

Section II:

Business Items

200TH 'AHA PAE'ĀINA

JUNE 12-18, 2022

RULES OF THE 'AHA PAE'ĀINA

'Aha Pae'āina Week – General Rules

1. Member churches and ministers of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ (HCUCC), as defined by the Bylaws of the HCUCC, may attend events and activities of the 'Aha Pae'āina.
2. All gatherings including worship, meetings, plenary sessions, and workshops shall be conducted virtually.
 - a. Transmission will originate from locations designated by the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ (HCUCC) and will use electronic means as established by the HCUCC, namely online computer applications appropriate for the specific event or activity.
 - b. Participants may join events and activities by videoconference or by telephone.
 - c. If more than one person wishes to gather and participate electronically from a single location/computer, all those present must be registered for the 'Aha.
 - d. In-person attendance at any event or activity is limited to staff, speakers, and technicians as space permits, considering safety and social distancing protocols.
3. All attendees must register with the HCUCC to receive technical requirements and connection information for events and activities. Due to the technical nature of this meeting and the need for advanced planning and set up, no registrations will be accepted after the registration deadline.
4. All attendees must electronically "sign in" upon joining an event or activity. Instructions for proper "sign in" will be provided prior to the 'Aha Makua.

'Aha Makua Meeting Rules of Procedure

1. **Quorum:** Article IV Sec. 4 of the HCUCC Bylaws sets the quorum at twenty-five (25) churches of the Conference, with no person representing more than one church.
2. **Agenda:** No business other than that on the agenda presented to and adopted by the delegates at the start of the meeting will be considered, unless it has first been presented to the 'Aha Business Committee, and the Business Committee recommends its inclusion on the agenda to the 'Aha. An item of business appearing on the agenda shall also include topics that logically flow from, and are relevant to the resolution of, the main item.

3. **Recognition of speakers:** Before any attendee is able to address the 'Aha Makua, the attendee must be recognized by the meeting Chairperson. On any matter, the Chairperson shall recognize **delegates** who wish to speak on the matter before recognizing any **non-delegate** attendee wishing to speak on the same matter.
 - a. A **delegate** wishing to speak on a matter will indicate so electronically, be recognized by the chairperson, then give the delegate's name and the delegate's church membership or affiliation, committee or group represented by the delegate.
 - b. A **non-delegate** wishing to speak on a matter will indicate so electronically, be recognized by the chairperson, then give the non-delegate's name and church membership.
 - c. The chairperson shall recognize speakers within each of the delegate and the non-delegate groups as follows: first speaker shall be one who is in support of the business item, motion or resolution; second speaker shall be one opposed to the same. As much as possible, the chairperson shall recognize speakers within each group alternating between those in support of and those opposed to the item, motion, or resolution.
 - d. Due to the virtual nature of the meeting, all speaking times will be limited and, at the expiration of the time allowed, the speaker may be muted.
 - i. The speaker presenting an item, motion or resolution will be limited to five (5) minutes.
 - ii. **All other speakers will be limited to two (2) minutes.**
 - iii. No speaker may give or transfer speaking time to another speaker; however, the 'Aha Business Committee or the chairperson **may** grant additional time upon request of the speaker.
 - iv. No speaker may be recognized to speak more than once on the same business item, motion or resolution; however, a **delegate** may request permission of the 'Aha Business Committee or the chairperson to speak a second time on a business matter, motion or resolution **after all delegates** have had an opportunity to speak on the motion.
4. **Resolution of matters:** The 'Aha Makua shall seek **consensus** on all matters of business. Where consensus is not possible on a specific matter, the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be followed.
5. **Voting:** Due to the virtual nature of the meeting, voting on business items will be done either by unanimous consent or electronically, as appropriate and allowed under the state statutes, HCUCC Bylaws, and/or *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised*. The chairperson may direct any change to the voting method.
 - a. Voting is restricted to **registered delegates** of member churches and those **additional attendees granted voting privilege** under the Bylaws of the HCUCC. Authorized voters shall use the video conferencing tools provided by the software being used.

- b. Unless otherwise provided by the state statutes or HCUCC Bylaws, the action of the 'Aha Makua on any business item, motion or resolution, shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast by delegates present and voting on the matter.
 - c. Results of voting, once confirmed, will be posted on the HCUCC website and in the *Coconut Wireless* and *The Friend*.
- 6. **Election to fill open HCUCC positions:** The slate of candidates presented by the Conference Nominating Committee will be posted on the Conference's website prior to the 'Aha Pae'aina. During the appropriate time on the agenda, additional nominations may be made if they meet the requirements of the HCUCC Bylaws:
 - a. Nominations must include the written consent of the nominee; and
 - b. There must be a petition in support of the nominee that is signed by at least five (5) delegates from three (3) churches; and
 - c. The nominee's qualifications must have been presented in writing to the delegates present and voting.
- 7. **Minutes of the 'Aha Makua:** The Conference Council, in its capacity as 'Aha Pae'aina *ad interim*, shall review and approve the minutes of the 'Aha Makua.

**200th ‘Aha Pae‘aina
Central Union Church
Business Agenda of the ‘Aha Makua**

Friday, June 17, 2022

- I. Call to Order, Welcome and Announcements
- II. Credentials Report (Establishment of Quorum)
- III. Adoption of Rules of Procedure (page B1)
- IV. Adoption of Agenda (page B4)
- V. Introductions of Special Guests, New Clergy, in Memoria
- VI. Celebrations

Saturday, June 18, 2022

- VII. Elections
Note: To make nominations from the floor, see item 6 in the *Rules of Procedure* (page B3).
- VIII. Budget for Fiscal year 2022-2023
- IX. Conference Bylaw Amendments
- X. Establish Missional Team Innovation and Engagement
- XI. Resolution – Affirming Licensed and Commissioned Ministers as Authorized Ministers in the United Church of Christ
- XII. Resolution – Becoming a Church Against Gun Violence
- XIII. Recognitions and Thanks
- XIV. Commissioning and Adjournment (*By 10:45am*)

200th ‘Aha Pae‘aina Nominating Committee Report

The Conference Nominating Committee (Aileen Trout, Chair and Tri-Isle; Anela Rosa, Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches; Linda Petrucelli, Hawai‘i Island; Alex Tychkin, Kaua‘i; Susan Tengan, O‘ahu; Joan Sakaba, Member at-Large) has nominated to the 200th ‘Aha Pae‘aina the following persons to elected offices:

Chairperson, Conference Council
Eric Anderson

Justice & Witness Missional Team Chair
Linda Rich

Secretary, Conference Council
Lorna Motas

Stewardship Missional Team Chair
Sharon Matsuyama

At-Large Youth/Young Adult,
Conference Council
Jaquelin Kojima

HCF Trustee
Kenneth Makuakane

Nominating Committee At-Large
Sugalu Timoteo

HCUCC Nominations Committee – nominated by their respective Association

AHEC – Sam Masilamoney, 2 year term

Kauai – TBD, 2 year term

HIA - Debbie Wong Yuen, 2 year term

Brief Biographies of the Council and Trustee Nominees

Chairperson, Conference Council

The Rev. *Eric Anderson* is the Pastor at Church of the Holy Cross, Hilo. Rev. Anderson is currently serving as the Council Chairperson. He has served in various positions in the Hawai‘i Island Association including Chair of the Committee on Ministry as well as in the Connecticut and Maine conferences.

Secretary, Conference Council

Ms. *Lorna Motas* is a member of Kaumakapili Church, Honolulu where she has served in various capacities including President, Treasurer and Sunday School Teacher. Ms. Motas has served on various committees including as vice-chair of the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches.

At-Large Youth/Young Adult, Conference Council

Ms. *Jacquelin Kojima* is a member of Waipahu UCC, Waipahu. She is currently a teacher at a Honolulu private school and serves as the Youth Director at Waipahu UCC. Ms Kojima is also the chair of Waipahu’s Long Range Planning Committee and a member of their worship team.

Chairperson, Justice & Witness Missional Team

Ms. *Linda Rich* is a member of Church of the Crossroads, Honolulu. Ms. Rich has been involved in the community in areas such as criminal justice reform, anti-racism, environmental justice issues and Hawaiian sovereignty. At her local church, she has served as moderator, on the worship team and their Peace Justice, Stewardship of Creation Mission Team.

Chairperson, Stewardship Missional Team

Ms. *Sharon Matsuyama* has served in various capacities, including State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches President, General Synod delegate and the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches Finance Committee. She is a member of Pukaana Church, Kealia.

Trustee, Class D

The Rev. *Kenneth Makuakane* is the pastor at Kawaiaha‘o Church, Honolulu. He is currently a member of the UCC Regional Theological Education Consortium and Board of Trustees for the Pensions Boards. He has previously served as an Associate Conference Minister for the Hawai‘i Conference and on the Stewardship Missional Team in addition to many ecumenical events.

Nominating Committee At-Large

The Rev. *Sugalu Timoteo* is the pastor of Bethel of Amazing Grace, Waipahu. He also served as pastor of First Samoan Congregational Christian Church – Hilo before moving to O‘ahu. Rev. Timoteo currently serve on the O‘ahu Association Committee on Ministry.

| | | | | | | |
|----|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ FYE 6/30/2023 Budget Worksheet Draft to Aha | | | | | |
| | | Budget for | Budget for | Variance | Actuals Thru | |
| | | FYE 6/30/2023 | FYE 6/30/2022 | Increase/ (Decrease) | 1/31/22 | Comments |
| 1 | REVENUE: | | | | | |
| 2 | Restricted/Custodian Funds | 193,000 | 168,500 | 24,500 | 83,708 | Safe draw amt from Funds |
| 3 | Events/Programs | 59,000 | 48,000 | 11,000 | 12,383 | |
| 4 | Friends of the Conference | 35,000 | 35,000 | - | 21,891 | |
| 5 | Hawaii Conference Foundation Distribution | 781,300 | 629,000 | 152,300 | 371,657 | 6.5% anticipated draw |
| 6 | Service Fees - (Health Plan & Administrative) | 19,200 | 19,300 | (100) | 11,890 | |
| 7 | Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) | 190,000 | 240,000 | (50,000) | 137,134 | |
| 8 | Special Offerings | 122,000 | 142,000 | (20,000) | 76,765 | |
| 9 | Grants | 25,000 | 25,000 | - | - | |
| 10 | Miscellaneous | 5,000 | 5,000 | - | 4,539 | |
| 11 | Coan Fund | 145,000 | 145,000 | - | 37,481 | |
| 12 | Subtotal Revenue | 1,574,500 | 1,456,800 | 117,700 | 757,448 | |
| 13 | | | | | | |
| 14 | Less: OCWM Remitted to National | (66,500) | (120,000) | 53,500 | (62,571) | 65%/35% split |
| 15 | Less: Special Offerings Remitted to National | (110,000) | (131,000) | 21,000 | (67,969) | |
| 16 | Subtotal Remitted to National | (176,500) | (251,000) | 74,500 | (130,540) | |
| 17 | | | | | | |
| 18 | Total Revenue | 1,398,000 | 1,205,800 | 192,200 | 626,908 | |
| 19 | | | | | | |
| 20 | EXPENSES: | | | | | |
| 21 | Administration Team | | | | | |
| 22 | General & Administrative | 138,400 | 127,500 | 10,900 | 96,955 | Fee increases, supplies for move |
| 23 | <i>(e.g. Professional fees, utilities, supplies, online processing fees)</i> | | | | | |
| 24 | Mission Coordination | 48,625 | 31,340 | 17,285 | 491 | General Synod |
| 25 | <i>('Aha Pae'aina, Council, General Synod, Personnel Cmtte, etc)</i> | | | | | |
| 26 | Administrative Staff Salaries & Benefits | 795,630 | 738,620 | 57,010 | 428,757 | ACM salaries full yr, increase |
| 27 | Conference Minister & ACM Searches | - | 54,950 | (54,950) | 2,145 | |
| 28 | Conference Ministers Fund | 4,000 | 4,000 | - | - | |
| 29 | Partnerships | 11,000 | 11,000 | - | 4,305 | |
| 30 | <i>(e.g. Pacific School of Religion, Conf Min dues, ecumenical grants)</i> | | | | | |
| 31 | Staff Travel | 25,400 | 12,000 | 13,400 | 4,168 | Increase in travel |
| 32 | Church and Ministry | 12,020 | 3,145 | 8,875 | - | COM Training |
| 33 | Emergency Response Teams | 2,500 | 2,500 | - | 1 | |
| 34 | Administration Missional Team | 1,200 | 1,200 | - | - | |
| 35 | Office Rent, Fees & Insurance | 205,300 | 75,000 | 130,300 | 46,926 | rent/CAM fees/moving expenses |
| 36 | Total Administration Team | 1,244,075 | 1,061,255 | 182,820 | 583,748 | |

| | | | | | | |
|----|--|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ | | | | | |
| | FYE 6/30/2023 Budget Worksheet | | | | | |
| | Draft to Aha | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | Budget for | Budget for | Variance | Actuals Thru | |
| | | FYE 6/30/2023 | FYE 6/30/2022 | Increase/ | 1/31/22 | Comments |
| 37 | | | | | | |
| 38 | Stewardship Team | | | | | |
| 39 | OCWM Recognition Committee | 250 | 250 | - | - | |
| 40 | Christian Investment Grants | 3,000 | 3,000 | - | - | |
| 41 | Investment in Ministers | 3,000 | 3,000 | - | - | |
| 42 | Communications | 32,400 | 32,900 | (500) | 14,279 | |
| 43 | <i>(e.g. The Friend, Coconut Wireless, website)</i> | | | | | |
| 44 | Stewardship Missional Team | 2,625 | 625 | 2,000 | 44 | New events/training |
| 45 | Capital Campaign | 30,000 | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | |
| 46 | Total Stewardship Team | 71,275 | 69,775 | 1,500 | 44,323 | |
| 47 | | | | | | |
| 48 | Formation Team | | | | | |
| 49 | Youth Ministry Outreach | 5,300 | 5,300 | - | - | |
| 50 | Young Adult Ministry | 5,300 | 5,300 | - | 200 | |
| 51 | Pastoral Leadership | 22,500 | 22,500 | - | 12,290 | |
| 52 | <i>(Kanaana Hou Siloama, Lanai Union, Molokai Topside)</i> | | | | | |
| 53 | Church Life & Leadership | 25,450 | 25,450 | - | 6,420 | |
| 54 | <i>(e.g. Church Leaders Event, Clergy Retreat)</i> | | | | | |
| 55 | Resource Center | 300 | 300 | - | 150 | |
| 56 | <i>(e.g. Resource subscriptions)</i> | | | | | |
| 57 | Formation Missional Team | 1,575 | 1,575 | - | 82 | |
| 58 | Total Formation Team | 60,425 | 60,425 | - | 19,142 | |
| 59 | | | | | | |
| 60 | Justice & Witness Team | | | | | |
| 61 | Hansen's Disease Relief | 2,000 | 2,000 | - | - | |
| 62 | Reconciliation Committee | 3,250 | 3,250 | - | - | |
| 63 | Micronesian Ministry | 3,250 | 3,250 | - | 1,444 | |
| 64 | J&W Events | 7,500 | 7,500 | - | - | |
| 65 | <i>(e.g. Workshops, camps, educational opportunities)</i> | | | | | |
| 66 | Witness Missional Team | 1,225 | 1,225 | - | - | |
| 67 | Total Justice & Witness Team | 17,225 | 17,225 | - | 1,444 | |
| 68 | | | | | | |
| 69 | Innovation & Engagement Team | 5,000 | 2,500 | 2,500 | - | |
| 70 | | | | | | |
| 71 | Total Expenses | 1,398,000 | 1,211,180 | 186,820 | 648,657 | |
| 72 | | | | | | |
| 73 | NET INCOME (LOSS) | - | (5,380) | (5,380) | (21,749) | |

HCUCC 2022 Bylaws Revision Notes

The Administrative Missional Team provided a draft of the recommended bylaw revisions for the Conference Council's review. Revisions were made to be in alignment with the revised HCF bylaws. Discussion took place at the February 5, 2022, Council meeting and the amendments were passed. These amendments are now being forwarded to the 200th 'Aha Pae'āina for approval.

Following are a summary and explanation of the proposed amendments:

- 1. Article III: Associate Members** (*HCUCC page 2*)
 - Item 3: Students holding in care status are now called Members in Discernment, terminology now used in the UCC.
 - Item 7: the UCC Executive Council is now called the UCC Board.
- 2. Article IV: Meetings** (*HCUCC page 3*)
 - Section 4: Added section on Electronic Meetings.
- 3. Article V: Officers** (*HCUCC page 4*)
 - Section 2: To be in line with the HCF revised bylaws any mention of Foundation Members was deleted.
- 4. Article VI: Conference Minister** (*HCUCC page 5, HCF page 1 Section 2.01*)
 - Section 1: Revisions made to be aligned with the HCF revised bylaws.
 - Section 2: Corrected the name of the ministry team to the terminology now used in the UCC.
- 5. Article VII: Conference Council** (*HCUCC page 8, HCF page 1 Section 2.01*)
 - Section 4: Revisions made to be aligned with HCF revised bylaws.
 - Section 4: Revisions made to the election of HCF Directors.
- 6. Article X: The Hawai'i Conference Foundation** (*page 11*)
 - Revisions made to be aligned with the HCF revised bylaws.
- 7. Article XI: Standing Committee and Special Committees** (*page 14*)
 - Section 4: Corrected the name of the committee to the terminology now used in the UCC.
- 8. Article XII: Affiliations and Relationship** (*page 15*)
 - Section 2: Removed Samoan Council and Council of Filipino Ministry.
 - Correct the name of Christian Endeavor.

General changes such as punctuation and diacritical marks, will be corrected.

**BYLAWS
OF THE
HAWAI'I CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

NOTE: 'AHA PAE'ĀINA is Hawaiian for the entire gathering of the islands of the archipelago and is the annual meeting of the members of the Hawai'i Conference. 'AHA MAKUA is Hawaiian for the business session of the 'Aha Pae'āina. These two distinctions are made throughout the whole Charter and Bylaws.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. CHURCHES. Any church that holds current authorized standing in an Association of this Conference shall be a member of the Conference.

Section 2. MINISTERS. Any ordained, commissioned or licensed minister who holds current authorized standing in an Association of the Conference shall be a member of the Conference.

ARTICLE II: VOTING PRIVILEGES

Section 1. A Church as defined in Article I, Section 1, shall be entitled to one voting lay delegate, except that those churches having more than 200 members shall be entitled to elect one additional lay delegate for each additional 100 members, or major fraction thereof, (for purposes of calculating the number of delegates accorded to a church, the church's membership shall be tallied and rounded to the nearest 100) up to a total of five delegates. Each church shall also be allowed a Youth/Young Adult delegate, thirty years of age or younger upon election, with vote in the 'Aha Pae'āina, in addition to the regular delegates to which the church is entitled.

Unless otherwise ordered by the church, a delegate selected by a church shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor has been elected, except that the delegate's term of office shall terminate upon removal from church membership. A church shall be entitled to select an alternate to act in the absence of a regular delegate.

Section 2. A minister, as defined in Article I, Section 2, shall be entitled to a vote.

Section 3. The members of the Conference Council, chairpersons of all standing and special committees and the presidents of the Associations shall be voting members of the Conference during their terms of office.

Section 4. In the event that any person serves in more than one office pursuant to this Article II, Section 1, 2 or 3 above (for example, a lay delegate or an ordained minister who also serves on the Conference Council or as a committee chairperson), such person shall have only one vote.

ARTICLE III: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Any of the following may register and by vote of the Conference become Associate Members with privilege of voice, but not vote, at meetings:

1. An ordained minister of the United Church of Christ holding standing in an Association outside of, or Conference other than the Hawai'i Conference.
2. A minister with Privilege of Call in an Association of the Hawai'i Conference.
3. A Member in Discernment ~~student holding in-care status~~ in an Association of the Conference.
4. An ordained minister holding standing in another denomination while serving as a minister in a church of an Association of the Conference.
5. National leaders, speakers and other persons who are guests of the Conference.
6. A member in good standing of any church with standing in an Association of the Conference.
7. Any representative of the Conference to a UCC Covenanted Ministry, the UCC Board Executive Council or to an ecumenical body.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1. ĀHA PAE'ĀINA (ANNUAL MEETING). The 'Aha Makua of the 'Aha Pae'āina is the final authority on all matters pertaining to the policies and programs of the Conference.

The 'Aha Pae'āina shall be held in the month of June for worship, inspiration, and fellowship and for the transaction of appropriate business and elections as necessary. The time and place of holding the meeting may be fixed or changed by vote of the 'Aha Pae'āina or the Conference Council.

Section 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings of the membership of the Conference may be called by the Conference Council or by the Executive Council or by petition of one-fourth (1/4) of the member churches.

Section 3. NOTICE OF MEETINGS. Notice of the time and place of the 'Aha Pae'āina and notice of special meetings stating the time, place and purpose of such special meetings shall be sent to each church and minister of the Conference, each member of the Conference Council, each chairperson of a standing committee and each president of an Association. Notice of meetings shall be given not less than 30 days prior to the date thereof.

Section 4. ELECTRONIC MEETINGS. Subject to the notice requirements in Article IV Section 3 of these Bylaws, members of the Council or any committee designated thereby may participate in a meeting of the Council or of such committee by means of a conference telephone, video conferencing technology, or similar communication equipment by means of which all person participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time. Participation in a meeting held by remote communication shall constitute presence in person at a meeting for all purposes, including quorum and voting. Such meetings may be partially or wholly "virtual" meetings.

Section 54. QUORUM AND VOTE. Twenty-five (25) churches of the Conference shall constitute a quorum at any duly called meeting of the Conference. For the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum, no person shall represent more than one church. Except as otherwise provided by the charter, these bylaws or by law, the vote of a majority of those persons present and voting shall be necessary for the adoption or approval of any matter to come before the meeting.

Section 65. AGENDA. The Executive Council shall act as the business committee at the meetings of the Conference and shall have responsibility for implementing the agenda and the standing rules.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE. The officers of the Conference shall be the Chairperson of the Conference Council, the Vice Chairperson of the Conference Council, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Conference Minister, and such other officers as the Conference may from time to time determine, each of whom shall be a member in good standing of a church of this Conference. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Conference Council shall alternate from term to term whenever possible between a lay person and an ordained minister. All officers shall be elected at the 'Aha Pae`āina following the procedure set forth in Article XI, Section 2, to serve until their successors are elected, except for the Conference Minister, who shall be elected following the procedure set forth in Article VI, Section 2.

Section 2. CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL. The Chairperson of the Conference Council shall preside at all meetings of the Conference Council, the Executive Council, and the 'Aha Pae`āina. The Chairperson shall, by virtue of office, ~~preside over all of the meetings of the members of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation and shall~~ be a member of the Foundation Board of ~~Trustees~~Directors and, if applicable, ~~its Executive Committee~~. The Chairperson shall make an annual report to the Conference, shall perform such other duties as the Conference Council may prescribe and shall be an ex-officio member, without vote, of all committees of the Conference Council. The Chairperson shall attend the General Synod as an Associate Delegate of the Conference.

Section 3. VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL. The Vice Chairperson of the Conference Council shall perform the duties of the Chairperson, in case of that officer's absence or inability to act, and shall assist the Chairperson in his or her responsibilities.

Section 4. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept a permanent, accurate and legible record of all meetings and transactions of the Conference, the Conference Council and the Executive Council and shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office. The Secretary shall distribute or cause to be distributed to the Conference Council, the Executive Council and all the members of the Conference, as defined in Article I, the minutes of the annual, regular and special meetings of the Conference, the Conference Council and the Executive Council.

Section 5. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall have the powers and perform the duties customary and incidental to the office and such other powers and duties as may be assigned by the Conference Council. The Treasurer shall provide regular, periodic statements of the financial operations of the Conference to the Conference Council and a full report to the 'Aha Pae`āina.

Section 6. TERMS OF OFFICE. The term of office for the elected officers of the Conference, except the Conference Minister, shall be two (2) years. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Conference Council may serve not more than two (2) consecutive terms. The Treasurer and the Secretary may serve not more than three (3) consecutive terms. The term of office for each officer shall begin at the close of the 'Aha Pae`āina at which such officer is elected. The Chairperson and the Secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years. The Vice Chairperson and the Treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years.

ARTICLE VI: THE CONFERENCE MINISTER

Section 1. THE CONFERENCE MINISTER. The Conference Minister shall be an ordained minister with authorized standing in an association of the United Church of Christ and shall be nominated by the Conference Council and elected by the 'Aha Pae`āina.

The term of office of the Conference Minister may be terminated upon ninety (90) days' written notice either by the 'Aha Pae`āina or Conference Council or by the Conference Minister.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Conference Minister, the Conference Council shall appoint an Interim Conference Minister.

The Conference Minister is the Conference's spiritual leader, its chief executive and administrative officer, and registrar. The Conference Minister shall give general supervision over the work of the Conference and shall be directly accountable to the Conference Council. The Conference Minister shall be a member of the Conference Council with voice but not vote and, by virtue of office, a non-voting member of the Foundation Board of Directors~~Trustees and, if applicable, its Executive Committee~~. The Conference Minister shall attend the General Synod as an associate delegate of the Conference.

Section 2. THE SEARCH PROCESS. When the office of the Conference Minister is vacant, the Conference Council shall be authorized to appoint a Search Committee, whose chairperson, at the time of appointment, is a member of the Conference Council. This committee shall seek assistance in the search process

from the Office of the General Minister and President of the United Church Christ, and it shall receive names of applicants for the office of Conference Minister from the churches of the Conference and the wider United Church of Christ. All applicants shall have a UCC Ministerial Profile filed with Parish Life and Leadership of Local Church Ministries Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team of the United Church of Christ. The Search Committee, after evaluation of the applicants, shall present to the Conference Council the name of the person it recommends for the office. If the Conference Council accepts the recommendation, it shall notify the 'Aha Pae`āina delegates of the name of its nominee at least three weeks prior to the 'Aha Pae`āina date of election.

ARTICLE VII: CONFERENCE COUNCIL

Section 1. FUNCTION. The Conference Council is the 'Aha Pae`āina ad interim. It functions as the Board of Directors in compliance with Chapter 414 D, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, as amended ("the Hawai'i Nonprofit Corporations Act"). All corporate powers of the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ, including management of its affairs, shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Conference Council, as set forth in the Hawai'i Nonprofit Corporations Act.

Section 2. COMPOSITION. The Conference Council shall be composed of:

- (a) Five Officers of the Conference Council, namely the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Conference Minister (Article V);
- (b) Chairpersons of Missional Teams (Article VIII);
- (c) Five Presidents, or designated appointees, of Associations (Article IX);
- (d) Two (2) At-Large Youth/Young Adult members, thirty years of age or younger upon election, each serving two-year staggered terms, up to a maximum of two terms, and elected by the 'Aha Pae`āina;
- (e) One (1) Representative from the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches,
- (f) Executive Director of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation.
- (g) Chairperson of the Personnel Committee (Article XI).

Council members shall be members in good standing of a local church in the Conference. The Conference Minister, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee and Executive Director of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation shall have voice but not vote on the Conference Council.

Terms of office shall begin immediately following the close of the 'Aha Pae`āina at which election took place.

Section 3. MEETINGS AND QUORUM. The Conference Council shall meet at least four times a year, and, in addition, at the call of the Chairperson,

Conference Minister, or a majority of its members. A majority of the voting membership of the Conference Council shall be present at any duly called meeting to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the act of a majority of the Council members present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Conference Council. In the absence of a quorum, or when a quorum is present, a meeting may be adjourned from time to time by a vote of a majority of the Council members present in person without notice other than by announcement at the meeting and without further notice to any absent member. Any action which might be taken at a meeting of the Conference Council may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by all of the members of the Conference Council. The written consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Conference Council. The consent has the same effect as a vote of the Conference Council for all purposes. Members of the Conference Council or any committee may participate in a meeting of the Conference Council or committee by means of a conference telephone or similar communication equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time, and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 4. DUTIES. The Conference Council shall provide leadership, theological discernment and spiritual oversight in articulating the vision of the Conference, and oversee the policies of the 'Aha Pae`āina and their implementation. The Conference Council shall establish policies consistent with the policies of the 'Aha Pae`āina to guide the implementation of the Conference's program, the operation of the Conference and the selection of Conference Minister; serve as a setting for collaboration, coordination and communication, linking with the local churches and associations; and coordinate the work and review the activities of Missional Teams, including annual budgets.

In promoting the mission of the Conference, the Conference Council shall review for faithfulness and effectiveness the use of all benevolent contributions to the Conference including Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), Basic and Special Support, and the funds held by the Conference and Foundation for the Conference.

The Conference Council shall be responsible for funding policy decisions and ensuring that the Conference is adequately financed. The Conference Council shall recommend an Annual Budget for adoption by the Conference at the 'Aha Pae`āina, such Budget to include the operating expenses of the Conference and a recommendation for the Conference percentage of OCWM Basic Support to be retained for the use of the Conference.

The Conference Council shall make appointments to fill vacancies of any member elected by the 'Aha Pae`āina occurring between meetings of the 'Aha Pae`āina, such appointments to continue until the subsequent 'Aha Pae`āina.

The Conference Council by two-thirds (2/3) vote, shall have the power to purchase, sell, transfer or otherwise deal with properties (real, personal or mixed) of the Conference; to borrow or lend money or to hypothecate or encumber any such properties; provided, however, in case of a sale, lease, exchange or transfer of all or substantially all of the Property and assets of the Conference, the affirmative vote or consent of three-fourths (3/4) of the members of the Conference is required.

The Conference Council members shall discharge their duties in good faith, with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances and in a manner that such member believes to be in the best interest of the Conference, notwithstanding the fact that members may have been appointed or elected to the Conference Council by a different body of the church.

Unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation, the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ's membership as Foundation Directors shall be composed of the following:

- a. Two members of the Conference Council elected by such Conference Council for a term of tow years or while a member of the Conference Council, whichever is shorter.
- b. The Conference Minister (ex-officio, non-voting) and the Council Chairperson (ex-officio, voting).
- c. Two persons nominated by the Conference Council and elected by the members of the Conference at the 'Aha Pae`āina for a term of three years.

~~Unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation, the members of the Conference Council and the members of the Foundation Board of Trustees shall serve as the members of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation. The Foundation Board of Trustees shall be composed of the following:~~

- ~~a. Three members of the Conference Council elected by such Conference Council.~~
- ~~b. The Conference Minister and the Council Chairperson.~~
- ~~e. Four persons nominated by the Board of Trustees and elected by the Conference Council.~~

~~d. Two persons nominated by the Conference Council and elected by the members of the Conference at the Aha Pae`āina.~~

ARTICLE VIII: MISSIONAL TEAMS

Section 1. MISSIONAL TEAMS. The mission of the Conference shall be coordinated through Missional Teams, which shall be accountable to the Conference Council between meetings of the 'Aha Pae`āina. The 'Aha Pae`āina shall establish Missional Teams as needed to carry out the missional priorities of the Conference, including, initially, with the adoption of this Article, Administration, Formation, Stewardship, and Justice & Witness, as defined by the 'Aha Pae`āina. Missional Teams shall exist without term, or until dismissed by the 'Aha Pae`āina. The Conference Council may establish or dismiss Missional Teams between meetings of the 'Aha Pae`āina and with ratification at the subsequent meeting of the 'Aha Pae`āina. Missional Teams shall also endeavor to work with and relate to Affiliate organizations (Article XII).

Section 2. COMPOSITION. Each Missional Team shall consist of at least five Team members, where possible at least half shall be lay persons, who shall serve a one year term and be appointed each fiscal year by the Conference Council and who shall represent the broad diversity of the Conference, its churches, and its affiliate organizations. The chairperson of each Team shall serve a two (2) year term and be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected at the 'Aha Pae`āina. Chairpersons may serve no more than two (2) full consecutive terms at any one time, provided, however, that with the initial adoption of this Article, terms for two Missional Team chairpersons shall be limited to term of one year in order to achieve staggered terms among Missional Team chairpersons. Chairpersons shall serve on the Conference Council (Article VII, Section 2). All members of Missional Teams shall be members in good standing of a church in this Conference.

ARTICLE IX: ASSOCIATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Section 1. PURPOSE.

- a. As God's people, we affirm the creation of Associations to enable closer ties and a greater sense of community within the Conference life. Associations are established as groups of local churches within which common concerns can be raised and more sharply focused; where celebrations of the joys and sorrows of congregational and denominational life can be shared; where Christian fellowship can flourish as churches come together for common purpose; where ecumenical outreach and sharing can be strengthened.

Each Association shall:

- (i) Determine, confer, and certify the standing of local churches of the United Church of Christ within its covenantal body.
- (ii) Grant, transfer, and terminate standing of ordained ministers in the United Church of Christ.
- (iii) Retain its own charter, constitution, and bylaws, not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and the Charter and Bylaws of the Hawai'i Conference.
- (iv) Relate to the General Synod through the Conference.
- (v) Receive students for the ordained ministry under its care and extend to them fellowship, counsel, assistance and supervision during their academic preparation.
- (vi) Ordain, commission, and license qualified candidates; grant privilege of call and leaves of absence; transfer ordained ministerial standing and review and discipline ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers.
- (vii) Offer encouragement, guidance, and assistance in the organization of new local churches.

- (viii) Receive local churches into authorized standing in the United Church of Christ with the counsel of the Conference.
- b. The Conference shall be divided into five (5) Associations in order to:
 - (i) Bring to the churches the resources of the United Church of Christ in program and mission, and
 - (ii) Provide a forum for the discussion of mutual ministries, priorities, and resolutions of the local churches, the Conference, the General Synod, and Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Section 2. ORGANIZATION.

- a. The five (5) Associations are as follows: 'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i Ame Lāna'i; Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches; Hawai'i Island Association of the United Church of Christ; Kaua'i Association of the United Church of Christ; and O'ahu Association of the United Church of Christ.
- b. Each Association shall organize itself as it desires and schedule such activities as may be appropriate to the life of the Association.

ARTICLE X: THE HAWAI'I CONFERENCE FOUNDATION

The Hawai'i Conference established the Hawai'i Conference Foundation.

Unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation,

Section 1. The objects and purposes of the Foundation are as follows:

- a. 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, and its successors,

~~including its churches, ministers, and the General Synod and Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ, through management of custodial accounts or otherwise. To be a Foundation and a depository of properties, real, personal, and mixed, for investments and use for the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successors (hereinafter referred to as "the Conference"), its member churches and recognized organizations.~~

- b. ~~To advance the cause of Christian religion in such other manner as may be deemed suitable. To promote the interest and general welfare of the churches and ministers of which this Conference is composed, and of the General Synod, boards, institutions, agencies and Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ, and of other organizations which are recognized to be affiliated with the United Church of Christ and with the Conference, insofar as their interests are within the area of concern of the Conference.~~
- c. ~~To advance the cause of the Christian religion in such other phases as may be deemed suitable and to exercise any power which a nonprofit corporation for religious and charitable purposes and exempt from taxation under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and the laws of the State of Hawai'i is authorized to exercise.~~

~~**Section 2.** To the extent possible, the The Conference Minister shall work with the Executive Director of the Foundation to coordinate the operations of their respective organizations. The Membership shall consist of the members of the Hawai'i Conference Council and the Hawai'i Conference Foundation Board of Trustees as named in the Charter and Bylaws of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation and in Article VII, Section 4, of the Hawai'i Conference UCC Bylaws.~~

~~**Section 3.** The Executive Director shall be responsible for implementing the purpose of the Foundation in its support for the mission of the Hawai'i Conference, United Church of Christ and its local churches. The Executive Director reports to the Board of Trustees of the Foundation in carrying out the policies and decisions of the Board of Trustees; assists the Trustees in the performance of their duties and responsibilities; has overall supervision of the operations of the Foundation office and its employees; is responsible for the management of real properties and other assets held by the Foundation; and coordinates the operation of the Foundation with the Hawai'i Conference through its Conference Minister.~~

ARTICLE XI: STANDING COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL The Executive Council is the direct executive instrument of the Conference Council. The Conference Council shall appoint an Executive Council to carry out the duties of the Conference Council in accordance with policies and limitations established by the Conference Council. The members of the Executive Council shall be the Chairperson of the Conference Council, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference Council, Secretary, Treasurer, Conference Minister, and one person from the Conference Council elected by the Council. The Chairperson shall chair the Executive Council. Meetings may be called by the Chairperson, the Conference Minister, or a majority of its members.

Section 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. There shall be a Nominating Committee which shall be a Standing Committee of the Conference, accountable to the Conference Council. The Nominating Committee shall consist of six (6) members, one from each Association, and one At-Large Member. Each member shall serve a term of two (2) years, staggered into two (2) classes. Association members of the Committee shall be nominated by their respective Association and elected by the 'Aha Pae`āina. The At-Large member of the Committee shall be nominated by the Conference Council and elected by the 'Aha Pae`āina. Members can serve no more than two (2) full consecutive terms at any one time. The Committee shall elect its own chairperson.

Not later than January 31 of each year, the Committee shall send to each church and Association a list of offices to be filled as provided by these Bylaws, inviting suggestions for candidates and their qualifications for these offices. Recommendations from other sources shall also be received and given equal consideration. The Nominating Committee shall work to assure that the slate provides broad representation of the life and composition of the Conference. Names of nominees shall be published in official media and publications of the Conference prior to the 'Aha Pae`āina.

The nomination of delegates to the General Synod shall be entrusted to Associations, which shall present names and profiles to the Conference Nominating Committee. Nominations of delegates to the General Synod and to national boards and Covenanted Ministries shall be in keeping with the current United Church of Christ Bylaws. To meet the United Church of Christ requirements, final determination of nominees rests with the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall present its slate to the Conference Council for approval and recommendation to the 'Aha Pae`āina. Additional nominations, except for the office of Conference Minister, may be made from the floor, provided the written consent of the nominee and a petition signed by at least five delegates from three churches have been previously obtained and the qualifications of the nominee are presented in writing to the delegates present and voting.

If there is one candidate for an office, and only one possible to elect, the Secretary shall be instructed to cast an elective ballot for that candidate. This provision does not apply to the election of the Conference Minister.

When the Conference receives notice of positions to be filled or nominations to be made for bodies and committees of the national setting of the church, and if time permits, the Nominating Committee shall notify all churches and Associations of the Conference in time for their recommendations to be received by the Committee and considered before nominations are submitted to the Conference Council at any regular meeting or at a meeting called especially for that purpose. In cases requiring immediate response, the responsibility may rest with the Conference Council or the Conference Minister.

Section 3. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE. There shall be a Personnel Committee which shall be a Standing Committee of the Conference, accountable to the Conference Council. The Personnel Committee shall have one member from each Association, appointed by the Conference Council in consultation with the Association. Members shall serve two-year staggered terms and no more than two (2) consecutive terms. The Chairperson shall be elected annually by the Personnel Committee and shall serve on the Conference Council ex-officio. The Personnel Committee shall recommend personnel policies and annual salary adjustments of the staff to the Conference Council for approval; work in consultation with the Conference Council and the Conference Minister on personnel matters; conduct periodic evaluation of the Conference Minister and all ministerial staff; and oversee evaluations of all other office staff. The Personnel Committee shall report to the Conference Council except for confidential matters. The Personnel Committee and its members shall not respond to requests from external constituencies for personal information or action without the prior written consent of the Conference Council and the advice of legal counsel. The Personnel Committee shall maintain, at all times, a high level of confidentiality with the personnel matters of the Conference.

Section 4. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY. There shall be a Conference Committee on Ministry which shall be accountable to the Conference Council through the Conference Minister. The Committee shall consist of the

Chairperson of each Association's ~~Committee on Ministry Church and Ministry Committee~~, Associate Conference Ministers, ~~the Placement Coordinator (if not an Associate Conference Minister)~~, and the Conference Minister. ~~The Conference Minister, or designee, who~~ shall be the Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry. The Committee will help Association ~~Church and Ministry Committees~~ Committees on Ministry in their interpretation and application of the Manual on Ministry and any supplements, and recommend policy, program and resources for pastoral support and other ~~Church and Ministry Committee on Ministry~~ matters.

Section 5. SPECIAL COMMITTEES. The Conference Council may organize and establish such special committees not inconsistent with these bylaws as it may determine to be necessary.

ARTICLE XII: AFFILIATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. An Association of this Conference is that body so defined in a way acceptable to the 'Aha Pae`āina composed of churches and ministers which historically or for other reasons clearly defined have been a structural unit of this Conference. The 'Aha Pae`āina determines and authorizes the number and nature of Associations in the Hawai'i Conference.

Section 2. Affiliates are organizations which in their purpose and program are in harmony with the purposes of the Conference. (Examples of Affiliate organizations of the Conference are: Sunday School Association, Woman's Board of Missions, Christian Endeavor ~~Association Hawai'i~~, State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches, ~~Samean Council, Council of Filipino Ministry~~, and Hawai'i Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries.)

Affiliates shall participate in the life of the Conference through Missional Teams. The Conference Council may grant, on an annual basis, voice and vote at the 'Aha Pae`āina to Presidents or Chairpersons of Affiliates.

Any organization that seeks to be recognized as an Affiliate of the Hawai'i Conference must make request to, and be endorsed by, the Conference Council.

Section 3. This Conference shall have that relation to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ as is described in those portions of the Constitution

and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ adopted July 4, 1961, and subsequently amended, which relate to Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

Section 4. This Conference may relate itself to ecumenical bodies which are recognized and supported by the United Church of Christ; to state and city Council of Churches functioning within the Conference boundaries; to missionary societies which are or may be established by groups of churches affiliated with the Conference; to hospitals, homes and agencies within the boundaries of the Conference; and to colleges and seminaries in which the Conference has a special interest.

ARTICLE XIII: EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws or by resolutions of the Conference Council or by law, the persons authorized to make and execute all written instruments of the Conference, including drafts, notes, bonds, acceptances, deeds, leases and contracts shall be any two of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer.

ARTICLE XIV: FISCAL YEAR AND AUDIT

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Conference shall be July 1 through June 30.

Section 2. There shall be an annual audit of the Conference books by a certified public accountant appointed by the Conference Council.

ARTICLE XV: SEAL

The Conference shall have a corporate seal as may be determined by the Conference Council.

ARTICLE XVI: CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be followed in the conduct of official business unless otherwise specifically provided in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XVII: AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at any annual or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present with the privilege of vote, provided the proposed amendments have been mailed to each church and minister at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken. A certified copy of the Bylaws containing all amendments or changes therein shall be filed with the appropriate agency of the State of Hawai'i, if required by law, within thirty (30) days after adoption.

ARTICLE XVIII: INTERPRETATION

The provisions herein describe the free and voluntary relationships which the churches, Associations and ministers sustain with the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ. Nothing in the Bylaws shall destroy or limit the right of each church to continue to operate in the way customary to it, nor shall the Bylaws be construed as giving the Conference now or any future time the power to abridge or impair the autonomy or property rights of any church.

* * *

Innovation and Engagement Missional Team:

Delegates will be asked to vote for establishing the Innovation and Engagement Missional Team at the 'Aha Makua. This workshop is designed to introduce the team and to explore what exactly innovation and engagement mean in our times. What does it mean to create the church of the future? What models best help us get there? What are we learning through our online presence and how is virtual church reshaping in-person church? How might facilities and church properties be used in new ways which extend the love of God into the community? It is not always about the big grandiose things, as sometimes small experiments make meaningful impact.

The Innovation and Engagement Missional Team seeks to provoke and support congregations in the Conference to create the church we want to see in the future.

Affirming Licensed and Commissioned Ministers as Authorized Ministers in the United Church of Christ

Source

Executive Committee of the Aha O Nā Mokupuni ‘O Maui, Moloka‘i, A Me Lāna‘i (formerly the Tri-Isle Association of the Hawai‘i Conference UCC)

Date of Adoption by Source or Sponsor

Adopted by the Executive Committee of the Aha O Nā Mokupuni ‘O Maui, Moloka‘i, A Me Lāna‘i (formerly the Tri-Isle Association of the Hawai‘i Conference UCC) March 2, 2022.

Brief Summary

This resolution is an overture to the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ to affirm both Licensed Ministry and Commissioned Ministry as Authorized Ministries of the United Church of Christ in accordance with the current Constitution and Bylaws of the UCC and to direct Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Local Church Ministries, A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ to amend *Manual on Ministry: A Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ* © 2018 to reflect the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws regarding both Licensed Ministers and Commissioned Ministers.

Biblical, theological and ethical rational for the resolution

In the letter to the church at Corinth, the Apostle writes:

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. (1 Cor. 12:4–7, 27–31 NRSV)

Similarly, the Apostle writes to the church in Rome:

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of

38 God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I
39 say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you
40 ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure
41 of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members,
42 and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are
43 one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have
44 gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to
45 faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in
46 exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the
47 compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Rom. 12:1–8 NRSV)
48

49 Under the heading “Theology of Ministry and Ordination” in *Manual on Ministry: A Guide to*
50 *Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ* © 2018, we read:

51 The United Church of Christ believes that God calls every
52 Christian to be a servant of God, a minister⁴, living and serving
53 in Christ’s name. This call is celebrated sacramentally in baptism
54 as persons are claimed for Christ by the Holy Spirit and the Church;
55 all who are baptized spend the rest of their lives responding to
56 God’s call and claim. The particulars of each person’s call and
57 ministry vary with time, place, talents, experience, personal
58 situation and responsibilities, and, importantly, the needs of the
59 world. Ministry is lived in every aspect of one’s life as God’s love
60 is shown in word and deed.
61

62 The particular ministry of reconciling all God’s children with one
63 another, with creation, and with God, was given to God’s people
64 in scripture: “All this is from God, who reconciled us...through
65 Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in
66 Christ God was reconciling the world to Godself, not counting
67 their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of
68 reconciliation to us” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). This ministry is
69 claimed daily by the United Church of Christ as it is called to
70 love God, neighbor, and self, and to do justice, love kindness, and
71 walk humbly with God (Matthew 22:36-50 and Micah 6:8).

72 Christians are members of the Body of Christ, the Church,
73 under the sole headship of Jesus Christ. This is a living body (1
74 Corinthians 12), called, formed and sent into the world by the
75 power of the Holy Spirit. Loving and serving God, the Church has
76 multiple purposes:

- 77 • embodying and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to all;
- 78 • nurturing and empowering the gathered Church through worship and
79 sacraments, fellowship and mutual care, education and spiritual
80 formation;
- 81 • acting in the world through deeds of justice and lovingkindness.(pp. 7–
82 8)
83

84 In defining ordination, the *Manual on Ministry: A Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the United*
85 *Church of Christ* © 2018 states:

86 The Church acknowledges that its members have many diverse ministries in
87 the world and in the Church. It also recognizes a specific need for
88 representative servant leaders “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for
89 building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). The United Church of Christ,
90 along with the Church Universal through the ages and throughout the world,
91 affirms God’s call to some individuals to be such leaders who help the Church
92 to be what God intends it to be. These persons are set apart through prayer and
93 the laying on of hands in the rite of ordination.

94
95 In ordination, the individual makes a lifetime commitment to God in Jesus
96 Christ and to the Church, relying on the Holy Spirit. As Ordained Ministers
97 enter the apostolic ministry,⁵ they continue the witness of Christ’s followers
98 from New Testament times. They receive authority from the Triune God to
99 serve in Jesus’ name. Ordained Ministers have particular responsibilities for
100 the proclamation and practice of the Christian faith and for the life of the
101 Church itself. (p. 8)

102
103 God calls some to serve for a season in a particular ministry to address the needs of the church.
104 In those cases, the United Church of Christ has authorized individuals to serve as Licensed
105 Ministers and Commissioned Ministers without requiring ordination (Constitution Article VI and
106 Bylaws Preamble and Article I). Those faithful ministers have often served small congregations
107 and offered specialized ministry in various settings. Those Licensed and Commissioned
108 Ministers have shared their gifts and proclaimed the gospel through faithful and loving service.
109 Some have pursued ordination. Associations and Conferenced Licensed and Commissioned
110 Ministers have been authorized to serve for a “season” as Ecclesiastes states: “For everything
111 there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 31 NRSV). Affirming
112 those ministries, gifts, and seasons with authorization is consistent with the belief that all
113 ministry flows from the gift of the Spirit in Baptism.

114
115 Based on the covenantal polity of the United Church of Christ, local Associations have
116 authorized Licensed Ministers and Commissioned Ministers. The Constitution and Bylaws of the
117 United Church of Christ have not been amended, and the Ministerial Excellence, Support and
118 Authorization, Local Church Ministries, A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ
119 has set before the United Church of Christ the challenge of considering the elimination of
120 Licensed Ministry and Commissioned Ministry as they have been practiced without significant
121 discussion and discernment in all settings of the United Church of Christ since *Manual on*
122 *Ministry: A Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ* © 2018 was published.
123 Some local Churches, Associations, and Conferences have found it necessary to affirm Licensed
124 and Commissioned Ministers as valued “authorized” ministers and calling for amending *Manual*
125 *on Ministry: A Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ* © 2018 to guide
126 Associations in the process of authorizing Licensed and Commissioned Ministers.

127
128 While this *Manual on Ministry: A Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ*
129 © 2018 is subtitled “A **Guide** to Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ,” it is a

130 “guide” that lays out ordained ministry as the ultimate goal of all authorized ministers who have
131 not been ordained, and it is not congruent with the Constitution (Article VI) and Bylaws
132 (Preamble and Article I) of the UCC and conflicts with the practice of many Associations and
133 Conferences in authorizing Licensed Ministers and Commissioned Ministers.
134

135 Text of the Resolution

136
137 **WHEREAS** the Constitution (Article VI) and Bylaws (Preamble and Article I) of the United
138 Church of Christ recognize three forms of authorized ministers—licensed, commissioned,
139 and ordained,

140 **AND WHEREAS** those forms of authorized ministry affirm the United Church of Christ’s
141 belief that all are called to minister,

142 **AND WHEREAS** local churches, Associations and Conferences have been faithfully served by
143 Licensed Ministers and Commissioned Ministers,

144 **AND WHEREAS** many have affirmed the importance of maintaining both Licensed Ministry
145 and Commissioned Ministry, as authorized ministries of the United Church of Christ,

146 **AND WHEREAS** the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Team of Local Church
147 Ministries, A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ endeavored to set
148 before the United Church of Christ a common understanding of ordination in *Manual on*
149 *Ministry: A Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ* © 2018, such a
150 common understanding requires the affirmation of Associations and Conferences whose
151 practices regarding authorized ministry differ,

152 **AND WHEREAS** the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Team of Local Church
153 Ministries, A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ in *Manual on*
154 *Ministry: A Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ* © 2018 set
155 forth an understanding of ordination and provided a path to move through lay ministry to
156 ordained ministry,

157 **AND WHEREAS** the *Manual on Ministry: A Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the United*
158 *Church of Christ* © 2018 eliminates both Licensed Ministry and Commission Ministry as
159 authorized ministry,

160 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates to the 200th ‘Aha Pae‘āina of the Hawai‘i
161 Conference of the United Church of Christ meeting at Honolulu, Hawai‘i June 12–18, 2022 do
162 call upon the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ to reaffirm Licensed
163 Ministry and Commissioned Ministry as authorized ministries of the United Church of Christ in
164 compliance with the Constitution (Article VI) and Bylaws (Preamble and Article I) of the United
165 Church of Christ.

166 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the delegates meeting as the Thirty-Fourth General Synod
167 of the United Church of Christ direct Local Church Ministries to amend *Manual on Ministry: A*
168 *Guide to Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ* © 2018 so that it reflects the
169 Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and the practice of many Associations.

170 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the United Church of Christ Board communicate
171 this action to all Conferences, Association, and Local Churches.

172 **Implementation**

173 This resolution would require the Conference Council to forward the resolution to the General
174 Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to the appropriate committee for
175 consideration at General Synod Thirty-Four.

The Two Hundredth 'Aha Pae'āina of the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ

On Becoming a Church Against Gun Violence: A Resolution of Witness

SUMMARY

This resolution calls on the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ (HCUCC) and its member churches to engage in meaningful action to address the scourge of gun violence in our country. Each church is called to pursue a course of action that best fits its skills, capabilities, and understanding. Actions that seek to end gun violence include but are not limited to: participating in raising awareness and fostering education concerning gun violence, praying for peace, organizing/attending peaceful protests, and/or advocating for legislative action concerning gun control, as well as broader mental health services.

BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL, AND ETHICAL RATIONALE

As Christ's followers, we look to the Prince of Peace as our Lord and Savior (Isaiah 9:6). The heart of Christ longs for peace and longs for us to understand true peace (Luke 19:42). Christ teaches that those who seek peace are known as "children of God" (Matthew 5:9). As peacemakers, our calling is to not only avoid violence, but also to actively dismantle the constructs that lead to violence. In this vein, the Apostle Paul teaches that, to the best of our ability and skills, we are to pursue peace in our communities (Romans 12:18).

For far too long, our nation has been torn apart by gun violence. As people of peace, we cannot accept gun violence as the norm. We cannot conform to this painful pattern of violence. From January through May of 2022 our nation has averaged more than one mass shooting per day.¹ In those same five months, more than 400 children and nearly 2,000 teenagers were injured by firearms. This must change. Our thinking and action as they relate to gun violence need to be transformed. It is nothing less than a moral imperative that our public policy reflect a commitment to lessening the toll that gun violence takes in communities throughout our country.

The prophet Micah shares a powerful vision of weapons of destruction transformed into tools of cultivation (Micah 4:1-4). The vision describes the action the people of God take after they have "learned God's ways." Micah's vision speaks not only of the dismantling of weapons, but also of the transformation of culture. As a church, we recognize that no one piece of legislation, no singular program, can address the complex and multilayered issue of gun violence. Thankfully, as a denomination, we believe that the Holy Spirit works through each community, each individual, according to their abilities, and weaves our efforts together for good (Romans 8:28). Together, by God's grace, we can end cycles of violence. Together, we can promote the healing of individuals and communities (Ephesians 2:10). Together, we long for God's good

¹ A mass shooting is defined as four or more people shot and/or killed in a single event, not including the shooter.
– The Gun Violence Archive

shalom. For we have learned that true peace is not the absence of conflict – it is the presence of justice.

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS news broadcasts across the nation carry one horror story after another – God’s children brutally shot while grocery shopping, teachers and children horrifically slain in their classrooms, and people of all ages and backgrounds gunned down in the streets; and

WHEREAS we know this violence touches not only our sisters and brothers on the mainland, but also our ‘ohana here in Hawai‘i, as our local news stations report about gun violence here, too, on our islands; and

WHEREAS there have been more than 230 mass shootings in the United States of America in the first five months of 2022; and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 45,222 gun-related deaths in 2020, which represent a 25% increase from 2015; and

WHEREAS nearly eight-in-ten (79%) murders in the USA involved a firearm; and

WHEREAS firearm injuries have become the leading cause of death in children; and

WHEREAS we know in our gut that this gun violence and death are wrong and that they must be stopped; and

WHEREAS Jesus, in whom we have come to know the gentle love of God, was himself the victim of a violent death, and so turned us forever against the forces of violence that tempt us to seek the death of our enemy; and

WHEREAS we are called to co-create with the Holy Spirit the kingdom of God in this world – a kingdom of peace and justice and care; and

WHEREAS the time has come for the Church to call for repentance for the sin of violence and our idolatrous fascination with weapons, and to resolve to work with God’s life-giving Spirit to restore hope to the victims of violence and to our communities; and

WHEREAS the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 1995 called for meaningful action to address gun violence and continues to call for action;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Two-Hundredth ‘Aha Pae‘āina of the Hawai‘i Conference of the United Church of Christ declares that the time has come for us all – our churches and our members – to actively promote peace and engage in efforts to end gun violence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Two-Hundredth 'Aha Pae'āina of the HCUCC implores its churches to pray for peace and for an end to these horrific acts of violence, and to let our prayers move us to meaningful action;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Two-Hundredth 'Aha Pae'āina of the HCUCC calls upon its churches to engage in education, consciousness raising, and renewed spiritual reflection about the cycles of gun violence, in order to better understand the roots of violence in our culture and to consider the resources of our faith in ending such violence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Two-Hundredth 'Aha Pae'āina of the HCUCC encourages its churches and members to make their voices heard in the wider community through attending neighborhood or legislative meetings, partnering with community individuals or organizations, participating in peaceful protests, and/or advocating for legislative action concerning broader mental health services and/or stricter gun laws;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Two-Hundredth 'Aha Pae'āina of the HCUCC asks our Justice and Witness Missional Team to assist churches with guidance on how to promote peace and address gun violence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Two-Hundredth 'Aha Pae'āina of the HCUCC calls upon each of our churches to find a pathway to become a church against gun violence and for peace;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be an item of discussion with progress to be assessed at the Two Hundred and First 'Aha Pae'āina of the HCUCC.