

May 1, 2023

Aloha e kakou,

The Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ has journeyed into its third century over this past year, and so we invite you to the 201st 'Aha Pae'āina from June 15 to 17, 2023, a time to review the ministries of the year gone by and make decisions about the year ahead. Our theme is, "*Discerning God's Path as a Community of the Faithful*," based on Romans 12:2.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

We had hoped to gather in person this year. In 2022, faced with a rising tide of COVID-19 infections, we chose an online meeting. This year, it was not a virus that presented a barrier – it was costs. They have risen dramatically over the last three years of pandemic. Despite the best efforts of our planners, we concluded that expenses for transportation and lodging would seriously burden our churches, kahu, delegates, and visitors. In February, the Council determined to hold the 'Aha Pae'āina via video conference.

We are keeping things simple. There will be workshops, but not twice a day for a week. There will be worship. There will be a bundle of reports to review. There will be decisions to be made. Personally, I doubt that we will achieve perfection, but by God's grace we may come to what is good and acceptable.

Mahalo to you for your prayers, your mana'o, and your efforts to further the ministries of the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ!

In peace,



Eric S. Anderson, Chair
Conference Council