC in honor</p>

	<p>of my 4-way covenant. I retired as a chaplain from Yuma Regional Medical Center in February 2023. I continue to covenant with the Yuma UCC as the pastor. Of course, retirement from a full-time call in chaplaincy has resulted in creating my side hustle for quilting and hand crafted items.</p>
<p>Susy Gaffney – COCAM B</p>	<p>Wende has received/posted</p>
<p>Tulima Maga – COCAM B</p>	<p>Tulimalefoi Maga, First Lady of The First Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Wittmann, Arizona, was called to her ministry in 2017 alongside her husband, Pastor Tulafono Maga. Born and raised in Hawaii, she graduated with honors from Waianae High School and was a recipient of the Junior Miss Scholarship Pageant in 1987. Engaging in cultural exchange, she spent time with a Japanese host family in 1986. Throughout her life, she has been deeply involved in church activities, starting from her youth and continuing as an adult, serving as an organist and choir director. Married for 35 years, Tulimalefoi is a mother of five and grandmother of five, deeply rooted in family life. With a background in Business Administration, she has served as Secretary for the California South EFKAS Conference. Committed to serving God, she and her husband attended Theological Seminary College Kanana Fou before embarking on missionary work. In her current role, Tulimalefoi is an active leader in the Women’s Fellowship Ministry, utilizing her talents in cooking, singing, leadership, and more to serve both God and her community.</p>
<p>Lynn Brightman – COCAM B</p>	<p>The Rev. Lynn B. Brightman, a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary, has been a pastor for over 25 years. Currently, she serves as part time co-pastor with her husband, Ric Brightman, of Peace UCC in El Paso, Texas. She also provides supply preaching for St. Timothy ELCA and Peace ELCA, both in El Paso. Lynn is a member of First Christian Church, DOC/UCC in Las Cruces, NM. She has served on COCAM A for the Southwest Conference for six years and on last years Annual Meeting Planning</p>

	<p>Committee. Lynn has also served on the Board of Directors of the Missouri Mid-South Conference (chairing the Program Committee) and of the Nebraska Conference. In the Michigan Conference, she was on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.</p> <p>Lynn looks forward to bringing her rich experience pastoring churches ranging from 25 to 400 members to COCAM B.</p>
<p>Jay Wilcher – COCAM B</p>	<p>Jay Wilcher  Pastor of First Congregational Church in Prescott, AZ since 2015  A PCUSA pastor granted standing in the Southwest Conference UCC  Also pastor of First Congregational Church in Pueblo, Colorado from 2001-2007  15 years as pastor of UCC churches; 14 years as pastor of PCUSA churches = UCC wins!  I am not a Senior Pastor, but I am a senior citizen!</p>
<p>Gordon Street – Nominations Committee</p>	<p>Minister Gordon Street  Commissioned Minister- Recovery Spirituality for 5 years-3 way convent with Southwest Conference and First Church UCC Phoenix. Gordon's been a member at his home church -First Church for 23 years and served on the leadership team in various roles over the years. Gordon has been on Staff and currently on the Special Ministry team at First Church. Gordon and his husband Brendan Mahoney have been active participants in the Southwest conference helping shape to where it has come to today.</p>
<p>Christopher Shouten – Personnel Committee</p>	<p>First Church UCC Phoenix  Pre-Member in Discernment  Sr. Director of Marketing for the Kudelski Group  I speak 5 languages fluently, including Basque!</p>
<p>Len Silvester – Personnel Committee</p>	<p>(he, him) Clergy member of SWC since 1996. Ordained 1975 in MA. Served churches in</p>

	<p>MA, RI and AZ. Retired from Church of the Palms in Sun City, AZ, in 2015. SWC Moderator 2007-2009. Has provided interim ministry in Tucson, Sun City West, Scottsdale, and currently Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona, AZ. Lives in Scottsdale with wife, Liz, and much-traveled dog Olive Oyl.</p>
<p>Clara Sims – General Synod Delegate</p>	<p>Rev. Clara Sims is newly ordained and serves part-time as Associate Minister of First Congregational United Church of Christ ABQ, part-time as Assistant Executive Director of New Mexico &amp; El Paso Region Interfaith Power &amp; Light. She holds a Master's of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School and Andover Newton's Diploma Program where her studies focused on the legacies of colonization and theology and climate change. She is delighted to offer her passion for environmental justice and social healing in service of her beloved home state and congregation. Clara served as a delegate at the UCC General Synod in 2023 and serves on the Decentering Whiteness Task Force in the SW Conference</p>
<p>Patricia StandTal Clarke – General Synod Delegate</p>	<p>Shadow Rock UCC</p> <p>Something fun: I live with three miniature schnauzers who outsmart me daily.</p> <p>Hope to contribute: a sense of the diversity amongst us in the SW Conference.</p>

We hit a snag with Susy Gaffney's bio on the nomination slate, but we're glad to be able to add it here!

Hello, I am Rev. Susy Gaffney from First Congregational, UCC in Albuquerque, NM I was ordained in 2001 at First Congregational Albuquerque to the unusual calling of Chaplain to the Boy Scouts of America. I spent the summer following my graduation from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University (Ft. Worth, TX) being a Chaplain to Webelo Cub Scouts and the Boy Scout staff members in the lovely seaside Camp Meriwether of the Pacific Northwest Council BSA outside Tillamook, OR. From this adventure, I was called to do service in Albuquerque as a resident Chaplain with Presbyterian Hospital where I completed a year of Clinical Pastoral Education -- a first step toward receiving UCC endorsement to Chaplaincy ministry -- a requirement of the UCC for this endorsement at the time included serving 5 years in a church pastorate before choosing Chaplaincy ministry as my true call. I spent 5 years serving a rural Iowa church, also called First Congregational, in Glenwood, IA to carry out this requirement. While there, I served on both the Executive Board of the Iowa Conference and the COCAM committee in the Southwestern Iowa Association. From Iowa, I was called to a second year of Clinical Pastoral Education in Honolulu, HI where I specialized in Hospice Chaplaincy in several settings (Kaiser Hospital, the Community Living Center of the Tripler Hospital VA program, and Legacy of Life Hawai'i - the state organ donation center). The year in Hawai'i for CPE stretched into 7 happy years in paradise west. But my husband Ed, who has followed me these past 20+ years, and I missed our children back on the mainland, so we retired and moved back to Albuquerque in 2015, renewing our connection to the Southwest and its beauty. I bring to the Southwest Conference a degree in Religious Education from Defiance College, a UCC institution, and a long held love for this area. Oh, and I was a delegate to the Atlanta, GA General Assembly when the Equality in Marriage resolution was debated, and I was on that committee which forwarded that resolution to a successful vote to accept. Looking forward to offering further service to my favorite Conference.