

171st Aha Pae'āina

June 15-16, 1993

Spokespersons from the workshop groups met at 4:30 p.m. for 1-1/2 hours and developed the following PROPOSED CONSENSUS:

"We, the delegates of the 171st Aha Pae'āina of the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ approach our native Hawaiian sisters and brothers with humility and gratitude as we have become aware of their anger and pain, highlighted by the observance of the 100th anniversary of the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Nation.

We acknowledge that some officers of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association (predecessor to the HCUCC) acted unjustly.

We commit ourselves to address past and present injustices affecting native Hawaiian people.

As a part of the process of reconciliation and healing, we direct the Board of Directors of the HCUCC to initiate additional steps to address issues facing native Hawaiians today.

Further, we direct the Board of Directors to communicate this action to the President of the United Church of Christ and to report on the progress to the 172nd Aha Pae'āina."

It was pointed out that the idea of apology was not fully discussed in the small groups because of time constraints. the word "apology" is used as a term of denoting an act of contribution, seeking the process of reconciliation and, most important of all, to commence the process of justice for our Native Hawaiian sisters and brothers. Others expressed:

- Ignorance over issues happening 100 years ago.
- Uncertainty over who is apologizing to whom?
- Brokenness among native Hawaiian people.
- Some native Hawaiian people do not want an apology.
- Complicity of silence by the officers of the HEA.
- We have a responsibility for the past and should acknowledge that and apologize for that.
- Cannot apologize for something my father or grandfather did; only they can apologize but I can make amends for what they did.
- Consensus that an injustice had been done.
- Let the healing process begin.
- Swallow our pride and apologize as a body of the UCC instead of as Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, etc., and carry on with our business.
- Apology starts the healing process; apology is forgiveness.

AMENDMENT: A third paragraph was proposed: "As successors of the Hawaiian evangelical Association, we apologize for the unjust involvement of our predecessor."

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CONSENSUS: The Proposed Consensus with the addition of the above sentence as the third paragraph was passed.

AMENDMENT: An amendment proposed by Teruo Kuwata, seconded by Neal MacPhearson, did not pass.

HOSPITALITY RESOLUTION: The following HOSPITALITY RESOLUTION offered by Elly Chong was passed:

WHEREAS, the 171st Aha Pae'āina was held June 15-19, 1993; at the Community Church of Honolulu in verdant, tranquil Nuuanu Valley, and,

WHEREAS, the 171st Aha Pae'āina was the result of the tireless efforts of the three neighboring churches in this valley--the Community Church of Honolulu, United Church of Christ-Judd Street, and the Nuuanu Congregational Church, and

WHEREAS, these three churches planned and executed our annual family reunion in a way which anticipated and provided for the full range of our needs--including everything from child care, to good food, to efficient ground transportation, and comfortable settings for meetings large and small, thus enabling us to carry out our business with dispatch, and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Conference staff produced and directed this 171st Aha Pae'āina from behind-the-scenes without quietness, confidence and unmatched efficiency, and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Conference Board and its leaders conducted this meeting with compassion and sensitivity to the issues with special care given to the process of consensus, and

WHEREAS, the resource persons and guest speakers called on us to look beyond ourselves to the global community, and

WHEREAS, our Aha chaplains incorporated worship experiences that added a powerful, spirit-filled dimension to our 171st family reunion,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE, THE DELEGATES TO THE 171ST AHA PAE'ĀINA GATHERED HERE AT THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF HONOLULU ON THIS 18TH DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1993, DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE AND THANKSGIVING TO OUR LEADERS, RESOURCE PERSONS, GUEST SPEAKERS AND CHAPLAINS, TO OUR CONFERENCE STAFF FOR CONTINUALLY BEING THERE TO GIVE US ASSISTANCE AND TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR THREE SISTER CHURCHES IN NUUANU FOR LIVING OUT THE MEANING OF ALOHA.