

**Committee on Church & Ministry A (COCAM A)
Report to 2020 Southwest Conference Annual Meeting
January 2019-September 2020**

Committee Members

Rev. David Buss, Chair (resigned in October 2019)
 Rev. Gail Joralemon, Chair Elect (assumed role as Chair in November 2019)
 Chris Sternberg
 Rev. Brady Abel
 Rev. Jim Alexander
 Lynn Brightman
 Rev. Derrick Elliot
 Rev. Dean Hokel
 Mary Martin
 Martha Phillips
 Stan Roberts
 Rev. Jay Wilcher
 Lorraine Young

**Report from the Chair of COCAM A, The Rev. B. Gail Joralemon
(with thanks to Diana Winston, former COCAM A Chair)**

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

Due to family concerns, the Rev. David Buss had to resign from the committee. The Chair elect took over at the November 2019 meeting.

The work of the Committee has been focused this year on finding the most appropriate ways to use the Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministry as the primary criteria for fitness for ministry.

We continue to wrestle with issues of theology and practice/policy as they relate to our actions. We take very seriously our role in authorizing, supporting and holding authorized persons accountable on behalf of the entire United Church of Christ. We continue to discuss issues related to exempt standing for retired clergy, clergy accountability issues, how to track continuing education, and the care and feeding (metaphorically) of committee members. New issues arise and are thoughtfully addressed and considered for policies.

We have spent a great deal of time in 2020 discussing the process of Fitness Reviews, questioning whether the guidelines in the Manual on Ministry are sufficient to deal with health issues, and how to proceed from a Situational Support to a Fitness Review. We have been bolstered in these discussions by members of COCAM-B and by the national UCC staff of MESA. The Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons has shouldered much of the burden of communications and actions prior to full Fitness Reviews by COCAM A. The Committee members have been careful, deliberate, and compassionate throughout these processes. It is our responsibility to hold congregations and clergy to accountable standards: fortunately, we are up to the task.

This report features items previously reported at the 2019 Annual Meeting; we are switching to the calendar year for reports. (Previous actions are designated by parentheses.)

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

Ordination:

The Rev. Nathan Watts, First Congregational Church – Flagstaff
The Rev. Rebecca McElfresh – The Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita

Transfers of Ordained Ministerial Standing from the Southwest Conference:

The Rev. Leah McCullough to Detroit Metro Association.
The Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer to Living Water Association, Ohio Conference
The Rev. Stephen Wayles to Eastern Assoc., So Calif-Nevada Conference
The Rev. Diane Thomas to Central Southeast Assoc., Ohio Conference
The Rev. Stacy Richards to Denver Metro Assoc., Rocky Mountain Conference
The Rev. Virginia Bergfalk to Eastern Assoc., So California/Nevada Conference

Transfers of Ordained Ministerial Standing to the Southwest Conference

(**The Rev. Julie Parmenter**, from Rocky Mountain Conference)
 (**The Rev. Joycelyn Emerson**, from Central Atlantic Conference)
The Rev. Gretchen Steffenson from Chicago Metropolitan Association
The Rev. Dean Hokel, from Chicago Metropolitan Association
The Rev. Lynne Hinton from Western North Carolina Assoc
The Rev. Dr. Jim Ewing from SoCal-Nev Conference
The Rev. Seth Wispelwey from Central Atlantic Conference
The Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelwey from the Central Atlantic Conference
The Rev. Michael Bush from Penn Southeast Conference
The Rev. Glen Larson from So Cal-Nev Conference
The Rev. Dr. Randi Walker from Northern Cal-Nev Conference
The Rev. James Hogue from Missouri Mid-South Conference
The Rev. David Stabenfeldt from So Cal-Nev Conference
The Rev. Victoria Ubben from Indiana-KY Conference

Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing:

(**The Rev. Dr. Richard Wing** for Congregational Church of the Valley)
The Rev. Deborah Clugy-Soto: due to no longer serving in a UCC setting,
 OMPS standing removed without bias.

Dual Ministerial Standing:

The Rev. Grison Lejello – Phx Marshallese Ministry and UCC-Marshall Islands

Current Members in Discernment

Carson Hawks - First Church - Phoenix
Chris Wickersham – First Church – Phoenix

Shea Darian – Church of the Palms – Sun City
Andrew Ponder-Williams – Desert Palm -Tempe
Jill Pawlowski – The Good Shepherd - Sahuarita

***Joyce Schneider** – Shadow Rock UCC, Phoenix (resigned MID status w/o bias)

Approved for Ecclesiastical Council:

Rebecca McElfresh – The Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita
The Rev. Deborah Hill (previously ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church) First Congregational Church, Albuquerque
Kelly Kahlstrom – Desert Palm UCC, Tempe
Debby Stinton – Church of the Palms, Sun City

Commissioning:

(**Gordon Street**, First Church, Phoenix)

Granted Exempt Standing:

(**The Rev. David Cooper**, First Congregational Church-Flagstaff)
(**The Rev. Clint Reynolds**, Church of the Palms, Sun City)
The Rev. Dr. Sharon Littrell-Marsh, First Congregational- Albuquerque
The Rev Arthur Ellersiek, Desert Garden UCC, Sun City West
The Rev Lee Milligan, Casas Adobes UCC, Tucson
The Rev Ruthanne Cochran, Shepherd of the Hills, Phoenix
The Rev. David Graham, United Church of Sun City
The Rev. Kay Main, Church of the Good Shepherd, Albuquerque
The Rev. Jack Smith-St.Cyr, Silver City
The Rev. Janet Smith-St.Cyr, Silver City
The Rev. John Indermark, First Christian Church [DOC], Tucson
The Rev. Rich Doerrer-Peacock, Desert Palm UCC, Tempe
The Rev. Leroy Calbom, Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix
The Rev. Dosia Carlson, Church of the Beatitudes,Phoenix
The Rev. Jim Scoville, The Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita
The Rev. Carl Schroer, Rincon UCC, Tucson
The Rev. Dr. Jim Ewing, Desert Palm UCC, Tempe
The Rev. Judith Hambleton, Church of the Painted Hills, Tucson
The Rev. Elaine Greensmith Jordan, First Cong. Prescott
The Rev. Carl Eschenbrenner

Leave of Absence:

The Rev. Liana Rowe
The Rev. Nathan Watts

Resigned Ordained Ministerial Standing:

The Rev. Sigmund Podlozny - resigned standing without bias
The Rev. Karen Negronida – resigned standing without bias

Accountability:

The Rev. Sharon Littrell-Marsh - resigned standing with bias 8/22/2019

Approved for Lay Ministerial Standing:

(**Salomona Taliulu**, serving EFKAS UCC, Phoenix)

(**Michael Curry**, Shadow Rck UCC, Phoenix, serving the Southwest Conference UCC as Lay Minister of Disability Awareness, Advocacy, and Education)

Installations:

The Rev. Susan Valiquette, Associate Pastor, First Cong. UCC, Phoenix, AZ 1/13/2019

The Rev. Mike Lonergan, Pastor, Church of the Painted Hills, Tucson AZ 2/03/2019

The Rev. Derrick Elliott, Pastor, Desert Heritage Church, Mesa, AZ 2/10/2019

The Rev. Drew Terry, Pastor, Oro Valley UCC, Oro Valley AZ 3/10/2019

The Rev. Nathan Watts, Pastor, First Cong.Church, Flagstaff AZ 10/06/2019

The Rev. Michael Bush, Sr. Pastor, Casas Adobes Cong, UCC, Tucson 2/16/2020

The Rev. Rebecca McElfresh, Assoc Pastor, The Good Shepherd, Sahuarita 3/1/2020

Four-Way Covenant Approved:

The Rev. Dr. Patricia StandTal Clarke, Red Road Medicine/Shadow Rock UCC

Deaths:

The Rev Dr. Culver (Bill) Nelson, of Phoenix AZ 4/12/2019

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Sawitski, of Sun City West, AZ 7/18/2019

The Rev. James Rabb, of Phoenix AZ 9/17/2019

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Buckwald, of Phoenix AZ 9/22/2019

The Rev. Howard Houldsworth, of Chillicothe OH 3/9/2020

The Rev. Dr. Donald Heinrich, of Geneva IL 7/18/2020

Deaths of those who served in the SW Conference:

Mr. Emery Boepple, fmr Licensed Min.–UC Fellowship-Nogales

The Rev. Harrington Langling, Tempe Marshallese

Significant ordination anniversaries marked by SWC clergy in 2020:**20 years (2000)**

The Rev. Tina Squire

The Rev. Michael-Ann Veziroglu

The Rev. Deborah Worley

50 years (1970)

The Rev. Ric Brightman

The Rev. Dale Frank

The Rev. Judith Hambleton

The Rev. Dr. Wing (DOC)

25 years (1995)

The Rev. Susan Valiquette

60 years (1960)

The Rev. Fritz Hardt

The Rev. Judson A. Souers

30 years (1990)

The Rev. Lynn Hinton

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Youngberg

Policies Decided prior to 2019 Annual Meeting:

- *Ordained Ministerial Standing is to be held where ministry is done. (All UCC Clergy doing active ministry within the Southwest Conference need to have their standing held by the Southwest Conference.)*
- *Authorized Ministers residing in locations where they are unable to hold active membership in a local United Church of Christ congregation may request that their active membership within a local church affiliated with a denomination with which the UCC has a Formula of Agreement will be sufficient for retaining active ordained ministerial standing.*

Policies April 2019 through September 2020:

- *COCAM-A will not schedule MID for ordination interview until the ordination paper, portfolio and all other documentation is received with time for COCAM A review.*
- *As per Manual on Ministry, an ordination paper is required, and a portfolio is highly recommended for all ordination candidates. These should be submitted a month before the ordination interview can be scheduled.*
- *Active clergy must maintain a record and/or post in the portal proof of continuing education. They are required to have a minimum of 12 hours per calendar year.*
- *An alternative Healthy Ministry Module #1- Retired will be offered for all active clergy in retirement and soon-to-retire. They will take this module instead of the regular module one as it addresses unique boundary issues for those in retirement. They will take the other Healthy Ministry Modules required of all active clergy.*
- *All UCC Southwest Conference clergy with standing are required to take at least 6 hours of racism/anti-oppression training between 2018 and 2022. The UCC Southwest Conference will accept workshops sponsored by judicatory bodies which have been approved by the Conference Minister or Associate Conference Minister.*

Submitted by The Rev. B. Gail Joralemon,
Chair, Committee on Church and Ministry-A