

2024 'Aha Makua Information

Other Important Information

- Schedule** See the enclosed *Tentative 'Aha Makua Program Schedule*.
- Meals** All registered delegates and visitors will be given a name tag. Please be sure to wear your name tag at all times during the 'Aha. *It is your meal ticket; do not lose it.* We will NOT be selling individual meal tickets.
- Special Diets** Vegetables will be served with all meals, but we regret that we are unable to accommodate special dietary requirements.
- BYOC!** Bring your own cups! In a continuing effort to be good environmental stewards, we are asking all attendees to please bring your own cup.
- Handbooks** In an effort to be good stewards, the 'Aha Handbook will not be printed but will be available online. Notice will be given when handbooks are available. Delegates and visitors may choose to print out the handbook or download it to an electronic device. If you plan to use a laptop, please be sure to check the capacity of your battery or bring an extra one as it will not be possible (or safe) to string extension cords throughout the meeting rooms.
- No Smoking** The entire Central Union Church campus is *non-smoking*. Please respect this and smoke only off campus.



June 13–15, 2024
Central Union Church

Theme

Ho'āla Hou

To arouse, stir up, renew, restore, revive, raise.

“Do not call to mind the former things or consider things of the past. Behold, I am going to do something new, now it will spring up; will you not be aware of it?

I will even make a roadway in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:18-19

Location

This year's 'Aha Makua will be in person at Central Union Church, 1660 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu.

Keynoters

The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson is the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ (UCC), elected at the 34th General Synod in 2023. She is the first woman and the first woman of African descent to serve as the leader of the denomination. Prior to accepting this call, Rev. Thompson, a Jamaican immigrant, served in the national setting of the UCC for 14 years, including as Minister for Racial Justice, and as the Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive for Global Ministries. Rev. Thompson will deliver the message at the 'Aha Makua opening worship and participate in other activities throughout the event.

The Rev. Dr. James Fouthier, Jr. is the Western Region Generosity Officer with the United Church of Christ. Prior to joining the UCC Staff, Rev. Fouthier served as pastor at the United Church of Montebello in Denver, Colorado; Adjunct Instructor at Iliff School of Theology; and Pastor of Church of the Open Door, UCC in Miami, Florida. Rev. Fouthier will serve as our theological reflector during the Makua.

Registration

This section pertains only to the ‘Aha Makua. A separate registration packet and form for the annual meeting of Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, State Sunday School Association and Christian Endeavor have been mailed to Hawaiian churches. For ‘Aha Iki information, go to www.hcucc.org.

- **All who attend must register by May 13, 2024.** One form for each registrant and full payment (\$165 per person) must be received at the Hawai‘i Conference Office by the close of business on this date to guarantee your registration. (Please note that the deadline for ‘Aha Iki registration is the same.) Churches are encouraged to register all delegates at the same time, including the youth/young adult delegate (see below under Voting Delegates).
- **Late Registration:** A late registration fee of \$30 will be assessed for registrations received after 4 p.m. on May 13.
- **Retired Ordained Clergy** with standing in an association of the Hawai‘i Conference may have ‘Aha Makua fees waived. Housing costs and airline reservations are on your own.
- **Online Payment:** Registration and credit card payments can be completed online at <https://ezregister.com/events/40285/>. Both payment and form must be completed by **May 13.**

‘Aha Youth Program

There will be a youth track at the ‘Aha Makua. For more information, please refer to the enclosed insert in the registration packet.

Scholarships

To donate or request financial assistance enabling all our churches to attend the ‘Aha Pae‘āina, please contact your Association directly. The Conference Office does not handle this.

Housing

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Pagoda Hotel (1525 Rycroft St., Honolulu). Please make reservations directly with the hotel using the enclosed Hotel Form. *To take advantage of this special rate, the hotel must receive your reservation by May 13.* Before leaving the hotel, please return your keys and pay for all hotel and incidental charges. Hawai‘i Conference is not responsible for any of these expenses.

Transportation

Airlines

Delegates and visitors are responsible for their own flight reservations and payments. Up to \$70.00 of **one-way** airfare is reimbursable for neighbor islanders. Receipts should be submitted to Lori Yamashiro at the Hawai‘i Conference Office **by June 21.**

Shuttles

Arrivals: Shuttles will be arranged from the Daniel K. Inouye Airport to Central Union Church for those who fill out the transportation portion of the registration form and *turn it in by May 13.* Vans will meet only the flights for which we have scheduled pick-ups. If your plans change and you don’t need a ride, please call Lori Yamashiro at 808-292-5249 so van drivers aren’t kept waiting.

We will *NOT* run continuous shuttles. Pick-up times will be arranged only for those providing arrival information on the registration form. Prior to your arrival, you will be notified of your shuttle pick-up information. Please be patient if the van is not at the airport when you arrive.

Departures: We will *NOT* run continuous shuttles for departures from Central Union Church to the Daniel K. Inouye Airport. If you requested transportation to the airport on your registration form, a listing of departure shuttles will also be posted at the registration table. We cannot guarantee any transportation after 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Parking

Limited parking will be available at Central Union Church.

Meeting Information

Business

Each delegate will be asked to vote on important issues and therefore it is vitally essential for your church’s delegate(s) to familiarize themselves with information about the business items. Updated information can be found on the Conference’s website at www.hcucc.org under Quick Links “2024 ‘Aha Pae‘āina.”

Voting Delegates

To be a voting delegate, you must be in one of these categories:

1. Local churches with standing in an association of the Hawai‘i Conference are entitled to:
 - a. **One lay delegate** for the first 200 members and an additional delegate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof, up to a *maximum of five.* (For example, a church with 251 members is entitled to two delegates: one lay delegate for the first 200 members plus one lay delegate for the major fraction [51] above 200. Note that the number of church members is determined by *2023 UCC Yearbook* listing.)
 - b. **One youth/young adult delegate**, 30 years of age or younger.
2. **Ordained, Licensed, or Commissioned ministers** with current standing in an association of the Hawai‘i Conference.
3. **Members of Hawai‘i Conference Council and Chairs of standing and special committees.**
4. **Presidents of Associations and recognized affiliate organizations** (Woman’s Board of Missions, State Sunday School Association, Christian Endeavor Association, State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches, Council of Samoan Churches, Hawai‘i Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries, and UCC Transition House).

Café Conversations

We haven’t met in person for a while...Some of us will be brand new to the ‘Aha, others will have missed our annual gatherings, others are wondering what we will be doing. One of the new things that will be springing up during our ‘Aha Makua is time for conversations with each other: To get to know someone from a different church or another island; to share what God is putting on your heart; to connect with your brothers and sisters in the context of our wider Hawai‘i Conference ‘ohana; to see that we are all in this together. Café Conversations will be taking place at different points of the ‘Aha Makua to encourage reflection and sharing and to give witness to what God may be doing among us. Bring an open heart, your love for Jesus, and the mana‘o God has given to you.