STATE COUNCIL OF HAWAIIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES

ANNUAL MEETING (Virtual)

JUNE 15, 2023
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I. GENERAL INFORMATION
State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches

“‘Aha ‘Āina Wai Maka”
“Feast of Tears”

“Discerning God’s Path as a Community of the Faithful”

Romans 12:2

Thursday, June 15, 2023
State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches  
Thursday, June 15, 2023  

KA WEHE ‘ANA (Adapted from Hawaiian Antiquities, David Malo)  
Uluwehi Sai & Aileen Trout

THE CALL

Ulu:  
Nā ‘Aumākua mai ka lā hiki a ka lā kau  
Maʻi ka hoʻokūʻi a ka halawai  
Nā ‘Aumākua iā Kahinakua iā Kahina‘alo  
Iā kaʻa ‘ākau i ka lani  
O kīhā i ka lani  
ʻOwē i ka lani  
Nunulu i ka lani  
Kāholo i ka lani

Aileen:  
Ancestors from the rising to the setting sun  
From the zenith to the horizon  
Ancestors who stand at our back and front  
You who stand at our right hand  
A breathing in the heavens  
An utterance in the heavens  
A clear ringing voice in the heavens  
A voice reverberating in the heavens.

Ulu:  
Eia nā pulapula a ʻoukou ʻo ka poʻe Hawaiʻi  
E mālama ʻoukou ia mākou  
E ulu i ka lani  
E ulu i ka honua  
E ulu i ka pae ʻāina o Hawaiʻi

Aileen:  
Here are your descendants, the people of Hawaiʻi  
Safeguard us  
That we may flourish in the heavens  
That we may flourish on earth  
That we may flourish throughout Hawaiʻi  

Ulu:  
E hō mai i ka ʻike  
E hō mai i ka ʻikaika  
E hō mai i ke akamai  
E hō mai i ka maopopo pono  
E hō mai i ka ʻike pāpālua  
E hō mai i ka mana

Aileen:  
Grant us knowledge  
Grant us strength  
Grant us intelligence  
Grant us understanding  
Grant us insight  
Grant us power
KA KĀHEA

GREETING

We gather this day as God’s people
conscious of those who have died
and of how fragile our existence is here on earth.
We come to this moment
to comfort and to support one another
in our common loss.
We gather to hear God’s word of hope
that can drive away our despair
and move us to offer God our praise.
We commend to God with thanksgiving
the lives of those who have gone before us,
for whether we live or whether we die
we belong to Christ who is Lord
both of the dead and of the living.

It is God who has made us, and we are God’s,
we are God’s people,
and the sheep of God’s pasture.

KA HĪMENI

“Īesū No Ke Kahuhipa”

The Hymn

SCHCC Officers

The “ʻAha ʻĀina Wai Maka” or “Feast of Tears” was traditionally celebrated by our kupuna to mark the first anniversary of a person’s death. It was the understanding of our kupuna That tears were initially shed at the time of a person’s death because of the sorrow of losing a loved one.
Tears were also shed during the "‘Aha ‘Āina Wai Maka.” However, the tears that were shed were tears primarily of joy – joy because for loved ones, there is no more pain or suffering, even death itself has passed. But there is still the pain of the loss we all share.

**HALI’A ALOHA**

Laurie Kauleināmoku, Haunani Pacheco, Uluwehi Sai, Aileen Trout, Cherished Memories
Joanne Kishimori, Debbie Wong Yuen, Clem Malani & Ka‘iulani Hess

**Laurie:** We come to this moment holding within our hearts and minds cherished memories of those who have gone before us. We give thanks that Ke Akua knows each one by name as we have known them.

Bishop William W. How was born in England in 1823. He died in Ireland in 1897. He was three years old when the first mission company of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions arrived in Kailua, Kona. He was called both the “poor man’s bishop” and “the children’s bishop” for his work among the poor and among factory workers. He wrote the lyrics to the hymn, “For all the Saints, who from their labors rest.”

**Kealahou:** For all the saints, who from their labors rest who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever bless’d. Alleluia, alleluia!

**Haunani:** From the island of Kaua‘i:

**Uluwehi:** From the island of Moloka‘i

**Aileen:** From the island of Maui:

**Kealahou:** Thou wast their rock, their refuge and their might, thou, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight; ‘mid gloom and doubt, their true and shining light. Alleluia, alleluia!

**Joanne:** From the island of O‘ahu:

**Kealahou:** Oh, bless’d communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine, yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Debbie:** From the island of Hawai‘i, West Hawai‘i

**Clem:** From the island of Hawai‘i, East Hawai‘i

**Ka‘iulani:** For Others who have been a part of our State Council ‘ohana:
KA HĪMENI

The Hymn

ʻI - mi i ke Ka - hu, Ka - hu a - la - kaʻi,  
Ko - mo ma ka pu – ka o ka pa mai - kaʻi  
Ma - lu no ma - lo - ko pa - le - kau a nō,  
Ko - mo mai a ma - lu mau.  

Hui: ʻI - mi i ke Ka - hu, ʻI - mi a - no no.  
ʻI - mi o le - sū la, Ka – hu mai – kaʻi mau,  
ʻI - mi ke Ka - hu, Mai au - wa - na e,  
Ku - a – no la a ha - hai.

KU A HEA KE Ka - hu, Ka - hu a - ka - hai,  
Lo - he i ko - na le - o, ko - mo ko - ke. aʻe.  
La - ko i na pono, kei ka po - mai - kaʻi  
Ko - mo mai a ma - lu mau. (Hui)

HĀMAU

A Moment of Silence

In a moment of silence, we remember our ancestors who stand in back and in front of us – from the rising to the setting sun – we remember all the days and months and years in between when babies were born and children grew up; when others committed themselves to one another and when loved ones and friends among us came to the end of their earthly lives; when others moved away to new places and others returned home.

We recognize and we celebrate these times of passage, of endings and new beginnings even now as we share this time of aloha and give thanks for the many ways in which we were able to become a part of each other’s lives. We give thanks that we have been able to discern God’s path through the community of the faithful who have gone before us.

KA PULE

A Prayer

E pule kākou. Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for your steadfast aloha for those who have gone before us, for all the days of their earthly lives.

God of our ancestors, we give thanks for those who have lived among us. We lift our prayer of thanksgiving to you.

Grant us your peace and keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge of your love made known to us in Christ Jesus, our risen Savior. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Mahalo ke Akua. Thanks be to God. Amen.

KA PULE HOʻOKUʻU

Benediction

Debbie Wong Yuen
“E Aloha Mai” (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up his countenance on you and give you peace.