

STATE COUNCIL OF HAWAIIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES
NEW MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

New churches will be formed from time to time, desiring to be *considered for and accepted as* a member of the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches.

The responsibility of recognizing new churches, into the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches, is that of the Island Council.

Pre-requisite for Membership:

- 1) The New Church must be a member of an Association of the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ (*i.e. Kauai, Oahu, Tri-Isle (Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i), Hawai'i or AHEC*) who/which embraces Hawaiian cultural practices, including its language, its values and its traditions.
- 2) The New Church shall present a letter seeking membership and its church bylaws to the Island Council within whose bounds it is located.
- 3) An Island Council, having received such a letter and bylaws, from the New Church, shall inquire as to its understanding of the United Church of Christ Polity.
Membership requires commitment to attend and be an active participant at all Island Council Meetings and events, as well as be up-to-date with the payment of membership dues as required.
- 4) Upon reviewing the required documents and insuring that the New Church candidate understands and is in agreement with the United Church of Christ Polity, the Island Council shall present its recommendation to the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches Board of Directors.
- 5) The State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches having received the recommendation of the Island Council shall, at its discretion, vote on membership.
- 6) Upon acceptance, the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches shall conduct a Service of Covenant at its Annual Meeting (the Aha Iki) during the Aha Pae'aina.

Note: *If a New Church candidate is not a member of an Association of the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ (i.e. Kauai, Oahu, Tri-Isle (Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i), Hawai'i or AHEC) but embraces Hawaiian cultural practices, including its language, its values and its traditions, the Island Council may consider Associate Membership status (as outlined in 2, 3, 4 and 5).*

(Accepted / approved 8/2015)