



# HAWAI'I CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 6, 2019

Dear Partners in Ministry in the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ:

As you surely have heard, Samoa is in the midst of a severe measles epidemic that is sweeping across the nation, with a reported 3800+ cases of the measles and more than 60 related deaths, mostly children. I ask for your continued prayers for the children, their families and all who are affected by this outbreak in Samoa, as well as for our sisters and brothers here in Hawai'i whose lives have been touched by this crisis. Let us also pray for the humanitarian aid workers and health care workers who are providing direct medical care and support to those affected.

The Samoan Church of Hawai'i, LMS, and their pastor, The Rev. Dr. Iese Tuuao, are coordinating monetary donations from the Samoan churches in the Hawai'i Conference to aid in relief efforts in Samoa. I ask that you please consider taking a free-will offering in your churches for the next two Sundays, December 8 and 15, to contribute to these relief efforts. Churches should acknowledge individual donors and send one check for the total, payable to "Hawai'i Conference UCC" and marked "Samoa Relief." One hundred percent of the monies collected will be forwarded to the Consulate of Samoa in Honolulu for distribution in Samoa to help combat the measles epidemic.

During this Advent Season, as we await the coming of the Christ Child, we are reminded that we are all God's children and that we are called to minister together to our sisters and brothers in need.

Yours in Christ,

David K. Popham  
Conference Minister