

Congregational Opportunities for Short Term Ministry

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Church Name: Hokuloa United Church of Christ

Website (beginning with http:) <https://www.hokuloaucc.com>

Physical Address: 69-1600 Puako Beach Drive, Puako, HI 96743 Hawaii Island

Mailing Address (if different): PO Box 384239, Waikoloa HI 96738

Church Size: 47 members with many weekly visitors from the surrounding resorts

HCUCC Association: Hawaii Island

Seeking (choose one from each column):

Interim

Full-Time

Designated Term

Part-Time (One Below)

Bridge Pastor

1/2 Time or

1/4 Time

Ministry Description: Please describe in no more than 2,000 words the following four subjects:

- I. Paragraph One: What is the congregation seeking in an interim, bridge, or designated term pastor?



“Hello. It’s me (again). I know you thought you were settled, comfortable, and had it all figured out. And maybe you haven’t heard from me in a while. But I have something special for you to think about. There is this church, this little church that has been doing big things for a long time.

The mission of this church is to follow Christ in its walk with Him and each other - celebrating the traditions of its faith and the unique gifts of its Hawaiian heritage, sharing its aloha with neighbors near and far, and renewing itself and the earth by grace-filled living and giving. It is the only Open and Affirming church on the Big Island of Hawaii. It is five for five in its support of and giving to the ministries of its denomination. It also actively ministers to its congregation and community: feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, visiting the home-bound, and welcoming every person into the church. Like I said, small in size but large in faith, love, and spirit.

But its members – my goodness, these faithful people – believe they can do even more with the right person leading them. And so, this church is searching for a designated term pastor for a minimum of two to three years, with the potential to become a full time settled pastor, who will partner with it to reach mutually developed church outreach and growth goals.

While Hokuloa’s searches for its next designated term Pastor, **Hokuloa is seeking a Bridge Pastor** to walk with its dedicated congregation through this time of transition. They are looking for a ½ time pastor. They most need an inspiring preacher to work with the Director of Music and Order of Worship Volunteer to prepare and conduct Sunday services, be onsite at the beautiful church, which also serves as the church office, a couple of times per week, to work with volunteers and great visitors to the historic landmark, and to share your gifts and talents for additional pastoral care.

This church has been praying about this. I’ve been listening. How about you? Are you listening too? Can you walk with them through this transition?”

Aloha!

The above description was written by one of the creative writers in our congregation. It does an excellent job of describing the personality of Hokuloa.

We are seeking a Bridge Pastor, to live on Hawaii Island, for six months or longer, until a new long-term Pastor is hired. The time frame is flexible, given that it is not known when a long-term Pastor will answer the call. This position can also turn into a full-time Designated Term Pastor role, if the candidate and the congregation agree.

If you are retired, needing a sabbatical, just starting out and needing some experience, or in discernment about your next full-time position, a part time pastor role in an historic Hawaiian church on the ocean’s shores could be just what you need. Reach out. We would love to hear from you.

II. Paragraph Two: What is the congregation offering in terms of salary, housing, and/or benefits?

- **Housing:** A small house or condominium. The distance from the church will either be on the same street or up to a 20 minute drive away, which is a typical drive time to places on the “big island.” The estimated value of housing is \$3,000/month.
- **Car:** A vehicle will be provided for the duration of your stay. The estimated value is \$475/month.
- **Salary and Benefits:** Hokuloa will provide compensation in accordance with the Hawaii UCC standards. The package may include:
 - Monthly salary
 - Social security offset
 - Single coverage medical insurance
 - Pension
 - Professional expenses
- **Total Compensation Package Value:** Hokuloa UCC will structure the compensation package to meet the needs of the Bridge Pastor. The total value of the compensation package for the ½ time Bridge Pastor will be about \$6,500/month.

III. Paragraph Three: Describe your church, both the buildings and the congregation.

Hokuloa’s life of faith lives fully inside and outside of our historic church walls.

The Hokuloa ‘ohana meets weekly for worship, prayer, and fellowship on Sunday at 9:00AM. In worship, God is most often described as loving, using inclusive language in both English and Hawaiian We often call upon and expect the Holy Spirit to guide us in our life of faith and in decision-making. Respect and recognition of the spiritual aspects of life is a defining part of Hawaiian culture and Hokuloa’s life of faith.

As the only Open and Affirming UCC church on the island, it is appropriate that we begin each service with “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” Weekly, we welcome everyone including those from the local Puako neighborhood, communities further afield, the four resorts that surround our church, and from all over the world on Zoom.

Hokuloa is known for its abundant hospitality. Our fellowship hours feature homemade food by dedicated congregants and are enjoyed warmly by all attendees as we relax under the majestic Monkeypod tree right outside the church doors.

We live our faith through our ministries which include Bible and book study, Children’s religious education, housing those seeking shelter, feeding the hungry, and ministering to the sick and home bound.

Five of Hokuloa’s greatest strengths are:

1. *Committed to Hokuloa and its community.*

The members of Hokuloa church are committed to continuing Hokuloa's long history of serving God and the island of Hawai'i into the future. We see ourselves as the current stewards of a place and ministry God established 150 years ago. All our decisions revolve around allowing future generations to continue God's work.

2. *Hawaiian Heritage.*

The congregation is dedicated to embracing our Hawaiian heritage. Our Sunday services value the Hawaiian culture through our Hawaiian hymns and prayers. We are a diverse group of people living in Hawai'i whose church reflects our aloha for Hawai'i. We try to ensure that everything we do, build, plant, and serve shows a respect to the place of Hawai'i and its culture.

3. *Welcoming to all.*

Since the church sits at the intersection of several small yet different geographic regions that support different industries, we welcome everyone to our table. We serve a diverse group of islanders and visitors weekly that share their faith followed by a heart-felt fellowship hour after the service. As the opening sentence in our Sunday services state: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

4. *Location.*

Hokuloa UCC is a special place. The building is on the registry of historic Hawai'i places. The ocean front land it sits on was dedicated to the church in 1856 by King Kamehameha III. It is built from lava and coral and it an excellent example of the historic Hawaiian churches. The congregation works hard to maintain the church as a beautiful example of Hawaiian heritage. Its unique beauty is also recognized for its location right next to the ocean.

5. *Dedicated Volunteers.*

People show up every Sunday to set up tents, put out chairs, air out the church, and prepare a place for fellowship. Congregants take their turn each week to bring in delicious homemade food to share after the service. Every Thursday volunteers host an all day open house for the public to drop in and tour the historic church. During COVID, a resolute team learned all that was needed to allow us to serve our congregants on Zoom. Each month the team learned more and improved our Zoom experience. To this day, we have people from all over the country and world who log into our Sunday service. We have volunteers that run virtual picnics for our Zoom community, book studies, Vacation Bible School, and serve in all our ministries. We might be a small church, but our love of God and serving our community is mighty.

IV. Paragraph Four: Describe your community.

The Hokuloa UCC community is warm, welcoming, kind, generous, theologically sound, and Hawaiian in tradition. We would like a bridge pastor who can maintain these qualities while bringing fresh ideas and to our church.

Hokuloa UCC currently has 47 Members and Associate Members. Associate Members may hold membership in a church located somewhere other than the Big Island, but they consider Hokuloa their church in Hawaii. Many of these associate members attend Hokuloa Sunday service via zoom when they are not on island. Hokuloa UCC has at least as many 'Friends' as it has members. Friends worship and support the ministries of Hokuloa UCC on a regular basis but have not become Members or Associate Members. Visitors are also very important parts of our congregation.