

## Church makes amends

□ UCC gives gift of \$1.25 million for role in overthrowing ruler

By Kevln Dayton  
Tribune-Herald

United Church of Christ officials offered presents wrapped in ti leaf yesterday symbolizing gifts of \$1.25 million they are giving to atone for the churches' part in the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy.

In a modest ceremony in the First United Protestant Church on Wainuenue Avenue, UCC national President Paul Sherry and two other church officials gave three symbolic gifts to a director of a new foundation that will manage the money.

The United Church of Christ in Hawaii is also proposing another \$3.5 million payment and a land transfer worth about \$1.1 million more to make amends for the overthrow.

The land transfer, which will be submitted for a vote by state UCC

delegates next month, would include two parcels of conservation land totaling about 1,309 acres at Punahoa below Saddle Road.

The proposed land transfer also includes the University Center site at 2331 Seaview Ave. in Waikiki; the Paia Chinese Church site at 154 Hana Highway on Maui; the Halawa Hawaiian Church site in Halawa Valley on Molokai; and the Chinese Christian Church site in Waimea on Kauai.

The original Congregational missionaries that came to Hawaii to convert the Hawaiians were almost all dead by the time of the overthrow, but some of the missionaries' children and grandchildren played major roles in the coup.

Church officials were also vocal critics of the monarchy, and supported the overthrow in their preaching and writing in Hawaii and in the United States.

Sherry also said some of the original missionaries "confused the ways of the West with the ways of Christ," and tried to Westernize the Hawaiians.

While the missionaries believed they were doing the right thing, their actions helped to undermine the Hawaiians' traditional cultural and social systems, Sherry said.

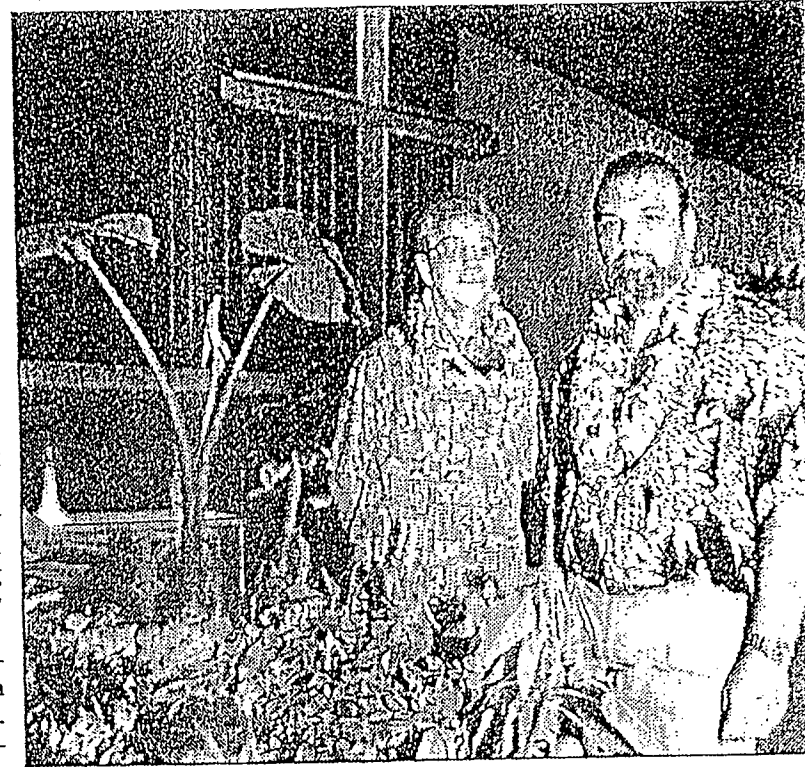
In 1993 Sherry offered a formal apology for the Congregational Churches' "complicity" in the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani 100 years before.

Sherry also pledged that the church would work for "self-determination and justice" for Hawaiians.

A church task force on the subject later recommended the UCC fulfill that "sacred commitment" by creating a foundation for Hawaiian historical and cultural education, grass-roots organizing and "advocacy for justice," Sherry said.

The results were the gifts yesterday and the creation of the Pu'a Foundation to manage the money. Pu'a is the Hawaiian term for passing food directly from mouth to mouth, a method used to feed infants or the very old.

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T-H Photo by Willian.

GIFT-GIVING — Rev. Paul Sherry, left, and Kunani Nihipall of Pu'a Foundation stand yesterday before ceremonial gifts at the United Protestant Church.

The gifts were accepted by Kunani Nihipali, a director of the foundation. Four of the foundation directors are drawn from the churches, and three from the community.

promised future, but I thank God we are on the way," Sherry said.

Similar ceremonies were held on Maui yesterday, and are planned for Oahu today and Kauai

larger package of gifts of atonement at its annual meeting in Honolulu June 10-15.

That proposal would include the land transfer, \$1.5 million in grants to Hawaiian churches that existed

ation.

It would also include another \$1 million grant to the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, mostly to support small Hawaiian churches and provide theological