

## Featured Stories Continued

through the church, neighborhood schools, and scouting organizations. She is also a professional artist and served in the Scottsdale Artist League as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of Shows. She is commissioned for Oil Paintings, Murals and Faux finishes and has participated in shows and galleries throughout the valley including the Desert Botanical Garden's annual Juried Art show and Scottsdale Artists' School's "Best and Brightest" show.

"In today's world, a large part of our population is struggling to find work. Many people consider themselves fortunate because they have a job," Dillabough said. "So many people work strictly for their next paycheck and only find joy when the weekend comes around. How many people actually love their job and are happy when Monday morning comes? I do."

## DSC Notes

### DSC Notes

The Desert Southwest Conference e-mail list is now a targeted notification system. End-users can choose what kind of notifications they wish to receive or not receive.

To learn more about DSC Notes or to sign-up for this improved communications system, visit <http://www.desertsouthwestconference.org/dscnotes>. Questions can be directed to the Desert Southwest Conference Communications Department at [communications@desertsw.org](mailto:communications@desertsw.org).

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### Transformation Magazine

To learn more about The Desert Southwest

Conference's quarterly ministry magazine, how you can use it to share the Good News, and how you can get a subscription visit <http://desertsouthwestconference.org/transformation>.

### Save the dates

Junior High Convention will be held October 14-16, and Young People's Convention will be held November 11-13. Keep watching Conference Communications Channels for more information. Questions can be directed to Billie Fidler by emailing [Billie@desertsw.org](mailto:Billie@desertsw.org).

### We want your stories

If there are stories of life changing ministry taking place in your church or organization please contact the Conference Communications Department at [Communications@desertst.org](mailto:Communications@desertst.org).

### UMFCU Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2011 Rev. Frank Witman UMFCU Scholarship: Alexander Powell of Palmdale, CA; Peter Bol Riek of Phoenix, AZ; Logon Fink of San Diego, CA; and Jason Emery of Northboro, MA.

**For the full version of the Conference Calendar, visit the Conference Website at [www.desertsouthwestconference.org](http://www.desertsouthwestconference.org), and for breaking news sign up for DSC Notes.**

*Our Conference Connection is produced the week before the first Sunday of the month by the Communications Department of The Desert Southwest Conference as guided by the Conference Communications Commission. It is designed for use in local United Methodist Church bulletins and may be reproduced as needed in that capacity. For questions or suggestions about altering content or use, contact the Conference Director of Communications, Stephen J. Hustedt ([steve@desertsw.org](mailto:steve@desertsw.org) or 602-266-6956 ext. 220). For more content and tools available from the Conference Office and the Communications Commission, visit the conference website at <http://desertsouthwestconference.org>.*

# Our Conference

## By Your Spirit Make Us:

### One With Christ...

*Help us develop and encourage an ongoing culture of Planting New Churches and Communities of Faith*

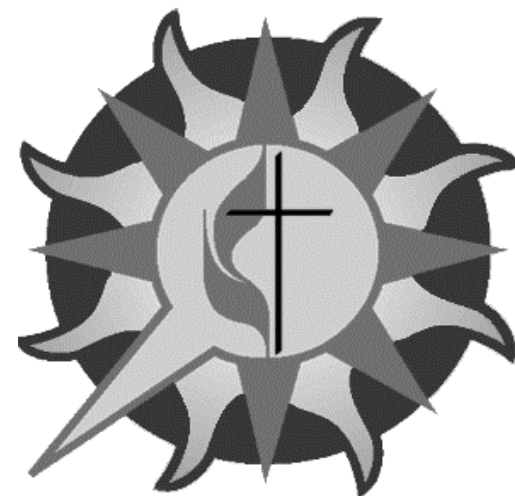
### One With Each Other...

*Help us develop and encourage an ongoing culture of Leadership Development*

### One In Ministry To All The World...

*Help us develop and encourage an ongoing culture of Social Holiness*

**August, 2011**



Visit Our Conference Website at [www.desertsouthwestconference.org](http://www.desertsouthwestconference.org)

## Partnership brings about DVD and devotional study guide on immigration issues

By Christina Dillabough, Designer/Editor

"Immigrants and Refugees: To Love the Sojourner," 1998 *Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church*, pp. 552-9. With the issuance of this official statement, The United Methodist Church has continued to be at the forefront of compassion for immigrant populations in the United States. The Biblical basis for this position is found in Matthew 25:35-36 and :40.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me [...] Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

In support of the United Methodist Church's compassionate stance The Desert Southwest Conference has supported a new film directed and produced by Dan DeVivo and Valeria Fernández along with a devotional study guide created by Rev. Jim Perdue Burke titled, "Arizona State of Fear". The DVD and study guide are now available through the conference office. The film documented events in Arizona that contributed to the climate that made SB 1070 possible. While fear continues to spread among an already concerned populace, fed by misinformation about the impact of illegal immigration to the country, the film was created to help communities find solutions that involve positive dialogue instead of divisive attacks.

"Arizona State of Fear" is an emotionally charged film and devotional study guide that can be used as a starting point for conversation. The film includes interviews from Bishop Minerva Carcaño, serving The Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church; Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, and various first-hand accounts from some of the people that are being detained in county jails for immigration violations, the people that controversial Sheriff Arpaio describes as hard core criminals. Among them a pregnant moth-

er who didn't have money to pay a ticket for driving without a license, a homemaker who presented an expired California driver's license to the police when asked for identification, a father who was working at a candle factory to support his family with a social security number he invented. "Arizona State of Fear" looks at a string of state laws used selectively by law enforcement to boost political image with voters. It documents human rights violations happening in Arizona's county jails. "Arizona State of Fear" also underscores the alarming rhetoric that politicians use to refer to the immigrant community criminalizing the quest for a better life from people who flee not only poverty in their country, but now increased violence.

The creators of this film want it to serve as a cautionary tale for states like Georgia, where they have already begun enforcing their own tough immigration measures, and the state of Alabama, which is on that same path. For all of the United States struggling with immigration issues, this film can be used as a case study of the social and economic consequences when states start creating their own immigration laws in the absence of a federal immigration policy that is both humane and workable.

Dan DeVivo believes that films are a powerful resource for popular education and cross-cultural exchange. Since graduating from Harvard with a B.A. in Social Anthropology in 1999, Dan has lived and worked in New York City as a freelance producer. Dan's prior work, "Crossing Arizona," an official selection at the Sundance Film Festival and winner of the CINE Masters Series Award, exposes the policies, politics, and human costs that have made Arizona the flashpoint in the national debate over illegal immigration.

Valeria Fernández, a native of Uruguay has been reporting on Arizona's immigrant community and the many angles and faces of the immigration debate for the ten years she has been in the U.S. The National Association of Hispanic Publications named Fernández "Latina Journalist of the Year" in 2004 while working for La Voz Newspaper. She also won a national award for her series on the Maricopa County Sheriff's

immigration sweeps in Hispanic neighborhoods in 2009. She currently freelances for New America Media and Radio Bilingue. Freelancing for the Phoenix New Times, she recently broke stories on the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office practice of shackling pregnant women during labor.

Dan DeVivo and Valeria Fernández continue their work together, shedding light on the ongo-

ing struggles of the immigrant population in the United States of America. Please visit <http://TwoAmericans.com> to help support the project's progress or to view the movie trailer of that film. The "Arizona State of Fear" DVD and Devotional set is available for purchase through the Conference website at <http://www.desertsouthwestconference.org/AZStateofFear> and priced at \$25 per set.

## Dillabough joins DSC Communications Staff

(DSC Communications)- Christina Dillabough has been brought on to the Desert Southwest Conference Communications Staff to fill the role of Designer/Editor. She replaces Joanie Faust who moved on to pursue another career opportunity after spending a year as the Conference Communications Writer/Editor.

"We were sad to lose Joanie after just a year, but Christina is going to do a great job of continuing to help us tell our story," said Stephen J. Hustedt, Conference Director of Communications. "We have been very blessed to find new talented and motivated staff whenever a staff member decides to take another opportunity."

Initially, Christina joined the Communications team as a freelance Editor for the 2011 Annual Conference Journal after serving as the Administrative Assistant and office manager at Scottsdale United Methodist Church from 1997 to May 2011. During her time at SUMC she volunteered to plan and direct Vacation Bible School in the summer of 2009. After the success of a dynamic program that served a little over 50 children and teens she continued to work at the church office but added the role of Christian Education Director to her service. She coordinated and/or facilitated several group studies for family ministries that included various studies on finance, marriage, parenting, adult Sunday school, children's Sunday school, Confirmation and fellowship events for teens.

"Back when I was the Christian Education Director at SUMC I prayed many times for God to use me as his instrument, to reach people of all ages and help them in their relationship with God and each other," Dillabough said. "When I found out I was going to be a member of the Conference office in the Communications department writing articles and creating publications that are used for the purpose of making

new disciples of Jesus, I thanked God for answering my prayers."

Throughout her work experience Dillabough has been editor of various newsletters for non-profit organizations. She has redesigned and created websites and logos for small businesses and non-profit organizations. She has also created various promotional materials used in the Arizona Republic, The Tribune and mailing pieces.

"Conference Communications are going to benefit greatly from Christina's experience and positive attitude," Hustedt said. "Her initial work on the Journal has significantly contributed the earliest publication date I've ever seen and what I believe is the highest quality to date. What's really exciting is that this is just the beginning of how she will help us share our story."

Over the summer Dillabough was hired as a full time member of the Desert Southwest Conference Communications Department. Her position title has changed from her predecessor's to reflect her background and talents. She serves as the Communications Designer/Editor but writes articles for the various communications channels as well. She is fluent in Spanish and plans to be a major contributor in expanding a Spanish presence for our Conference Communications.

Dillabough shared, "I am a Mexican descendant born in the United States, and a fairly new member of the United Methodist Church. I hope that my background and artistic talents will be of great use in my role as the Communications Designer/Editor."

Dillabough, a wife and mother, has been married for 15 years to Michael and has three children, Zachary-14, Nicholas-12, and Haley-8. She is active in her community volunteering