



Makiki Christian Church

Church, Change, & Challenge

“The first responsibility of leadership
is to define reality”

–Max Dupree

Facing Our Future

Our Current Challenges

- How can our church leverage our physical resources to create a sustainable future that fulfills its vision and mission?
- What are the opportunities available to us and the challenges in our path?
- How can we as a church body come to a consensus on a common goal?

Understanding God's Vision

Proverbs 29:18 NASB

“Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.”

Proverbs 29:18 The Message

“If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.”



**“What if we don’t change at all...
and something miraculous just happens.”**

“If you change nothing,
nothing will change.”

–Anonymous

New Creation Initiative (NCI)

Between 1998 and 2004, NCI helped our church rethink the purpose of the church. The process resulted in a new church design and mission.

2004



FOUR BOARDS

- **Worship**
- **Witness**
- **Stewardship**
- **Community Formation**

New Creation Initiative (NCI)

Between 1998 and 2004, NCI helped our church rethink the purpose of the church. The process resulted in a new church design and mission.

2004  **2014**

Ten years later in 2014, a Mission Assessment survey was conducted among the church's clergy and lay leadership with the Center of Parish Development's support.

Survey Results: Two Priorities Emerge

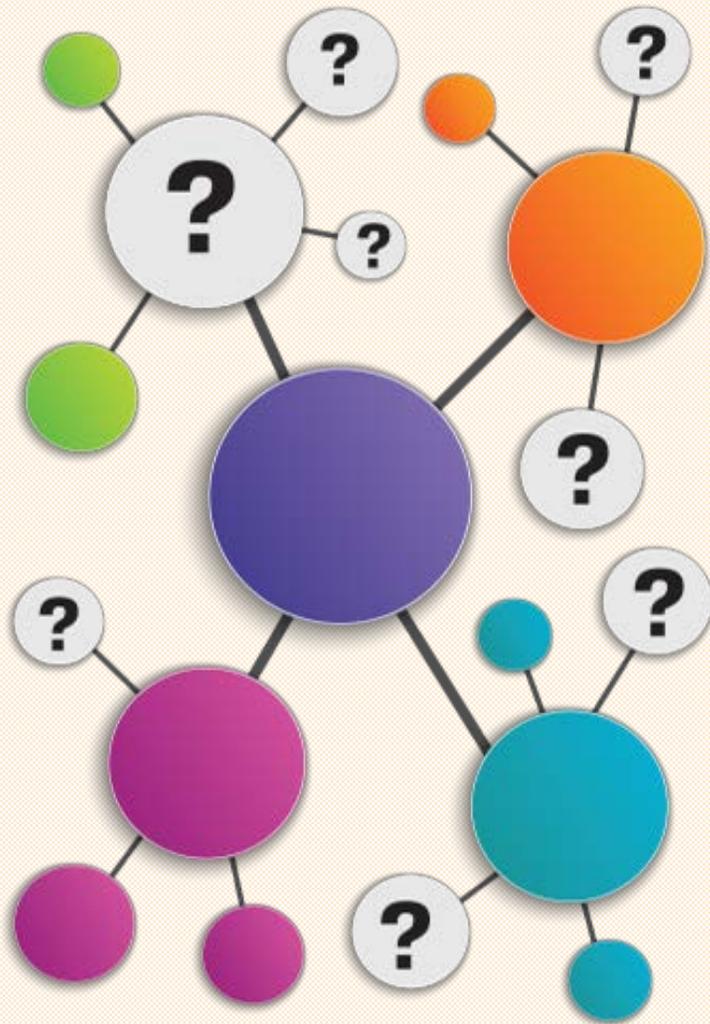
Leadership Development

- How do we equip current leaders and develop new ones to lead the future?

Resource Stewardship

- How do we take care of our buildings?

PRIORITY 1: Leadership Development



- As our congregation ages, there are fewer people available to fill ministry positions.
- Fewer congregants result in:
 - Increased pressure on current volunteers
 - Reduced tithes and offerings

PRIORITY 2: Resource Stewardship



- Our 87-year old historic wooden church structure needs major repairs.
- Our annual budget is being stressed by rising maintenance and repair costs.

2015: Facing Our Challenges

“For the Life of the World”



“What is our salvation for?”

We Begin Our FLOW* Process

Our first congregational FLOW gathering was held in March 2015 drawing both English & Japanese congregations together to address our mission priorities.

*** FLOW: “For the Life of the World”**



Reviewing the Past

Our Legacy

Why Are Legacies Important?

To remind us of how God has worked in our past to fulfill His vision in ways that seem insurmountable to us today.

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.”

- PSALM 145:4

Understanding Our Legacy



The Rev. Takie Okumura

- Founded the Japanese Kindergarten
- Honolulu Japanese Elementary School
- “Okumura Home” Dormitory
- Japanese YMCA (today’s Nu‘uanu YMCA)
- Japanese Charity Hospital (Kuakini Med. Ctr.)
- Japanese AJA baseball team
- *And much more...*

Reality Check

“When God Left the Building”



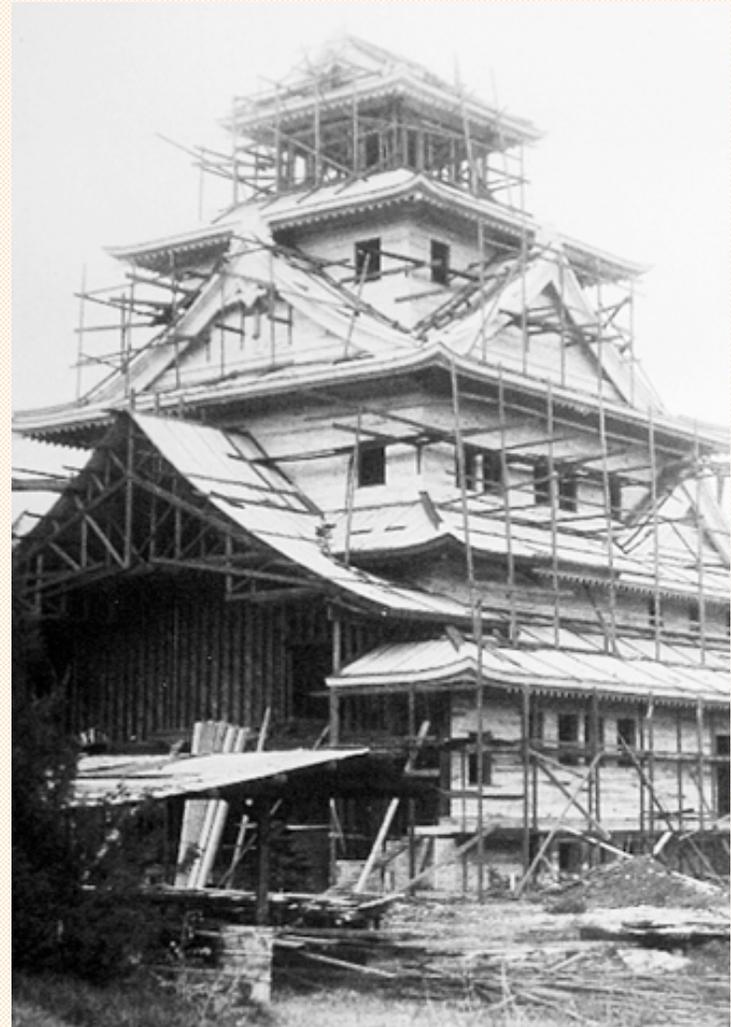
**Our “FLOW” conversation broadens
from Fall 2015 – Winter 2016**



“What is the most innovative use of our property?”

Restoring the “Tower”

- Original intent was to restore the historic church and social hall
- True restoration cost is difficult to determine
- Current repairs provide a preview of the total cost



A Partnership With Hoku'iwa

- **TWO-YEAR PROCESS**

- Several options emerge for development of senior housing on church property.

- **OPTIONS NARROWED TO ONE**

- In Fall 2018, our discussions result in a proposal for an 80-unit development.

- **CONGREGATIONAL OPINION IS DIVIDED**

- Leadership pauses the process.

More Factors Emerge

- **INSURANCE**

- Our historic structure is insufficiently insured while being exposed to potential hurricane and earthquake damage.

- **BUILDING DETERIORATION**

- Lack of budget funds and volunteer labor since our 2000 restoration efforts have resulted in accelerated wear-and-tear.

A New Challenge

- **Forecasted revenue from development falls short of what's needed to maintain our historic structure.**
- **Our FLOW discussions take on a new form.**
- **Four main “talking points” emerge from further discussions.**

“Talking Point” #1

KEEP THE “STATUS QUO”

- No development. We renovate what we have.
- Launch capital campaign to raise repair funds.

Concerns:

- Total cost is difficult to determine (\$5-10M?)
- Repairs and maintenance will be ongoing for an 86-year old wooden structure.

“Talking Point” #2

DEVELOP THE CHURCH

- Explore more options through developers.
- Consider sustainable, ministry-based options such as our preschool (e.g. senior day care).

Concerns:

- Any option considered will require significant changes.

“Talking Point” #3

GROW THE CHURCH

- Increase membership through strengthened discipleship and evangelism.

Concerns:

- Will this solve our building problems?

“Talking Point” #4

MOVE OUR CHURCH

- What if we sold our property and merged/partnered with a sister church?
- Combined membership and resources could result in a stronger church base.

Concerns:

- Dissolution of Makiki Christian Church as it currently exists.

KEEP THE “STATUS QUO”

DEVELOP THE CHURCH

GROW THE CHURCH

MOVE OUR CHURCH

**These options are not
mutually exclusive.**



**“I’m naming you VP of Revolution, Action and Edgy Thinking ...
on one condition ...
That you promise not to change anything.”**