Section III:

Annual Reports
Some of you have heard me say before that what this Conference does better than anyone else is to advance God’s good news in Jesus Christ to non-gospeled areas while living in the tension between the gospel’s God-given nobility and its human agenda entrenchment.

“To advance God’s good news in Jesus Christ to non-gospeled areas” is a reference to the roots of our Conference in the missionary activity of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. For those missionaries, non-gospeled referred to non-churched people; for us in our 2023 setting, non-gospeled refers to those areas of our communal life which remain shut off and closed to the presence of God.

Several areas within our Conference bear the consequences of being closed off to God’s Spirit: our inability to be in conversation where active listening is prioritized over verbal warfare; our tendency to indulge in tit-for-tat behavior; our silo-thinking that what happens “there” doesn’t affect me “here.” These dynamics point to the non-gospeled areas of our Conference. It is to these areas we, better than anyone else, can advance the good news of God through Jesus Christ.

The initial work of the neutral mediators concluded with a report to the Conference Council in February. To no one’s surprise the report indicated areas where we are divided and in need of purposeful and intentional conversations which each other. (You may read the report and the Council’s next steps at Mediation Update May 2023 | hcucc.) For me, the important recommendation is to move the Conference (clergy and churches) from our individual tables to a common table for active listening dialogue. No doubt this will stretch us; we are good at defending our expectations, but we are not as good at listening to the expectations of others. Further we tend to flounder when it comes to finding common understandings. Through the work of the neutral mediators, we can look forward to opening these areas of our common life to God’s full and loving presence.

In other ministry at the Conference level, we advance the good news through resourcing and supporting our congregations in various ways. For the second year since it was developed, a Pastoral Leaders Minimum Compensation Guidelines Handbook is available. The lack of one has led our congregations to the unenviable position of undercompensating pastors and not
being able to attract ministers due to low wages. We still have a way to go to bring our pastor compensations up to a rate that is comparable to what is being paid across the United Church of Christ. However, much appreciation is shown to those congregations that have taken this issue seriously and committed to aligning their pastor’s compensation accordingly. (You may find the 2023 Minimum Compensation Guidelines at 2023 Compensation Guidelines for Pastors (hcucc.org).) Guidelines for 2024 compensation will be posted in August.

Advancing the good news also led us to administer the Paul T. and Minnie E. Diefenderfer Fund of the Hawai‘i Conference UCC. The funds were granted to the Pacific Theological College (PTC) in Fiji. The mission of PTC is in part to provide Pacific churches a theological education that is “informed by life-affirming Pacific values and insights” and “grounded in the philosophies and spiritualities of Pacific communities.” Our partnership with PTC allows the Conference to invest in and support native and aboriginal educational models. A portion of the funds also supports PTC’s efforts to establish a “north campus” on Pohnpei which will provide training for Micronesian ministers. This latter effort is primarily a partnership between the Pacific Theological College and the United Church of Christ Pohnpei. We are excited to be able to provide material support for this project. (You may learn more about PTC at Pacific Theological College – Towards Excellence in Theological Education for Leadership for Justice (ptc.ac.fj).)

We advance the good news “while living in the tension between the gospel’s God-given nobility and its human agenda entrenchment.” We recognize the beauty and purity of the gospel as we also recognize that it came to us and comes to us through a colonializing institution. Further, we recognize that at best we are stumbling our way out of this legacy toward another degree of church that has yet to fully evolve.

We also stumble as we continue to look to the continent for new ministers for the Conference. Due to our history, this is a lifelong pattern for our congregations. While it’s not just New England or North America we solely look to anymore, we remain reliant on ministers from other lands to serve our churches. The Chairs of the Conference Missional Teams and the Chairs of the Associations’ Committees on Ministry have been involved in significant dialogue on this issue. These conversations bore fruit in a commitment to be intentional about assisting church members in prayerfully reasoning through whether God may be asking them to step forward in more formal acts of ministry. More will be shared during a Friday workshop for the ‘Aha Makua.
Staffing patterns continue to fluctuate as we seek to address the bandwidth of the office staff. For example, when I arrived, we had 1.5 Associate Conference Ministers – one at full time, the other at half-time. Due to budget constraints, we are now down to one full-time equivalent. The loss of the 1200 annual work hours associated with the half-time position has caused us to rethink what the Conference as a whole is asking of the office staff, what should be let go of, and what new needs are emerging. With the departure of Rev. Valerie Ross from the staff, we will have the opportunity to further evaluate Conference needs, priorities, and staff duties this coming Fall. We celebrate the work of the current staff who continue to bring their best to this Conference.

There is much more to report on and celebrate within this wonderful Conference: the ministries of each of our 119 congregations; the dedicated volunteers who step into Association leadership positions; the dedicated Conference Council and Foundation Board of Trustees navigating the waters of our time. I recommend reading the many reports that are provided for a fuller view of all that is going on.

Discerning God’s path as a community of the faithful is not an easy process these days. Yet, while we may do it stumbling and fumbling, the fact remains that the Hawai‘i Conference advances God’s good news in Jesus Christ to non-gospeled areas while living in the tension between the gospel’s God-given nobility and its human agenda entrenchment.

May God continue to add divine blessings upon us.
Introduction

The purpose of the Hawai‘i Conference Foundation (the “Foundation”) is to receive and administer funds, securities and other property for the purpose of advancing the mission of the Hawai‘i Conference of the United Church of Christ (the “Conference”), including its churches and ministers through management of custodial accounts or otherwise, and advance the cause of Christian religion. In so doing, the Foundation works to promote the interests and welfare of the churches and ministers of the Conference, and of the General Synod and other instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ and affiliated institutions insofar as their interests are within the area of concern for the Conference.

When the Foundation was created in 1968, the ‘Aha Pae‘āina expressed the following reasons for formation of the Foundation: (1) refinement and improvement of the investment function for the Conference; (2) maximum protection of assets from the “operations” function (i.e. various departments of the Conference); (3) more autonomous service to churches in a trust capacity, and (4) a facility more attractive to donors who wish to create endowments for flexibility and safety from erosion.

The purposes and the reasons for the existence of the Foundation remain as true and relevant today as they were in 1968.

Financial Overview

The Foundation remains healthy financially, for which we are thankful. As of March 31, 2023, the Foundation is roughly a $76.9 million institution, including custodial accounts in its care. Though we need to constantly manage resource and spending issues, the financial picture is good and the Foundation continues to be in the fortunate position of being able to serve as a fairly robust financial ministry for the Conference. As of March 31, 2023, the close of the third quarter of our fiscal year, our balance sheet was as follows:
As of March 31, 2023, we were budgeted to have a deficit of $550,492, however, we are showing excess revenue over expenses of $1,045,915. This is due largely in part to $1,746,848 of net investment revenue, of which, $1,272,966 is unrealized gains. We were under budget for the
majority of our expense line items, and we expect our year-end draw to be close to or below budget. Our cash position is enhanced by insurance proceeds that were paid, but not yet spent, for reconstruction of Olowalu Lanakila Hawaiian Church following a destructive fire and Keanae Congregational Church’s steeple and sanctuary which suffered wind storm damage. Income is also influenced by some recent unrealized losses in the financial markets.

**Investments**

Financial markets have been volatile this year due to rising interest rates, inflation, government debt limit concerns, and the continued war in Ukraine. Through March 31, 2023, the close of our last fiscal quarter, the portfolio is up 4.83% for the quarter and up 7.29% for the fiscal year-to-date but is negative by 5.56% for the last 12 months. With the current market conditions, we should expect continued volatility in the short-term, but remember that our investment strategy is geared for the longer term. Since inception, returns have exceeded 8%.

As of the end of the third quarter, the distribution of the Foundation’s investment holdings of $68,979,759 is as follows:

- 47% (roughly $32.7 million) are Foundation unrestricted funds (funds that can be used for any operational purpose);
- 7% (roughly $4.7 million) consists of custodial and restricted funds (restricted for specific use, like the Education Fund) held for the Conference;
- 2% (roughly $1.6 million) consists of restricted funds held for other churches, scholarships, or other purposes;
- 21% (roughly $14.7 million) are endowment funds (funds where the corpus cannot be spent, and income is restricted for certain donor specified purposes); and
- 22% (roughly $15.4 million) are custodial funds belonging to churches and other related institutions.

The Board of Directors of the Foundation, through its Investment Committee, looks closely at the markets and follows the trends to make informed decisions about our holdings. The Board of Directors regularly relies upon expert guidance and has engaged The Kikawa Group of Raymond James & Associates (“The Kikawa Group”) to provide investment consulting services. The Kikawa Group serves as a third-party investment management monitor, for a fee that is paid by the Foundation, assisting with the selection and supervision of the investment management firms that manage the Foundation’s investments. The Kikawa Group monitors the performance of the investment managers and provides the Directors of the Foundation quarterly evaluation reviews of the performance of the managers in relation to published indexes of comparable investment portfolios.

The investment managers are given discretion to make certain investment decisions for the assets placed under their control while observing and operating within the constraints and philosophies outlined in the Foundation’s Statement of Investment Policy, which was most recently modified in November 2021 and will again be reviewed in the coming fiscal year.
We continue to work with our financial advisors to watch our investments and rebalance the portfolio to promote continued growth with some insulation from the volatility. On March 31, 2023, our investments had the following diversification:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>% Portfolio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund</strong></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Equity</strong></td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCF International Equity Fund</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Domestic Equity</strong></td>
<td>42.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCF Domestic Core Equity Fund</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCF Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parnassus Mid Cap Fund</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP Morgan Small Cap Core Fund</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alternative Investments</strong></td>
<td>30.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHB - Structured Notes Capped Return</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHB - Structured Notes Fixed Coupon</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Income</strong></td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvert Bond</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartford Strategic Income Fund</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSIFT Core Plus Fixed Income Fund</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuberger Berman Strategic Income Fund</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transamerica Bond Fund</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvert Short Duration Income</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornerstone Fund</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash &amp; Equivalents</strong></td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We also work with The Kikawa Group to ensure that our portfolio is invested in a socially responsible manner, consistent with the investment policy adopted and regularly reviewed by the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

**Hawai‘i Conference Foundation’s Endowment**

Approximately one quarter of the funds managed by the Foundation are *endowed* funds. Endowment funds are funds that are not currently expendable but intended to perpetually support the programs and mission of the Conference consistent with all applicable legal requirements. Endowment funds may be *restricted* or *unrestricted*, determining how the income from the funds may be used. Restricted funds are funds for which the donor has specified a particular use or purpose of the fund, and can only be used for that purpose. Unrestricted funds are funds for which the donor has specified no particular purpose for their use.

The Foundation’s endowment funds come from gifts and bequests to the Hawai‘i Conference. Such endowment gifts have been made to the Hawai‘i Conference since 1882.
Through the Foundation, the Conference draws money from its custodial funds and from income available for distribution from endowment funds to make up for the portion of its budget that is unmet from the giving of local churches and other revenue sources. Reduction in local church giving, and the commensurate reduction in Our Church’s Wider Mission (“OCWM”) contributions to the Conference, has placed weight on the Foundation to generate funds to help the Conference meet financial needs.

**Trust Holdings**

The Foundation holds legal title to the property for the benefit of many of our local churches in the Conference. In certain cases, the land holding arrangement is an express trust created by the original grantor of the property, and in other cases the arrangement is maintained as a matter of the Foundation’s policies and general practice to benefit the local church. The local church retains the continued right (and expectation) to use the property. The goal is to strengthen our churches and the Conference as a whole. The Foundation is there to ensure the title is not lost to the church as a result of financial insolvency, judgment creditors, and third-party takings. In 1972, shortly after the Foundation was created, the Foundation board stated:

“The holding of the titles to church properties in this way is in line with the commonly accepted democratic idea of mutual assistance and the use of our assets for the greatest good of all. It gives the churches freedom of use and development of their property and facilities without interference. It puts the strength of our total resources behind all the churches and it makes it possible for us to help the churches when they need assistance within the limits of our ability.”

**Coan Trust**

Rev. Titus Coan established a trust in 1882 to support mission work of the Conference (then known as the Hawaii Evangelical Association). Rev. Coan came to Hawai‘i from New England in 1835 and was reputed for leading extensive growth in church membership and training of Native Hawaiian clergy. The corpus of the Coan Trust consists of (a) invested funds of approximately $3.3 million as of April 1, 2023, and (b) a little over 1,800 acres of land located at Punahoa on the Island of Hawai‘i. The Foundation is able to provide approximately 4.5% of the corpus of the invested funds annually on a discretionary basis to support the mission of the Conference. The Foundation distributes funds from the Coan Trust to the Conference “to be used for mission work as defined in modern times, which shall include but not be limited to, spreading the Christian faith, advancing the principles and doctrines of Christianity, providing religious education and instruction, assisting the elderly and needy, and supporting Christian churches and its leaders.” This past year the Foundation provided a $145,000 grant to the Conference to support qualifying mission activity. The Foundation also committed approximately 900 acres of conservation-zoned land to the Punahoa Heritage Forest project, a faith-based cultural environmental stewardship project sponsored by the Pū‘ā Foundation. This land is also subject to a conservation easement with The Nature Conservancy.
The Richards Friend Peace Scholarship Endowment

The Richards Friend Peace Scholarship Fund, established in 1911 by Theodore and Mary Atherton Richards, has about $2.44 million in its corpus as of March 31, 2023. The funds are managed by the Foundation, and a Scholarship Committee formed under the Conference’s Stewardship Committee aids the Foundation in awarding the scholarships. Scholarship applicants are drawn from Pacific nations coming to study in America and its possessions, or from America and its possessions to the Pacific. Students from the following countries are eligible to apply for scholarships: American Samoa, China, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Marshall Islands, Palau, Philippines, Taiwan, Western Samoa, and the U.S. Awards are made on the basis of ability, need, and character. Persons with Christian connections and experience with the United Church of Christ or its affiliated churches have priority. Applications are available online at the Conference website (www.hcucc.org).

Audit

KKDLY LLC, the auditor for the Foundation, stated that in their opinion the financial statements of the Foundation “present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as of June 30, 2022 and 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.” The auditor advised that the audit went well from their standpoint and that no difficulties and no disagreements arose during the audit.

Support to Local Churches and Associations

The Foundation provides both direct financial support and in-kind direct services to churches and associations of the Conference. Financial support includes the Repairs and Maintenance Grant for Small Hawaiian Churches, administered by the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches, as well as direct financial support where churches operating on Foundation-owned land are unable to meet critical repairs, insurance, and taxes because of financial duress.

In-kind support includes facilitating insurance coverage for church properties, advising on matters related to non-profit issues, providing investment assistance through custodial accounts along with administration of those accounts for local churches and association endowment funds, correcting outstanding legal issues to bring a property into conformance with existing rules and regulations, helping and guidance in property management and development matters, and presenting education programs related to church operations and management.

The Foundation manages 78 custodial funds for churches and associations. An administrative charge (0.30%, or 30 basis points) was assessed to these funds during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. This charge covers only a fraction of the total costs of the service; comparable service fees for outside service providers are between 1-2%. The Foundation provides safekeeping for securities, collects all dividend and interest payments, keeps all the records, and makes and accounts for church withdrawals and deposits. The Foundation also provides custodial
account holders with quarterly statements.

Real Estate

Altogether, there are presently 132 tax map key parcels owned, leased, or managed by the Foundation. In some cases, multiple tax parcels are associated with a single church or property (such as Craigside). The vast majority of these are non-income producing properties, including historic church properties, cemeteries, and conservation lands. Including the Craigside condominium project, about 28% of the tax map key parcels held by the Foundation are income producing properties, and if you exclude the Craigside condominium project, only about seven percent of the Foundation’s real estate holdings are income-producing. Therein lies one of the great challenges for the Foundation as an institution, as there is a cost associated with holding these non-income producing properties. Approximately a quarter of the properties the Foundation holds are held in trust for local churches and used by local churches, and though many of these churches are able to support and pay for their use of the property, some are not and so the Foundation absorbs the ownership expenses in such cases.

In addition to the paucity of income producing properties and the general decline in church membership, some other specific challenges confront us. First, we have properties with extensive grave sites, which limit the utility of the property and encumber the Foundation with stewardship obligations (without related income for such support). Second, many properties (including those maintained by our local churches) have become unused or underutilized, so it is incumbent upon us to think of new uses or plans for such properties and facilities. Third, some of the Foundation’s properties lie within larger assemblages with “split ownership” where the local church may own a parcel within the church campus and the Foundation owns an adjacent parcel, which complicates use and stewardship decisions relating to those properties. Fourth, several of our properties are “landlocked,” having no physical or legal access. Fifth, many properties are subject to use restrictions and reversionary rights, which limit future opportunity for and new use of the property and encumber title. Sixth, with many of our properties, we need to define what is historic (significant, monumental) versus historical (past, old). Understanding and evaluating that distinction will be necessary in order to plan for the future of that property. Finally, some of our properties have developed a unity of identity of church and family. While generations of loyal family members have been good for supporting local churches, it raises problems when later generations begin to conflate church ownership with family ownership after the church ceases to be viable.

The Foundation is in the process of undertaking a refreshment of its Land and Facilities Program. Particularly, there is a current need to identify mission properties and historic properties that would continue to be held by the Foundation and properties that could be used for income generation (through sale or lease). That work will continue this coming year at both the staff and board levels of the organization.
21 Craigside Place

Because of the changing financial situation of the Conference and the Foundation, the Foundation’s Board of Directors decided it was time to sell the units at 21 Craigside Place (Tower III in the Craigside Condominium Project). After 60 years of using the property in many ways, the reality was that Craigside was too expensive to keep up. As a mission property, the building met the needs of only a very small number of retired people and disproportionally tied up resources that could be directed to broader strategic goals within the Conference. As an investment property, 21 Craigside has performed poorly for many years. Since the beginning of the sales program at 21 Craigside in October of 2021, the Foundation has sold 36 units and the funds have been reinvested directly into vehicles that we expect will provide a better return and improved liquidity for the Foundation. The Foundation continues to hold title to 12 units (as of May 17, 2023) at 21 Craigside, of which four are presently on the market and eight are in the rental pool. The Foundation also owns the leased fee interest in 19 units in Towers I and II of the Craigside condominium project. Less than 30 years remain on the Tower I and II leased fee units, after which the units would revert to the Foundation.

Conference Offices

We have moved our offices to the Topa Financial Center, located at the bottom of Bishop Street across from the Aloha Tower in downtown Honolulu. This will mark a return of the Conference office to downtown Honolulu approximately 75 years after leaving the Mission Memorial Building in the capitol district in 1947. Because of the gradual decline in available funding for Conference programs and corresponding reduction in Conference staff, the old office building at 1848 Nuuanu Avenue had become larger than was needed and was getting increasingly expensive to maintain. After an extensive marketing effort, the office building was sold to Hawai‘i Baptist Academy in September of 2022. The Foundation selected the new office space at the Topa Financial Center after exploring many options, including using underutilized space at several local churches, buying a smaller office building, and reviewing options for leasing office space in numerous other locations. Given the current market situation, it appeared that the best option for us presently was to lease office space in the downtown Honolulu office market. Our new office renovation and the move was completed in April of this year.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Wastewater Systems Audit

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) this past year initiated an inquiry into the status of wastewater systems on the Foundation and Conference properties. The initial review looked at five properties, two of which were found to be in violation because they had a large capacity cesspool (“LCC”) on site. A LCC is a cesspool that has the capacity to serve 20 people or more a day, or is connected to a business, or more than one dwelling, and it is prohibited by law (as of 2005). In 2005, the Foundation undertook a compliance program for churches located on land held by the Foundation to replace their existing cesspools with septic systems or to elect to certify that their existing cesspool could not serve more than twenty persons a day. The EPA is now taking a very strict line of interpretation and no longer allows self-certification and is
effectively requiring all cesspools that serve churches to be closed (even if use is less than 20 people a day).

The LCCs located at the two properties that were found to be in violation will be removed. The Foundation has also agreed to work with the EPA to do a complete audit of the wastewater systems at all properties owned or managed by the Foundation and the Conference. Any property that has a LCC in place will need to be remediated by closure of the LCC and replacement with a modern septic system or sewer connection. The audit and commitment to bring all properties into compliance will result in mitigation of fines imposed because of the violation. The Foundation will also replace presently legal residential cesspools located at two or more parsonage properties as part of an agreement with the EPA to further mitigate fines relating to the current violation.

The wastewater audit and mitigation may require significant resources from the Foundation and affected local churches. Under established land holding policies for active local churches, the Foundation would look to the local church to carry the cost of these expenses, but the reality is that many of our local churches may be unable to foot the bill, so the Foundation is working on a plan to finance the work and will work with any affected local church with respect to their needs.

**Mission Partners**

The Foundation works closely with many partners in ministry, including, obviously, the Conference, its associations and churches, but also including our partners from other settings and the community. The Foundation has been working with the UCC Cornerstone Fund to facilitate individual financing for our local churches, as well as opportunities to be a participant in nationally offered loan programs that benefit our local churches. The Foundation and the Conference are working with The Pension Boards – United Church of Christ (“**PBUCC**”) on its Generations of Service campaign and planning a broader capital campaign to fund the Generations of Service commitments and create an endowment for other mission priorities of the Conference. The historic relationship with Arcadia continues, with both the Executive Director of the Foundation and the Conference Minister serving on the board of directors. The Foundation keeps close ties with the Insurance Board (“**IB**”), recognizing the importance having a good insurance program for the churches in the Conference (who have insurance needs which are often unique to churches and difficult to replicate on the commercial marketplace), and the Foundation’s Executive Director is currently serving as the IB’s board chair. The Foundation maintains ties with the Retirement Housing Foundation (“**RHF**”), which is a member of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (“**CHHSM**”) of the United Church of Christ, and the Foundation’s Executive Director currently serves on the RHF board of directors. The Foundation has arrangements with Community Capacity Projects Hawai‘i to support mission efforts with the Micronesian community and ‘Ohana Ni‘ihau O Waimea Church. Arrangements with Palapala Ho‘omau Preservation Society, Huialoha Preservation ‘Ahahui, the James & Abigail Campbell Family Foundation, and the Lahaina Restoration Foundation are helping to direct community support for the maintenance of certain properties, freeing Foundation resources for other church missions. The Foundation is working with Pū‘ā Foundation and The Nature Conservancy on stewardship of important conservation land near Hilo. The State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches continues a long relationship with the Foundation to administer grant programs for small Hawaiian churches.
Capital Campaign

The Foundation and the Conference are in the early stages of developing a capital campaign to support the mission needs of both organizations. After evaluating the feedback gathered through a feasibility study completed in 2022, the Foundation and Conference boards have approved a campaign to support the following ministry projects: (1) “Generations of Service” (goal $6 million), which will provide financial assistance and leadership development programs in Hawai‘i through the Pension Boards’ philanthropic arm, the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance; (2) “Church Leaders Cultivation & Development” (goal $3 million), which will provide theological education and opportunities for continued learning for prospective and authorized ministers in Hawai‘i through the Pacific School of Religion programs and other approved partner educational settings; (3) “New Ministry Initiatives & Development” (goal $2 million), which will provide funds for the Conference to explore new ways of being church, support emerging ministries, and promote church vitality; and (4) “Revisioning Honored Spaces for the Future” (goal $1 million), which will create a fund to help support and retain properties with potential for new or revitalized mission and to aid congregations with their own visioning process to faithfully discern the best foundation for their future mission and witness. The next step in the process is to engage a campaign consultant to provide staff support for the campaign and to assemble a campaign steering committee to refine the final campaign plan and schedule.

Administration and Management

The direction and management of the affairs of the Foundation and the control and distribution of its properties are vested in the 12 members of the Board of Directors. The following individuals generously gave their time and knowledge and served as your Trustees during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023:

• Mr. Warren Orikasa (Chairperson)
• Ms. Joan Sakaba (Vice Chairperson)
• Rev. Kenneth Makuakane (Secretary)
• Ms. Yvonne Leiser (Treasurer)
• Rev. Dr. Alan Akana
• Rev. Eric Anderson
• Ms. Martha Balkin
• Ms. Caroline Peters Belsom
• Ms. Joyclynn Costa
• Mr. Boyd Matsuyama
• Rev. Dr. David Popham
• Mr. Martin Zorn

The efforts and commitment of our Directors to the Foundation and the Conference are significant and greatly appreciated.

The daily business of the Foundation is handled by a professional staff, including an Executive Director (Andrew Bunn), an executive assistant (Lorene Arata), a chief financial officer
(Nan Katsuda), and an accountant (Ann Osalvo). In the coming year we will be advertising for a property management associate to add to our staff to help with the many property concerns. We are also very pleased to work very closely and regularly with the staff of the Conference.

Conclusion

For more information or questions on specific situations, contact Andrew Bunn at the Foundation, Topa Financial Center, 700 Bishop Street, Suite 825, Honolulu, Hawai‘i, 96813; by phone at 808-791-5638; or by e-mail at abunn@hcucc.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our Conference. God bless this mission. Good health to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew R. Bunn
Executive Director
As I wrote in my invitation to this year’s ‘Aha Pae‘āina, I had hoped along with many that we would enjoy an in-person gathering this year. In the three years I have served as Council Chair, we have not held a face-to-face meeting of the Council. I wonder if I will be the first person to hold this office to never be in the same room with the Council or the Conference delegates. Truly these are times to amaze and to stress us all.

We heard firm convictions and earnest beliefs at the 200th ‘Aha Pae‘āina, both in the regular meeting in June and at the special ‘Aha Makua held in October. The Administration Missional Team and the Council developed a revised budget based on the delegates’ direction in June which the Makua approved in October. Choosing spending priorities will not be easy this year, either. Although the Hawai‘i Conference Foundation has been able to invest the proceeds from the sale of non-missional Craigside units and the building at 1848 Nu‘uanu Avenue, it will take time to see increased income from those. We use a five-year average to determine what funds are available, and we are still working toward a “safe draw” upon invested funds that does not drain our resources.

The Foundation Board of Directors and the Conference Council approved a case statement for a $12,000,000 capital campaign. Half the amount will support the Generations of Service efforts of the Pension Boards, establishing an endowment to supplement small pensions and emergency needs of UCC retirees. The Arcadia Foundation will seek to raise $2,000,000 as part of this effort. The other priorities are church leaders cultivation and development, new ministry initiatives and development, and revisioning honored spaces for the future.

The work of the Reconciliation Working Group as well as ongoing visible conflicts prompted the Council to enlist the aid of neutral mediators Elizabeth Kent, Leolinda Iokepa, and Peter Adler to look at our situation. They interviewed people from around the Conference and found cause for concern as well as hope for renewal. Their full report is now available, and the Council will undertake to engage in formal structured and organized mediation with our constituencies.

As the ‘Aha approached, we learned of the departure of Associate Conference Minister the Rev. Valerie Ross from the Conference staff. I offer her my deep thanks for her faithful ministry among us.

Mahalo nui loa to all the members of the Council, the Missional Teams, and the Foundation Directors. My thanks to the Rev. David Popham and the Conference Staff, and to Andy Bunn and the Foundation staff. May God bless you, the leaders and the members of the Conferences’ churches. Together, may we be a visible sign of the presence of Christ.

Since the last ‘Aha Pae‘āina, the Conference Council has taken the following actions:
Affirmed the elections of Joan Sakaba and Boyd Matsuyama to the Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Conference Foundation with their terms to end in 2023,

Appointed Linda Rich as At-Large Member of the Executive Council of the Conference Council,

Authorized expenditures on the basis of the budget recommended to the ‘Aha Pae‘āina by the Conference Council on April 22, 2022, until a new budget was authorized by the ‘Aha Makua,

Approved check signers,

Approved a revised budget for FYE 2023 and recommended its adoption by the ‘Aha Pae‘āina,

Received the report of the Reconciliation Working Group,

Appointed Arlene Pihana to serve on the Capital Campaign Goals Committee,

Endorsed the 2023 Pastoral Leaders Minimum Compensation Guidelines Handbook,

Set the date for the 2023 ‘Aha Pae‘āina,

Appointed Karen Anderson, Nanette Cabatbat, Caroline Belsom, Greg Sato, and Gail Lee to the Personnel Committee,

Contracted for neutral mediation with Elizabeth Kent, Peter Adler, and Leolinda Iokepa,

Approved a partnership with the Pū‘ā Foundation on the Punahoa Heritage Forest project,

Designated housing allowances for the Conference Minister and Associate Conference Ministers,

Adopted a Capital Campaign goal of $12,000,000,

Appointed Linn Garcia to the office of Treasurer for the remainder of the current term,

Heard the report of neutral mediators Elizabeth Kent, Peter Adler, and Leolinda Iokepa, and directed the Executive Council to prepare a plan for addressing issues raised in the report,

Appointed Kaui Castillo to the G. N. Wilcox, Elsie Wilcox, and Mabel Wilcox Distribution Committees,

Decided to hold the 2023 ‘Aha Makua online,

Accepted the audited financial statements for FYE 2022,

Approved the slate for FYE 2024 and recommended its adoption by the ‘Aha Pae‘āina,

Approved the FYE 2024 budget and recommended its adoption by the ‘Aha Pae‘āina,

Authorized the Conference to continue work with the neutral mediators on the “Formal Processes” section of their report,

Approved a draft agreement with the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches regarding making ministry of the Papa Makua available to other churches of the Conference, and

Authorized release of the report of the neutral mediators.

Please hold us in your prayers and share with us your mana‘o.

Yours in Christ,

Eric S. Anderson, Chair Hawai‘i Conference Council
Hawai‘i Conference United Church of Christ
Minutes of the 200th `Aha Pae`āina
Virtual Meeting
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Sunday, June 13, 2022

Opening of the 200th `Aha Pae`āina
At 3:00 p.m., via Zoom, Rev. Eric Anderson, Chair of the Conference Council, officially opened the 200th `Aha Pae`āina, which was immediately followed by a Conference-wide worship service. The `Aha Pae`āina will continue throughout the week and concludes with the Business Session on Saturday, June 18, 2022.

Friday, June 17, 2022

I. Call to Order
Eric Anderson, Chair of the Conference Council, called to order the business session of the `Aha Makua of the 200th `Aha Pae`āina at 3:00 p.m.
Rev. Anderson called upon Office Coordinator Lori Yamashiro to explain how the delegates could participate using the Zoom format while meeting the Rules of Procedure.

II. Special Recognitions and Celebrations
Rev. Anderson called upon Conference Minister Rev. David Popham to recognize special persons and anniversaries in the life of the Conference.

III. Introductions
Conference Minister David Popham introduced the following:

New Clergy
• Rob Bork, Kapaa UCC, island of Kauai
• Malcolm Carr, Hawai‘i Kai UCC, island of O‘ahu
• Rey Desenganio, Moanalua Community, island of O‘ahu
• Malia Galindo, Church of the Crossroads, island of O‘ahu
• Inok Lautej, First Marshallese UCC, island of Kauai
• Sam Masilamoney, Kona Lanakila, island of Hawai‘i
• Jonathan Roach, Associate Conference Minister
• Valerie Ross, Associate Conference Minister

New Church
• Waikoloa Marshallese, island of Hawai‘i

The Rev. Popham named those ministers who have passed away since the last `Aha Pae`āina and led a prayer of thanksgiving for their lives and ministries:
• Tulilele Amosa
• David S. Milotta
• Luuga Vailuu
• Allan Fisher
• Stephen Hanashiro
• Iopu Fale

The following significant church anniversaries were recognized:
• 190 Years, Imiola Congregational Church
• 190 Years, Kaahumanu Congregational Church
• 190 Years, Kalahikiola Congregational Church
• 190 Years, Keawalai Congregational Church
• 190 Years, Liliuokalani Protestant Church
• 155 Years, Kalihi and Moanalua Church
• 155 Years, Kona Lanakila Congregational
• 135 Years, Central Union Church
• 130 Years, Central Christian Church

The following significant anniversaries of ordination were recognized:
• 20 Years
  Heather Barfield
  Kimberly Fong
  Jeannie Thompson
• 25 Years
  Barry Mick
  Kalasa Afuola
• 30 Years
  Felizardo Taripe
  Iese Tuuao
• 35 Years
  David Baumgart Turner
• 40 Years
  Mila Sapolu
• 50 Years
  Ronald Kent
• 60 Years
  Elias Servilleja
• 65 Years
  William Kaina
• 70 Years
  Teruo “Terry” Kawata

The Rev. Popham also introduced the graduates of two co-horts:
• Vancouver School of Theology – Master of Divinity
  o Kauanoe Hoomanawanui
  o Clara Priester
  o Rebecca Woodland
• Pacific School of Religion – Theological Education for Leadership
Rev. Tana Roseboro from the Pacific School of Religion shared words of congratulations and encouragement to the graduates.

IV. Credentials Report
Lori Yamashiro reported that as of 3:05p.m., 51 delegates from 39 churches had registered and were present; because a minimum of 25 churches constitute a quorum, Rev. Anderson declared that a quorum had been established.

It was moved by the Credentials Committee,

AC 06-22-01 To accept the roll of delegates as the official roll of the ‘Aha Pae‘aina.
Motion was approved by consensus.

V. Adoption of Rules of Procedure
Rev. Anderson reviewed rules 3 and 4 of the Rules of Procedures and introduced parliamentarian Rachel Glanstein who will assist with questions of parliamentary procedure.

It was moved by Ron Fujiyoshi and seconded,

AC 06-22-02 To amend the Rules of Procedure by deleting from item 5. Voting: “The chairperson may direct any change to the voting method.” and approve the Rules as amended.
Motion was approved by consensus.

VI. Business Agenda
A. Adoption of Business Agenda
It was moved by the ‘Aha Planning Committee,

AC 06-22-03 To recommend that the Business Agenda be adopted.
Motion was approved by consensus.

Conference Minister David Popham introduced the following visitors and special guests:
- Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy, President of the Pacific School of Religion

It was moved by the Rev. Popham, and seconded,

AC 06-22-04 To grant voice without vote to all special guests and visitors.
Motion was approved by consensus.
The ‘Aha was recessed at 3:30pm, without objection, and will reconvene at 8:30am on Saturday morning.

Saturday, June 18, 2022

VII. Call to Order

Rev. Anderson reconvened the ‘Aha Makua at 8:30am and called upon Office Coordinator Lori Yamashiro to explain how the delegates could participate using the Zoom format while meeting the Rules of Procedure.

The following churches were recognized as “Five for Five” churches in mission giving to Our Churches Wider Mission Basic Support and the four special church-wide offerings:

- Amataga Fou
- Central Union Church
- Church of the Holy Cross
- First Chinese Church of Christ
- First United Protestant Church
- Hanapepe Hawaiian Cong’l Church
- Hanapepe UCC
- Hawaii Kai UCC
- Hilo Coast UCC
- Hokulea UCC
- Hoolehua Congregational Church
- Iao UCC
- Ka Hana O Ke Akua Church
- Kahikolu Congregational Church
- Kahukuonalani UCC
- Kailua Christian Church
- Kalaiakamanu Hou
- Kalihi and Moanalua Church
- Kaluaaha Congregational Church
- Kapaa First Hawaiian Church
- Kapaa UCC
- Kauaha’ao Congregational Church
- Kaumakapili Church
- Kawaiaha’o Church
- Koloa Union Church
- Kona Lanakila Congregational
- Lahuialani Kaanapali
- Lanai Union Church
- Lihue Christian Church
- Lihuokalani Protestant Church
- Living Stones Church
- Manoa Valley Church
- Moanalua Community Church
- Nu’uanu Congregational Church
- Olaa First Hawaiian Church
- Pearl City Community Church
- Pukaana Congregational Church
- Puula UCC
- Wahiawa UCC
- Waialua Congregational Church
- Waialua UCC
- Waiokeola Congregational Church
- Waiola Church
- Waioli Huiia Church

The following churches were recognized as leadership churches in giving (highest total dollar support):

- Nu’uanu Congregational Church
- Church of the Holy Cross
- Central Union Church
- Waiokeola Congregational Church
- United Church of Christ – Judd Street
- Church of the Crossroads
- Pearl City Community Church
- Hawaii Kai United Church of Christ
- Manoa Valley Church
Koloa Union Church

The following churches were recognized for highest per-capita giving:
- Lahuiokalani Kaanapali Congregational
- Pukaana Congregational Church
- Hanapepe United Church of Christ
- Hoolehua Congregational Church
- Nu’uanu Congregational Church
- Koloa Union Church
- Church of the Holy Cross
- Kalihi and Moanalua Church
- Hawaii Kai United Church of Christ
- Hokuloa United Church of Christ
- United Church of Christ – Judd St.

The following churches were recognized for increased giving that was double or more over the previous year:
- Kapa’a First Hawaiian Church
- Iao United Church of Christ
- Waiola Church
- Amataga Fou
- Bread of Life Church
- Kalihi and Moanalua Church
- Filipino United Church of Christ
- Lili‘uokalani Protestant Church
- Waialua Congregational Church
- Windward Samoan CCC
- Epenesa Fou Congregational Christian Samoan Church
- Wahiawa United Church of Christ
- United Church of Christ Pohnpei Maui
- Kaluaaha Congregational Church

VIII. Credentials Report
Lori Yamashiro reported that as of 8:40am, 95 delegates from 60 churches had registered and were present; because a minimum of 25 churches constitute a quorum, Rev. Anderson declared that a quorum had been established.

It was moved by the Credentials Committee,

*AC 06-22-05 To accept the roll of delegates as the official roll of the ‘Aha Pae‘aina.*
Motion was approved by consensus.

IX. Elections
Rev. Anderson directed delegates to the Nominating Committee Report, including the slate of nominee, on page B5 of the ‘Aha Makua Handbook. He also reviewed Bylaw requirements for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor that met
the requirements and/or were received in time for this meeting; as a result, Rev. Anderson declared nominations closed.

Pursuant to the Bylaws at Article XI Sec. 2, since all nominees were running unopposed, Rev. Anderson instructed the Secretary to cast an elective ballot favoring all nominees to their respective positions as follows:

**AC 06-22-06 (Two-year terms unless otherwise specified)**
- Eric Anderson, Conference Council Chair
- Lorna Motas, Conference Council Secretary
- Jaquelin Kojima, Conference Council Youth/Young Adult At-Large
- Linda Rich, Justice and Witness Missional Team Chair
- Sharon Matsuyama, Stewardship Missional Team Chair
- Sugalu Timoteo, At-Large HCUCC Nominating Committee
- Kenneth Makuakane, Hawai`i Conference Foundation Trustee

**HCUCC Nominating Committee**
- Sam Masilamoney, AHEC
- Debra Wong Yuen, Hawaii Island Association

With these elections, the following persons constitute the 2022-2023 Conference Council:

- Eric Anderson, Chair
- Marilyn Hasegawa, Vice-Chair
- Lorna Motas, Secretary
- Roda Tablas, Treasurer
- Crystal Fredrickson, Youth/Young Adult At-Large
- Jaquelin Kojima, Youth/Young Adult At-Large
- Brian Welsh, President, Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches
- George Winchell, President, Hawai`i Island Association
- Clyde Fujikawa, President, Kaua`i Association
- Wayne Ibara, President, O`ahu Association
- Arlene Pihana, President, Tri-Isle Association
- Elwood Kita, Administration Missional Team Chair
- Joan Sakaba, Formation Missional Team Chair
- Linda Rich, Justice and Witness Team Chair
- Sharon Matsuyama, Stewardship Missional Team Chair
- Boyd Matsuyama, Representative, State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches
- Andrew Bunn, HCF Executive Secretary (ex-officio)
- David Popham, Conference Minister (ex-officio)

**X. Hawai`i Conference Budget for Fiscal Year Ending 2023**

It was moved by the Conference Council,

**AC 06-22-07 To adopt the Hawai`i Conference Budget for Fiscal Year ending 2023.**
Debate followed.

It was moved by Michelle Pimentel and seconded,

**AC 06-22-08 To amend the motion to add funding for the Papa Makua position to the FYE2023 budget.**

Debate followed, and continued until closed by the delegates.

The body voted on the amendment **AC 06-22-08**.
The results were: Yes 42, No 48; the amendment was lost.

It was moved by Florentino Cordova and seconded,

**AC 06-22-11 To refer the FYE2023 Budget back to the Conference Council to include the Papa Makua position and return to a Special Meeting of the ‘Aha Makua.**

Debate followed.

The body voted on the referral **AC 06-22-11**.
The results were: Yes 60, No 31; the referral was adopted and the budget was referred back to the Conference Council to include the Papa Makua position and report back to a special meeting of the ‘Aha Makua.

**XI. Conference Bylaw Amendments**

The Conference Council recommended several amendments to the Hawaii Conference Bylaws. Notice of these amendments were mailed to members at least 60 days prior to this meeting and a summary of that notice was provide in the ‘Aha Handbook.

The Executive Council, acting as the Business Committee for the ‘Aha Makua, has separated the proposed bylaws amendments into two questions. The first question concerns amendments to Article XII, Affiliations and Relationships, in Section 2, specifically the removal of the Samoan Council and the Council of Filipino Ministry from the list of “Examples of Affiliate Organizations.” The proposed amendment was recommended by the Conference Council in good faith belief that those Council had ceased meeting. When the Executive Council learned otherwise, it voted to separate the question on these items and recommends that the originally proposed bylaw amendment to Article XII, Section 2 be withdrawn from consideration, which will retain the current wording and continue to list the Samoan Council and the Council of Filipino Ministry as examples of Affiliate organizations.

It was moved by the Executive Council,

**AC 06-22-12 To withdraw from consideration the originally proposed bylaw amendment to Article XII, Section 2 regarding the removal of the Samoan Council and the Council of Filipino Ministry.**

Motion was approved by consensus.
It was agreed by consensus to consider the bylaw amendments “en grosse” (all together), except for the four amendments to Article VI, Section 1, Article VII Section 4 (revision to be aligned with Hawaii Conference Foundation revised bylaws and revision to the election of Hawaii Conference Foundation Directors), and Article X The Hawaii Conference Foundation.

It was moved by the Conference Council,

**AC 06-22-13 To approve the amendments to Article III: Associate Members Items 3 and 7, Article IV: Meetings Section 4, Article V: Officer Section 2, Article VI Conference Minister Section 2, Article XI: Standing Committees Section 4, and Article XII correcting the name of Christian Endeavor.**

Motion was approved by consensus.

It was moved by the Conference Council,

**AC 06-22-14 To amend the Conference Bylaws in Article VI: Conference Minister Section 1, Article VII: Conference Council Section 4, and Article X: The Hawaii Conference Foundation.**

Debate followed, was extended, and continued until closed by the delegates. During debate, a motion that the body instruct the council to return the bylaws back to the former for the council meeting this afternoon was ruled out of order since it was confusing and not on the agenda.

The body voted on the bylaw amendment package **AC 06-22-14.**

The results were: Yes 45, No 35; at least 62 votes were necessary for adoption, so the bylaw amendment package was lost.

Debate was extended by consensus.

**XII. Establish Missional Team Innovation and Engagement**

Rev. Anderson called upon Rev. Popham for a motion to establish the Missional Team for Innovation and Engagement.

Rev. Popham moved, and it was seconded,

**AC 06-22-15 To establish the Innovation and Engagement Missional Team.**

Debate followed, and was extended.

The body voted on motion **AC 06-22-15.**

The results were: Yes 64, No 15; the motion was adopted.

**XIII. Resolution – Affirming Licensed and Commissioned Ministers as Authorized Ministers in the United Church of Christ**

Rev. Cordova moved, and it was seconded,
AC 06-22-16 To refer to the Conference Council for action, the two resolutions
Affirmed Licensed and Commissioned Minister and Becoming a Church Against Gun
Violence.

Debate followed.

The body voted on the referral AC 06-22-16.
The results were: Yes 22, No 57; the referral was lost.

Debate was extended.

Jack Belsom presented the Resolution.

It was moved by the Conference Council,

AC 06-22-17 To adopt the Resolution “Affirming Licensed and Commissioned
Ministers as Authorized Ministers in the United Church of Christ.”
Motion approved by consensus.

XIV. Resolution – Becoming a Church Against Gun Violence
Mary Herbig presented the Resolution.

It was moved by Rev. Herbig, and seconded,

AC 06-22-18 To adopt the Resolution “Becoming a Church Against Gun Violence.”

Debate followed.

It was moved by Kealahou Alika, and seconded,

AC 06-22-19 To amend the second Whereas by deleting “mainland” and replacing it
with “49 states and territories”.
Amendment approved by consensus.

It was moved by Kalaniakea Wilson, and seconded,

AC 06-22-20 To amend the second Whereas by replacing “Hawaii” with “the
Hawaiian Kingdom.”

Debate followed and was extended.

The body voted on amendment AC 06-22-20.
The results were: Yes 17, No 53; the amendment was lost.

The body then voted on the amended motion AC 06-22-18 (includes AC 06-22-19).
Motion approved by consensus.
XV. Recognition and Words of Thanks
    Rev. Anderson extended the thanks and appreciation to all who worked to put this virtual ‘Aha Pae‘āina together.

XVI. Adjournment
    Rev. Anderson noted that the body had completed all of the agenda items and the 200th ‘Aha Pae‘āina adjourned at 12:15pm.

Lorna Motas,
Recording Secretary
Report to the 201st ‘Aha Pae‘āina of the Hawai‘i Conference
Rev. Jonathan C. Roach, PhD, Associate Conference Minister
1 Samuel 1:9-18

This call has been a year of joys and challenges, but I feel blessed to be called to this ministry. And as I enter my fifth year of living on Hawai‘i Island and will start my third year in this call this October, I continue to grow in my love for this ‘āina, our congregations, and our kahu.

My duties and responsibilities include the following essential functions:

- Work collaboratively and openly with all Conference staff, especially Conference Minister and Associate Conference Ministers.
- Support and resource all Hawai‘i Conference churches and ministers on Hawai‘i Island.
- Work in partnership with the Papa Makua for support of the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches’ congregations on Hawai‘i Island.
- Support and resource Hawai‘i Island Association (HIA)’s Board and Committee on Ministry. (This role was removed in February 2023)
- Provide Search and Call support of congregations in pastoral transition on Hawai‘i Island. (This role was expanded in February 2023)
- Staff and resource missional teams of the Conference Council and staff as assigned.
  - Editorial Team, Committee on Ministry Chairs, Formation Missional Team, Pastoral Leadership Retreat Planning Team, and the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC) Committee on Ministry (Some of these duties were removed in February 2023)

I. Resolution Update:

After the 200th ‘Aha Pae‘āina, our Conference Minister assigned me the responsibility of guiding the approved resolution, *Affirming Licensed and Commissioned Ministers as Authorized Ministers in the United Church of Christ*, through the process of being submitted for the 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

After numerous Zooms and e-mails working with various parties, the Subcommittee on Disposition which is charged with reviewing all resolutions, recommended that this resolution be classified as a Prudential Resolution and that it be sent directly to Implementing Bodies. A resolution sent to an implementing body is part of the General Synod record and that body is responsible for complying with the resolution. In this case, the resolution directs the implementing body (MESA) to amend the *Manual on Ministry* to provide recommended processes and procedures for both licensed ministry and commissioned ministry as authorized ministries for those Associations that want to maintain and support those forms of authorized ministry. MESA has committed to making the changes specified in the resolution and to communicate its actions.¹

¹ Based upon e-mail communications with David Anderson at the National Office
After speaking with David Popham, the Conference Council, and the original authors from the ‘Aha O Nā Mokupuni ‘O Maui, Moloka’i a Me Lāna’i Association, I reported back that we are delighted with this outcome and look forward to supporting and working with MESA to live out this resolution. The resolution has been published for the General Synod at https://generalsynod.org/proposed-resolutions and will be part of the consent agenda to be approved during the opening session of Synod. MESA has told us to expect the first drafts of new processes and procedures this summer.

II. Change in Essential Functions:

Starting in February, I was asked to address and strengthen Search and Call for the Conference. Since I am only part-time, to add something this large to my essential functions means that other things had to be removed. In conversation with David and looking at the Conference priorities for 2023, the following items were removed from my current workload: staff liaison to the HIA Executive Committee, to the HIA Committee on Ministry, to the AHEC Committee on Ministry, and to the Formation Missional Team.

Although I will miss working with these committees and look forward to working with them again as the needs of the Conference change over the coming years, I am enjoying this opportunity to engage with our congregations and clergy around Search and Call. Working with David and our Ministry Team, I have developed a working draft plan for a more robust Search and Call strategy. In the next several weeks, I will be asking people from our congregations who are currently in Search and Call processes to join a focus group to help me refine and empower this plan.

Since the beginning of February, I have reviewed 48 UCC clergy profiles plus three profiles from outside of the UCC that were made available to us, have e-mailed those clergy who were interested, and have had 10 Zoom calls with potential candidates to talk story. The net results have been an additional nine profiles being sent to our congregations.

With the resignation of ACM Valerie Ross, my essential duties will be changing again, and I look forward to where and how my ministry will grow and unfold in the coming months. I rededicate myself and this ministry to service of our still-speaking God as well as to you and the congregations of our Conference.

III. Major Highlights of the Last Year:

Just to highlight a few items from the last 12 months: I loved working with the Hawai‘i Island Association and the United Church of Christ Pohnpei, Hilo as that congregation became a dual member of both the UCC, USA and the UCC, Pohnpei. Other highlights include working with our COM Chairs to plan an All-COM training with Rev. Tara Barber; working with Editorial Team and the Pacific School of Religion to provide informational sessions on Hawai‘i Island (two sites), Maui, O‘ahu (two sites), and Kaua‘i on the TEL Program; empowering content for the Pastoral Leaders Retreat, the Conference’s Online Resource Fair, The Friend, and the Coconut Wireless; as well as participating in the blessing of the Punahoa Heritage Forest by the Pū‘ā Foundation and in the La Ho‘okuikahi – Reconciliation Day Service in Honolulu.
Greetings to all in the name of Christ,

I would like to thank Rev. Dennis Barger for serving as both Secretary and Treasurer, Kahu Jimmy Aaron as Vice Moderator, Rev. Kimberly Fong as Committee on Ministry Chair, Les Maeda as Nominating Committee Chair, Warren Orikasa, Jack Belsom and all committee members of this Association. The Treasurer position has been vacant since Rev. Tino Cordova retired. Rev. Dennis Barger has been serving as the Treasurer thus far and is doing a great job! I would like to encourage members to consider serving in this position and be part of our Executive Board.

The members of Poʻokela Church, in Makawao, hosted the Spring ‘Aha Mokupuni on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Due to the available technology of the Church, the meeting was held both in person and virtually allowing delegates on Molokaʻi and Lanaʻi to join us. Rev. Jonathan Roach attended on behalf of the Hawaiʻi Conference. We also had a very informative presentation on “Violence Prevention in the Church” with Mr. Danny Tengan of O‘ahu.

In January, Rev. Jack Belsom hosted an in-person and Zoom meeting with Rev. Tana Roseboro-March, the director of the Pacific School of Religion’s Certificate in Theological Education for Leadership. The program is designed to equip church leaders to better understand the unique challenges of leadership in the church. This is a great opportunity for members wanting to be authorized for ministry in the United Church of Christ. Should you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Rev. Jack Belsom.

I look forward to seeing every at the ‘Aha Paeʻāina.

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Arlene Kealanalani Pihana
President, ‘Aha O Na Mokupuni O Maui, Molokaʻi A Me Lānaʻi
Blessings to the members of the Aha Makua. Our AHEC churches met in-person for our Annual Meeting last week because of the passion of our delegates to fellowship together and continue our beautiful traditions. It is an honor to serve the Hawaiian churches as the Luna Ho’omalu and I want to share in my report about events within AHEC from the past year starting with most recent.

**GENERAL SYNOD RESOLUTIONS:** The new AHEC Resolutions are still moving forward. Papa Makua Kahu Wendell Davis and Josann Meyer Parker Jenks from Kawaiaha’o Church are the 2023 AHEC General Synod delegates. The titles are 'A Resolution Calling for a New Study by our Church on our Relationship with the Indian Boarding Schools and the boarding schools in Hawaii' and secondly, '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.' These Resolutions are still moving forward as 'Resolutions of Witness' under the guidance of the Synod sub-committee of Disposition.

**2023 Na Kai Ewalu:** Since these reports were submitted in May, the plan for the Annual Meeting of AHEC was to meet last Friday, June 9th as a one-day event hosted by Kaneohe Congregational Church. An optional activity was also planned by AHEC leaders on Saturday June 10th to have AHEC participate in the Kamehameha Day Parade in Honolulu. The purpose would be to increase community awareness and advocate for our active Hawaiian churches.

**PAPA MAKUA RELATIONAL COVENANT:** The presidents and vice-presidents of both AHEC and the Council have had a series of meetings over the past few months to put together a covenant regarding our many conversations about AHEC and the Papa Makua. The Executive Committee brought the covenant to the AHEC Spring Halawai and it was passed with small additions of historical context and then the HCUCC Council passed it with one change.

**SPRING HALAWAI on Maui at Kalanikahua Hou Protestant Church:** Our theme of “E Ho’omana Kakou e Ke Akua, E Ho’onani ‘ia Ke Akua – We are empowered by the Lord, The Lord is Glorified!” was fitting for the beautiful time AHEC had on Maui. Great appreciation and gratitude is given to the members of Kalanikahua Hou Protestant Church for being
wonderful hosts and in particular for the amazing food! Highlights were the Friday workshop on the Ku'ē Petition by the host church and the evening Aha Mele. Many thanks to Kalaniakea Wilson for stepping in last minute, due to Ron Williams’ unexpected illness, for the Saturday presentation on the New England artifacts that were researched last summer.

**FALL HALAWAI at Ewa Community Church:** AHEC met in-person for the first time since the pandemic to celebrate our Fall Halawai. We have great gratitude for the Ewa Community Church ohana which did a magnificent job in hosting our delegates. I wrote a summary for the Coconut Wireless. “AHEC Luna Ho’omalu (President) Kahu Brian Welsh shares, "A highlight was the Saturday teaching by Ron Williams called "From Ku to Cook", a presentation about the summer research trip to the New England archives. Important documents and artifacts were shared that may change the way Hawaiian history is viewed as further research comes to light. Another highlight was the wonderful State Sunday School Ho‘ike on Friday night with many amazingly talented musicians sharing their gifts in song."

**HAWAIIAN KINGDOM HISTORY: The Kingdom, The Church and The Land:** The 12 sessions are currently available on the HCUCC website and the link can be shared with interested people. [https://www.hcucc.org/hawaiian-kingdom-history-series](https://www.hcucc.org/hawaiian-kingdom-history-series). Notably, there is a growing movement of seeking justice for the crimes of the past among a diverse group of organizations. The Methodist Church has taken steps of apology and reparation. UH Manoa presented a symposium this year called, "The Royal Commission of Inquiry--Investigating War Crimes and Human Rights Violations Committed in the Hawaiian Kingdom." Finally, there has been a learning opportunity on the HCUCC website called “The Land Back Movement.” I am very grateful, in particular, for the hard work in putting on the Sunday history series which has had hundreds of people register for it. Truth has great power and we are seeing truth change the hearts of people.

The Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches is an active and vital association that continues to “live into” the 1993 Redress. It is an honor to serve these wonderful congregations.

Blessings, Kahu Brian Welsh kahubrian@gmail.com
Relational Covenant

Between the Hawai‘i Conference, United Church of Christ and
the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, United Church of Christ

UCC Background

On January 17, 1993, the President of the United Church of Christ, Paul Sherry, presented an Apology to the Hawaiian people. In the Apology he shared these words of the ongoing process of repenting for the original complicity in the overthrow of the Queen in the past and righting wrongs in the future. “We are gathered here so that, as President of the United Church of Christ, I can apologize for the support given that act by ancestors of ours in the church now known as the United Church of Christ. We do so in order to begin a process of repentance and reconciliation for wrongs done. We are here not to condemn, but to acknowledge. We are here to remember and ask forgiveness. We are here to commit ourselves to work alongside our Hawaiian sisters and brothers - both those in the United Church of Christ and those beyond - in the hope that a society of justice and mercy for them and for all people, everywhere, may yet emerge.”

Introduction

This covenant between the Hawai‘i Conference, United Church of Christ (HCUCC) and the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC) makes advice and counseling services available to HCUCC member congregations and leadership through the ministry of the AHEC Papa Makua.

Foundations

The Papa Makua is the spiritual leader, chief executive, and administrative officer of AHEC, with duties outlined by the AHEC bylaws and further defined by the AHEC Board of Directors. The AHEC Board of Directors calls and supervises the Papa Makua. AHEC serves as the calling and compensating setting of the church for the Papa Makua.

Both HCUCC and AHEC believe that the resources of the Papa Makua’s ministry can and should be available more broadly to churches around Hawai‘i. Further, both believe that coordination of ministry between the HCUCC staff and the Papa Makua has great potential benefit. This covenant between AHEC and HCUCC brings the Papa Makua’s ministry to the HCUCC on a consulting basis.

Expectations

The primary responsibilities of the Papa Makua are defined by AHEC and its Board of Directors.
HCUCC will invite the Papa Makua to meetings of staff that are appropriate to coordinated ministry. These meetings would be those in which the Papa Makua would gain and share useful information about conditions of AHEC churches, or in which HCUCC program discussions would benefit from the input of the Papa Makua.

HCUCC staff would make requests of the Papa Makua for time and consultation with HCUCC congregations. The Papa Makua will respond to these requests as time and other responsibilities permit with the basic goal to kokua one another. Likewise, the Papa Makua would make requests of HCUCC staff for time and consultation as well, which HCUCC staff will respond to as time and other responsibilities permit. The HCUCC staff cannot direct the activities of the Papa Makua, nor can the Papa Makua direct the activities of the HCUCC staff.

**Supervision**

The Papa Makua will be supervised by the AHEC Board of Directors.

**Evaluation**

The Relational Covenant shall be reviewed annually prior to the ‘Aha Pae’aina by a committee comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conference Council, and the Luna Ho’omalu and Luna Ho’omalu Hope of AHEC. They shall report their review to the HCUCC Conference Council and the AHEC Board of Directors.

**Scriptural Basis**

Reconciliation is a process that can take time. The overthrow of the Queen in 1893 caused many problems for the Hawaiian people that are not solved quickly. The good news is we have a God who empowers healing and reconciliation. These words of the Prophet Isaiah to the nation of Israel give hope in God’s passion for ongoing justice, even today for the Hawaiian people. "**For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.**"
Blessings and Peace to all of the delegates and participants of this 2023 ‘Aha Pae‘āina!

I would like to make three personal observations.

First, no matter how we look at it, the world is changing around us. I am often reminded that change is a constant in our lives. With the Lord’s help, we will adapt; we will grow; we will be strong; and we will be better! We all are working hard to be like Jesus on the Big Island.

Second, we are thankful that Rev. Jonathan Roach serves our Big Island churches as a Conference ACM. We are blessed to have his mana‘o.

Third, as the president of the Hawai‘i Island Association, I have been blessed with the guidance of many dedicated people. I would like to thank the HIA Executive Committee for their help and support.

Overview of Hawai‘i Island Association Events during 2022-23

- 2022 Fall Mokupuni held via Zoom on November 5, 2022
  - The Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Kehaunani Hill (Kahu Nani), the Rev. Eric Anderson, Boyd Matsuyama and Fay Jack, led the delegates in a time of worship.
  - 10 churches and 17 representatives in attendance.
  - Audit Report presented.
  - Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee reported on their review and updated progress.
  - Rev. Jonathan Roach served as Moderator for our Professional Development segment which was presented in a Panel Discussion Format themed, “Hawai‘i Island Homelessness/Family Homelessness.” Panelists included the Paul Norman, Executive Director, Neighborhood Place of Puna and Regina Weller, Executive Director, 808 Homeless Task Force in Kona.
• HIA COM
  o Completed five clergy reviews.
  o Interviewed Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Kehaunani Hill (Kahu Nani); transferred her membership from Kaua‘i Island Association to Hawai‘i Island Association.
  o HIA COM recommended that HIA grant dual standing for the United Church of Christ of Pohnpei in Hilo.

• Ad hoc Bylaws Committee
  o In September 2022, HIA Executive Committee established ad hoc committee to review and update Hawai‘i Island Association Bylaws
  o Committee members represent both East and West Hawai‘i
    ▪ Rev. Larry Walter, Chairman
    ▪ Karen Welsh
    ▪ Woody Kita
    ▪ Boyd Matsuyama
    ▪ Kahu Debbie Wong Yuen
    ▪ Rev. David Popham, CM – ex officio

• Spring Mokupuni held at Hokuloa Church on May 6, 2023
  o First “in person” ‘Aha Mokupuni since Fall 2019
  o Nine churches and 29 participants
  o Rev. Cara Ann Maeda led the worship service and Rev. Eric Anderson assisted
  o Heard reports from Secretary, Treasurer, COM, Bylaws Committee, and Conference
  o 2023-24 Budget presented, reviewed and accepted
  o Accepted HIA COM recommendation that HIA grant dual standing for the United Church of Christ of Pohnpei in Hilo
    ▪ UCC/Pohnpei
    ▪ UCC/USA through the Hawai‘i Island Association
    ▪ Pastor – Rev. Bensis Henry

Thank you to all who have worked to sustain the mission of the Hawai‘i Island Association to support our churches and their efforts to share God’s love and grace. Throughout the turmoil surrounding our nation and state over the past year, you truly made these words to live by: “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

Peace and Blessings,

George Winchell, President
Hawai‘i Island Association
Report from Kauaʻi Association
2022-2023

What a blessing this year has been for Kauaʻi and the blessings have come in so many ways and forms. We have been able to sing together again in person as a body both at our ‘Aha and at funerals; we have been able to pray together for unity and meditate upon our flaws. It has been a time of peace and a time of heavy discussions, but most of all it has been a time of watching God work so many wonders in our churches here. The greatest wonder of all is watching how God’s people step up to stand in the gap for Christ. As outgoing president, I would like to thank the many hands that served this year, especially our pastors who joined together and stood upon the walls and raised Christ’s flag along with their voices.

I would like to leave you all with something a tutu once said. "Your humanity is bound together with mine." When one person succeeds or fails, we all do, and we have a better chance to succeed together. In Christ we are bound together as one; let us strive together as one and we will surely succeed. Praise be to God.

Clyde Fujikawa
O‘ahu Association Report  
May 2023

The Spring Mokupuni for O‘ahu was held by Zoom on Saturday, May 20, from 8:30 to noon. It was attended by 47 “screens,” some with multiple participants. The theme of our gathering was, If God Is Doing a New Thing, What Do We See? After reports and updates (treasurer, Committee on Ministry, ‘Aha Pae‘aina budget and proposed amendment, Associate Conference Minister and The Giving Circle Church), we engaged in an open-mike time of sharing. Among the churches we heard from were:

- Waipahu UCC, which is about to vote on proceeding with an extensive re-development of potentially their entire property. Situated near the rail line, proposals have been solicited for a project that might include (e.g.) 200 affordable units, commercial space, and space for the church to meet. The vote is expected some time this summer.
- Community Church of Honolulu, which is exploring potential options.
- Nu‘uanu Congregational Church, which is partnering with the YMCA for preschool and other programs, particularly with the Y planning renovation of its facility. Family Promise is another program the church is exploring as a potential partner in ministry.
- Kawaiaha‘o Church, which is revitalizing the concept of Sunday school Hoike, and inviting other Mokupuni churches to take part.
- Pearl City Community Church, which continues an active after-school ministry/service and is also in touch with the YMCA. Being the recipient of residential properties around the church, the congregation is in discernment over its options.
- Samoan Church of Hawaii, whose congregation continues reflection and prayer over its choices concerning the future, after an initial meeting last year.

Heather Barfield shared the upcoming proposal from the new Innovation and Engagement Missional Team to hold several “Daring Faith Conversations” for church leaders, to encourage and enable them to engage with the strategic challenges we all face, and to learn and support one another.

Oahu delegates to the General Synod are: the Rev. Heather Barfield, UCC Judd; Greg Sato, Central Union Church; and Kristen Young, youth delegate, UCC Judd Street.

We acknowledged the service of out-going Associate Conference Minister Valerie Ross. Our prayers go with her as she leaves her Conference position at the end of this month.

We are looking forward to the installation of Malcolm “Mac” Carr as pastor at Hawai‘i Kai UCC. The service will be held on Sunday, June 25 at 4 p.m. at Makiki Christian Church, Hawai‘i Kai’s “mother” church.

Submitted by: Pastor Wayne Ibara,  
Oahu BOD President
Hawaiʻi Conference United Church of Christ  
Administration Missional Team  
Annual Report to the 201st ‘Aha Paeʻāina  
June 16-17, 2023

Members:  
Rev. David Popham, Hawaiʻi Conference Minister  
Rev. Eric Anderson, Hawaiʻi Conference Council Moderator  
Lori Yamashiro, Hawaiʻi Conference Office Manager  
Linn Garcia, Hawaiʻi Conference Treasurer  
Gregory Sato, Personnel Committee Chair  
Elwood Kita, Administration Missional Team Chair

COVID-19 pandemic issues continued their impact into this fiscal year but finally ended its pandemic status in May 2023. The challenges created alternative processes with streamlined virtual meetings. Virtual meetings have benefits of increased access, and time and cost effectiveness with less travel required.

The team gained two new members during the year with Linn Garcia appointed as Conference Treasurer and Gregory Sato named as Personnel Committee chair.

**Strategic Initiative #2: Mission-based financial stewardship.** Prioritize our Conference Funds and other resources to support our collective vision.

FY 2023 again was affected by COVID with late lifting of restrictions. Meetings using a virtual format continued to be the norm helping to keep expenses down. The major April 2023 move of the Conference offices to their new site at Topa Financial Center will reflect savings for the Hawaiʻi Conference Foundation covering of housing costs. The Conference FY 2023 budget became leaner with inclusion of a one-year $24,000 grant to support the Papa Makua with funds shifting from Missional Team activities and projected reduction in the ‘Aha Paeʻāina gathering support funds. This budget revision was directed by the 200th ‘Aha Paeʻāina at its June 2022 meeting and approved at a special meeting in October 2022. The Administration Team worked with conference staff to develop a proposed FY 2024 budget which contains an additional Papa Makua support grant. The 201st ‘Aha Paeʻāina will decide through its budget deliberation if this grant will be incorporated in FY 2024.

**Strategic Initiative #7: Organizational support of vision.** Examine and then align the governance and committee structure within the Conference to be more inclusive, participatory and effective.

Proposed Bylaws changes were partially approved by the 200th ‘Aha Paeʻāina. Amendments approved pertain to electronic meetings, name corrections and changes in names and terms to be consistent with current UCC terminology. Amendments targeting the Hawaiʻi Conference Bylaws to be consistent with changes in the Hawaiʻi Conference Foundation (HCF) Bylaws effective July 2022 were not approved. The HCF Bylaws will govern their relationship with the Hawaiʻi Conference. Future review of our Hawaiʻi Conference Bylaws is projected to identify

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issues requiring updating related to Hawai‘i non-profit laws. Bylaws changes related to the HCF can be revisited at that time.

The Conference Nomination Committee diligently developed a slate for the ‘Aha Pae‘āina’s consideration. The committee continues to affirm a goal exploring younger, diverse members and representation by our associations. Committee members are: Kahu Aileen Trout, chair (‘Aha O Nā Mokupuni ‘O Maui, Moloka‘i, A Me Lāna‘i), Susan Tengan (O‘ahu Association), Rev. Sugalu Timoteo (At-Large), Kahu Debbie Wong-Yuen (Hawai‘i Island Association), Kahu Sam Masilamoney (AHEC), and Rev. Alan Akana (Kaua‘i Association); ex-officio support from Rev. David Popham, Lori Yamashiro, and Elwood Kita.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwood Kita
The Formation Missional Team (FMT) works to promote the formation of strong Christian communities in the Hawai‘i Conference United Church of Christ (HCUCC).

Its key functions are:
- To develop programs for: the Conference, Youth, Congregations, Clergy and other areas as needs arise.
- Ensure that programs are more than just activities or events, but opportunities that can change people’s lives and help them grow to be more faithful.
- Include programs that help develop people’s sense of call, strengthening the church to be effective UCC witnesses in their community and Hawai‘i.
- Lead the transformation of people’s lives and build relationships and connections. Work on evangelism, emphasize the necessity of going to the people, not waiting for them to come.

In the 2022-2023 church year, the FMT evaluated whether its activities were meeting the described functions of the Team. We have acknowledged that like our wider organization and local churches, change is being required. Nevertheless, the Team worked on the following:

**Strategic Initiative #1: Training and Spiritual Formation**

**2022 Leaders Event**

This activity was officially transferred to the newly formed Innovation and Engagement Team. Members of the FMT have participated in conversations about how this event might be changed to become more useful to the leaders of our Conference. It was recently decided that the Leader’s Event as it has previously existed will no longer be held. In its place the I&E Team will engage leaders in “Daring Conversations.” (See report from I&E Team). The FMT will however work with the Conference Office to gather previously recorded videos pertaining to church leadership and to place them in an accessible location on the Conference’s website. These videos will be reviewed and upgraded as necessary. Other ways to support the practical and technical work of our church leaders will be considered.

**Communities of Practice**

Rev. Jonathan Roach, Associate Conference Minister and Rev. Janice Ogoshi have developed and are conducting two regular group conversations. Rev. Roach leads “clergy new to Hawai‘i” groups and Rev. Ogoshi leads a women’s clergy group. These “communities” are focused upon pastoral ministry and empowering clergy to develop their competence for the practice of ministry in a variety of settings. They work to build community, cultivate knowledge and understanding through experience-based learning, and foster spiritual formation.

**Theological Education**

The FMT has been participating in the HCUCC Council sanctioned work of Reverend David Popham and Lori Yamashiro in the development of a plan to help people to move to discerning a sense of call. Rev. Jack Belsom has been the primary participant from the FMT.
‘Aha Pae‘āina
The FMT participated in the conversations for the planning of the abbreviated 2023 ‘Aha Pae‘āina. Due to the recent move of the Conference Office, the high cost of housing and transportation, the event was moved from an on-site event to a virtual, shortened format. The theme of this event will be “Discerning God’s Path as a Community of the Faithful,” with 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. The FMT will be responsible for the opening and closing worship services.

Pastoral Leaders Retreat
This event took place on October 11-13 at the St. Anthony Retreat Center on O‘ahu. It was an entirely in-person PLR since 2019. Participants were happy to be together in the same space. ACM Roach researched, planned, wrote, and presented the theme, “Labyrinth: Release, Receive, Return.” Participants learned about labyrinths, constructed, and walked them. Fourteen pastoral leaders from all associations except Kaua‘i participated in the retreat. The registration fee was $125 per person. Neighbor islanders were offered up to a $100 travel reimbursement and scholarships for the registration fee were offered. One full scholarship was granted.

The 2023 PLR is scheduled for September 19-21 at Camp Mokuleia on the north shore of O‘ahu. The UCC Pension Boards will be providing program resources on the topic of Clergy Wellness. Registration will take place in August. This event is being chaired by Rev. Janice Ogoshi and ACM Roach, assisted by Rev. Wayne Higa.

Strategic Initiative #3: Expansive Concept of Church
Wisdom of Kalaupapa
The Wisdom of Kalaupapa is a five-session workshop series designed to help build resilience in individuals going through difficult times. The coordinating group, led by Rev. Kalani Wong, continue to discover stories of how the patients sent to Kalaupapa became thriving members of that quaint community, despite the challenges they encountered due to their health conditions. The modules will be completed by this summer. The team looks forward to presenting these workshops soon.

Strategic Initiative #4: Gifts and Wisdom of the Next Generation
Youth (Grades 6 – 12) and Young Adult (Up to age 35)
No significant activities were developed during this year.

Strategic Initiative #6: Live Aloha
Prayers of Aloha
Rev. Jonathan Roach continues to work on the Prayers of Aloha cycle with the Conference Editorial Team. The goal of this program reminds us that we are one ‘ohana: a unified, radiant, and transforming expression of the body of Christ.

Associating and Conferring
The FMT continues to search for committee members, who represent the very diverse nature of our Conference.
Recommendations for team membership are welcomed. The Team meets consistently for most months of the year.

Rev. Jack Belsom recently informed the Formation Missional Team that he will no longer be able to serve as a committee member. Rev. Jack can be described as having been the heart and soul of this committee for many years and his departure from active participation will be missed. The members of the FMT extend their gratitude to Jack for his constant wisdom and faithfulness to our work.

We are also grateful to Rev. Jonathan Roach for his support to the FMT until his recent reassignment of duties within the Conference.

Respectfully submitted:


May 17, 2023
Justice and Witness Missional Team Report

The Justice and Witness Missional Team continues to bring justice-related events and issues to the attention of HCUCC churches and their members through the Coconut Wireless and has signed petitions related to shutting down Red Hill permanently to protect O‘ahu’s fresh water supply.

The Micronesian Committee remains active, focusing on support for the development of a “one stop shop” social service organization for Micronesians on Hawai‘i Island. Their work has enjoyed the support of the UCC’s national office and they were visited by Rev. Irene Willis Hassan, Minister for Refugee and Migration Ministries, who has assisted in obtaining additional funding efforts for the committee’s work.

The “All Are Welcome at the Table” working group has continued to provide information and support to churches interested in understanding the UCC Open and Affirming (ONA) designation and the process for attaining it. The group has established a private Facebook account open to UCC LGBTQ members and their allies, and has held fellowship gatherings online and in person.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Rich
Chair, Justice and Witness Missional Team
Aloha mai kakou,

For FYE 2023, the Stewardship Missional Team received one (1) application requesting funds from the Henry ʻŌpūkaha‘ia Scholarship. Unfortunately, the applicant did not meet the required guidelines set, and the application was denied. The applicant was, however, provided with information on other resources to consider.

Although there were no other applications received, please keep in mind that the Stewardship Missional Team currently continues to offer financial assistance through the “Henry ʻŌpūkaha‘ia Scholarship” and the “Christian Investment Grant.”

As a reminder, the “Henry ʻŌpūkaha‘ia Scholarship” fund supports the training of clergy for Christian mission by providing financial aid for seminary students who have in-care standing with their Association and continuing education funds for active ministers.

The “Christian Investment Grant” of the Hawai‘i Conference United Church of Christ serves two purposes: 1) Assist member churches in fulfilling the mission of the Hawai‘i Conference through the implementation of projects or programs that reach out to people in their communities; 2) to encourage activities that bring ministers together for development, support and collegiality. For more information on what the Stewardship Missional Team can help with, please go to HCUCC.org, click on Resources then click on Stewardship when the dropdown menu appears.

As we approach the end of FY 2022-2023, and staying in the same vein of being good stewards, I strongly encourage each of us, as members of the HCUCC Conference Council, Foundation, and Staff to support the “Friends of the Conference” when we are asked to make a contribution. “Friends of the Conference” helps with training church leaders and ministers; providing resources to congregations searching for a pastor or doing church development; creating experiences for youth and young adults to develop faith and leadership skills and working with partners locally and globally to speak and live out God’s word. 100% participation and contribution towards this Friends of the Conference ministry will afford the opportunity to apply for grants to help provide the services listed. Our contributions (no matter the amount), with our 100% participation, will make a huge impact on how we help each other and our churches.
In ending my report, I share my appreciation and gratitude for Kahu David Popham, Conference Minister; and Lori Yamashiro, Office Coordinator; et al, for their kokua with setting up the presentation on “Cultivating Generous People” during the Virtual Resource Fair on May 16, 2023. That presentation helped me have more understanding of Stewardship and allowed me to share information on OCWM – Our Church’s Wider Mission – and how support gifted toward that mission by our churches can “Change Lives.” This is, again, another mission that I strongly encourage our churches to learn more about and to support.

In His Service,

Sharon Matsuyama
Sharon Matsuyama
Chair – Stewardship Missional Team

cc: C. Nuhiwa - HCUC
Innovation & Engagement (I & E) Missional Team

Committee Members: Heather Barfield, Ben Sheets, Manu Naeole, Josh Hayashi, Valerie Ross

June 2022-May 2023 has been a time of learning and transition for the newly formed I&E team. Having just been voted into existence at the June 2022 ‘Aha Pae‘āina, our small committee was quickly tasked with a large undertaking. We were handed the oversight of the Church Leader’s Event. After prayerful consideration, it was determined that we would not offer the event. Instead, a newly birthed concept was brought to life, which we are excited to launch in the fall.

Daring Faith Conversations, still in the creation phase, will be offered as an invitation to come into discussion with one another as we try and learn how to best navigate the future of our own ministry settings. These conversations will be offered via zoom, with a once-yearly association-wide gathering being in-person. These conversations are not simply for those considered to be leaders in their church, but rather we want to invite ALL as we believe these conversations potentially affect each of our futures within the church, not just the leaders. We all have a role we can play, and so we invite you to the virtual table that is as expansive as our own minds will allow us to be.

I am thankful for Wayne Ibara, Joan Sakaba and Kalani Wong from the Formation Missional Team during this time of transition.

Our first zoom conversation will take place on Sunday, September 10 at 1 PM. The title for this coming year is: Daring Faith Conversations: Reimagining Church in a New Cultural Context. More information will be provided through the Conference Office, but please mark your calendars now and plan to join us.

Earlier this year, I shared some webinar information that was included in the Coconut Wireless that was being hosted by The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, UCC general minister and president, called “Create Play Space with the President.” This was an 8-webinar series that focused on gathering “a fully engaged, interactive audience to share the latest thinking about what is happening to give shape to a future in which we (the UCC) matter.” These sessions can be found at https://frontlinefaith.org/p/playspace-with-the-president. You may be asked to register, but registration is free.

Rev. Valerie Ross offered a session on Strategic Planning for Christian Organizations on Tuesday, May 9th as part of a three-session Virtual Resource Fair sponsored by the Conference.

We are looking forward to seeing where God leads us and how we live out being the church!

Respectfully Submitted~
Heather Barfield, Chair
Aloha Kakou,

We began this year with new Officers, elected to the SCHCC Board. We also began this year with Amended / Revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws that were approved at our 2022 annual meeting.

Our Addendum to the Celebrating Advocacy Past, Present & Future book “is pau” and available for purchase.

The SCHCC planned a Ho‘oponopono workshop, for our Board members and guests, in March. Much mahalo to Earl Kawa’a, Ho‘oponono practitioner, and his haumana for a successful and excellent presentation. Mahalo to the HCUCC staff for participating at the workshop, as well.

Mahalo to Toni Bissen and Pū‘ä Foundation, for allowing/inviting the SCHCC to participate in the Punahoa Heritage Forest Orientation and blessing celebration.

Requests for funding from the Repair and Maintenance Committee, for Hawaiian churches, were granted to five (5) churches throughout the State; Hawai‘i Island, Maui, Moloka‘i and Kaua‘i.

As FY 2022 – 2023 comes to a close, the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches continues advocating for what is in the best interest of, and on behalf of, our Hawaiian Churches of the Hawai‘i Conference of the United Church of Christ.

In His Service,

**Boyd Matsuyama**

Boyd Matsuyama – Advisor
SCHCC Representative
### Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches

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### Kaua'i

- Anahola: KO'OLAU HUI'IA PROTESTANT CHURCH

### Maui

- Ha'iku: KALANIKAHUA HOU CHURCH | AARONA, James | P
- Honokowai: LAHUJOKALANI (KA'ANAPALI) CONG'L CHURCH |        |        |
- Huelo: KAULANAPUEO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH | AARONA, James | P
- Kihei: KEOLAHOU CONGREGATIONAL HAWAIIAN CHURCH |        |        |
- Lahaina: WAOLA CHURCH | ROSA, Anela | P
- Olowalu: OLOWALU LANAKILA HAWAIIAN CHURCH |        |        |
- Pa'ia: PA'IA HAWAIIAN PROTESTANT CHURCH |        |        |
- Waihe'e: WAIHE'E PROTESTANT CHURCH |        |        |
- Wailuku: KA'AHUMANU CHURCH | HIGA, Wayne | P

### Molokai

- Puko'o: KALUA'AAH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH | OGOSHI, Janice | P

### O'ahu

- 'Ewa: 'EWA COMMUNITY CHURCH | MAU, Rennie | P
- Hale'iwa: LIL'IUKALANI PROTESTANT CHURCH |        |        |
- Haulea: HAU'ULA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC | CHEE, Sage | P
- Honolulu: BISHOP MEMORIAL CHURCH |        |        |
- Pearl City: KAWAIHA'O CHURCH | NAEOLE, Manu | P
- Wai'anae: KA HANA O KE AKUA CHURCH | HIRAKAWA, Rick | P

### Congregational Christian Churches

- Hilo: HAILI CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |        |        |
- Holualoa: HELANI CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |        |        |
- Laupahoehoe: LAUPAHOEHOE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH | CACABELOS, Alvira | P
- Milolii: HAUOLI KAMANAO | KAUPIKO, Charles | P
|                 |        | KAUPIKO, Melveen | P

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**Report of the Registrar**

Churches Authorized with Standing in the Hawai'i Conference

United Church of Christ

May 25, 2023
## HAWAI'I ISLAND ASSOCIATION

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## KAUAI ASSOCIATION

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### ‘AHA O NA MOKUPUNI ‘O MAUI, MOLOKA‘I, A ME LANA‘I (TRI-ISLE)

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**CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

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### CHURCHES IN COVENANT EXPLORATION/DEVELOPMENT

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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTERS IN FULL STANDING

### 'AHA O NA MOKUPUNI 'O MAUI, MOLOKA'I, A ME LANA'I (TRI-ISLE)

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ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STANDING

O'ahu
Barfield, Heather
Galindo, Darren
Buck Medeiros, Lauren

MINISTERS WITH DUAL STANDING

Aha O Na Mokupuni
Fong, Kimberly
Ben Sheets

O'ahu
Afuola, Kalasa
Soa, Fuamaila Jr.
Lafitaga, Falelua
Timoteo, Sugalu
Patadlas, Alan

Kauai
Bork, Robert

RECOGNIZED PARTNER MINISTERS

Aha O Na Mokupuni
Mao, Faanu

LAY MINISTERIAL STANDING

O'ahu
Fale, William

LICENSED MINISTERS

Aha O Na Mokupuni
Aarona, James
Morales, Miguel

AHEC
Higa, Wayne
Kaupiko, Melveen
Hirakawa, Rick
Rosa, Anela
Kapuniai, Agnes Lani
Taketa, Charlene
Kaupiko, Charles

Hawai'i
Andrade, Naleen
Hultman, Diane
Fernandez, Tom
Wong Yuen, Debra

Kaua'i
Fujikawa, Clyde

O'ahu
Maeda, Cara Ann
MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT

AHEC
Hoomanawanui, Kauanoe (Ko'olau Hui'iia Protestant)

Hawai'i
Andrade, Naleen (Kahikolu)
Jack, Nixon (First United Protestant)

O'ahu
Acido, Jeffrey (Pearl City Community)
Chee, Cassandra (Pearl City Community)
Fale, William (Cup of Freedom)
Flournoy, MacArthur (Crossroads)
Harding, Ken (Central Union)
Maeda, Cara Ann (Hawaii Kai UCC)
Shigeta, Laura (Makiki)
Silander, Kachusy (Makiki)
Woodland, Rebecca (Central Union)

MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS SERVING OUR CHURCHES
(Without standing in the Hawai'i Conference)

AHEC
Chee, Sage

Kaua'i
Korn, Shem

O'ahu
Fagalea, Tua Papu, Falani
Fuiava, Tafale Sam, Harry
Fujinami, Yoshiaki Sefo, Peniamina
Kilisome, Iosefa Shon, David
Opetaia, Iese

Hawai'i
Bunglick, Bemry Moses, Jimmy
Henry, Bensis

NECROLOGY

Aha O Na Mokupui
Miller, Richard

Kaua'i
Fung, James

Hawai'i
Boshard, Henry Hoover, John

O'ahu
Asman, Donald Fisher, Allan
Buck, Elden Kawata, Teruo "Terry"
Fale, Iopu
LEGEND:
AP   Associate Pastor
CH   Chaplain
CM   Commissioned Minister
CME  Conference Minister Emeritus
CP   Co-Pastor
CW   Conference Work
D    Dual Standing
DW   Denominational Work (UCC covenanted, affiliated or associated ministries)
EW   Ecumenical Work
ED   Educational Work
HW   Health and Welfare work in UCC institutions
IN   Interim Minister
IS   Intentional Interim Ministry Specialist
LA   Leave of Absence
Lic  Licensed Minister
MD   Member in Discernment
MY   Missionary (Global Ministries or other)
OD   Ordained Minister of another denomination serving a UCC church
OL   Other Local Church Position
OMP  Ordained Ministerial Partner
OP   Other Profession
OR   Other religious work (Bible Society, YM/YWCA, etc.)
P    Pastor
PC   Pastoral Counseling
PD   UCC Ordained Minister serving another denomination
PE   Pastor Emeritus
RPM  Recognized Partner Minister
RT   Retired
SU   Supply Pastor
UC   Unclassified
Y    Youth Ministry