

Hawai'i's Last Living Marcher Remembers Historic Rally

Fifty years ago, Kahului Union Church member Bill Kinaka took part in one of the biggest civil rights rallies in United States history. The then 23-year-old American University graduate student joined 200,000 demonstrators to hear Martin Luther King Jr.'s iconic "I Have a Dream" speech and take a stand against racial inequality in the March on Washington.



"Once you got on the bus, you almost felt like a freedom rider," said Bill. "Most of (the riders) were going to the march. You could feel the love and camaraderie of everyone."

No stranger to political activism or racial discrimination, Bill experienced both while studying at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. Two years before the March on Washington, he took part in protests against racial segregation at the Loew's Theater in downtown Nashville. He remembers being elbowed, spat on and called "n----- lover" by whites as he and about thirty others were repeatedly denied purchasing a movie ticket.

Raised on a racially segregated plantation camp in Lahaina, Bill's experience with racism started as a child. He worked on the kiawe camp, comprised mostly of people of Japanese descent.

"I was living in the Japanese camp, and there you can sense discrimination between the white plantation managers and the rest of us laborers. As a kid, I felt discriminated against, and you could see how unfair things were, so I made a pledge to at least try to correct some of those things," he said.

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Church Leaders World-wide Join Pilgrimage to Busan

This month the Tenth Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) will bring together 500 million Christians from 345 churches and 100 countries around the world.

The United Church of Christ will be represented at the Assembly by twenty three people, including UCC General Minister and President Geoffrey Black, Hawai'i Conference Minister Charles Buck and Program Associate Ken Makuakane.

Held every seven years, the Assembly is one of the most diverse Christian gatherings in the world. It is a unique opportunity for churches to form joint campaigns and advocacy initiatives, deepen experiences of fellowship and unite in public witness so that the world may believe.



Participants of the Indigenous Peoples Pre-Assembly pose for a picture.

The theme of the Assembly, to be held October 30 to November 8 in Busan, Republic of Korea, is the prayer, "God of life, lead us to justice and peace." It is a call for Christian action against the destruction of Creation, extravagant wealth disparity and the routine violence plaguing our world today.

"The pilgrimage [to Busan] must be a plan of action, not just a plan of discussion," said WCC General Secretary Olav Fyske Tveit, a Lutheran pastor from the Church of Norway. "It is through humility, honesty and

hope that we can live together as humanity and as a Church in a world where justice and peace are fundamental initiatives and not mere words."

Charles will participate in a workshop, "Inter-Island Solidarity for Just Peace," which will examine how islands have been adversely affected by military presence and will seek to build solidarity among them. Ken will host "Hawaiian Hula: Once Banned, Now Embraced," a thirty-minute side event illustrating the suppressed

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Practicing Unity

By Charles C. Buck, Conference Minister

When this edition of *The Friend* arrives in your mailbox or inbox, I will be in Busan, South Korea, for the Tenth Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC). Joining me will be Ken Makuakane of the Hawai'i Conference staff, and we will be among nearly two dozen participants representing the United Church of Christ.



You can read more about the WCC and the upcoming Assembly in the article on page 1, and we'll offer a report on our experiences, including the hula performance-presentation that Ken is directing on November 6, after we return from Korea, both in these pages and in person.

The more we practice unity, the more real it becomes, the better we get at it, and the more it endures.

But in this space, I want to suggest why the WCC and the Assembly matter today—especially when few of us have any direct connection with the work of the WCC and probably a fair number may never have heard of this 65-year old fellowship of churches.

In short, the WCC matters because it expresses the unity in which God created us and for which Jesus prayed (John 17). This expression of unity is stated in the WCC Constitution:

The primary purpose of the fellowship of churches in the World Council of Churches is to call one another to visible unity in one faith and in one Eucharistic fellowship, expressed in worship and common life in Christ, through witness and service to the world, and to advance towards that unity in order that the world may believe (Article III, paragraph 2).

Unity is like faith: it's not enough only to believe it or declare it. Like faith, it has to be lived out and intentionally practiced. The more we practice unity, the more real it becomes, the better we get at it, and the more it endures. So the main reason that the UCC joins with nearly 350 churches around the world as the WCC is to practice our unity. And that happens through "worship and common life in Christ, through witness and service to the world."

Among the most visible and concrete ways that the WCC practices unity is the periodic assemblies. When thousands

of Christians from around the world gather at one time, in one place, and for one purpose, how can it not express in some way the unity of Christ?

But as I've prepared myself for the upcoming assembly in Busan, I realize that the practice of unity goes deeper. It's more than *coincidental unity* created by the sights and sounds of diverse people attending a myriad of events. It's also *intentional unity* built up through the ways we are asked to relate to one another, especially in the conduct of business through consensus.

Consensus procedures allow more room for consultation, exploration, questioning and prayerful reflection, with less rigidity than formal voting procedures. By promoting collaboration rather than adversarial debate, consensus procedures help the assembly...to seek the mind of Christ together. Rather than striving to succeed in debate, participants are encouraged to submit to one another and to seek to "understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17)...When consensus is declared, all who have participated can confidently affirm: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28) ("Guidelines for the Conduct of Meetings of the World Council of Churches," Section 2).

To varying degrees, most of us are familiar with consensus, and we can understand the frustration that sometimes occurs during consensus building. At those times we wonder, "Why don't we just take a vote?" Or, "Isn't it sufficient to go the way of the majority?"

But we have seen the damage that occurs when we stop listening and move too quickly to a vote. The recent stalemate in our U.S. Congress over the budget and debt-ceiling debate is one example, but it's easy to find such in other arenas, even in and among our own local churches in Hawai'i.

This is why the WCC and Assembly matter: In these times of increasing polarization played out in our politics, communities and churches, we need a better way. And the witness of the polyglot of people gathering in Busan, who are taking the time, effort and trouble to seek consensus, are offering that way. It's nothing new, of course, but practicing unity like that could well bring us all a little closer to the unity that Jesus prayed for us.



God is still speaking

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Investing in Our Future

For forty years, United Church Funds (UCF), an Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ that offers investment opportunities for churches, Associations and Conferences, has engaged in socially responsible investing (SRI) to build a more just and sustainable world.

Using more than \$715 million in assets as leverage, UCF invests in companies that use sustainable and ethical practices and engages those companies that don't through dialogue, shareholder resolutions and working with global organizations to instruct companies on best practices.



UCF President Don Hart (left) and Katie McCloskey (center) share with workshop participants.

"Socially responsible investing can be a seamless way to align your church's mission with your investing style, and there's no need to feel that those are opposing forces," said UCF Director of Social Responsibility Kathryn McCloskey. "I'm not claiming that there's such a thing as a pure portfolio, but the endeavor to make change is one that can be done with investing."

Katie, who delivered a presentation about SRI during the September 21 Hawai'i Conference Investors Workshop at Kawaiaha'o Plaza, said SRI can be highly profitable and is increasingly popular among secular groups.

In response to the General Synod 29 resolution calling for all UCC entities to divest from fossil fuels, UCF is currently creating a fossil fuel-free portfolio for its clients. The option will become available by December 2014, and a listing of "best in class" fossil fuel companies still eligible for investment will be presented at the next General Synod in 2015.

Katie said wholesale divestment from a \$4 trillion fossil fuel industry is a last resort for UCF, which is committed to an array of SRI strategies to influence company policies, practices and behaviors. But effecting positive change takes time.

"When we started calling for climate change disclosure, these companies told us to take a walk," said Katie. "But now, thirty years later, we know how much carbon Chevron and Exxon

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Workshop Emphasizes Worship and Wonder for Children

Christian education leaders in UCC and Disciples of Christ congregations had an opportunity this fall to experience a new approach to children's worship through the Children Worship and Wonder workshop held at Christ Church Uniting from September 13 to 15. The workshop was sponsored by the Hawai'i Conference UCC and the Pacific Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

This three-day, fifteen-hour workshop, based on the book, *Young Children and Worship*, by Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman, demonstrated how to create a program that helps children learn about God while they experience God. This Bible story-based program can be used with different ages together in the same room and can work as well for one child as for a large group of children.

"We believe that children already have a relationship with God," said Kaye Edwards, Director of Family and Children's Ministries for the Disciples of Christ. "Our job is to prepare the safest, most beautiful space we can afford, and prepare ourselves to tell the Bible stories as well as we possibly can."

Kaye said that those who lead the program are considered "guides" not "teachers." Guides learn the stories by heart and, using sacred wooden objects, a special desert box, parable boxes and other specifically designed materials, tell stories in a way that acknowledges the presence of God's Spirit, and that allows children to enter into the stories.



Kaye Edwards engages participants in the Children Worship and Wonder workshop concept.

Workshop participants were taught the purpose of the program, had an opportunity to see the materials up close and learned how to use them in a worship setting. The book provides additional instruction needed for participants to take these ideas back to their congregations and create their own story centers.

Kaye said the inspiration for this workshop came as she has traveled around the country and visited churches. She discovered that young families were not often attending any

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Hawai'i Conference Youth Experience a Fun-Filled Fall Camp

Thirty-eight youth and nine adult leaders from Hawai'i Conference churches enjoyed a memorable Fall Camp at Camp Mokule'ia from October 6 to 8. The theme, "Real-World Faith," allowed the youth to think about their faith and how it can support them in any situation they face.



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are going to put into the air this year and their goals, and whether or not they're reaching them. So all of a sudden, we're finally making these companies transparent and now we can actually try to force change."

UCF is not alone in combating climate change through SRI tactics in the wake of the General Synod resolution. The Pension Boards UCC (PBUCC), an Affiliated Ministry offering comprehensive benefits programs to UCC clergy and lay employees, has committed to furthering its shareholder activism and corporate engagement around the issue as well.

"The Pension Boards has a long and active history of social witness on political, environmental and human rights issues and one hundred years of service to its members and the UCC," said Pension Boards Corporate Social Responsibility Director Richard E. Walters. "We will continue to engage in an active corporate social responsibility program of socially responsible investing, education, research, public advocacy, shareholder activism and corporate engagement around climate change and issues important to the prophetic witness of the United Church of Christ, while remaining steadfast to our fiduciary duty to our members."

In its forty-year SRI history, UCF has won numerous environmental and human rights victories. Most recently, the Hershey Company announced that its Bliss chocolate products will now be made using one hundred percent cocoa from Rainforest Alliance Certified farms. The policy is a result of five years of dialogue between Hershey, UCF and other socially responsible investors, and ensures Hershey's Bliss is developed sustainably and created without the use of forced child labor. Hershey has since pledged that by 2020 the cocoa used to make all of its chocolate products will be obtained from sustainable and ethical sources.

"Companies don't care that we're faith-based investors, but they do care about the money they might leave on the table if they don't treat their workers right or have safety violations leading to an explosion at a plant," said Katie. "Socially responsible investors are calling them out on these problems and saying, 'This is important, and it's going to impact your bottom line.'"

UCF is a signatory to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment initiative and member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility—a broader community of socially responsible investors with about \$100 billion in combined assets. Its goal is to develop a sustainable global financial system that does not profit from things like warfare, nuclear weapons proliferation or environmental degradation.

Looking to the future, Katie said UCF plans to provide microfinance allocations to benefit women's rights in developing nations; bolster its portfolios to invest in clean energy technology; and perform audits of its investment managers to ensure they are acting in a way that is consistent with UCC goals.

For more information about UCF and its SRI initiatives, visit www.unitedchurchfunds.org.

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kind of Christian educational programs. They were neither coming to Sunday School nor taking advantage of mid-week programs. But they were attending worship and bringing their children with them. In most congregations, young children were being taken out of the sanctuary and sent to a nursery to play or to a Christian education program that provided little consistency in leadership and was therefore not very effective. Plus children were not being given a chance to worship, which, she said, they instinctively know how to do.

"Being involved with children in this program has deepened my relationship with God," said Kaye. "I believe with all my heart that children are the ones (as Jesus told us) who can lead us into the realm of God. But we have to have children in our lives and we have to pay attention in the present moment. I pray that this way of worshiping with children will become part of what all congregations do to expand and deepen the faith of their members, both young and old."

A link to the Children Worship and Wonder website is available at www.hcucc.org.

resource List

Advent Resources for Churches

Online worship resources for Advent can be found at www.ucc.org/worship. Printed Advent materials from the UCC and other denominations can be purchased from UCC Resources by phone at 216-736-2206 or online at www.ucc.org. Examples of printed materials include:

"Behold!" an Advent resource that offers a devotional from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group for every day of Advent (5 for \$15).

"A Different Kind of Christmas," an inspirational study for youth based on Mike Slaughter's popular book, "Christmas is Not Your Birthday." It includes a leader's resource and helps youth reclaim the broader missional meaning of Jesus' birth and experience a Christmas season with more peace and joy than any toy or gadget could ever bring (\$8.09).

"What Is Advent?" covers the meaning of Advent for tweens ages 9 to 12 using puzzles and activities. This resource teaches tweens about Advent celebrations and gives them the opportunity to celebrate Advent at home (5 for \$10).

"Worship in a Flash for Advent and Christmas," a computer USB drive of prayers, sermons, calls to worship, litanies, benedictions, music, and projection images to aid pastors in preparation for Advent and Christmas services (\$29.99).

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

United Church of Christ Board Committed to Charting New Future

by Anthony Moujaes

The fifty-two members of the new United Church of Christ Board (UCCB) spent three days becoming acclimated to the work of the national offices and learning about each other as they gathered for their first business session under the new governance structure last month at the denomination's headquarters in Cleveland.

"I sense a feeling of genuine enthusiasm and commitment to the entire church that was sometimes lacking under the old structure because we were frequently asked to see just part of the church's work," said the Rev. Ron Patterson, a returning board member and pastor from Naples, Florida. "This is a fuller vision of the whole work of the church, and that all of our mission includes a concentration on justice, an interest in preserving what's best about who we are as God's people."

The UCCB, which met from October 9 to 12, left the fall business session with several of the board members expressing enthusiasm about their collaborative effort.

The major topic for discussion and deliberation involved the 2014 budget for the UCC national offices. The UCCB approved \$25.3 million in expenses, a figure that leaves a \$2.3 million shortfall for the 2014 fiscal year. The national officers said, in their commitment to being as transparent as possible, that they would invite national staff for a discussion to share thoughts and ideas.

Author, Teacher Called to Lead UCC Faith Formation Team

by Connie N. Larkman



Ivy Beckwith, a nationally known minister, author and teacher, has been called to lead the United Church of Christ Faith Formation Ministry Team beginning December 1. In this new position, Ivy will lead a significant shift in how the denomination approaches and designs faith formation ministries within and for the UCC in response to findings from the

UCC's Christian Faith Formation and Education Ministries Report of September 2012.

"As the UCC's Faith Formation Research Report made clear, approaches to faith formation have changed," said J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries. "No

longer are we solely focused on an educational 'Sunday School' model, but one that embraces faith formation as the desired outcome of all we do as Christians and as communities of faith.

Ivy has spent her entire ministry career in faith formation ministry, most recently as Director of Religious Education at Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York.

"I use a very simple definition for spiritual formation of children, youth and adults," Ivy said. "For me spiritual formation is a process of loving God and living in the way of Jesus."

Ivy holds a Ph.D. in Religious Education and has worked in curriculum publishing as a writer, editor and marketer, authoring several well-received books in the area of childhood faith formation. Her current work on bringing justice into formational ministries will be released this fall in a new book, *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*.

The new Faith Formation Ministry Team includes both UCC and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) staff. They will work to infuse new ideas, understandings and resources that speak to how faith is formed and deepened through every aspect of the church's corporate life (study, prayer, arts, worship, advocacy, mission, service, leadership, etc.), through families, in vocations, and in relationship with all of God's creation.

Christmas Fund Supports Ministers

The theme for this year's UCC Christmas Fund Special Offering is "We Have Come to Bear the Light of Christ."

Formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, the Christmas Fund is one of the four special missional offerings of the United Church of Christ.

Administered by the Pension Boards, the Fund provides pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to families of clergy and lay employees, and small Christmas thank-you gifts to retired low-income clergy. Last year almost \$1.5 million was raised. The goal for 2013 is \$1.7 million.

Resources to promote this important offering can be found at www.christmasfund.org.



In Memory



Retired minister **Doris Jean "Dee" McNabb** died September 16 at the age of 88. Ordained in 1998, Dee served at Pu'ula UCC, Central Christian Church, First United Protestant Church, and United Community Church (all Hawai'i Island).

Retired minister **Tyrone Reinhardt** died September 27 at the age of 72. Ordained in 1968, Tyrone was pastor of several churches in Hawai'i and also served as chaplain, teacher, and conference staff in Hawai'i and Northern California. Memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 9, at Imiola Congregational Church (Waimea, Hawai'i Island).



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wisdom of indigenous groups and how reviving their insights may better our world.

The Assembly will feature thematic plenaries, four ninety-minute ecumenical dialogues, workshops and exhibitions. A number of business items will be introduced, including setting the future agenda of the WCC, issuing public statements and electing a Central Committee to oversee the council's work until the next Assembly.

Holding the Assembly in Korea is significant because the WCC will be "a place for the global fellowship of churches to express solidarity with the Korean churches, which have suffered separations and are calling for the reunification of the divided Korean peninsula," said Olav.

Inaugurated in 1948 at the first Assembly in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, the WCC has advocated for Christian unity for the past 65 years. Assemblies have since been held in Evanston, United States (1954); New Delhi, India (1961); Uppsala, Sweden (1968); Nairobi, Kenya (1975); Vancouver, Canada (1983); Canberra, Australia (1991); Harare, Zimbabwe (1998); and Porto Alegre, Brazil (2006).

For more information about the WCC and live streaming of the Assembly, visit the WCC website at <http://www.oikoumene.org>.

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'uuanu Ave., Honolulu 96817.



Highlights from the Website

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

Hilo Pastor Retires

Church of the Holy Cross Pastor **Tom Olcott** retired from ministry on November 3. A celebration of Tom's ministry and retirement was held on Saturday, October 26.

Pastoral Changes

Napua Burke began as Pastor of the Topside Moloka'i Churches on October 1. She most recently served as Pastor of Ola'a First Hawaiian Church in Kurtistown (Hawai'i Island).

Phil Reller began as Pastor of Pearl City Community Church on October 4. He has been interim minister of several churches including, most recently, Los Angeles Filipino-American United Church of Christ.

The Church and Ministry Committee of the O'ahu Association terminated the ordained ministerial standing of **Petaia Timoteo** as the result of a fitness review.

John DeSaegher's last Sunday as Interim Pastor of Ewa Community Church was October 13.

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Bill is the last known living Hawai'i resident to have participated in the March on Washington, according to Leeward Community College professor Eileen Cain, who for the past three summers has been researching Hawai'i residents who took part in the civil rights movement. The Rev. Abraham Akaka and Tom Gill, former US Representative from Hawai'i, both now deceased, also participated in the March.



Bill Kinaka

Today, half a century after the historic March on Washington, Bill is not alone in emphasizing that there is more work to be done in America. Despite the passage of the Civil Rights Act which led to other initiatives like the Americans with Disabilities Act, Dr. King's dream of unity and equality is yet to be fulfilled.

"Race relations are much better than they were fifty years ago, but in terms of financials, the gap between the rich and the (poor), the haves and the have-nots, is only getting bigger," Bill said.

In 1953, Bill wrote a letter published in the *Maui News* one week after the March on Washington calling for all to take stands against discrimination: "To deny fellow [human] social, political and economic rights because of the color of [one's] skin is a moral sin. But an even greater sin is that of silence."



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November 2013

Around the Conference

Conference Calendar of Events

November 13	Hawai'i Conference Foundation Board of Trustees
November 15	Formation Missional Team
November 23	Conference Council
November 27	Stewardship Missional Team
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)
December 6-7	AHEC/SCHCC Boards Retreat
December 23-January 1	Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)
January 2	Office Reopens

Tips For Supporting MIDs

A Member in Discernment (MID) is a person considering the call to ministry. That discernment is not something that happens in isolation but is something that happens within the community. At an August gathering at Wailuku Union Church on Maui, Stephen Boyd, a UCC national staff person who specializes in government and professional chaplaincies, offered tips for how churches can be supportive of their MID.

- Pray for the MID and for your congregation to be supportive throughout his/her journey.
- If you see gifts for ministry in another, let that person know what you have discerned.
- Ask your church to consider starting a scholarship fund for members in seminary.
- Be aware of other scholarship opportunities available in the Association, Conference and denomination.
- Form a discernment group to meet regularly with the MID to offer encouragement.
- Encourage those considering ministry to try one of the online courses offered by UCC seminaries.
- Invite members to support their MID through notes, email and phone calls.