

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Friend



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PHOTO: DWIGHT MORITA



**FROM GENERATION TO
GENERATION**
Mai kēia hanauna a ia hanauna aku

ONE 'OHANA

UNIFIED • RADIANT • TRANSFORMING

Generation to Generation: A Preferential Option for an Emerging, Diverse Generation

DAVID VÁSQUEZ-LEVY, PRESIDENT, PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION



Jesus' time, like ours, was apocalyptic; that is, much was being revealed about the world's brokenness and the need for change. It is this apocalyptic context that frames the disciples' question in Matthew 18: "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" The disciples are trying to figure things out in this topsy-turvy time. They are asking what matters most—the kind of questions we have asked the last couple years as we reimagine: what is essential work?

Jesus surprises the disciples by pointing to a child. This is what Mary (Luke 1:50-53) had prophesied: a reorientation of everything, a complete turning around of what was considered most valuable, rethinking the world through the lens of those most marginalized and in need.

How do we transfer our convictions, our faith, to the next generation? In this pivotal time, what might we hear in Jesus' challenge to his disciples to reimagine the community, reorienting ourselves around "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40)?

I grew up in Guatemala, a place and



culture similar to traditional communities in Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands, particularly in its sense of *'ohana*. I also grew up during an apocalyptic time of civil war pitting rich against poor. In that pivotal moment, Latin American church leaders called the church to reorient itself, as Jesus had called his disciples to do. They said the church needed to exercise a "preferential option for the poor"—to reorient itself by "walking closer to the poor." To face that pivotal moment in society and bear witness to the gospel, every question the faithful asked—how they worshipped, what language they used, what they preached and taught—should be considered through the lens of the poor.

At Pacific School of Religion, we have drawn on the wisdom of the Latin American church by committing ourselves to a "preferential option for an emerging, diverse generation." We are challenging ourselves to see everything we do through the lens of this new generation and to reorient ourselves around them.

Brothers and sisters of the Hawai'i Conference of the UCC, as you at this pivotal moment ask the same questions the disciples did, I encourage you to consider reorienting yourselves around a preferential option for an emerging, diverse generation. What would it mean to think about worship, teaching, church in society, use of

buildings—everything—not only in terms of "our" congregation, "our" property, but in terms of all children across the Hawaiian Islands, what they need in education, what kind of political advocacy should be done for their well-being? For where the next generation thrives, we will all thrive.

How do we, the church, draw from the roots of our communities and, particularly in Hawai'i, from the traditions that teach about children as the greatest gifts—as both *pua* (flowers) and *mamo* (descendants)—and that they do not belong to us individually but communally? How do we see all children of the islands, no matter their status, background, or religion, as part of the *'ohana* of the church?



We live in a time that is revealing much about society's brokenness and our challenges. But it is also a time when people of faith can attend to what else God is revealing. What I see, at PSR and elsewhere, in my children and others, is God's remarkable action in a new generation. That brings me hope.

We serve a God who is faithful from generation to generation. We must at this time not give up but think about how we will transfer our faith in word and action as we care for all the children around us and reorient ourselves to a preferential option for this emerging, diverse generation. By the help of God, we come alive anew in our children.



God is still speaking

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The 200th 'Aha Pae'āina Held Virtually June 12 - 18

The membership gathered for our 200th 'Aha Pae'āina from June 12 through 18 via Zoom with the hope that next year, we will be able to gather in person. Despite the hardships of another virtual event because of COVID-19, we gathered to worship our God and undertake the business of the church. This year's 'Aha focused on the theme of "From Generation to Generation: Mai kēia hanauna a ia hanauna aku" which was inspired by Psalm 145:4, "One generation shall praise Your works to another and shall declare Your mighty acts." The opening worship featured a stirring message from David Vásquez-Levy, President of Pacific School of Religion.

The first full business day included the 'Aha O Na Kahu for kahu of Hawaiian churches led by the Papa Makua Wendell Davis; a workshop on the resolution entitled *Affirming Licensed and Commissioned Ministers as Authorized Ministers* from the 'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i, A Me Lāna'i that featured a panel from the association's Committee on Ministry and Elizabeth Dilley from the Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization (MESA) team of the UCC National Offices; and a workshop on the proposed bylaws by Eric Anderson, Council Chair; Elwood Kita of the Administrative Missional Team; David Popham, Conference Minister; and Andrew Bunn of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation.

On Tuesday, Christian Endeavor had their annual meeting led by Michael Warren, the State Sunday School Association had their annual meeting led by Loke Kamanu, and a workshop on Theological Education

for Leadership was led by the Pacific School of Religion and graduates of the Certificate in Theological Education for Leadership (CTEL) program from Hawai'i. The day concluded with the installation of Jonathan Roach by the Hawai'i Island Association at his home congregation, Church of the Holy Cross, in Hilo.



The program on Wednesday featured the annual meeting of the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches led by Boyd Matsuyama, an update on the Foundation provided by its director Andrew Bunn, as well as a workshop by the Justice and Witness Missional Team on their ministries.

On Thursday, the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches had their annual meeting led by Luna Ho'omalulu Brain Welsh, the Innovation and Engagement Committee invited participants to consider how we measure the success of ministries, and the Administrative Missional Team provided an overview of the proposed 2023 fiscal year budget as well as provided time for Central Union Church to introduce their proposed resolution *On Becoming a Church Against Gun Violence: A Resolution of Witness*.

Friday's program included a

Friends of the Conference virtual brunch led by David Popham, Conference Minister; a workshop "In Their Hearts was Aroused Hope" by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa; a plenary that included addresses on the State of the Conference and a presentation, "The Religion of the Hawaiian Chiefs: Ali'i, Missionaries, and Religion in Early 19th Century Hawai'i," by Kapali Lyon.

The final day featured the 'Aha Makua's Business Meeting. After the credentials report, the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda were agreed upon, no nominations were received the floor, and the slate of Eric Anderson as Chair, Lorna Motas as Secretary, Jaquelin Kojima as At-Large Youth/Young Adult,

Linda Rich as chair of Justice and Witness Missional Team, Sharon Matsuyama as chair of the Stewardship Missional Team, and Kenneth Makuakane as Foundation trustee, as well as new members of the Nominations Committee: Sam Masilamoney and Debbie Wong Yuen were elected. Then the membership considered the budget for 2023 and the bylaw amendments which are covered in a separate article in this issue. Next, the establishment of the new Innovation and Engagement committee as a Missional Team and two resolutions: *Affirming Licensed and Commissioned Ministers as Authorized Ministers* and *On Becoming a Church Against Gun Violence: A Resolution of Witness* were approved.

Our 'Aha ended with a powerful worship led by Central Union Church. Zoom recordings of these wonderful events are available on the Hawai'i Conference's website.

Honoring the Past to Bless the Future

DAVID K. POPHAM, CONFERENCE MINISTER

In Deuteronomy 26 the Israelites are instructed about a worship service to undertake once they entered the Promised Land. This service includes a confession which begins, “my ancestor was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien” (Deut. 26:5; *The Inclusive Bible*). This passage sets before us the image of a Bronze Age farmer scratching out a harvest in an arid land. A portion of that harvest was given to God in acknowledgment and thanksgiving for the gift of life as this harvest secured the family’s well-being until the next harvest was brought in.

The confession begins, as most confessions do, in a place of humility. “A wandering (in Hebrew, destitute or starving, due to famine) Aramean was my ancestor.” By this confession the farmer recognizes that the great ancestors of her people, Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, Leah, Rachel and Jacob, were all at one time among the hungry and displaced and outside the covenant with God. As Joe Holland notes, it is an “unnerving confession of genealogical lore.”

The confession recognizes that the Israelite hope of being God’s chosen people is grounded in the admission that they were originally strangers to God. Yet, they were mysteriously called to a relationship with God with the commitment to remain God’s people in the face of the struggle this vow brought into their life. The full confession contains troublesome words like “alien,” “mistreated,” “oppressed.”

To tell the story of life with God is not to sing of heaven alone. It is to speak of the God who journeys with us in our struggles— even when those struggles come because of God’s involvement in our lives.

The confession goes on to speak of deeds of power and wonder and the gift of land: of promises made and promises fulfilled. Yet, to borrow insights from Rabbi Judy Chessin, the confession allows our farmer to honor those who were aliens in a strange land, to pay tribute to those who lived through oppression, and to show gratitude to the God of liberation.



Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia Chapel, Hawai'i Island

The poignancy of our Bronze Age Israelite is her appreciation of the full weight of her heritage to yearn for peace, home, and security while giving thanks to God for her place in the life of God’s people during the struggles for peace, home, and security.

We know the story of Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia swimming to the ship *Triumph*, anchored off Kona. It might be said that he was a

wandering Aramean whom God chose and called. In answering God’s call, Henry became the impetus for the New England Congregational missionary movement named the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. With this story we also accept that the Hawaiian people know what it is to be aliens in their own land, mistreated, and oppressed. It would be a sin for us



to turn our eyes from seeing that like the Israelites, the act of the Hawaiians’ opening their hearts and souls to God led to struggles due to duplicitous personalities taking advantage of the aloha spirit. This is our unnerving institutional genealogical heritage.

We must confront the traumatic legacy of the dire consequences of overthrow and alienation. Like the Israelite farmer, we, too, must accept the full weight of our heritage as an institution which had parts that supported the overthrow, parts that resisted the

overthrow, and parts that remained silent during the overthrow. If we are to bless the future generations, we must face our past which is complicated and messy and continues to tie us in knots. Only with such a posture can God work with us in order that future generations will not need to yearn for peace, home, and security because the future church will be granting those blessings of God.

Water, Friend and Foe

ANDREW BUNN, HCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Hawai'i, we say that water is life. *Ka wai ola!* It quenches our thirst, irrigates our crops, keeps our forests green, is an essential element of our ecosystem, and sustains all life. But when it comes to taking care of buildings and property, water is also known as "the common enemy." Intensive rain, floods, and leaks from pipes can do immense and quick damage to property.



SHUTTERSTOCK

For churches in our Insurance Board program, water is presently the leading driver of property insurance claims. From 2015 through 2021, water damage claims have been the most frequent type of claim, representing 34% of all claims filed, greater than claims for damages due to fire, smoke, hail, windstorm, lighting/electrical, tornado, and all others. During this period, water damage claims were also the biggest in cumulative dollars, totaling over \$33 million in damage with the average claim costing over \$23,000. In 2021 alone, 42% of all property insurance claims were for water damage and totaled over \$8.8 million in damage with an average claim of over \$41,000.

These are startling figures when

you consider that so many of them start from a seemingly benign or mundane thing, such as a clogged drain, backed-up toilet, or leaky pipe. Many small incidences add up to a lot, and when water leaks go unchecked, they can do extensive damage in a very short time. Many water claims are exacerbated by deferred maintenance, causing more catastrophic failures. What is frustrating is many of these claims are wholly preventable.

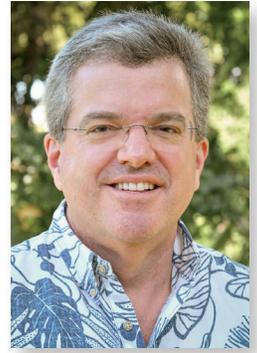
There is much your church can do to prevent these claims. Keep your property well maintained and inspect your roof, gutters, plumbing, and drainage features regularly. Test all water shut off valves and supply lines. Look for visible signs of corrosion or brittleness in the plumbing and conduit including supply lines serving water heaters, dishwashers, washing machines and refrigerators.

Replace corroding items before they break. Test drains for blockages or poor drainage. Clean out p-traps under sinks. Test toilets and check their wax ring. Examine caulking around sinks, tubs, showers, and toilet bases. Keep septic systems maintained, examine sewer lines, and test back flow preventers. Examine low areas of the property for signs of water aggregation or movement, check sump pumps, check hose spigots, look for ponding in yards which may indicate leaks in underground irrigation pipes, and check water pressure. One can pull a plumbing inspection checklist off countless websites if you want to follow one.

You should also consider installing a water sensor in your church property. These are devices that sit in areas most likely to be first exposed

to a leak, such as under a toilet, beneath a sink, next to a water heater, or even in an attic or basement space, and will sound an alarm and send an alert signal via a phone or the Internet to a caretaker. Early detection is key to avoiding large expenses when it comes to leaks and these devices have been responsible for saving millions of dollars in water damage claims. Dozens of UCC churches have now installed water sensors under the Insurance Board's new water sensor program which subsidizes the cost of installing water sensors where needed in your church. Installation of water sensors may also qualify your church for a lower insurance premium.

Learn more about the water sensors available through the Insurance Board at <https://www.insuranceboard.org/safety-central/ib-water-sensors/>. Sign up for your water sensor today!



Fiscal Year Ending 2023 Budget Returned to Conference Council

During the ‘Aha Makua the delegates voted to “refer the FYE 2023 Budget back to the Conference Council to include the Papa Makua position and return to a special meeting of the ‘Aha.”

In the Council meeting following the ‘Aha Makua, the Council approved measures to allow the Conference to pay its monthly invoices until a special meeting of the ‘Aha Makua can be reconvened.

the FYE 2023 projected draw on the endowments unchanged.

In the past the Conference has balanced the budget by reducing the number of employed staff, as well as twice by reducing staff compensation, once by withholding a recommended raise and once by requiring staff to take five days of unpaid furlough. The FYE 2023 proposed budget was balanced by resetting the retention

and Engagement – will all realize reductions in their budgets in the updated budget.

The Council is working toward scheduling the specially called ‘Aha Makua meeting by the end of September or the beginning of October.

Bylaws Changes

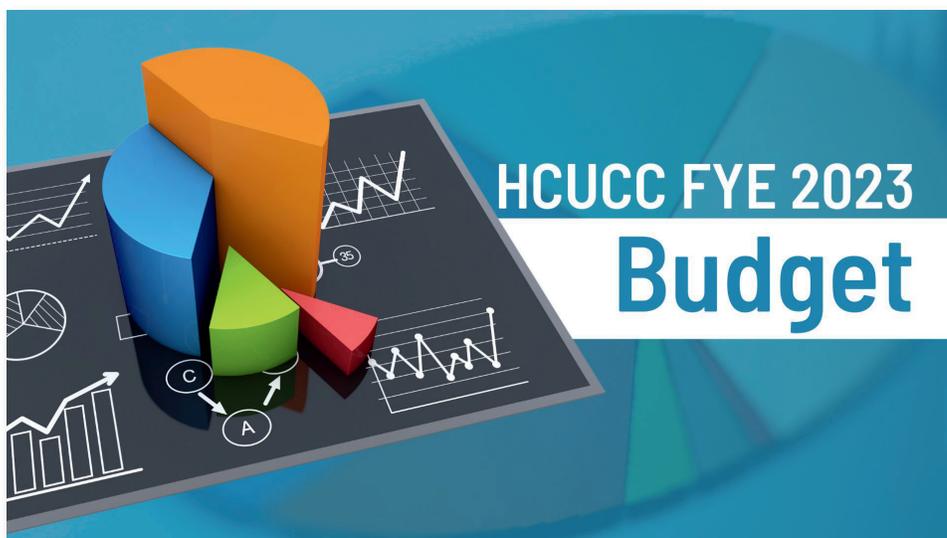
Most of the proposed changes to the Bylaws were accepted. These changes primarily dealt with updates to vocabulary and language and updates on processes presently used.

The questioned changes appeared in Article X: The Hawai‘i Conference Foundation. The purpose of the proposed changes was to bring alignment between the Bylaws of the Hawai‘i Conference and the Bylaws of the Hawai‘i Conference Foundation which were ratified in 2019. Some of the proposed changes were kept and some were voted down by the delegates. The updated Conference Bylaws may be found on the Conference website:

<https://www.hcucc.org/conference-resources>.

The Executive Council read through the updated Conference Bylaws and felt confident in moving forward with those names presented through the Conference to serve on the Foundation Board of Directors: Joyclynn Costa and Kenneth Makuakane – elected by the ‘Aha Makua; Joan Sakaba and Boyd Matsuyama – elected by the Conference Council; the President of the Council (voice with vote) and the Conference Minister (voice without vote) serving by virtue of their positions.

Since this vote was a matter of the Conference Bylaws only, the Foundation Bylaws continue to call for six directors elected through the Foundation’s nominating process.



Later the Executive Council decided to use the budget development process as outlined in the Conference Bylaws. This process involves the Administration Missional Team working with Conference staff to propose a budget which the Council then looks at and prepares for a vote by the ‘Aha Makua.

You are aware that the Conference is in a cycle of lean budgets. Conference leadership made it a goal to reduce the draw on endowments to a safe level by 2029. These cycles of lean budgets mean that in order to do as the ‘Aha Makua instructed, funds already allocated within the proposed budget would need to be reallocated to include the Papa Makua, leaving

of Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) funds remaining in the Conference to 65% and those passed onto the National Offices for their missions and ministry to 35%. Traditionally, the Conference observed a 50/50 split with these funds. The only place left untouched by efforts to balance the budget was programming – our Missional Teams.

The Administrational Missional Team will be bringing a proposal to the Council meeting at the end of July in accordance with the instructions of the ‘Aha Makua. To accomplish the request, the five Missional Teams – Formation, Stewardship, Administration, Justice and Witness, and Innovation

Two Resolutions Adopted

During the 200th ‘Aha Pae‘āina, two resolutions were adopted by the membership to be forwarded for action at the 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 2023. Resolutions are statements calling for action on a particular subject. They can be submitted to the General Synod by a congregation, an association, or a conference.

The first resolution approved during our ‘Aha Makua came from the ‘Aha O Nā Mokupuni ‘O Maui, Moloka‘i, A Me Lāna‘i who shared a motion entitled *Affirming Licensed and Commissioned Ministers as Authorized Ministers*



that calls upon General Synod to reaffirm Licensed Ministry and Commissioned Ministry as authorized ministries of the UCC. These

forms of authorized ministry had existed for decades in the UCC until the publication of the newest edition of the *Manual on Ministry* in 2018.

The text of this motion reads, in part:

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

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

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

The second motion, *On Becoming a Church Against Gun Violence: A Resolution of Witness*, that was approved during our ‘Aha Makua was sponsored by Central Union Church. This resolution invites churches to participate in the work of ending gun violence.

The text of the motion reads, in part:

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.

The full text including the theological and biblical foundations of these calls to action can be found at <https://www.hcucc.org/aha-paeaina>. Both of these resolutions will be officially shared with the General Synod’s Resolution Review Team before October 31 so that the Resolution Review Team can review them for compliance with UCC polity, the Standing Rules of the General Synod, and formatting. The United Church of Christ Board, acting as the Business Committee, will propose recommendations regarding the disposition of these proposals and report these recommendations to the General Synod.

A Resolution of Witness

Sponsored by Central Union Church

On Becoming a Church Against Gun Violence



Mission Offering:

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors In Need (NIN) is a mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries



of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

The Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), and its witness among indigenous churches and people receives one-third of NIN funds. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through awarded grants to UCC organizations.

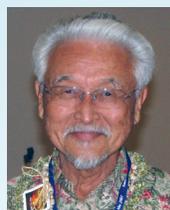
Grants ranging from \$1,000–\$10,000 are awarded to UCC churches and organizations for projects that address one of the following areas: the rights and freedoms of all persons, environmental justice, or economic justice, and whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

The suggested date to receive the offering is World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2022, but churches may select another Sunday.

For more information and to apply for a grant, visit www.ucc.org/nin.

In Memory

Iopu Fale, 93, retired ordained minister of Cup of Freedom United Church of Christ, died on June 1, 2022. He was born in Pago Pago, American Samoa and founded Cup of Freedom Church on O'ahu on May 11, 1983. He was a licensed minister for many years, eventually becoming ordained in the UCC in August 2006. He was active in the O'ahu Association and on the Hawai'i Conference Board for many years. His son, William Fale, is a Member In Discernment with the O'ahu Association and currently serves as lay minister of Cup of Freedom Church.



In Memory

Teruo "Terry" Kawata, 94, retired ordained minister and former Hawai'i Conference Minister, passed away on July 1, 2022, in hospice care. Terry was a very learned individual, holding two Bachelor of Arts degrees (University of Chicago and Ottawa University in Kansas), a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Pacific School of Religion. He was a much sought-after preacher, keynote speaker, and lecturer throughout his career.

Early in his career, Terry served local churches in Los Angeles and in Hawai'i, including Nu'uano Congregational Church, Iao Congregational Church, and Waiokeola Congregational Church. From 1968 to 1970, he served at the Conference level as program minister and Associate Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference. He later served at the national level of the United Church of Christ (UCC) as the Associate Secretary in the Western Regional Office for Church Life and Leadership from 1970 – 1977. After answering the call to serve as Conference Minister of the Central Pacific Conference from 1977 – 1979, Terry returned to Hawai'i to serve as the General Secretary and Conference Minister for the next 10 years, the first Asian-American to hold that position.

Terry served as national staff to a task force that was established to explore organizing an Asian American caucus in the UCC, which later became Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM). He remained an active and visionary leader of PAAM throughout his career. He also worked with the five judicatories of the church in Micronesia in the formation of the Micronesia Council of the United Church of Christ and continued to serve as a consultant.

Terry was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Kiku, with whom he had three children, Mark, Ellen, and John, and three grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 20, at Community Church of Honolulu (2345 Nu'uano Avenue, Honolulu). Visitation is at 10 a.m., and the service is at 11 a.m., Hawai'i time.

Notes of condolences can be sent c/o Ellen Kawata at 3041 Maignet Street, Honolulu, HI, 96816.

Our younger generation was invited to reflect and respond to two questions. Here are some of their responses:

What have you learned from the *previous generation* that continues to shape your life?

YZ [pronounced “wise”] literature is wisdom from the young, Generations Y and Z to be more specific. See how young people are shining, witnessing, and reflecting light.

Everything is temporary. You can lose what you have in an instant, but that’s ok. Things happen for a reason, and that’s just life. The only thing to do is to keep going to the next thing/step.

Be loving, forgive, serve, and be kind.

‘Ohana means sticking together and growing up with you. They are always there for you.

...the idea of the Lord being there in the darkest times was big for me.

Take care of our planet and respect your mother.

If you give a man a fish, you’ll feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you’ll feed him for a lifetime.

Be active, be present, and be consistent in the Lord and the church.

I learned to always respect people and to treat each other as if you were their friend.

Relationship. Sustaining a relationship is really important. Connecting, listening, guiding, praying for one another, and bringing each other closer to God. And learning from one another. Fellowship!

I’ve learned to be quick to listen and slow to talk.

What do you want to pass on to the *next generation*?

The presence of God’s love.

Take care of the planet because it’s our only home.

I will teach them to respect others and care for others.

The hardest and scariest challenges in life could make you the person you need to be.

I’ve learned that my mistakes shouldn’t be hated, but rather taken as a learning experience. Because messing up sometimes is the only way to experience and learn.

I want to tell them to believe, trust, love, and worship God.

Keep trying and trust God.

It’s ok to ask for help.

To always respect people for who they are. Don’t judge people.

Continue to show love and kindness to everyone. Show and teach younger kids that God loves them.

We give thanks to our ancestors, the generations that came before us, for what they’ve instilled within us and planted for our benefit.

We pray for the wisdom to know what to pass on to the generations who will come after us.

To learn more and see more from youth and young adults, or to submit content for consideration for future pages in *The Friend*, visit our webpage at hcucc.org/yz-literature.

News from our Associations and Affiliates

New Cohort to Begin TEL Program in August

We are currently recruiting students for the second cohort of learners for the Theological Education for Leadership (TEL) online learning program of the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley, CA. Orientation begins on August 13, with the first class in the series beginning on August 20. All classes will be held virtually on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Hawai'i time.

Here are the scheduled topics and instructors for the first two classes:

History of Christianity: Bernie Schlager, Facilitator. August 20, 27, September 10, 17 (no class on Labor Day weekend; students meet with instructor on the first and third sessions. Work for alternate weeks will be on Moodle).

Introduction to Christian Education: Michael Campos, Facilitator. October 1, 8, 15, 22.

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.psr.edu/centers/tel/>. Hawai'i TEL students should contact tel@psr.edu for specific tuition rates.

The TEL program consists of special courses and seminars for people who want to study theology and ministry in community. TEL is multicultural and intersectional in its design and focus. The program may be engaged at the level that works for you—for personal spiritual formation, lay leadership training, professional growth, or continuing education.



Meet the Associations' Officers for 2022-2023

'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i, A Me Lāna'i

President: **Arlene Pihana**, Kaahumanu Church

Treasurer:

Secretary: **Dennis Barger**, Keolahou Congregational Hawaiian Church

Committee on Ministry Chair: **Kimberly Fong**, Po'okela Church

Kaua'i Association

President: **Clyde Fujikawa**, Church of the Pacific

Vice President: **Michael Horning**, Kōloa Union Church

Secretary: **Olaf Hoeckmann-Percival**, Waimea UCC

Treasurer: **Russell Maeda**, Lihue Christian Church

Committee on Ministry Chair: **Helen Hoeckmann-Percival**, Waimea UCC

Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC)

Luna Ho'omalulu (President): **Brian Welsh**, Kalapana Maunakea Congregational Church

Luna Ho'omalulu Hope (Vice President): **Anela Rosa**, Waiola Church

Kakau 'Olelo (Secretary): **Loke Kamanu**, Kalapana Maunakea Congregational Church

Pu'ukū (Treasurer): **Kerisa Carmelo**, Kona Lanakila Congregational Church

Committee on Ministry Chair: **Wayne Higa**, Kaahumanu Church

Hawai'i Island Association (HIA)

President: **George Winchell**, Hokuhoa UCC

Vice President: **Karen Welsh**, Kalapana Maunakea Congregational Church

Secretary: **Wryen Keoki Kiwaha**, Puka'ana Congregational Church

Treasurer: **Frank Mulec**, 'Opihikao Congregational Church

Committee on Ministry Chair: **Larry Walter**

O'ahu Association

President: **Wayne Ibara**, Makiki Christian Church

Vice President: **Roy Yamauchi**, Kailua Christian Church

Treasurer: **Linn Garcia**, Central Union Church

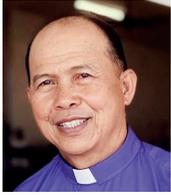
Secretary: **Lori Yamashiro**, Nu'uuanu Congregational Church

Committee on Ministry Chair: **Kyle Lovett**, Central Union Church

Conference News and Highlights

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

Pastoral Transitions



Felizardo Taripe has been serving with Filipino UCC on O'ahu as their part-time Interim Minister since January 1, 2022.

Peniamina Sefo has answered the call to serve as senior pastor of First Samoan Congregational Church of Hakimo on O'ahu. He began his minister there in January 2022.



Mikiala and Keoki Pescaia have been called to serve as lay leaders of Kanaana Hou – Siloama Church in Kalaupapa

on Moloka'i.

Irene Willis Hassan was ordained by the authority of the O'ahu Association of the Hawai'i Conference UCC on May 21.



Following the Service of Ordination was a Service of Installation and Recognition of Four-Way Covenant, where Irene was installed as Minister for Refugee and Migration Services in the national setting of the UCC.



Malcolm Carr began his ministry with Hawai'i Kai United Church of Christ on O'ahu on June 2.

Gwendolyn "Nani" Hill was called to serve as Transitional Pastor with Hokuloa UCC on Hawai'i Island. Her first Sunday



was June 5.



Jonathan Carr concluded his ministry with Lihue Christian Church on Kaua'i. His last Sunday was June 5.

Gabrielle Chavez concluded her ministry as the Bridge Minister with The Community Church of Honolulu on June 5. She formerly served as the Interim Conference Minister of the Hawai'i



Conference. **Jonathan Roach** was installed as an Associate Conference Minister deployed on Hawai'i Island



by the Hawai'i Island Association of the Hawai'i Conference in a special service on June 14 during the 200th 'Aha Pae'aina. Jonathan is in a four-way covenant with the Hawai'i Conference, Hawai'i Island Association, and Church of the Holy Cross in Hilo, his home congregation.

Florentino "Tino" Cordova concluded his ministry with Iao United Church of Christ on Mau'i. He



and his ministry were celebrated in a Farewell Liturgy on his last Sunday, June 26.

Conference Calendar of Events

AUGUST 19

Statehood Day (Office Closed)

SEPTEMBER 5

Labor Day (Office Closed)

SEPTEMBER 17, 24

Clergy Boundary Training (online)

Abraham Han, Senior Minister of Mānoa Valley Church on O'ahu, was granted Privilege of Call by the O'ahu Association of the Hawai'i Conference



UCC at an Ecclesiastical Council on Sunday, June 26.

Churches in the News

Waikoloa Marshallese Ministry dedicated their new home on the Hawai'i Belt Road on Hawai'i Island on May 7. This Hawai'i Conference Foundation property is once again in mission use.



Honolulu Marshallese UCC has partnered with Central Union Windward and will use the Windward campus for worship services and as a meeting space for church activities. Honolulu Marshallese UCC has been a part of the Hawai'i Conference UCC since 1996.



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 \$15 will pay for one person's subscription for one year. Gifts may be sent to the Hawai'i Conference UCC, 1848 Nu'uana Avenue, Honolulu, HI, 96817.

July 2022

KA PAPA HO'OLĀĀ

Innovation & Engagement (I&E) Rolls Out At 'Aha Pae'āina 2022

VALERIE ROSS, ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER AND I&E MISSIONAL TEAM CHAIR

Culture is shifting beneath our feet. It is rare that we find people wandering into our congregations on a Sunday morning. The Church is no longer the social or even religious center that it once was in the larger society. Ministry needs to expand its focus beyond what once was into what will be and to where people are, such as in our communities and in digital spaces.

Congregations and the Conference can no longer define success by the lag metrics of people and money. New ways of evaluating the success of our ministry (lead metrics) need to be developed and the Conference needs to lift-up the importance of these new metrics and to redefine success in

light of the scandal of the cross.

We shared a presentation “Mission-Focused Measures: Developing New Metrics for a New Church” to provoke participants to begin to think about how their congregations currently evaluate and celebrate ministry. We described what I&E is and the initiatives that the Team sees as essential for I&E to engage and collaborate with congregations to create the church we want to see in the future.

Many congregations measure the success of their ministry by the number of individuals in the pews on Sunday and the amount of money that supports the congregation. While these metrics are valuable, they are

not the only way to measure efficacy and how a congregation is thriving. In fact, by over-focusing on these two metrics, we can miss the subtle moving of the Spirit to lead our ministries into the future.

The Conference's Strategic Plan has a stated initiative of an “Expansive Concept of Church.” The workshop's focus was intended to encourage participants to envision how their congregations can develop localized metrics that evaluate how the Spirit is leading them into the future. Moreover, the workshop served as an introduction to this Missional Team and set a public vision for our work.

