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In the Interim

by Gabrielle Chavez, Interim Conference Minister



Aloha, new Hawai'i Conference

Thank you for inviting me to be your Interim Conference Minister between now and the 2019 'Aha Pae'aina. I am eager to connect with you in person as much as possible, so please reach out for conversation and invite me to come to your church.

The most important thing I can tell you about my work is that I have two passions: the kin-dom of God and the Body of Christ. The first I share with our Savior, who announced in Mark 1:15, "The time (kairos) has come. The Kingdom of God is near..." I think he would say "kin-dom" now as we no longer have kings but we do have kin and we are destined to live in peace as one ohana on earth as it is in heaven. The time has indeed come!

I share with St. Paul my second passion for the Body of Christ and its mission. Returning to Hawai'i after so many years, I am pleased to see that the churches of the Hawai'i Conference UCC still exemplify the diversity that Paul envisioned in 1 Corinthians 12. What a precious gift to our wider UCC to have a conference so near the biblical ideal.

We will be building on this conference-wide diversity of gifts as we go forward with the Conference's strategic planning process to craft a renewed mission and vision for the next 20 years. I will be listening with you for how the Spirit is speaking to the churches of the Hawai'i Conference as the Strategic Planning Team goes on the road this March for your feedback. It's vital that every voice is heard so we may walk together towards Christ's kin-dom of heaven on earth.

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Conference Strategic Planning Update



Cynthia Scherr discusses strategic planning with a focus group.

What is God's intention for the Hawai'i Conference UCC? How will we collectively, given all our diversity, discern what is important for the future of the Conference?

Beginning with several plenary sessions at the 195th 'Aha Pae'aina last June, the Hawai'i Conference has been engaged in developing a long-range strategic plan. We are holding the questions above as central to our work.

In October, the Strategic Planning Team, Conference Council, Hawai'i Conference Foundation, Conference staff, O'ahu clergy, and a group of clergy and lay members under age 40 ("under 40s") met to discuss perspectives on mission, vision and current reality of the Conference. The Rev. Gabrielle Chavez, newly appointed Interim Conference Minister, attended to begin to get to know the Conference and share her wisdom about planning for the future. The Strategic Planning Team has reflected on the input from these conversations and is moving forward with drafts of strategic planning elements, described below.

Progress on Mission

We had many discussions about mission—what the Conference is sent into the world to do. Criteria for a new mission statement included: alignment with the UCC national setting's mission; use of clear, accessible language; distinguishing the role of the Conference from that of Associations or local churches; and embracing the spirit of Hawaiian culture. We invite you to review the first draft of the mission statement and provide feedback by emailing hcucc@ hcucc.org.

Emerging Vision

The vision for the Conference will be shaped by the same challenges that the denomination faces, as well as many that

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Justice and Witness

Churches Complete Mission Trips

Members of three Hawai'i Conference churches recently completed unforgettable mission trips that promise to positively impact the life of their congregations.

Maui Evangelical Church

In May 2017, five young adults and four chaperones from Maui Evangelical Church traveled to the Philippines to



spread the gospel and serve impoverished people. The delegation helped renovate and furnish two dilapidated homes, distributed 400 backpacks

with school supplies, sponsored high-speed internet for an underfunded church and led worship services in three provinces.

"It was such a humbling experience," said Arnie Campiot, 25, a member of the church's Young Adult Ministry. "In America we worry about things like having the latest iPhone. There, it is a struggle just to find food and survive."

In the province of Pampanga, the group traversed a suspension bridge and climbed up a mountain to serve aborigines living without electricity or running water. The young adults, ages 22 to 29, gifted Bibles, flasks, water, towels, canned goods, sunglasses—even the clothes off their backs.

With the motto of "no limits" to sharing God's love, the group's primary goal was to create new disciples. That goal was accomplished, said Arnie, as several unchurched people are now regularly attending church because of the trip.

"Oftentimes people go on a mission to share the gospel or to do good things," said Pastor Miguel Morales. "This team was able to do both."



Poʻokela Church

Last October, a four-person delegation from Po'okela Church on Maui traveled to South Korea

to establish a mission partnership with Anyang Joongang Presbyterian Church in the city of Anyang.

The purpose of the 10-day mission trip was to develop an exchange program of worship materials, cultural values and

methods of evangelism between the churches, said Pastor Kimberly Fong.

"We shared how we praise God through hula dance and they showed us new ways of doing outreach," she said. "Their church is in the middle of a marketplace without parking and people walk miles to get there. On the Sunday we attended worship service they had 30 new members. It was very impressive."

Going forward, Kimberly said the churches plan to send delegates to each other's congregations annually. Members of Anyang Joongang Presbyterian Church will visit Po'okela Church in 2018 to continue the partnership.

Community Church of Honolulu

Staying at an Amish bed and breakfast, visiting the



Liberty Bell and various museums, cleaning homes, and fellowshipping with the elderly—the mission trip of Community Church of Honolulu last June was a transformative

experience for eight youth ages 13 to 18.

"The goal of the trip was to allow the youth to experience a mission environment and culture of a different area of the country," said Pastor Ron Williams. "Our whole church got behind it and it was a great success."

Immersed for three days in an Amish community, youth visited a one-room schoolhouse where students graduate after eighth grade to become apprentices for lifelong trades. Other aspects of the trip included taking a historical tour of Philadelphia and attending a worship service every evening.

Ultimately, the trip was a religious and cultural experience that deepened participants' relationship with God.

"At least three of the youth made statements that, 'Before I went on this trip I came to church because of my family, but as a result of this trip I come to church because of my commitment to God and the realization that I want to live this out." said Ron.



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Ministry

A Storybook Ending



Pualani Akaka with her father, Abraham Akaka, in 1996

Pualani Akaka is authoring a positive ending to a chapter in her life story.

As the daughter of Hawai'i's most famous clergyman, Abraham Akaka, and the niece of United States Senator Daniel Akaka, Pualani grew up in a unique family. The member of Ho'olehua Congregational Church on Moloka'i recalls

watching her father interact with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President Richard Nixon and other prominent figures to discuss issues of national and global significance.

"It was darned exciting," she said. "I tried as hard as I could to be around Daddy all the time. His understanding of God's love impacted not just our family, but our communities and world."

Of all her father's accomplishments—leading the historic Kawaiaha'o Church for 28 years, officiating the 1959 ceremony celebrating Hawai'i's admission as the 50th state, becoming the first chairman of the Hawai'i Advisory Committee in the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and myriad others—Pualani is proudest of his undying Christian faith and love for others.

That faith and aloha, which Pualani exemplifies, has proven invaluable. Being raised by a renowned minister and Mama Kahu Mary Louise has nourished her spiritually, but not immunized her from hardship.

Enduring Tough Times

In 1982, Pualani became a single parent at age 33 when her husband of 12 years died from the effects of alcoholism. Eleven years later, the disease ended her second marriage.

"It was such a rough time and I wanted to change the ending of the story," she said. "I needed to make things different."

With love and patience from her parents, who allowed Pualani to move in with them, she began to author a new chapter in life. After receiving her Master of Arts in Administration and Curriculum from Gonzaga University in 1997, she embarked on a 26-year career as a public school teacher on Moloka'i. Faith was fundamental to her teaching, through which she touched hundreds of lives.

"God never let me go; it was a miracle," she said. "Before my parents died, they knew that I was finally facing the right direction."

Unbeknownst to Pualani, a divine plot twist would soon take her on another auspicious journey.

(Not) Following in Her Father's Footsteps

About a year ago, Pualani retired from teaching to pursue ordination in the United Church of Christ. Despite attending two of her father's alma maters and wanting to join the ministry, she does not see herself as following in Abraham's footsteps.

"That thought never entered my head," she said. "There are definitely similarities between us, but this is my own path. This is a calling from God that is creating a wholeness within me."

The transition from school teacher to spiritual teacher is an endeavor that many believe Pualani is primed for.

"My hope is that when I finish as pastor of the four Topside Moloka'i churches, Pualani will take over," said one of her mentors, Charles Poole. "She is totally authentic and honest, extremely intelligent and has many gifts for church leadership."

For Pualani, becoming a minister would be a storybook ending, empowering her to help others and spread God's aloha for a living.

"Actually, it already is a storybook ending," she explained. "God has just blessed me so much. Every day that unfolds, I am hoping that people can know just how incredibly loved they are. That is what I am trying to accomplish."

The Abraham Akaka Collection

To amplify her goal of spreading God's message, Pualani and her family helped establish the Abraham Akaka Collection of archives in 2015. Housed at the Kamehameha Schools Kapalama campus, the collection includes the writings, music and poetry of Abraham spanning from 1933 to his death.

"The archives are so rich," she said. "You can't believe what I see. Each day that I work in the archives I think, 'Holy cow! Look at this stuff."

Pualani encourages anyone interested to peruse the collection's artifacts. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 808-842-8945.

While the archives are a means to preserve Abraham's legacy of aloha, that legacy continues to endure through Pualani's inspired work and the storybook ending she always hoped for.

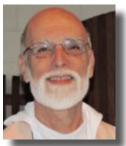


Artifacts in the Abraham Akaka Collection

From our Missional Jeams

Missional Team Reports

In the Hawai'i Conference, four Missional Teams are responsible for carrying out key ministries: Formation, Administration, Justice and Witness, and Stewardship. Learn more about each of these teams and read updates from their chairpersons:



Jack Belsom

Formation Missional Team

Team members: Jack Belsom (Waiola Church); Fay Jack (First United Protestant Church); Wayne Higa (Ka'ahumanu Church); Joan Sakaba (Kailua Christian Church); Jeannie Timoteo (Samoan Church of Hawai'i LMS Nanakuli); Kalani Wong (Iao UCC); and Bob Smith (Koʻolau Hui'ia Protestant Church).

The Formation Missional Team is about developing ministries and programs that:

- Are more than just activities or events but opportunities that can change people's and congregations' lives and help them grow as members of the Body of Christ.
- Help develop our sense of call, strengthening our churches to be effective witnesses.

News and updates:

- The annual Church Leaders Event will take place on February 24 at Church of the Crossroads. Keynote speaker Dr. Jeffrey Jones will help participants understand how societal, cultural and economic changes are affecting the way we go about practicing ministry. This year's event will feature a CHANGE IN FORMAT, centering around facilitated small group discussions rather than workshops.
- The Western Regional Youth Event will be held June 25-29 at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Recruit youth in grades 8–12 and adult leaders to participate.



Elwood Kita

Stewardship Missional Team

Team members: Woody Kita (Church of the Holy Cross); Diane Meyer (Po'okela Church); Rev. Jayne Ryan-Kuroiwa (Windward UCC); Richard Young (UCC-Judd Street); Rev. Sarah Jones (Lihue Christian Church); and Della Kua'ana (Kahikuonalani UCC).

The Team is responsible for reviewing and awarding the Conference's:

 Christian Investment Grants: to help congregations with startup funds for new outreach or ministries with an emphasis on youth

• Henry 'Opukaha'ia Scholarship Fund: to provide scholarships supporting seminary, postgraduate and continuing education expenses for ministers needing assistance

The Stewardship Missional Team shares information on churches' and individuals' covenantal responsibility to provide support for the Conference and UCC through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and Friends of the Conference. These programs fund Hawai'i Conference and national UCC support of the churches and people in Hawai'i, the wider United States and many corners of our world to meet Christ's call to serve God's people. Learn more about our Team and find resources on financial stewardship, planned giving and environmental stewardship on the Conference website (www.hcucc.org).



David Iha

Administration Missional Team

Team members: David Iha (Lihue Christian Church); lese Tuuao (Samoan Church of Hawai'i LMS Nanakuli); Linn Garcia (Windward UCC); Dominic Inocelda (Pearl City Community Church); Gabrielle Chavez (Conference staff); Sherman Hee (Conference staff); and Lori Courtesy of University of Hawai'i Yamashiro (Conference staff).

The Administration Missional Team works closely with the Conference Council to carry out the mission of the church and to oversee policy, management and staff when the 'Aha Pae'aina (annual Conference meeting) is not in session. Its key functions include:

- · Ensuring clarity of roles and expectations of bylaws and conducting regular reviews of results
- Drafting, recommending, reviewing and, as needed, revising the Conference annual budget as approved by the 'Aha Pae'aina
- Receiving and processing reviews of staff with the Personnel Committee, as well as related employee handbook and office policies



Suzanne Smith

Justice and Witness Missional Team

Team members: Suzanne Smith (Church of the Holy Cross); Linda Rich (Church of the Crossroads); Dennis (Keolahou Barger Congregational Hawaiian Church); Bonnie Shimatsu (Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church); Jeannie Thompson (Kapa'a UCC):

Kalei Tong (Ola'a First Hawaiian Church); Keoki Kiwaha (Puka'ana Congregational Church); Kenneth Makuakane (Conference staff).

Working with local churches, associations and partners in ministry, the Justice and Witness Missional Team seeks to

(continued on page 5)



(Strategic Planning, continued from page 1)

are unique to the Hawai'i Conference. Keeping the vision very future-focused means we must reach, include and engage people who will ultimately carry out the strategic plan (or not). A group of "under 40s" met in Honolulu to share their thoughts about the future of church. One person commented, "I could be spiritual by myself, but Jesus partied with everyone; it's a relationship thing." Having a sense of community, positivity and a commitment to social justice are compelling reasons for people to attend church—in whatever form it may take. The "under 40s" group liked the sense of "having a big family" and being welcomed whoever you are. However, there is much less attachment to the church as a physical building and frustration with bureaucracy, committee structures and a perceived lack of authenticity. These perspectives will inform the next 10-year plan for the Conference.

Assessing Current Reality

Through a variety of discussions and document reviews, the Strategic Planning Team is forming a snapshot of the current state of the Conference. We have identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the Conference. An accurate assessment of the current state is necessary to identify and prioritize strategic initiatives. We will continue to refine this assessment as we hear from different parts of the Conference.

Leadership Transition

It's important to acknowledge that this strategic planning period spans the leadership of an acting conference minister, an interim conference minister and a called conference minister. The more clearly the plan expresses the spirit and intentions, as well as the challenges and conflicts, within the Conference, the more likely the Conference will call a leader who is a good fit. The plan will be designed to be flexible enough to make use of the leadership strengths that the new called conference minister will bring. Since the called conference minister will lead implementation of the plan, any organizational or structural changes will be considered after his/her installation.

Next Steps

From March 4-13, we will be visiting the neighboring islands for a "feedback tour" convening Association clergy and members of local churches to review and provide input to a draft strategic plan. We encourage everyone to attend.

Stay tuned to the *Coconut Wireless* e-newsletter for announcements of draft documents posted to the Conference website. If you have questions, please feel free to contact strategic planning consultant Cynthia Scherr or any member of the Strategic Planning Team through the Conference Office.

Ke Akua mana loa O God, hear our prayer

(Missional Team Reports, continued from page 4)

discern and develop compassionate ministries of justice, peace and the stewardship of creation. We can provide churches with worship and study resources on justice and witness initiatives at the local, national and international level, as well as provide workshops, presentations and online materials for study and action. We invite volunteers in congregations to be resource persons or advocates for these initiatives in their local churches, communities, associations, etc.



One Great Hour of Sharing

In a world fraught with natural disasters and an unprecedented refugee crisis, your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) are needed more than ever.

Through OGHS, the Lenten offering of the United Church of Christ, churches transform lives by responding to refugee, development and disaster needs in 138 countries. Across the world, OGHS dollars provide clean water, food, education, healthcare, small business micro-credit, advocacy, and refugee resettlement to thousands of people in need. Domestically, OGHS supports immigration assistance and disaster response and preparedness.

Nearly 65 percent of UCC congregations participate in the annual OGHS offering, and 95 cents of every dollar goes directly to mission programming.

The suggested OGHS offering date is March 11, though churches may receive the offering any time during the year. Resources for promoting OGHS are available at www.ucc.org/oghs.

Register for Western Regional Youth Event

Registration for the Western Regional Youth Event, hosted by the Hawai'i Conference and taking place June 25-29 at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, is now open. Deadline to register is April 30. Visit www.uccwrye.com for details.

United Church of Christ

News briefs are adapted from *UCC News*, the online news portal for the United Church of Christ. For details on this and other stories, visit www.ucc.org/news.

United Church Funds President Announces Retirement



After almost three decades at the helm of United Church Funds (UCF), President Donald G. Hart has announced his plan to retire in June 2019.

"It has been a privilege to work with the talented and dedicated staff and management of UCF," Hart said. "Their integrity, professionalism and

customer focus has made UCF the trusted, respected and successful investment organization it is today."

Hart, the president of UCF since 1991, has been a driving force behind the organization's growth. Under his leadership, assets under management grew from \$35 million in 1991 to over \$825 million as of December 2017, and staff increased from three part-time to 13 full-time employees.

Faith Leaders Revive MLK's Poor People's Campaign to End Racism, Poverty



On December 4, 1967, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. announced plans for a Poor People's Campaign to organize individuals around the country to action, in a movement to end

poverty, racism, and militarism in America. Exactly 50 years later, interfaith leaders came together in Washington, D.C., to launch a revival of that campaign, which was stalled by King's assassination in 1968.

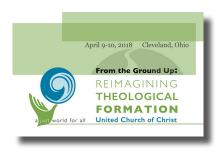
The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is led by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, a black minister and civil rights leader from North Carolina, and the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, a white theologian from Milwaukee, with the full support of a number of religious denominations, including the United Church of Christ. The Rev. Traci Blackmon, a UCC national officer, joined the movement leaders in D.C., to lend her voice to the campaign's launch.

"The prophet Isaiah says ... a voice is crying out in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. In Isaiah's day, I believe that cry was the voice of those who were victimized and villainized by the oppressive and unjust actions of those in

power," Blackmon said. "Today, I believe a voice is still crying out. I believe that this Poor People's Campaign, led by Dr. Theo Harris and Dr. Barber, is that voice today. I believe that all of us gathered here to declare a pathway toward justice are that voice."

Registration Opens for Shaping Theological Formation Summit

A two-day summit in April, to refocus on the theological foundation that forms the United Church of Christ, has lined up several dynamic panelists to lead the dialogue — and has now opened event registration (http://bit.



<u>ly/2Dr4qZm</u>) to interested people across the life of the church.

From the Ground Up: Re-Imagining Theological Formation' hopes to bring together 150 participants April 9-10, in Cleveland, Ohio for a critical conversation around the values and beliefs that form and focus the denomination, and defines who we are...what we think...what we do...in the world.

A keynote presentation by Bishop Yvette Flunder of City of Refuge UCC in Oakland, Calif., will launch the summit.

UCC Leaders Respond to First Trump State of the Union Address

Calling out "our new American moment," President Donald Trump in his first State of the Union address appealed for unity, boasted a strong economy and took aim on immigration. Both his policies and his speech were problematic to United Church of Christ national executives.

"About as sedate and restrained as we have seen him, Mr. Trump delivered a State of the Union Address in a manner befitting the office," said UCC General Minister and President John Dorhauer. "His address will give America a much needed opportunity to debate his policies, a rare and much needed respite from the discussions about his history of sexual harassment and misogyny, his racist comments, an ongoing and intensifying investigation into collusion and obstruction of justice, threats of firing those investigating him, and promises of an unprecedented nature to release classified information the department of justice calls dangerously reckless. But whatever respite comes from this opportunity to discuss his policies will, I fear, prove to be short-lived as the drama that he craves and cultivates will soon overshadow our need to debate substantive matters of politics and policy."

Conference News and Highlights

(In the Interim, continued from page 1)

When I visited in October, I had an opportunity to attend the Conference Council, Hawai'i Conference Foundation Board, and several Strategic Planning Team meetings, including one with Conference youth. I thank God that these were occasions of our leaders engaging in honest soul searching from a place of deep faith and care for the churches of the Hawai'i Conference.

While counting blessings, let me gratefully lift up the outgoing Acting Conference Minister, lese Tuuao. In a humble and strong way Brother lese has served you and God excellently in this role as well as in the many other ways he continues to share his gifts of faith and wisdom with us in the Hawai'i Conference.

Since that wonderful year long ago when our family lived in Honolulu for my father's sabbatical and I graduated from Kaimuki High School, I have always considered Hawai'i to be my true spiritual home. Being invited back as your Interim Conference Minister is a great joy. My partner Thomas joins me in thanking you for the warm aloha welcome. Please pray for me as I pray daily for you that God will guide and prosper our work. Our work has become more timely and critical since the recent (mistaken) missile alert caused so much fear and panic. I commend to us all the strong words of the prophet in Isaiah 51:1-6, which call us to "look to the rock from which you were hewn" and remember both who we are and whose we are.

PS I meant that about inviting me to your churches—and I love to preach!

Highlights from the Website

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

Pastoral Changes

Rex Piercy began as Interim Transitional Pastor of Hanapepe United Church of Christ on January 4.

C. Dennis Alger concluded his interim ministry at Waiola Church on January 7.

Douglas Wooten began as Kahu Mua (Senior Pastor) of Kaumakapili Church on January 16. He most recently served as a pastor in North Carolina.

Phyllis Meighen ended as Interim Minister of Lihue United Church on January 14.

Alexander Tychkin began as Senior Pastor of Lihue United Church on February 15. He most recently was pastor of a UCC church in Wisconsin.

In Memory: Cipriano Pasoquen



Cipriano Pasoquen, 86, former Pastor of Filipino United Church of Christ, died on November 29 in the Philippines. A memorial service was held at the church on December 4. A second service was held in Muntinlupa, Philippines.

Donations in his memory were used to benefit a church he started in the Philippines.

Conference Calendar of Events

February 19	Presidents' Day (Office Closed)
February 24	Church Leaders Event
March 5-7	Clergy Retreat
March 4-13	Strategic Planning Feedback Meetings
March 26	Kuhio Day (Office Closed)
March 29-30	Maundy Thursday/Good Friday (Office Closed)
April 14	Conference Council and Foundation Trustees
April 28	HIA Spring 'Aha Mokupuni Woman's Board of Missions Annual Meeting State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches Board

Thanks to our friends, *The Friend* is free of charge to anyone who requests it. We offer our sincere mahalo to those who have generously given a monetary gift to help defray publication costs. A gift of \$10 will pay for one person's subscription for one year. Gifts may be sent to the Hawai'i Conference UCC, 1848 Nu'uanu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96817.





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Return Service Requested



February 2018

Our Historical Roots

The Three Ba's Hawai'i Legacy

by Edson Lee, First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawai'i



Seamen's Bethel Chapel, where Basel Christians learned English and received Christian nurture in Hawai'i

What joy Sit Moon must have felt as he led 19 Chinese Basel Mission converts to the Bethel Chapel to ask Pastor Samuel Damon to assist in their Christian nurture. Sit Moon, once considered San Francisco's best Chinese evangelist, was hired by the new Honolulu Y.M.C.A. to share the Gospel with the Chinese here.

His initiative to connect those Basel converts with Pastor Damon bore fruit on June 8, 1879, when the Hawai'i Evangelical Association (predecessor to the Hawai'i Conference UCC) granted their petition to establish the Chinese Christian Church of Honolulu. With Sit Moon as its first pastor, they began to worship at the Lyceum on Kukui Street and Nu'uanu Avenue and two years later behind Fort Street's Central Fire Station. Fifty years later, they moved to

South King Street and rebranded the church as the First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawai'i (FCCC). Those Basel Christians who started it all were fruits of Southern China's Basel-Hakka (Ba-set), the Barmen groups (Ba-men) and the Berlin Missionary Society (Ba-lin). These protestant missionary groups later formed the Chinese Union which grew from 20 members in 1844 to 1,100 missionaries within four years, creating the 3-Ba's legacy.

One Barmen Lutheran "basket baby" (orphan), Augusta Chun Kong, mother of FCCC members Leona and Kathleen Kong, became the wife of Rev. Kong Yin Tet of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Honolulu.

Basel-trained Hakka Chinese in Hawai'i included Mark Wan To, trained in Lilong, who became pastor of FCCC in 1885; How Kong Chong, a leader in the Kohala Hakka Christian community and father of Rev. Kim on Chong; and more recently, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Tsen and his wife Rev. Laura Tsen who grew up and served in the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia. The Rev. Dr. Tsen has served as the Chinese-speaking Pastor at FCCC since 2016.

We be thankful for the enduring legacy of the 3-Ba's perpetuated through outstanding professionals, lay people and clergy. European missionaries laid a solid foundation of biblical doctrine, education and a passion to spread the Good News!