

## Missionary Shares Stories of Post-Quake Fukushima

People forget that Japan still struggles from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and especially the nuclear disaster, said Global Ministries missionary Martha Mensendiek, who was in Hawai'i in September to share about her work in Japan.

Speaking to O'ahu clergy, she said that Fukushima Prefecture, once famous for its peaches and rice, is now dealing with the effects of the nuclear disaster. Farmers have committed suicide because they can no longer make a living selling produce or cattle because of radiation poisoning or because they have had to leave their homes.

She added that the Japanese government has created an enforced evacuation zone of twenty kilometers (12.4 miles) from the reactors even though the danger extends beyond



that. People outside the zone have had to evacuate on their own with no assistance from the government.

The Nihon Kirisuto Kyodan—United Church of Christ in Japan—has responded through ministries such as the Emmaus Center in Sendai, which has housed 2,500 volunteers from all over Japan and other countries to dig out mud, clean houses, and talk story with survivors.

Martha said that the Emmaus Center opts for “slow work” ministry. Volunteers do not arrive all at once in big buses,

*(continued on page 5)*

## Middle East Advocacy Offers Opportunity to Be Involved

“As a Christian...I feel that the Church and all Christians must not be silent. The Church must embody love on the personal level and on the systemic level. There is vulnerability in sharing and listening that can lead to healing and hope. This transformative act is an affirmation of life and the mutual likeness of God.”



*Palestinian and Israeli boys walk arm-in-arm. This photo is from the UCC Palestine-Israel Network website ([www.uccpalestineisraelnetwork.org](http://www.uccpalestineisraelnetwork.org)) which has resources and information to educate and motivate UCC churches on issues within Palestine and Israel.*

With these words, Grace Killian, United Methodist Global Mission Fellow serving with the Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees, a Global Ministries partner, invites churches to get involved in the complex Palestinian-Israeli situation.

The conflict between Palestine and Israel can be very emotional for people of all faith traditions. The question for church members is: What can the church in the United States do to be part of the solution?

Peter Makari, Executive for Middle East and Europe for Global Ministries, encourages churches to be informed and work through organizations that are active in the region. Church members can sign up with the ecumenical “Third Thursday” campaign that distributes monthly suggestions for advocacy by contacting representatives in Washington. More information and a link to sign up for the alerts can be found at: [globalministries.org/news/mee/3rd-thursday-middle-east-5.html](http://globalministries.org/news/mee/3rd-thursday-middle-east-5.html).

Since 1971, the UCC General Synod has supported resolutions calling on the United States government to play a role in peace negotiations in the region and has made several

*(continued on page 7)*

## What's Inside

- 2 The Efficiency of Faith by Charles C. Buck
- 3 Book Review: *The Heathen School*  
Churches Find Different Ways to Reach Youth
- 4 UCC President Visits Hawaii  
Boundary Training Travels
- 5 Book Review: *The Lion's Perspective*  
New Baibala Hemolele Dedicated  
Kanana Fou Church Dedicates Hall
- 6 UCC News
- 7 Save the Date: Church Leaders Event  
Highlights from the Website  
In Memory
- 8 Conference Calendar  
Tips for a Good Stewardship Campaign

## The Efficiency of Faith

By Charles C. Buck, Conference Minister

In a church I used to serve, a young couple came through the greeting line one Sunday with a request. Could we, one of them asked, print in the service bulletin the page numbers of Bible readings? She wanted to follow along as the scripture was read, but she didn't know the Bible well enough to find the passage fast enough before the reading had already begun—and ended.



It seemed like such a simple request, but it generated long, almost heated, but very interesting conversation in worship committee. Some pointed out that many were in the habit of bringing their own Bibles, and so specific page numbers wouldn't work with all the different versions and editions of the Bible represented. Others felt that page numbers were most certainly not the proper way to navigate the scriptures, and so people new to the Bible ought to learn how to find book, chapter and verse.

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*The downside to efficiency is that it can appear to be an elusive and exclusive set of rules or mores to the uninitiated.*

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In the end, we settled upon a solution: We would not print page numbers in the bulletin, but we would instruct readers when announcing the scripture to add, "You can follow along in the pew Bibles by turning to page 123."

In truth, the Bible wasn't the issue—and that's why the conversation among worship committee members got so complicated. They realized it was much more than the Bible: Those who were new to the church and to the faith probably struggled with lots of things in worship. What most of us took for granted, like knowing when to stand, singing from a hymnal, reciting the Lord's Prayer, figuring out what to put in the offering plate, and so on, were probably very mysterious acts to newcomers and visitors. And help was not offered when nothing was said from the pulpit and printed materials used undecipherable codes and ciphers such as Genesis 5: 1-10, NCH 435, "debts and debtors," Doxology in your own language, and Holy Communion.

In some ways, we have developed a very efficient faith. That is, for those of us who have been in church a long time, very little cue or explanation is needed for us to know what to do and how to do it. We are so efficient in our practice of faith that we don't need prompts from the pulpit, in a bulletin or on a video monitor. It's the same sort of efficiency that enables us

to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, sing Aloha 'Oe, drive on the right-hand side of the road, and remove our shoes when we enter a home, all without having to be told or instructed.

Efficiency at its best creates competency, enabling us to participate in church, community, culture and society. But the downside to efficiency is that it can appear to be an elusive and exclusive set of rules or mores to the uninitiated. For young persons, newcomers, outsiders or immigrants, our efficiency makes evident their deficiency. It makes sense, then, that newbies to the faith would be attracted to simple praise worship (with lots of singing followed by a message), where you don't feel like you're the only who has no clue what everyone else is doing.

Freemasonry may be the most secretive of societies, but the church is not far behind—unless the church can shed the (unintended) cloak of secrecy. And that may mean being a little less efficient. By this, I don't mean that the church should be intentionally sloppy or incompetent in its delivery and content of worship, ministry, education, administration and so on. Rather, the church should focus its efficiency where it matters—and Jesus' ministry models that for us.

Through Jesus' ministry, his disciples tried hard to fend off the crowds and move him efficiently on his way. Yet Jesus always stopped and made time, for example, to welcome children, call a man down from a tree and eat at his home, and talk with a woman who touched his cloak for healing. Though the Pharisees developed an efficient framework of religion based on law and exclusivity, Jesus threw open the doors of heaven and declared a radical inclusivity where the meek inherit the earth, the last shall be first, and the least is greatest.

Jesus focused not on the needs of a ninety-nine who knew already the ins and outs, but on the one who was not invited in but left out. In the same way, the church takes into account the one who is new or unfamiliar, searching or in need, and focuses its efficiency on making her feel welcome, included and loved. Because we cannot predict who will come, but only anticipate that they will, it means adjusting what we do, even the efficient patterns we've developed, and always adapting to the needs of the new ones among us.

Doing this is hard and time-consuming work because it means the church cannot run on automatic pilot, but must constantly monitor and adjust, evaluating and adapting, week after week. But this sort of efficiency will ensure that God's good news and God's church never become mysterious or secretive.



God is still speaking

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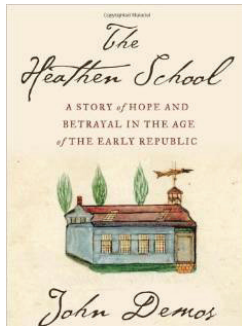
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## The Heathen School Makes Connection with Hawai'i

Book Review by Donald Severson

Donald Severson was Interim Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference UCC in 2003-04. He is the author of *Atkinson: Pioneer Oregon Educator, a biography of Congregational missionary George Atkinson*. Read the full review at [www.hcucc.org](http://www.hcucc.org).



In his book, *The Heathen School*, John Demos shares the important telling of the story of the Foreign Mission School (FMC) at Cornwall, Connecticut, that brings that short-lived institution richly deserved attention. His massive research delves into local records, family histories, and the archives of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM).

The school opened in 1817 under the auspices of the ABCFM, which had been organized seven years earlier. The idea of the school developed because several young Hawaiian men had come to New England as hands on sailing vessels. Among them was Henry Opukaha'ia (identified as Obookiah in New England), who was welcomed and tutored at Yale University.

During its nine years, the school drew 95 students (42 Native American, 19 Hawaiian, 12 others from the U.S., with the rest from Europe, East Asia, Mexico and other Pacific Islands). The official name of the school was soon joined by the name given it by locals, which serves as the book's title: *The Heathen School*.

Demos describes in fine detail the school's founding and development. The guiding vision was to become a place where young men from many nations could be inspired and trained to return to their homelands as Christian missionaries. The founders felt that concentrating such efforts in a single school would have numerous advantages over establishing multiple schools at mission settings. The book will be especially valuable in Hawai'i, as it adds much to what has been published about Opukaha'ia.

The focal point of the book, though, is a series of events that aroused bitter controversy in the Cornwall community and across the region, ultimately leading to the school's closure. Two young women from the local community married Cherokee men who were, or had been, students at the FMS. Sarah Northrup married John Ridge in 1824, and Harriet Gold married Elias Boudinot in 1826. The thorough detail in Demos's account of these events adds much to our understanding of both the foreign missionary movement and New England life in the early nineteenth century.

Demos chooses to label the FMS a failure because of its short life. However, the Cornwall school is best seen as an experiment through which the young ABCFM clarified its views about training indigenous leadership.

*The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal in the Age of the Early Republic*, by John Demos (Knopf, 2014).

## Churches Find Different Ways to Reach Youth, Young Adults

Although the numbers of young people are declining in many congregations, churches in the Hawai'i Conference are finding ways to reach youth and young adults—and doing it by addressing needs in the community. Like people, every church is different and no two churches will do it the same way, but common themes emerge in these churches.

One way that churches are finding success in reaching young people is to collaborate with other churches. That's what happened last summer when Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church partnered with Hanapepe UCC for a week of Vacation Bible School as part of its larger three-week summer program.



Children from Lana'i play water balloon toss with the Nu'uuanu Church interns during the summer VBS program (photo by Kristen Young).

"The Department of Education didn't have summer school for kids, so we wanted to provide some cultural and spiritual guidance for kids in the community," said Hanapepe Hawaiian Church secretary Andrea Kaohi.

The summer program for youth ages five to fifteen combined Hawaiian culture, Bible adventure, and theater activities in addition to the VBS program. About forty percent of participants had little or no previous church experience.

Collaboration across islands is what Nu'uuanu Congregational and Lana'i Union have done for the last three years. Summer college interns at Nu'uuanu, who are in a summer-long program of vocational and spiritual discernment, help lead a one-week Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the Lana'i church.

The internship program, said Nu'uuanu Pastor Mary Paik, has revitalized the church and helped its congregation build a new vision for its ministry, while the VBS program has benefitted children and the Lana'i community.

Another way that churches are reaching youth is through tutoring. The First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawai'i and

*(continued on page 4)*

## UCC President Visits Hawai'i; Meets with Clergy and Church Leaders



Geoffrey Black, UCC General Minister and President, and Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC Ecumenical Officer, visited Hawai'i this summer. Shown here are photos from a clergy gathering on July 29, a meeting with Samoan Churches at Waipahu UCC on August 1, and the Conference Council meeting on August 2.



## Boundary Training for Ministers Travels to Various Islands

**B**oundary training for ministers will be offered in various locations over the next several months.

All authorized ministers are expected to complete boundary training at least once every three years. Credit is given only for attendance at a full session. Registration information will be available closer to each date.

For more information, call the Conference Office at 808-537-9516 or from neighbor islands at 1-800-734-7610 and speak to any of the Associate Conference Ministers.

Kaua'i, Thursday, October 9, Lihue United Church, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

O'ahu, Tuesday, October 14, Conference Office, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hawai'i Island (East), Tuesday, October 21, Church of the Holy Cross, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hawai'i Island (West), Thursday, November 13, Mokuaikaia Church, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Maui, Saturday, January 10, Location TBA, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*(Churches Find Different Ways, continued from page 3)*

lao UCC both help immigrant students who need homework support. But they also receive aloha from church members.

"The kids form a relationship with someone who really cares about them and wants them to succeed—it's been an amazing thing for everyone," said lao pastor Jack Belsom.

Sometimes opportunities to reach young people are literally in front of you as in the case of Church of the Holy Cross, which has been inviting international students at University of Hawai'i at Hilo, just across the street, to find a place for community and Bible study since 1994. Currently there are approximately twenty-five students in the church's International Young Adult Association, and most are from Chuuk.

Some churches take advantage of holidays as opportunities to reach out and invite others into the church. United Church of Christ—Judd Street on O'ahu and Kapa'a First Hawaiian Church on Kaua'i use Halloween as an opportunity to do just that. In its twenty-third year, UCC-Judd Street's Penny Carnival features arcade games for a penny a piece and plenty of prizes. Proceeds benefit various community organizations such as Lanakila Elementary School, this year's carnival beneficiary.

At Kapa'a First Hawaiian Church, community youth are invited to "Trunk or Treat" on the Sunday closest to Halloween. Church members decorate their cars in Halloween themes and hand out goodies to children dressed in costume. "The event brings our church 'ohana together and is easy to replicate in other churches," said Lori Miller, chair of the church's board of Christian education.



*(Missionary Speaks, continued from page 1)*

overwhelming towns and villages with their help. Instead, they travel in small numbers by bicycle to parts of the city damaged by the earthquake and tsunami.

“And people have responded,” said Martha. “They think, ‘These people are really with us, using their own energy and sweat to come to us.’ It means a lot that [the volunteers] are willing to go out and spend time with them as they rebuild their lives.”

Churches in Fukushima are suffering greatly. Young families have fled to other cities, leaving an elderly population in the small, rural area that is not large enough to support churches. Churches are faced with the prospect of closure while knowing that their elderly members need care.

Other churches in Japan are trying to help. Some have begun to offer camps for children from Fukushima to travel to other parts of the country free of charge in order to “detox” for a few weeks. These children are able to play outside and in the ocean, activities that they can no longer do at home. Other groups help immigrant women understand the information received from the government that informs them how to live safely in Fukushima.

The Kyodan church in Aizu created the Aizu Radiation Information Center, which offers counseling, resources to measure radiation in food and breast milk, and advocacy to eliminate nuclear power plants in this earthquake-prone country. See [globalministries.org/eap/projects/the-aizu-radiation.html](http://globalministries.org/eap/projects/the-aizu-radiation.html) for updates and ways to help this Global Ministries partner.

“The church in Japan is very small, but the Christian witness in Japan is very strong,” said Martha.

Martha, who is a professor of Social Work at Doshisha University in Kyoto, spoke to groups on O’ahu, Hawai’i Island and Maui while in Hawai’i.

### New Baibala Hemolele Edition Dedicated



A blessing for a new edition of Ka Baibala Hemolele, the Hawaiian Bible, was held on Friday, September 5, at the Mission Houses Museum in Honolulu. Published for Kamehameha Schools, this edition contains the New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs in Hawaiian and English.

### Kanana Fou Church Dedicates Hall



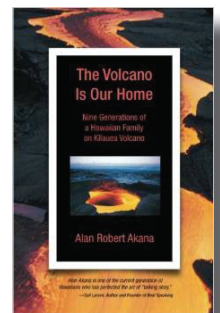
Kanana Fou Church on O’ahu dedicated its new fellowship hall at a special ceremony on June 28. Pictured above are members of the church walking into the new building together. Pictured at right is Falelua Lafitaga, Pastor, welcoming guests to the event.



### The Lion’s Perspective

Book Review by Donald Schmidt

Some time ago I was having a conversation with someone who said, in the context of Hawaiian issues, “Just once I’d like to read about lion-hunting from the perspective of the lion.” Having just finished a new book by Alan Akana, Pastor of Koloa Union Church on Kaua’i, I’m pleased to say that someone has. *The Volcano Is Our Home* lives up well to its subtitle, telling the story of “Nine Generations of a Hawaiian Family on Kilauea Volcano” with flourish.



Interwoven with stories about fishing and harvesting taro are the key events of Hawaiian history since 1756, the year Alan’s great-great-great-great-great-grandfather Kahekili was born. Alan shares these stories from the heart, which is an important aspect of history. To read stories of mass immigration from the perspective of those who saw themselves as the surviving remnant of what was once a strong and independent population presents a unique and important perspective.

A case in point: Alan tells of the expansion of Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park in the 1920s and of the successful efforts of the people of Kalapana to prevent the park from taking their village and changing their way of life. It’s a short segment in a long history, but as I drive around O’ahu and see signs saying, “Please, no more development,” I find Alan forcing me to contemplate how history repeats itself and to remember that there are always two sides to every story.

*The Volcano Is Our Home: Nine Generations of a Hawaiian Family on Kilauea Volcano*, by Alan Robert Akana (Balboa Press, [www.balboa.com](http://www.balboa.com), 2014).

**News briefs are adapted from UCC News, the online news portal for the United Church of Christ. These reports are adapted from stories written by Anthony Moujaes. For details on these and other stories, visit [www.ucc.org/](http://www.ucc.org/)**

## **Search Committee Seeks New UCC General Minister**

Following Geoffrey Black's announcement of his intention to retire as General Minister and President, the United Church of Christ Board has moved quickly to assemble a committee to search for the next executive to lead the UCC into the future.

Bernard Wilson, UCC Board Chair, and Kent Siladi, Connecticut Conference Minister, will co-chair the General Minister and President Search Committee.

The eighteen-member committee is a diverse mix of current and former board members, conference ministers, and youth representatives. Eight members are women and ten are men; eight ordained ministers and ten laypersons; and nine people of color and nine Euro-Americans.

Geoffrey, who has been General Minister and President since 2010, will end his tenure at the conclusion of General Synod in 2015, giving the United Church Board an eleven-month window to nominate a successor.

The search committee will recommend a candidate to the UCC Board in time to meet with him or her during its Spring 2015 meeting in March. If confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Board, the candidate will be recommended for election by delegates to General Synod 30.

UCC Bylaws offered two options for filling the position of General Minister and President: The Board could have appointed another national officer of the church to the position as an interim and filled the position by General Synod 2017, or they could have formed a search committee to identify a candidate for election in 2015.

"In my judgment, leaving the church on hold for two and a half years was not in the best interest of the church," Bernard said.

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## **UCC Members March for Climate**

Thousands of United Church of Christ advocates joined tens of thousands of people in Manhattan last month for the largest climate march in history.

The People's Climate March, held on September 21, was a major mobilization of people from faith, business, labor, science, agriculture and education communities rallying as one voice for climate care. The family-friendly event included art, music and marches to show world leaders that humanity is ready for action on climate change and to express support for God's creation.

Meighan Pritchard, UCC Minister for Environmental Justice, believes that people of faith are "called to live into the challenges of climate change with faith, hope, and love."

"We have choices about how we face the increasing climate chaos of this century," Meighan said. "We can reduce our individual carbon footprints. We can work at the congregational level and in our communities to do the same. And we need to put feet on the ground in the streets to tell our leaders around the world—in no uncertain terms—that we need them to stop posturing and start acting. When it comes to climate change, there is no 'us' and 'them.' We're all on the same team. We need to work together to help everyone survive and thrive while also learning to live sustainably on this planet."

The People's Climate March was held two days before the start of the United Nations Climate Summit, a worldwide gathering in New York City that began on September 23. At the invitation of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, leaders from many countries, including President Barack Obama, gathered to discuss climate change, with the intent to offer a vision of national and international climate goals and strategies.

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## **Disaster Ministries Sends Emergency Funds to Kashmir**

The United Church of Christ's Disaster Ministries moved quickly to help the people of India when rising waters and a monsoon killed almost five hundred people and threatened another 1.5 million people. Floods and landslides submerged villages, ruined crops, snapped communication links and left thousands homeless.

In response to the devastation occurring in that area, Disaster Ministries allocated \$35,000 of international emergency funds to support the work of its partner organization, Churches Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA).

"This is a significant disaster that has impacted thousands of people in a remote region, making relief efforts challenging," said Zach Wolgemuth, Executive for Disaster Ministries. "Fortunately, CASA is well suited to respond to this event and is a trusted bi-lateral partner with Global Ministries. We knew we needed to respond quickly with substantial funds to support this effort as hundreds of people are currently in 'life-threatening' situations. Grant monies will support the purchase and distribution of desperately needed food items, water sanitation, hygiene kits and blankets for families impacted by the flooding."

As of September 15, CASA officials estimated that more than 220 people were feared dead and 20,000 houses were damaged in Kashmir as constant rain has hammered the region for several days. Additionally, more than 450 people were thought to have died in India and Pakistan, although the number will likely rise once waters recede and relief workers access remote areas.

The floods are the worst India has seen in almost sixty years and the worst to hit Pakistan since 2010, when some 1,700 people died. Both India and Pakistan claim control of Kashmir.



## Save the Date: Church Leaders Event

The annual Church Leaders Event of the Hawai'i Conference will be held on Saturday, February 28, at Nu'uuanu Congregational Church in Honolulu.

The event is open to all moderators, treasurers, committee chairs, youth leaders and other church leaders. Last year's event drew a record 180 people, including 53 new leaders. Participants have appreciated the concrete knowledge and resources to improve church ministries and leadership shared at the event.

Information about this year's event, including workshop topics and registration forms, will be sent to churches as it becomes available, but save the date now and plan to attend.

*(Middle East Advocacy, continued from page 1)*

pronouncements regarding a two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians can co-exist peacefully. Texts of resolutions are available at: [globalministries.org/mee/resolutions.html](http://globalministries.org/mee/resolutions.html).

Tent of Nations is a UCC and Disciples partner in Gaza working with Global Ministries. This organization has come to the forefront of what it means to demonstrate non-violence through peaceful resistance. For more information and updates, visit the Friends of Tent of Nations North America: [www.fotonna.org/](http://www.fotonna.org/).

On August 14, more than thirty American Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith leaders, working with the National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East (NILI), issued a statement welcoming a ceasefire in Gaza and Israel, mourning the innocent civilians killed, offering prayers for the wounded and families of all the victims of violence, and calling for renewed efforts by the United States and the international community to press for a negotiated two-state agreement for peace, security, and mutual recognition.

NILI is asking people of faith to send the statement to Secretary of State John Kerry and to members of Congress in their district. More information can be found at: [nili-mideastpeace.org/](http://nili-mideastpeace.org/).

Most of all, churches can lift up in prayer the people of Palestine and Israel and the governments and faith leaders who are actively working for peaceful solutions. Worship resources are available from Global Ministries: [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.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](http://www.hcucc.org) to learn more about these and many more stories from around the Conference.

## Pastoral Changes

**James Fung** retired as Pastor of Lihue Christian Church. His last Sunday was July 6. He and his wife, Faith, have moved to North Carolina to be closer to family.

**Felizardo Taripe** resigned as Pastor of Honolulu Cosmopolitan UCC to pursue further studies. His last Sunday was July 27.

## Services of Installation Held

**David de Carvalho** was installed as Pastor of Mokuaikaia Church on Saturday, August 16, in Kailua-Kona.

The O'ahu Association installed **Phil Reller** as Pastor and Teacher of Pearl City Community Church on September 7, 2014.

## Associations Gather

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Association meetings:

Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches 'Aha Halawai, October 17-18, at Haili Congregational Church (Hilo)

O'ahu Association 'Aha Mokupuni, October 18, at Nu'uuanu Congregational Church

Hawai'i Island Association 'Aha Mokupuni, October 25, at Lanakila Congregational Church

Kaua'i Association 'Aha Mokupuni, November 2, at Hanapepe Hawaiian Church.

'Aha O Na Mokupuni O Maui, Moloka'i A Me Lana'i (Tri-Isle Association) 'Aha Makua, January 17, at Lana'i Union Church.

## In Memory: David Sandberg

David Sandberg, 75, died September 10, in California. He and his wife, Ruth, served as co-interim ministers of several churches in Hawai'i, including Po'okela, Koloa Union, Crossroads, and Windward UCC. Memorial service will be held October 5 in Piedmont, California.





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October 2014

## Around the Conference

### Conference Calendar of Events

October 5-8	Fall Youth Camp
October 9	Kauaʻi Association Boundary Training
October 14	Oʻahu Association Boundary Training
October 17-18	AHEC ʻAha Halawai
October 18	Oʻahu ʻAha Mokupuni
October 21	Hawaiʻi Island Association Boundary Training (East)
October 25	Hawaiʻi Island ʻAha Mokupuni
November 1	Conference Council
November 2	Kauaʻi ʻAha Mokupuni
November 13	Hawaiʻi Island Association Boundary Training (West)
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)

### Tips for a Good Stewardship Campaign

Although we practice stewardship all year long, this is the time of the year when many churches hold stewardship campaigns to invite members to invest in the church's mission and explore their faith in and response to God. Check out these tips and find more like them at [www.hcucc.org](http://www.hcucc.org).

- Emphasize the joy of giving as a response to all that God has done in our lives.
- Reflect on gifts received in the past and how best to use resources for God's ministry in the future.
- Share the good news of your church's ministries. People need to know that their gifts make a difference.
- Focus more on saying thanks for all God has done than on your own needs.
- Use a narrative budget, showing in words and pictures the links between church finances and ministry programs.
- Recognize that there is nothing wrong with talking about money. Money enables ministry.
- Avoid guilt and arm-twisting, which lead to resentment and do not increase giving.