

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Friend



The Oldest Newspaper West Of The Rocky Mountains | Founded 1843 | Volume 38, Issue 4 | September 2022

I AM A PASTOR



**What the community
thinks I do**



**What my church
thinks I do**



**What my friends
think I do**



What I actually do

ONE 'OHANA

UNIFIED • RADIANT • TRANSFORMING

In Praise of Pastors

In that short epistle of First Thessalonians, Paul reminds the church to show some gratitude for our kahu, pastors, and spiritual leaders who give so much. Paul writes, “friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm with appreciation and love!” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

Since 1994, many congregations around the world have attempted to do just that by lifting up October as Clergy Appreciation Month with emphasizes on the second Sunday of

October as a special time to overwhelm our kahu with appreciation and love! In this issue of *The Friend* we want to shine a light on the working lives of these dedicated servants. Eleanore Atherton Chong and David Popham, who are both pastor’s kids, lift up their fathers and the ministry they lived out and remind us of the importance of clergy self-care and work/ministry balance. From Hawai’i Island, Kehaunani Hill reflects upon her return to ministry after five years of retirement and Cara Ann Maeda, who is a member in discernment with the O’ahu Association, highlights her

hard pilgrimage towards ministry.

These articles remind us how much gratitude we need to have for the hard work, dedication, and care of our kahu. The work of ministry is hard, clergy burnout is widespread, and balancing ministry with the rest of a life is difficult. This issue reminds us of our responsibility to show our gratitude and express our love for everything these servants of God do for the us, for our congregation, and for our world. How are you going to overwhelm your spiritual leaders, your kahu, your pastor with appreciation and love this month?

Preaching the “Aloha Spirit” Roundtable

KEHAUNANI HILL, TRANSITIONAL PASTOR, HOKULOA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

For the past five years, I was a woman dwelling in the Sonoran Desert of Phoenix, Arizona. The first half of the five-year period was spent healing from two major knee surgeries. The second half of the period was living as an exile in the shadow of COVID Babylon. The separation from all that was familiar and dear. Losing loved ones, an aunt to COVID and a young man, the husband of our niece, who died of liver cancer. The estrangement

between family members over mask mandates or vaccines and the deeply politicized issues all left a deep impact on my desert spirituality. I could hear the Psalmist’s voice, “*Why do you hide your face? (Psalm 44:24) Lord, where is your steadfast love of old? (Psalm 89:49).*” In exile, I observed the church in danger of losing its prophetic identity and being confronted by irrelevance as church attendance dwindled. And then, through extraordinary circumstances, I was called out of retirement and back into the ministry. It was mind boggling.

I have returned to preaching the “aloha spirit” roundtable. The roundtable that I left that reveals an exquisite tapestry of a community of diversity woven snugly of strands of extravagant hospitality and inclusivity. The tapestry genuinely clothes the roundtable that is a smooth circular shape that promotes continuance. The shape of the table is not abrupt or severe with angular corners or sharp points. It is gracefully curved to draw all to the table into oneness. It encourages inclusion.

No one sits at the head of the table, nor do they sit at the foot of the table. Everyone is equally distant from the center. The bulging round sphere signifies fullness, richness, plenty, and breadth. It upholds preaching the “aloha spirit” roundtable that apprehends God in

... continued on page 8



Kehaunani Hill and Jonathan Roach



God is still speaking

The Friend is published five times a year by:

The Hawai’i Conference of the United Church of Christ

1848 Nu’uanu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone: (808) 537-9516 or (800) 734-7610 (Neighbor Island Toll Free)

Fax: (808) 521-7196

E-mail: hcucc@hcucc.org

Editorial Team: Julie Buto, David Popham, Jonathan Roach, Lori Yamashiro, Kristen Young

The views expressed belong to the authors and do not necessarily represent the Hawai’i Conference.

Contributing Writers: Eleanore Atherton Chong, Kehaunani Hill, Cara Ann Maeda, Joan Sakaba

The Journey

CARA ANN MAEDA, MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT, O'AHU ASSOCIATION

I see myself standing on a road. Ahead of me is the journey towards vocational pastoral ministry; a road that is hopefully bringing me back home to the islands after 20 years of living in San Diego, California. As I look ahead, there is excitement and nervousness swirling within me but knowing this is a life-long road, I also look back with joy and thankfulness at the journey that has brought

me to this point.

Growing up at Hawai'i Kai UCC, I was given a firm foundation in the Lord as this church 'ohana cared for my family through the joys and challenges of life. Through every hill and valley, they showed me what it means to walk faithfully. This church has been a consistent part of my journey, and I stand with much gratitude for their constant love and support.



As I continue to look back, I see so many more people and places, especially part of the Hawai'i Conference UCC, that have brought me to this point. I think of the many years of being with my mother as she worked throughout the HCUCC (the Conference Bookroom, Community Church of Honolulu, and Kawaiaha'o Church). Part of the journey also involved outdoor ministries, attending Christian Endeavor events (where I met my husband), and the incredible opportunity of working at Waikeola Congregational Church as a youth leader. In these early years of ministry, as I walked side-by-side with so many, I sensed God's vocational call on my life.

As this journey continued, I left the islands to attend San Diego State University and within a couple of years, I was gaining more ministry experience at a PC (USA) church. I stayed there for 10 years, serving in Christian Education and learning the real-life elements of ministry work. Since then, serving in multiple churches has helped me to understand my call more and more. For seven years, I walked the journey as a seminarian, attending Bethel Seminary San Diego. I studied under leading scholars, met incredible colleagues, and graduated in 2018 with my Master of Divinity degree. During my time in San Diego, God has been revealing a desire within me to teach God's people within their specific contexts. Growing up in Hawai'i and living 20 years on the continent has taught me the importance of being attentive to the context in which people learn and how they apply what they are learning. As I stand on the road, I am

... continued on page 8

A P.K. Speaks Out

ELEANORE ATHERTON CHONG, CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

There is something special about being a P.K. (Preacher's Kid). I am one. I also have a brother who was a minister, a brother-in-law who was a minister, and two cousins who were/are ministers. You might say it's part of my DNA.

My father was a high school chaplain for most of his career. He served a local church before I was born and after retirement he served as the interim minister for many local churches. Around 400 high school students attended his weekly chapel services. Every other week he would invite a guest preacher. Some of the students had never known "church" except through my father.

I have vivid memories of late-night phone calls, but I didn't know about the rest of his ministries. As it turns out, my father was going to the hospital to meet with a family in crisis. I also did not know my father went daily to read and then offer a prayer to his dying friend. He did so daily until his friend passed.

We always had enough. Looking

back at what my father earned, it amazes me that we never wanted anything. Among other things, we had good clothes, music lessons, and a TV in the house. I learned that my father "borrowed" some money to purchase that television. He had taken out a "loan" from a wealthy friend who simply asked my father that he try to pay her back in installments.

Over the years a lady from Wahiawa came with a bag full of mangoes. When I asked why the woman kept coming with bags of fruit, I learned that my father had conducted the memorial for one of her sons.

I give all the credit to my father for my inspiration to serve in the United Church of Christ. I always remember kissing him good-bye when I went to the mainland for a UCC meeting. I knew that one day he would not be there. In fact, my father left written instructions for his memorial service. There was never any question that we start with the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God."

Yes, I am thankful for my father's life. And for ALL ministers who follow his example of selfless living.



Kim On Chong

The Best Minister Is a Well-Balanced Minister

DAVID K. POPHAM, CONFERENCE MINISTER

My father was a conscientious minister who gave himself to the hard work of ministry. He was always attentive to the church he served. Unfortunately, for my father the pull of being attentive and hardworking tempted him with becoming a workaholic. This was the one temptation I am aware of that he could not resist. I can forgive him; after all, we are talking about the work of God in the world. Yet I am also aware of the cost my family paid for Dad's behavior which made the family secondary to his work.

In part, due to this experience of my childhood, I have adopted an ancient rabbinical maxim to help establish and maintain healthy boundaries in relationship to my call to ministry: "It is not your duty to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." This saying is dated to just after the time of Jesus; however, it does seem that Jesus embodied it in his own ministry.

As recorded in Mark 4, Jesus had a hard day and was taking a nap in a boat when the disciples got a bit overly concerned for the choppy waters. They woke Jesus who attended to the wind and waves and then questioned the behavior of his followers as a lack of faith. In some sense Jesus was guarding his time of sacred rest. His day was done, his energy spent, now was the time to not be dealing with other people's issues. It is okay for clergy to claim downtime for themselves. If anything, this episode teaches us that to not claim downtime is an example of troubled faith.

Jesus also taught us about a selfless self-love. In Matthew 22, when asked about the greatest commandment Jesus replied for us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Within this answer lies a peculiar psychological balance. We cannot love others if we do not appropriately love ourselves. Self-acceptance means honoring and loving all parts of our lives, even the parts we have been taught to be ashamed of and hide away. Until we can fully accept all parts of our lives, we have little chance of accepting and loving others.

With Jesus as our example of healthy ministerial boundaries for self-care, we must pay attention to his prayer life. Luke 11 has Jesus providing The Lord's

Prayer in response to a disciple's inquiry of Jesus' own prayer life. Prayer is that time when we focus our attention toward God. Deep prayer becomes that time when we open our intentions to God. Deepest prayer is when we commune as two old friends might share a park bench. Prayer builds our relationship with the Holy and centers us in the Divine.

May you, the fabulous and wonderful authorized ministers of the Hawai'i Conference, in whatever traditional or non-traditional setting of ministry you serve in remember that our calling does not include sacrificing ourselves for ministry. Rather it includes healthy boundaries that keep us well-balanced.

One of the rules of thumb we adhere to in the United Church of Christ is that the church is the unit of missions. What is meant by this axiom is all that the UCC does in terms of mission and ministry is accomplished through the local congregation and the faithful work that is done to express the aloha of God to all our churches encounter. In the UCC each congregation has the responsibility to engage in ministry as they best discern. This freedom of our congregations gives rise to far-ranging ministries: assisted living facility for kupuna, education for keiki, food pantries, work with immigrant communities, along with worship, prayer ministries, youth engagement, and community presence.

In most of our congregations and specialized settings such as chaplains and not-for-profit work, we can find a conscientious minister giving herself/himself/themselves to the wild and woolly adventure of turning missional aspirations into ministry outcomes. I lift up and celebrate each and every one of the Hawai'i Conference authorized ministers. When there is talk about the "good ministry" of the Conference, what we are really talking about is the loyal and diligent work of our clergy for the setting of ministry they are active in. Mahalo nui loa for our clergy and for this month of Clergy Appreciation! We are grateful for you and for the ministry that God is calling you to. Be a well-balanced minister!



Harmon R. Popham



SHUTTERSTOCK

Financial Ministries

ANDREW BUNN, HCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“That they may all be one....” John 17:21. There are many benefits of our local churches joining together in one denomination. We become stronger as a group and gain the ability to pool resources to provide services and support for our member churches.

At the Hawai‘i Conference Foundation, we get many calls from churches seeking support around property, financial, and business concerns. We are always happy to provide advice and to assist where we have resources and programs in place to do so (our investment pool and our small Hawaiian church improvement grant program, for example). It is sometimes necessary, however, to direct our churches to our national UCC resources, and there are good programs available to us.

Five institutions in the UCC national setting provide a broad range of financial products and services for our churches: United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund, United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund, United Church Funds, Insurance Board, and the Pension Boards United Church of Christ. These organizations collaborate with each other to form what we refer to as the Financial Ministries of the United Church of Christ. The Hawai‘i Conference Foundation does business with all of the Financial Ministries, so it is worth giving a little overview on each.



The United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF):

“Transforming communities by helping the church live into God’s economy.” CB&LF assists new and renewing congregations with financing for acquiring buildings and land and for constructing and renovating churches and church-owned real estate (such as schools, camps, and parsonages). CB&LF works exclusively with churches and church organizations that intend to use the property for worship, service or other community enhancement, and for the general advancement of the Christian mission. According to CB&LF, “God is still building, and we’re here to help.”



The United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund (“Cornerstone”):

“Invest from the heart. Build for the future.” Cornerstone also provides competitively-priced low-cost loans to our local church and affiliated ministries and organizations, including mortgage financing and lines of credit, that can be used for a broad range of needs. The Cornerstone also offers competitive investment products for both individuals and organizations, including flexible demand note accounts, term notes, IRAs, and ESAs, which allow investors to receive a return on these products and Cornerstone to use the proceeds to support its mission-based loan program.



United Church Funds (“UCF”):

“Investing with a Mission: Performance

Beyond the Numbers.” Established in 1909, UCF offers sustainably responsible investment funds designed to help faith-based organizations grow and preserve their financial legacies. UCF is a leading provider of investment management and planned giving services to UCC churches and ministries. Participating churches and ministries may customize their investment portfolio with UCF in accordance with their individual risk tolerance, time horizon, and return objectives and will get UCF’s professional monitoring and oversight. All UCF funds are invested in funds that align with the UCC values, including social responsibility, diversity, equity and inclusion, and climate justice.



The Insurance Board (the “IB”):

“Partners in protection.” The United Church Insurance Association (known as the Insurance Board) administers a property and liability insurance program serving churches and related entities within the UCC and five other denominations that are in ecumenical partnership with the UCC. IB writes property and liability coverage nationwide, including coverages for windstorms, water damage, fire, personal injury, employment practices, workers compensation, auto, and directors & officers liability. The IB provides coverage that is specifically tailored for churches and church ministries and has assembled a group of top tier underwriting partners to provide an extremely competitive and robust insurance package for our churches. The IB also provides risk management and loss control support for our church community. More than 4,200 churches participate in the program, insuring more than \$16 billion dollars in property value.



The Pension Boards (“UCCPB”):

“Where Faith & Finance Intersect.” UCCPB administers pension, health, and other benefits plans for ministers and lay workers of the UCC, invests and grows our pension funds in a socially responsible and sustainable manner. Program participants may choose from a variety of investment objectives. UCCPB also helps church employers maximize benefits for its employees, and provides direct financial support to authorized ministers, lay church employees, and their surviving spouses/partners, in times of urgent need and personal crises.



The products, services, and quality provided by our Financial Ministries compare favorably to what is available in the commercial marketplaces, but are focused and tailored specifically to the needs of churches and affiliated mission organizations. You should keep the Financial Ministries in mind for the needs for your local church.

THANK YOU, CLERGY!

With grateful hearts we give thanks to all our clergy serving in the Hawai'i Conference! We especially recognize those serving in specialized settings, such as our chaplains; our Conference professional staff; and those who have graciously volunteered to serve in leadership roles in the Conference.



Lauren Buck Medeiros,
Chaplain, Punahou School



Brian Welsh, Spiritual Counselor,
Hawai'i Care Choices in Hilo;
AHEC Luna Ho'omalū



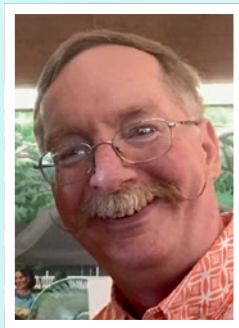
Caroline Miura, Spiritual &
Bereavement Care Coordinator,
Kaua'i Hospice



Clyde Fujikawa, Pastor,
Church of the Pacific;
Kaua'i Association
President



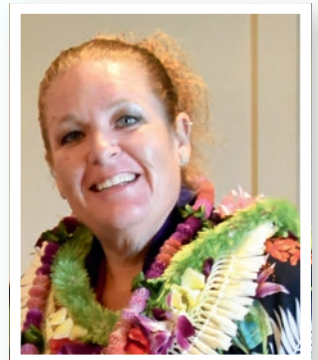
David Popham, HCUCC
Conference Minister (Photo by
Eric Anderson)



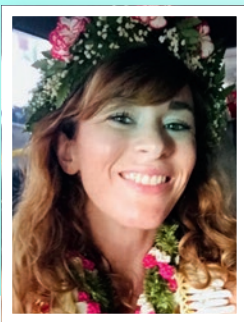
Eric Anderson, Pastor, Church
of the Holy Cross; Conference
Council Chairperson



George Scott, Chaplain,
Punahou School



Heather Barfield, Associate
Pastor, UCC - Judd Street;
Innovation and Engagement
Missional Team Chairperson



Irene Willis Hassan, Minister for
Refugee and Migration Services
in the UCC



Jihey Roach, Bereavement Care
Coordinator, Hawai'i Care
Choices in Hilo



Jonathan Roach, HCUCC
Associate Conference Minister



Josh Hayashi, Chaplain,
Punahou School



Kyle Lovett, O'ahu Committee on Ministry Chairperson



Larry Walter, Hawai'i Island Association Committee on Ministry Chairperson



Valerie Ross, HCUCC Associate Conference Minister



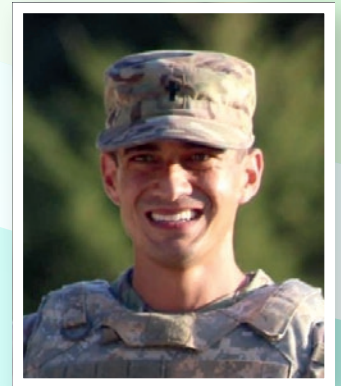
Kimberly Fong, Pastor, Pookela Church; 'Aha O Na Mokupuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i, A Me Lana'i Committee on Ministry Chairperson



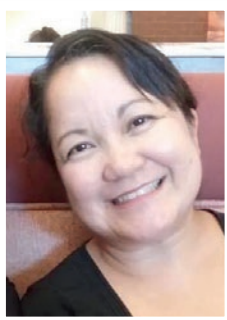
(Left to right) Brian Boshard (Hawai'i Island), Manu Nae'ole (Kapalama), Kalani Wong (Maui), Chaplains, Kamehameha Schools
USED WITH PERMISSION FROM KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS



Wendell Davis, Chaplain, Mid-Pacific Institute; Papa Makua



Vance Awa, Battalion Chaplain, 1-27 Infantry Battalion, Wolfhounds, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division



Pearl Misa Lau, Chaplain, St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawai'i



Wayne Ibara, Pastor, Makiki Christian Church; O'ahu Association President



Deborah Ball, Chaplain, Wilcox Medical Center



Sam Masilamoney, Kahu, Kona Lanakila Congregational Church; AHEC Committee on Ministry Chairperson

... Preaching the "Aloha Spirit" Roundtable, continued from page 2

the divine Word and discloses images of inclusivity and extravagant hospitality that knows no boundaries.

The late feminist theologian, Letty Russell, explained that "the church in the round, helps to remind us that the church that gathers at the eucharistic table as an expression of its commitment to Jesus Christ is also called to welcome all those Christ has welcomed." Coincidentally and astoundingly Letty Russell's wife, Shannon Clarkson of Yale Divinity School, initiated the call for me to return to Hawai'i to be at Hokuloa, UCC.

The metaphoric image of a "roundtable" is God's community encompassing a world that speaks to the boundaries of humanity that Jesus Christ crossed through the grace of God. Jesus blessed the poor, healed the sick, befriended women, and had table fellowship with sinners of the community.

This time, the "aloha spirit" roundtable looks a bit different. The invitation to the table stretches across its vastness that is inclusive

of "zoomies" from time zones clear around the world. Preaching the "aloha spirit" is constant. Extravagant hospitality across the vastness is a challenging variable.

I embrace the Open and Affirming roundtable that I have been called to at Hokuloa, UCC. We recognize that we are called to be a community of diversity in race, gender, sexual orientation, language, and culture. We are intent on creating a round wholistic breadth of unanimity that is of God's community by affirming the diverse community that is called to the "aloha spirit" roundtable where Jesus is the host. God stimulates the mutual giving and receiving of the "aloha spirit" that will bear fruit for our diverse community whether engaged or estranged: "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

The "aloha spirit" is culturally congruent biblical hospitality as *ha* is the breath of God that radiates

throughout the roundtable from the *alo* which is the heart of the universe and invites and embraces all to the table. The "aloha spirit" is a gift of grace reaching out from the center of the table and extending across its vastness to offer oneself openly to the love, friendship, kindness, warmth, generosity, and compassion of the other and to be openly receptive to these same gifts offered by the other. It is a gift of the realm of God.

As a Native Hawaiian kahu, discerning my desert spirituality in the deepest darkness of divisions that had cut across our communities, nation and created stubborn hearts, I heard two Hawaiian proverbs that speak to "extravagant hospitality" by Mary Kawena Pukui: "*He 'ohu ke aloha; 'a'ohe kuahiwi kau 'ole.*" [Love is like a mist; there is no mountain-top that it does not settle upon.] and "*Mai pa'a ke leo, he 'ole ka hea mai.*" [Do not withhold the voice and not call out a welcome.]

... The Journey, continued from page 3

standing in awe of God for all that I have learned through the people and experiences that have challenged and encouraged me.

Now, I turn my attention to what is ahead, and I see a road that isn't as developed yet both personally and collectively for the Church. There are elements facing the Church in this unique time period when technology is both a challenge and a gift, when safety is essential on multiple levels, and the need to respect one another is primary. The road will get bumpy as it extends farther than we can see and into new places we still need to navigate. However, as I start this next part of the journey, I am excited for the people I will walk with and the opportunity to honor the voices of the past as part of our map forward.



This road, both where I have come and where I am going, has been paved with grace and joy. The potholes have been filled by the redeeming love of Jesus Christ and the Word of God is a light on this path. In all types of terrain and in different seasons, I trust in the One who sustains and strengthens us. I

am ready to venture forward, knowing where I have come from and seeing how God has prepared me for what is ahead. With thanksgiving in my step, I continue this adventure, knowing this has been and will continue to be...quite a journey.

Cara Ann is a Member in Discernment with the O'ahu Association. She and her husband, Kevin, have three joy-filled children (ages 10, 5, and 1). Cara Ann currently works at Point Loma Nazarene University as an adjunct professor teaching Introduction to the New Testament courses and is the Family Pastor at Salt San Diego. Her recent years in San Diego have also been focused on helping to launch Pacific Theological Seminary. Cara Ann dedicates this article to her mother, a woman of strength, wisdom, and faith.

Supporting Our Youth

Among adolescents in Hawai'i, suicide is the second leading cause of death. Suicide can be hard to talk about, but simply talking about it can help to reduce its stigma and pave the way for open conversations and getting help. Check in with your youth and make sure they know where to go for support. Remind them that seeking help is good, and that sometimes we need more than just prayers and faith.

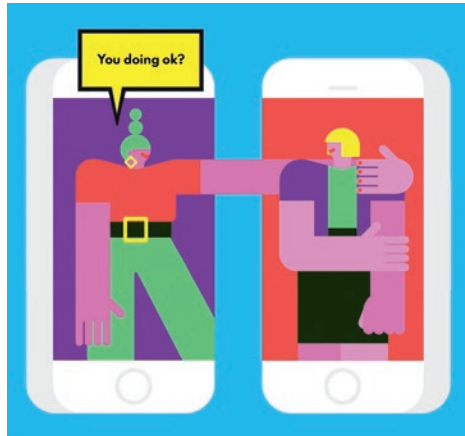


IMAGE CREDIT: SEIZETHEAWKWARD.ORG

In Hawai'i, **calling 988** will connect you to the Hawai'i Department of Health's (DOH) Hawai'i CARES crisis helpline for crisis services, mental and emotional health support, and substance abuse recovery.

Crisis Text Line is available for support 24/7. Text **HOME** to **741741** to reach a volunteer Crisis Counselor. (<https://www.crisistextline.org/>)

At higher risk for suicide are people who identify as LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer)—not because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, but because of the mistreatment, misunderstanding, and stigmatization by society, and often certain religious communities, that come with it. An important aspect of suicide prevention is acceptance and affirmation of our LGBTQ youth.



SHUTTERSTOCK

To learn more and see more from youth and young adults, or to submit content for consideration for future pages in *The Friend*, visit our webpage at hcucc.org/yz-literature.

The Trevor Project (thetrevorproject.org) is the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning) young people.

Open and Affirming: Learn about the world's "fastest-growing LGBTQ+ affirming church movement"!

For more resources, visit hcucc.org/youth.

YZ [pronounced "wise"] literature is wisdom from the young, Generations Y and Z to be more specific. See how young people are shining, witnessing, and reflecting light.

A Message to Youth Workers

We see you. Thank you for all your efforts, seen and unseen, thanked and un-thanked, to care for our children and youth, to share with them the Good News of God's extravagant love, to help them grow in their faith and live out their faith authentically. It is vital for our young people to have trustworthy adults in their lives who show acceptance, understanding, and compassion as they navigate adolescence. We know that youth ministry can be a challenge, especially today. There is always going to be more to do, but just remember that your loving accompaniment is the most valuable, and it is enough. As you pour of yourself into others, we pray that your spirit is equally filled!

We must remember that there are many different internal and external factors that contribute to individual well-being and health, and just as many factors that can lead to suicidal thoughts and feeling like ending one's own life is the best solution. This means that suicide prevention must address a wide range of issues. Let's work to make "a just world for all," where people have what they need to want to live.

*In recognition of September as Suicide Awareness Prevention Month and October as LGBT History Month and also National Coming Out Day and Spirit Day.

News from our Associations and Affiliates

Associations Plan Fall Meetings

- **O'ahu Association** Fall Mokupuni: October 8
- **Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC)** 'Aha Halawai (on O'ahu): October 21 – 22
- **Hawai'i Island Association (HIA)** Fall Mokupuni: November 5
- **Kaua'i Association** Fall Mokupuni: November 6



Associations Care for and Support Our Clergy

Associations do many things to care for and support their clergy. Here are just a few examples of how our associations stay in touch with their clergy:

'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i, A Me Lāna'i

- Monthly gatherings via Zoom
- Annual Christmas party/dinner
- Boundary training and continuing educational opportunities

Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC)

- Monthly "Ohana Hour" for all AHEC pastors (retired pastors are also invited)
- Monthly devotionals
- Quarterly outreach to retired pastors (share a meal, individual outreach)

Hawai'i Island Association (HIA)

In addition to the formal processes of the association - information reviews, periodic consults, and standing renewals - East Hawai'i has had a long practice of monthly gatherings. Those had to close in 2020, for obvious reasons.

- When the Conference shifted its weekly Zoom meetings for pastors around the islands to monthly, we instituted a fairly informal monthly Zoom gathering.
- HIA has also encouraged the Conference Minister to join us for a celebration dinner around Christmastime.

- Pre-pandemic, several of the Hawaiian churches around the island hosted Ho Ike. Many of the kahu would attend, and those who did found it a great joy to be part of. A couple of churches are starting to plan holding Ho Ike again.

Kaua'i Association

- Monthly breakfast meetings for clergy
- One-on-one meetings with the Committee on Ministry

O'ahu Association

- Every other week informal gatherings for clergy
- Subsidized registration fees for retired clergy to attend the Mokupuni
- Seminary scholarship for Members in Discernment
- Boundary training

Hawai'i Conference

- First Wednesday Conversations (started out weekly as a way to keep pastors connected and supported during the COVID pandemic and isolation)
- Pastoral Leaders Retreat
- Prayers of Aloha
- Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia Scholarship Fund for seminary students and active ministers
- Two newly-formed communities of practice

Conference News and Highlights

Go to www.hcucc.org to learn more about these and many more stories from around the Conference.

Pastoral Transitions

Jeannie

Thompson was installed as Pastor and Teacher of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church by the O‘ahu Association on July 17.



Thomas Tsen has concluded his ministry with the First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawai‘i on O‘ahu and has retired.

His last official day with the church was on August 15.

Janice Ogoshi was installed as

Pastor and Teacher of Ho‘olehua Congregational Church, Kalaiaika-manu Hou Congregational Church, Kalua‘aha Congregational Church, and Waialua Congregational Church on Moloka‘i by the ‘Aha O Nā Moku-puni ‘O Maui, Moloka‘i A Me Lāna‘i on August 28.



Holly Norwick has concluded her ministry with Community Church of Honolulu as of September 30.



In Memory

Richard Miller, former licensed minister of Kana‘ana Hou – Siloama Church in Kalaupapa, Moloka‘i, passed away peacefully in his sleep on August 31, 2022, in Mohnton, Pennsylvania. Richard was an integral part of the community in Kalaupapa for over 19 years, initially serving the National Park Service and then answering a call to serve the church. He had a passion for music and along with his Kalaupapa Backyard Band, put on a benefit show in Kaunakakai last March to raise money for Ukrainians in need.

Miki‘ala Pescaia, lay leader of Kana‘ana Hou – Siloama Church, shares the following: “[Richard] served the patients devotedly, through his historic preservation and restoration work—buildings, grave markers, tombs, and rock walls. . . everywhere you look, you can see his hand having touched many surfaces. . . and people. He was a skilled craftsman and excellent mentor, sharing his knowledge with anyone willing to learn. Then, taking on the role of kahu for the church, Richard worked to rehabilitate the social hall and prepare for the next chapter of the church post-pandemic. Hosting weekly music nights provided a social activity everyone was welcomed to join, and sharing his extensive tool collection helped many to get their special projects done.”

Conference Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 1

Special meeting of the ‘Aha Makua via Zoom

OCTOBER 11 - 13

Pastoral Leaders Retreat

OCTOBER 29

State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches

NOVEMBER 12

Conference Council/Board of Trustees

Mission Offering:

Support the Christmas Fund Offering

Gifts to the annual Christmas Fund special mission offering embody the spirit of the season by supporting those in need who have faithfully served the church.

Formerly known as the Veterans of the Cross offering, the fund is administered by the UCC Pension Boards and provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.

Find more information at <https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home>.



Thanks to our friends, *The Friend* is free of charge to anyone who requests it. We offer our sincere mahalo to those who have generously given a monetary gift to help defray publication costs. A gift of \$15 will pay for one person's subscription for one year. Gifts may be sent to the Hawai‘i Conference UCC, 1848 Nu‘uanu Avenue, Honolulu, HI, 96817.

September 2022

KA PAPA HO'OLĀĀ

We Are the Formation Missional Team

JOAN SAKABA, FORMATION MISSIONAL TEAM CHAIR

Have you ever wondered who plans for and implements the various annual Conference events such as the Church Leaders Event, the 'Aha Pae'āina, and the Pastoral Leaders Retreat? It's the Formation Missional Team, with support from the Hawai'i Conference.

Our Team works to:

1. promote the formation of strong Christian communities in our conference, including developing programs for the Conference, youth, congregations, clergy, and other groups; and building relationships amongst our congregants and our churches. This has included the implementation of Communities of Practice led by Jonathan Roach and Janice Ogoshi.

2. develop curriculum, such as the "Wisdom on Kalaupapa," which focuses on the lessons learned from

the Kalaupapa experience. Phyllis Meighen and Kalani Wong have spearheaded this effort.

3. provide theological education opportunities as well as youth group and young adult activities. Jack Belsom and Kristen Young have been pivotal in these activities.

The Pastoral Leaders Retreat is the next event on the schedule. This will take place prayerfully from October 11 to 13, 2022 at St. Anthony Retreat Center on O'ahu. Janice Ogoshi and Wayne Higa have led this planning. While the team members take lead roles, it has always been the participation and willingness of individuals within the Conference to assist that have made our events possible.

Team members are currently in the

process of evaluating the effectiveness of its projects. The team will interface with the Innovation and Engagement Missional Team

(led by Heather Barfield, with staff support from Valerie Ross) on the Church Leaders Event for 2023. A full list of our team members and our support staff from the Conference can be found on the Conference website (<https://www.hcucc.org/formation-missional-team>). New team members, suggestions, and feedback from the HCUCC community are always welcomed. If you are interested in serving our Conference on this very active team, please feel free to let the Conference Office know.

