

## OUTREACH & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

*Billie K. Fidlin*

As always, it has been a busy year for the teams that comprise our Conference ministries dealing with mission and justice.

See the reports from our team leaders which highlight their good work and collaboration with internal Desert Southwest Ministries as well as 'outside' allied partners.

I'm especially honored by the volunteers in these ministries. All of the teams have numerous members from churches all over the conference. Whether it's a panel discussion on economics, or participating in communion at PRIDE, holding a Guns in America live event, or gathering information from our churches on the ministries they are engaged in with children or with the poor, I always have a sense of the greatness of our Conference. Our clergy and laity are in ministry in the very best of Kingdom work.

Conference level work isn't always easy—sometimes we are noted for the excellence in our work, other times criticized for taking a stand that perhaps differs with a member in a local church. Through it all, our laity and clergy lead with faith, with honor, with excellence, with courage. What an honor it is to serve God together—arm in arm, shoulder to shoulder, hands in prayer and heads bowed, or, held mightily high for God.

For me personally, I continue to expand my horizons in areas that will benefit our Conference and the ministries in my portfolio. I continue to serve as President of the Arizona Faith Network and teach leadership at Perryville Women's Prison. I am continually blessed by the interfaith experience, as well as by my sisters in orange.

Should you wish to serve at the Conference level—please come find me!!! I promise I can find your match! [bfidlin@dscumc.org](mailto:bfidlin@dscumc.org) or 602.266.6956 x 221.

But most of all, in the times in which we find ourselves, while April may bring Spring showers, the Spring has also brought us all something very different. Know that I, that all of the Conference staff, hold you and yours in prayer every day. For your safety, your health, your happiness, your church. May you find your blessings each and every day.