



The Friend

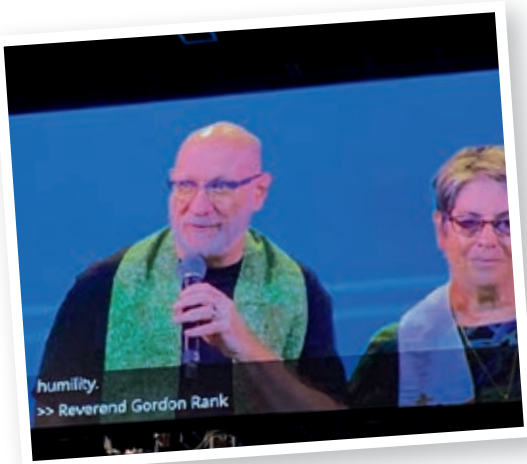
The Oldest Newspaper West Of The Rocky Mountains | Founded 1843 | Volume 39, Issue 3 | July 2023



Wow, What a General Synod!

Starting at noon on Friday, June 30, the 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ (UCC) was off and running, and until the closing worship well after 9 p.m. on the 4th of July it was nearly non-stop action. Over 2,000 delegates, staff, visitors, and volunteers worshipped, studied, discussed, debated, and listened.

Some major highlights included the election of Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman, and the first Black woman, to lead the denomination as General Minister and President on Monday, July 3rd. Proposed amendments to the UCC Bylaws to change the frequency of General Synod from every two years to every three years were adopted by one vote. Also, outgoing General Minister and President John Dorhauer addressed the “fifth stream” of the UCC, the Afro-Christian Convention, and apologized for denomination’s failure to recognize the Afro-Christian Convention as its “fifth stream” of our history and heritage. And so much more!



Of the 16 resolutions considered, 15 were approved and three had ties to Hawai‘i. The Hawai‘i Conference’s resolution, *Affirming Licensed and Commissioned Ministers as Authorized Ministers in the United Church of Christ*, that was originally authored

by members of the ‘Aha O Nā Mokupuni ‘O Maui, Moloka‘i a Me Lāna‘i and approved in our 2022 ‘Aha Makua, was affirmed as a prudential resolution and sent to its implementing body in the opening session.

This resolution seeks to affirm both Licensed Ministry and Commissioned Ministry as Authorized Ministries of the United Church of Christ in accordance with the current Constitution and Bylaws of the UCC and to direct the Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization of Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) to amend the *Manual on Ministry: A Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ* to include recommended processes and procedures for authorizing these forms of ministry.

The General Synod considered two resolutions of witness submitted by the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches. The first resolution, *A Resolution Calling for a New Study by our Church on our Relationship with the Indian Boarding Schools and the Boarding Schools in Hawai‘i*, surpassed the required two-thirds majority needed with 650 yes votes, 12 no votes, and two abstentions.

This resolution calls on the United Church of Christ to do a new study on the United Church of Christ’s relationship with Indian boarding schools and boarding schools in Hawai‘i. On May 11, 2022, the U.S. Department of the Interior held a press conference to reveal a “Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report.” The report showed that between 1819 and 1969, the United States operated or supported 408 boarding schools



including seven schools in Hawai‘i. Although the Executive Summary mentioned seven schools in Hawai‘i, within the report 11 schools are named.

The second resolution of witness from Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches was *A Resolution to Urge All Responsible Entities to Join in Reparations to Fund Christian Hawaiian Language Education Programs to Undo a Century of Extinction. Americanization and Indoctrination Policies Extinguished the Original Christian Hawaiian Alphabet*. The resolution narrowly passed the required two-thirds majority needed with 377 delegates voting yes, 181 voting no, and 85 abstentions.

This resolution calls on the United Church of Christ and its conferences

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God is still speaking

The Friend is published five times a year by:

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

Contributing Writers: Congregational Library and Archives

The Congregational Library & Archives: Your First Stop for Congregational History

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES, BOSTON, MA

From our friends at the Congregational Library & Archives:

The Congregational Library & Archives is your first stop for all-things related to the Congregational story—past, present, and future!

The Congregational Library’s mission is to foster a deeper understanding of the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, and civic dimensions of the Congregational story and its ongoing relevance to contemporary society by collecting, preserving, and sharing materials and by actively engaging with faith communities, students, scholars, and the general public. Here at 14 Beacon Street in Boston, Massachusetts, we remember the 400+ year Congregational story, engage with the rich tapestry of Congregationalism today, and look ahead to how it will grow and transform in the future.

Library

The library has grown immensely over the past 170 years and today includes more than 100,000 items from the sixteenth century through the twenty-first on topics from church history to poetry, art, social movements Congregationalists have been involved in, and beyond. The library holds numerous materials from Hawai‘i, including histories from local churches and locally published periodicals dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. We want our collection to be as comprehensive as possible and appreciate receiving copies of any publications your church has produced to make them accessible to researchers from around the world.

Does your church have an anniversary coming up? Library staff are

available to field your questions. Our Librarian, Sara Trotta, would be very happy to talk with you. She can be reached at 617-523-0470 x210 or strotta@14beacon.org.

Archives

The CLA’s archives include manuscript sermons and theological writings of Congregational ministers and records of Congregational churches, societies, and organizations.



Congregational Library & Archives in Boston.
PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION

We are also in the process of building out our Church Stewardship Initiative to empower churches and their communities to thoughtfully preserve and steward their records and memories for future generations. Check out the library’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/@CongregationalLibrary to find videos with advice on beginning your church’s archival program.

Our archivists, Zachary Bodnar

and Billy McCarthy, are always happy to hear from you and will gladly answer your questions. They can be reached at 617-523-0470 ext. 225 and ext. 228 or info@14beacon.org.

New England’s Hidden Histories

Want to explore the early history of Congregationalism in North America without the long flight to Boston? Check out the Congregational Library’s signature digital project, New England’s Hidden Histories (NEHH; congregationallibrary.org/nehh/main). NEHH has made many previously inaccessible materials—including relations of faith, letters, sermons, diaries, and records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths—available online for free. Begun in 2005, NEHH has received major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR).

Interested in learning more about New England’s Hidden Histories? Please contact Tricia Peone, NEHH Project Director, at 617-523-0470 x222 or tpeone@14beacon.org.

Programs

The Congregational Library offers a robust series of virtual and in-person programs throughout the year. In the coming months we will have talks on topics as varied as the struggle against arbitrary rule in puritan New England, the Afro-Christian tradition within Congregationalism, and understanding the terminology and language of archival processing.

Virtual programs are often

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Budget, Passion, and Polity

DAVID K. POPHAM, CONFERENCE MINISTER

If you were present as a delegate to the June 2023 'Aha Makua or watched via live stream, you were able to experience congregational polity at its best: an open forum for disagreement, debate, and vote casting. The 'Aha Makua is a meeting of Conference delegates as stakeholders who have input and influence on the direction in which the Hawai'i Conference moves and the priorities focused on.

For the past two years the Conference budget was the target of much concern. In 2022 it was argued that the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC) Papa Makua be supported in part by the Conference budget; meaning each church giving to Our Church's Wider Mission underwrites this position for AHEC. A line item of \$24,000 for the Papa Makua was established at the specially called 'Aha Makua in October 2022. During that open forum the phrase "this is for one year only" was used to explain the line item. Some heard that phrase as meaning that the line item would expire with the FYE 2023 budget. Others heard that phrase to mean that in the FYE 2024 budget the line item would be increased as the amount was for one year only.

Very few things get people as riled as the inclusion or exclusion of budget items to which there is a passionate connection. As last year, so too this year, the most debated issue during the open forum of the 'Aha Makua was the budget and the line-item grant to AHEC to support the position of the Papa Makua.

Public debates are difficult enough; public debates in which decorum is the rule of conduct become even more difficult. To help navigate fairness and honoring

decorum, the 'Aha Makua adopts and relies upon *Robert's Rules of Order* as our guide. During June's meeting a primary motion to adopt the budget as presented by the Conference Council with the Papa Makua support at \$24,000 was before the delegates. A secondary motion was brought forward in the form of an amendment to reduce that line item to zero and return the funds to the Missional Teams from which the funds were pulled in 2022.

In Hawai'i there is a state law which requires abstain votes to be counted as "no" votes on primary motions. However, according to the parliamentarian, that law does not apply to secondary motions. During the discussion and the vote on the secondary motion, the Moderator originally counted the abstain votes as "no" (being aware of the Hawai'i law). The Moderator was corrected by the parliamentarian and gave space for anyone to change their minds on the vote they had cast. Minds were not changed so the secondary motion was carried instructing that the line item granting AHEC funds for the support of the Papa Makua be reduced to zero and the \$24,000 returned to the Missional Teams. Afterwards

attention returned to the primary vote of adopting the amended budget and that vote carried as well. The

Administration Missional Team, out of which the budget comes, will have new Missional Team figures to provide to the Council at its July meeting for adoption into the FYE 2024 budget.

Is this process messy? Absolutely! And it is one we should guard jealously. The ability to dissent, to argue a point of view, to state a differing opinion while remaining in decorum with one another is quickly becoming a lost art. With all the headaches and nauseous stomachs that come with Congregational meetings, I am thrilled to serve in an expression of the church that cherishes individual insights and wisdom and continues to intuit that God works incarnation-ally through the beloved community of the saints. Further, I am also thrilled that while we might be of different opinions, we can celebrate that we are of the same body of believers seeking after the vision of God on earth as it is in heaven.



Thoughts About Committees

ANDREW BUNN, HCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In our churches and other organizations that we work with, most of us are familiar with having committees. Many organizations tend to take a casual approach to their committees, and not a lot of thought is put into how to use them well and their proper role in the organization. For a non-profit organization of any scale to effectively operate and fulfill its mission, it needs to rely on committees.



Committees can enhance the governance and decision-making process of the organization. In a busy organization, the board may not have time to grapple with all the projects and issues, and delegation of work to a committee can help with the board's workload. Committees can provide a platform allowing the board to consider the perspectives of others who may not have a seat at the board table. Committees may also provide specialized expertise to the board, allowing for a division of labor to ensure that tasks are managed by individuals with relevant experience or knowledge. They also help foster volunteer engagement by providing opportunities for more people in the organization to contribute their time and talents and a chance to develop those volunteers for higher leadership in the organization.

There are some important things to understand about the structure of committees in a non-profit corporation. There are two types: (1) committees of the board; and (2) advisory committees.

A "committee of the board" is a committee which is composed of two or more board members and to which the board delegates or reserves the right to delegate the authority of the board, subject to certain statutory limitations that prohibit delegation of authority over distributions, dissolution, transfer of substantially all assets, appointment or removal of directors, and amendment of articles and bylaws (see Section 414D-148, Hawai'i Revised Statutes). A committee of the board can have

all the authority of the board of directors, to the extent provided in the board's authorizing resolution, except with respect to the statutory exceptions or any limitations that may be set forth in the organization's bylaws.

An "advisory committee" is a committee that is established to make recommendations and/or provide key information and materials to the board of directors, but whose actions are subject to the ultimate review and direction of the Board of Trustees. An advisory committee may be tasked by the board with planning projects, research tasks, review of management functions, providing advice and recommendations, or even executing a specific project already approved by the board. Members of an advisory committee may come from the board or from outside the board. Engaging individuals with different back-

grounds, skills, and expertise to serve on advisory committees helps to promote overall good governance of the organization by the board.

Both committees of the board and advisory committees may be established as "standing committees" or "ad hoc committees." These terms address the time frame for the existence of the committee. A "standing committee" is intended to exist on a permanent or long-term basis and may be established by the bylaws or by adoption of a board policy. It is common for organizations to have standing committees to address regularly recurring concerns like audit, budget and finance, investments, governance, nominating, fund raising, and specific program activities. Ad hoc committees are appointed for short periods of time usually to address a specific need of the moment, such as strategic planning, bylaws amendments, or executive searches. The specific committees established will depend on the unique needs and priorities of the organization.

A board creating a committee should establish its purpose with a committee charter or a written description of what is intended of the committee. The statutory rules governing board of directors' meetings relating to the place of meetings, calling meetings, notice, quorum, and voting, will apply to committee meetings. Subject to those limitations, the board may prescribe the manner in which proceedings of any committee shall be conducted, but may also give the committee flexibility, and in the



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Karen Georgia Thompson talks story with Heather Barfield, Clyde Fujikawa, Eric Anderson



Keoki Kiwaha presents a lei to Karen Georgia Thompson immediately following her election as next General Minister and President



Valerie Russell Luncheon speaker Bryan Stevenson



Danielle White giving blood during a free moment



On a Prayer Walk (left to right) Ken Makuakane, Kristen Young, Danielle White, Wendell Davis, Heather Barfield, Keoki Kiwaha



General Synod Hawai'i Conference delegation and friends



David Popham, John Dorhauer, Wendell Davis



Nadia Bolz Weber, keynote speaker



HCUCC delegation and friends with lei at General Synod 34 2023



Indianapolis Convention Center



After a long day, David Popham returning to the hotel



Wendell Davis prays a blessing at a meeting with John Dorhauer and the Hawai'i delegation



Kenneth Makuakane addresses the crowd at a Prayer Vigil at Indiana State Capitol

Reflections on General Synod 34



Jack Belsom (‘Aha O Nā Mokupuni ‘O Maui, Moloka‘i, A Me Lāna‘i; Wailuku Union Church)

“In 1983 I was a delegate to the 14th General Synod. It was my first experience. Forty years later General Synod is the same and has changed. Worship was and is amazing. The issues are always challenging. And the pace is demanding. Gone are the raised-hand votes and tellers. Gone are the paper ballots and the huge amount of paper delegates carried filled with resolutions and reports. Concern for those with disabilities and people who have been pushed to the margins remains constant. “In forty years the composition of the delegates has changed. No longer are White Euros the vast majority. No longer are those who are in the minority compelled to huddle in caucuses to have their voices heard. I am proud to be part of the United Church of Christ. We don’t fully manifest God’s plan for the beloved community, but we are learning and moving toward that vision.”

Heather Barfield (O‘ahu Association; United Church of Christ – Judd Street)

“My favorite part of Synod is purely relational. I have enjoyed seeing our Hawai‘i delegates, meeting many for the first time in person. I have enjoyed the conversations while walking from one thing to the next, while breaking bread together over a meal or at the hotel bar at the end of the night.



“I have truly enjoyed immersing myself in all that Synod offers. I am grateful to listen and learn and am feeling revitalized and hopeful and look forward to sharing with the Hawai‘i Conference.”



Myrna-Lyn Diaz Abang (delegate for HI PAAM; Ewa Community Church)

“After seeing nearly 2,000 people in one place, I do not believe the local churches really realize the capacity of the National UCC. An observation: While each member local church may hold to its autonomy, I really don’t think the UCC is widely known on the local level.

“My one-word impression after the first day: ‘overwhelmed.’ My one-word impression today: ‘touched’.”



Wendell Davis (Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches; Papa Makua)

“When we assemble as the Body of Christ as in this General Synod, we are called to stir each other up in love and encourage one other in our faith. I praise God for this opportunity to fellowship, worship, love, and engage through the power of the Holy Spirit. The only word to describe my experience is “BLESSED”! Mahalo ke Akua!”



Larry Walter (Hawai‘i Island Association; Committee on Ministry)

“A few images come to mind as I think about the recent Synod of the United Church of Christ.

“One is of a mirrored sphere that is most often seen in party-venues where beams of different colored light are bounced off its countless tiny mirrors. The room is suddenly filled with moving, vibrant colors! The vibrant beams of light brought into the Synod by over 2,000 attendees bounced off the multi-faceted sphere that is the core of the UCC and filled the gathering place with diverse, engaging, stimulating light. Each beam had its place and unique identity, and each added to the brilliance of how the UCC is seen moving and spinning through the vastness of creation and seeking to listen to the God who is still speaking.”



Robb Kojima (‘Aha O Nā Mokupuni ‘O Maui, Moloka‘i, A Me Lāna‘i; Wailuku Union Church)

“I noticed a younger demographic at this year’s General Synod than at my first in 2009. This is remarkable considering how churches all over are struggling to attract a new generation. I think it is because our UCC theological culture welcomes people no matter where they are in life’s journey. Our church is willing to welcome anyone who is seeking God and life with Christ. All people matter here.”

The Hawai'i Conference was blessed to include four young adults in our delegation. Read excerpts from those who submitted reflections:



Wryen "Keoki" Kiwaha (At-Large; young adult, Puka'ana Congregational Church)

"Being able to vote in favor of electing the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson as the next General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ was no dull moment. Truthfully, this vote was personal. Not only was she the first national UCC staff person I met, but my interactions with her were so warm and inviting. She made me feel welcomed and that I belonged there even when others felt I did not. It was in those interactions several years ago that I determined that the UCC was going to be my spiritual home. I know down deep in my heart that she is the leader we need in this time."

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.



Danielle White (Hawai'i Island Association; Hilo Coast UCC)

"So often I focus only on the local Church and Conference. Being fully immersed in conversations and experiences, it was revealed to me how well-connected the UCC is globally. At my local church we share a relationship with a ministry in Japan known as the Bazaar Café and it is through the work of the ecumenical partners and Global Ministries that we can do this. This connection shows how far our service can go with the help of programs supported by the national office."

Kristen Young (O'ahu Association; United Church of Christ - Judd Street)



"Sometimes I feel like giving up on the Church (the institution), and maybe in some ways I already have, but in the UCC I have witnessed a community that I want to be a part of, that feeds my soul, affirms me and my faith. "At General Synod 34, I witnessed the United Church of Christ striving to:

- Welcome and affirm each person as they are
- Live beyond binaries
- Protect reproductive rights
- Do less harm to the earth
- Acknowledge unsettling truths in the church's history
- Heal through harm reduction
- Pursue racial justice through reparations
- Confront white supremacy within and around us
- Increase accessibility
- Disrupt ableism
- Discern God's call for us (because who even knows?)
- Challenge death-dealing theologies
- Decolonize the church
- Call itself to do better

"This is love and faith in action. Engaging in this work together is what it means to Be The Church, and I find hope in that!"



Kristen Young, Danielle White, Keoki Kiwaha, Josann Jenks.

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.

... *Wow, What a General Synod!* continued from page 2

to collaborate with the Federal government, local organizations, and Protestant entities to fund the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches Christian Hawaiian language revitalization program including adult education and preschool programs.

While every General Synod has its own distinct flavor and agenda, some aspects remain comfortably familiar but no less exciting. One can always count on worship to be uplifting, Spirit-filled, and inspirational. Music

is always varied and impactful, yet soothing in its familiarity. Preachers and keynote speakers always find a way to be relevant, provocative, and motivating, and this year featured a number of such speakers: Jamar Doyle, Nadia Bolz Weber, Carmen Lansdowne, and JJ Flag. Optional events also featured powerful speakers—Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Anti-racist*, and Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*, to name just two.

The opportunity to come together as part of the larger UCC 'ohana;

to feel that your voice truly matters and that you are seen and accepted for who you are, just as you are; to meet new friends and re-establish old friendships; to meet staff from the national setting in person whom we've only seen online before; to browse in the Exhibit Hall and peruse vendors we might not get a chance to see elsewhere—all of these sights, sounds, and experiences make up the splendor of a General Synod and leave lasting impressions and smiles long after the final plenary is officially adjourned.

... *The Congregational Library & Archives: Your First Stop for Congregational History*, continued from page 3

recorded, edited, and posted on the library's YouTube channel. Members and donors receive first access to these recordings. Not yet a member? Learn more and join us at congregationallibrary.org/get-involved/become-a-member.

Be in Touch

Finally, we would love to reach out and let you know about all the exciting things happening at the Congregational Library & Archives.

If you are not already on our email list, which includes access to our monthly email newsletter, you can sign up at congregationallibrary.org/ewsletter.

You are always welcome to tag the Congregational Library's accounts in your Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram posts so we can help share pieces of your congregation's story. You can find us at:

• Facebook: facebook.com/CongregationalLibrary

• Twitter: @CongreLib

• Instagram: @

CongregationalLibrary

There is nothing the staff at the Congregational Library & Archives loves more than welcoming folks into the library to use the collections. If you are ever in Boston, please come see us. The library is currently open by appointment only, and you can reach out to ref@14beacon.org to schedule your visit or send us your questions.

... *Thoughts About Committees*, continued from page 5

absence of such a prescription, the committee may adopt its own rules of conduct. Rules for the sake of rules should be discouraged, however, and common sense and flexibility should be encouraged. While the board should avoid creating committees for every single task, committees should be considered when it will improve the operational efficiency of the board.

Committees play a pivotal role in the success of non-profit organizations. If used well, they can provide a structured framework for decision-making, harness specialized expertise, engage volunteers, foster collaboration, and enhance operational efficiency.

Mission Offering: Neighbors In Need

Neighbors In Need (NIN) is a mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

The Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), and its witness among indigenous churches and people receives one-third of the NIN funds. The remaining two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through awarded grants to UCC organizations.

Grants ranging from \$1,000–\$10,000 are awarded to UCC churches and organizations for projects that address one of the following areas: the rights and freedoms of all persons, environmental justice, economic justice, and/or whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

The suggested date to receive the offering is World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2023, but churches may select another Sunday.

For more information and to apply for a grant, visit www.ucc.org/nin.

Resources for promoting Neighbors In Need are available at uccresources.com.



Conference News and Highlights

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

Pastoral Transitions



David Yoshida was ordained by the New Haven Association of the Southern New England Conference UCC.

Dave is the gathering pastor of the giving Circle church in Honolulu, a church-in-formation with the O'ahu Association. Wayne Ibara, O'ahu Association President and Senior Pastor of Makiki Christian Church in Honolulu, took part in the service representing the Association and Conference.

Valerie Ross, Associate Conference Minister, resigned from her position with the Conference. Her last day was May 31.



Coletta Eichenberger has been serving with Wananalua Congregational Church in Hana, Maui, as their part-time Interim Minister since June 4, 2023.

Choo Lak Yeow concluded his ministry as the English Intentional Interim Pastor with the First



Chinese Church of Christ in Honolulu on June 11. He served for over four years, throughout the COVID pandemic and sandwiched between two years of in-person worship.

Jonathan Lilley has been called to serve as the English-speaking pastor and teacher of the First Chinese Church of Christ in Honolulu. He and his family were welcomed by the congregation on June 11. He last served at the Cleveland Chinese Christian Church for ten years and has a passion for preaching and teaching.



Kalani Wong retired as Chaplain of Kamehameha Schools Maui. An End of Ministry Service was held on June 20 at Keōpūolani Hale on the school campus.

Malcolm Carr was installed by the O'ahu Association of the Hawai'i Conference UCC as pastor and

and served on the UCC working group that is updating the Manual on Church. Sharon is survived by her husband, Nowell; their adult children Ryan, Gavin, Melissa, and Vicki; and five grandchildren.



Kency Conrad, a principal leader in the Namoneas Congregational Churches Association—Chuuk State and former Micronesia Council UCC General Secretary, died on June 7, 2023.

In Memory



Sharon MacArthur, 81, retired ordained minister, died on

June 5, 2023, after suffering a stroke days earlier. Although she lived in Northern California, Sharon served as Interim Minister at Church of the Crossroads in Honolulu and most recently at Community Church of Honolulu and was well-known in the Hawaii Conference. She was an active member of Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM) nationally

Conference Calendar of Events

AUGUST 18

Statehood Day (Office Closed)

SEPTEMBER 4

Labor Day (Office Closed)

SEPTEMBER 10

Daring Faith Conversations: Reimagining Church in a New Cultural Context (online)

SEPTEMBER 19 - 21

Pastoral Leaders Retreat – Camp Mokuleia, O'ahu

teacher of Hawai'i Kai UCC on June 25. The Service of Installation was held at Makiki Christian Church in Honolulu.



Christopher Czarnecki concluded his ministry with First United Protestant Church in Hilo on July 23. He and his family have relocated to the continent.



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, 700 Bishop Street, Suite 825, Honolulu, HI, 96813.

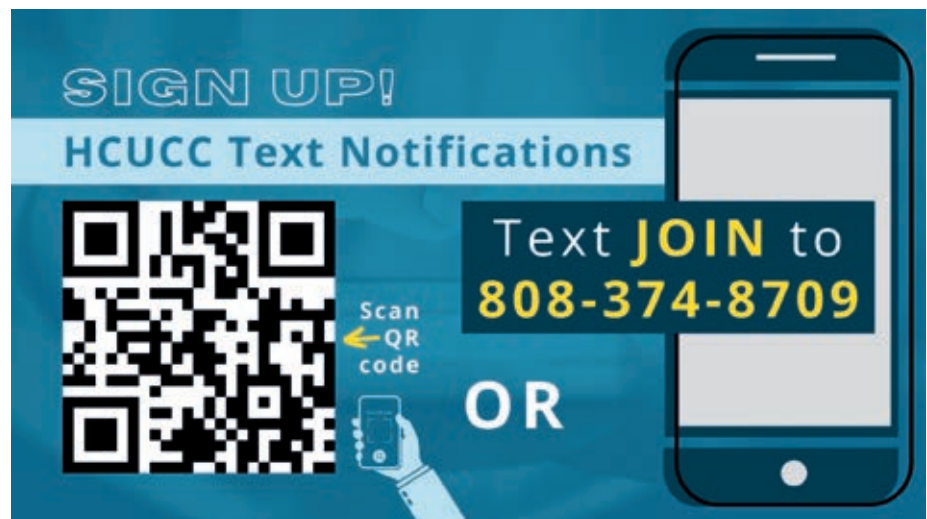
July 2023

KA PAPA HO'OLĀLĀ

Connect with Us via Text Messaging!

Got a smart phone? Stay connected with the Hawai'i Conference by signing up for text notifications! Short messages will occasionally be sent directly to subscribers' mobile devices as an additional way to receive the latest news and Conference communications. Sign up for HCUCC Connect at <https://eztxt.net/233ZYq> and encourage your church friends to sign up, too!

Many of you participated in a series of conversations facilitated by neutral mediators between October 2022 and January 2023. In their subsequent report, *Confidential Mediation Communication*, submitted to the Conference Council in April, 2023, communications to and with our local churches was identified as a growing edge of the Hawai'i Conference. Recognizing that there are



numerous modes of communication, and people differ in their preferred modes, we hope to reach as many folks as possible with clear, transparent messaging by offering several different channels of communication.

Whether it is through the *Coconut Wireless*, *The Friend*, or HCUCC Connect, our new text messaging app, we hope to bridge the existing gap and stay in touch with you!