



December 17, 2011

Dear Friends and Community Leaders,

The Arizona Ecumenical Council works to bring faith-based groups together for the good of our community and our world. We are a council of Christian churches, but we are also involved in the wider dialogue with other religions. Our membership includes 1.5 million Arizonans who belong to Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Evangelical churches and together we make a difference in efforts of peace in our communities and justice for those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

During this past year you could see our collaboration in these activities:

- Our 2011 Donohoe Forum entitled "God After Darwin" which explored how science and religion can be talk to each other.
- Our Earth Care Commission continues to lift up the cause of caring for the earth and supports Arizona Interfaith Power and Light.
- We continue to speak for fair, humane, and comprehensive immigration reform and have organized an inter-religious young adult conference on that subject
- We helped to coordinate the religious community's response to the Tucson shootings of January 8
- In the wake of the worst summer for Arizona wild fires, we coordinated the churches' response in long term recovery efforts, collecting over \$40,000 in funds and serving as the Long Term Recovery Committee fiduciary.
- Provided warm clothing for 150 homeless youth in Phoenix.

These are important issues and require care and attention, and I hope that you too can envision what our community could be like when we work together. In order to continue this ecumenical work ask your support by donating items for our Silent Auction for our Annual Banquet which will be held this year at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Phoenix, on February 17, 2012. Many of our bishops and church executives along with many leaders in our faith communities will be present.

With your donation we will feature your name in our program. Please refer to the following page for the appropriate form to solicit your donation. Our 501(c)3 is on the back of this letter. And thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jan Olav Flaaten
Executive Director