

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Friend

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ONE 'OHANA | UNIFIED • RADIANT • TRANSFORMING

Finding Our Way

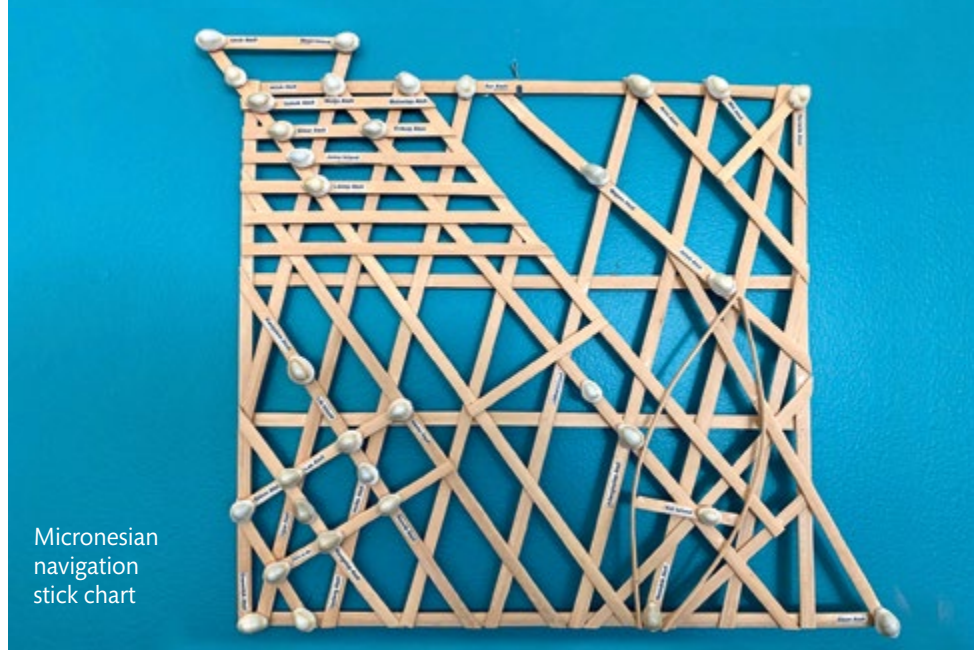
On January 6, Conference staff were riveted to our TVs and cell phones as pro-Trump supporters stormed and breached the United States Capitol. We stared in disbelief and wondered, “How did we get to this point?” We have certainly been engulfed in chaos over the past year—the COVID-19 pandemic, insurrection, the move to online worship and home schooling, and worry that we will never find our way to some sense of normalcy.

We acknowledge that things will never go back to the way they were, but how do we navigate through these uncertain, chaotic times? What are our compass points, our guiding principles and values that remain fixed and serve as reliable markers to guide our way toward the light? These questions pointed us to the theme for this issue of *The Friend*, “Finding Our Way.”



It seems as if this is precisely the time to stop, take a deep breath, and examine what is essential, what are our core values and beliefs, the underpinnings of our faith, that guide us and allow us to move forward confidently while keeping on track.

For the Hawai'i Conference, our navigational chart can be found in our



Micronesian navigation stick chart

strategic plan, *Ka Papa Ho'olālā 2018 – 2028*. Our mission, *Sent forth by the Spirit, we walk humbly in Christ's footsteps pursuing peace, justice and the renewal of all creation*, “encompasses many aspect of Biblical teachings: from the prophet Micah to the Great Commission to the national United Church of Christ's motto ‘That they may all be one’ (John 17:21). Whether a visitor, member of a church, clergy person, staff member, association or Conference, we believe that this statement captures what God has sent us into the world to do.” (Strategic Plan, June 2018)

Our vision statement, *We are one 'ohana: a unified, radiant and transforming expression of the body of Christ*, uses the Hōkūle'a voyage as a guiding image. In part, the Strategic Plan states, “Like the work of the HCUCC, the Hōkūle'a's work is both groundbreaking and ancient. The HCUCC seeks to keep Christianity alive and transformative in Hawai'i. Learning our way forward will require a leap into the unknown, noticing signs, meeting new people, weathering sunshine and storms and adjusting our course. And the only way to move toward the vision is to begin.” We began in 2018, and now we are adjusting our course, guided by our mission and vision statements and the strategic initiatives as outlined in our plan.

In navigating our way, we must not only know our current position and where we desire to travel to, but also know where we have come from, so that we can track our progress as we move forward.

In this issue we explore some of the basic underpinnings of our faith and work.

On Page 12, we start a new series of short articles examining the idea of *Aloha* as it exists in various cultures represented in the Conference. In this issue, Carolyn Jean David shares about the Pohnpeian concept of *Kaselelia*.

We hope that you continue to stay healthy during this pandemic and that you enjoy this issue of *The Friend*!



God is still speaking

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Cover Photo Credit: Ninini Point Lighthouse on Nawiliwili Bay, Kaua'i; Jeff Whyte/Shutterstock.com

Navigating Dual Roles of Pastors

“The search process in the UCC is a blend of employment work and spiritual work. We use the word *call* to reflect that distinct blend of the practical and the sacred. A congregation does not hire a new pastor but calls a pastor, following a careful business-like search that is infused with prayerful attention to God’s direction. Candidates do not seek a new job but enter into an employment process in order to be rooted in new ways within God’s call. For your church and for the candidates, the search and call process is a spiritual journey that trusts God to be an active participant.”¹

—*Guide to Pastoral Search and Call*

Churches can be seen as partnerships of a pastor who preaches, teaches, and administers sacraments with church members who follow God’s word and accept pastoral care and leadership.

This sounds good, but how do church members and their pastor keep the combination of employee and spiritual guide/pastoral caregiver in sync?

It’s clear that individuals want a pastor to be on call when a loved one is dying no matter the time of day—and pastors want to be there, too. It’s also true that churches need to set parameters so that a pastor has days off, holidays (what about Christmas and Easter?), and normal employee protections. Pastors need stated protections as a spiritual leader with freedom of the pulpit. Ideas that come from a pastor’s developing belief may sometimes not be in tune with the ideas of the hearers. In times of change and limited connections because of COVID-19, it’s even more possible that pastors may jolt the congregation and vice versa.

On the February 3rd Hawai‘i Conference Zoom gathering for churches, pastors, and lay leaders, William Lyons, Conference Minister

of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, discussed what it means to be an employee of the church while being its pastor. He

of pastoral evaluations but provides a supportive relationship for the pastor.

If a concern about the pastor comes to the Pastoral Relations Committee, the complainer should be encouraged to speak to

the pastor directly, perhaps with a member of the committee. If that isn’t

successful, the concerns may be put in writing and discussed with the

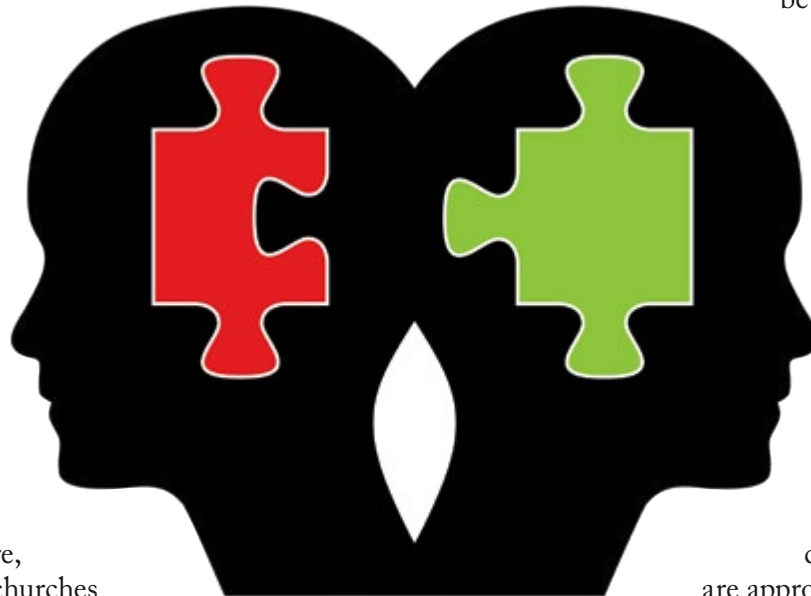
pastor at the Pastoral Relations Committee, where next steps are determined. The

Pastoral Relations Committee may receive letters from individuals, not from a group and, with the pastor present,

determine what actions

are appropriate. If the concern relates to job performance, it is appropriate to engage the governing body or personnel committee. It is inappropriate to send a questionnaire to all members to evaluate a pastor.

Navigating the dual roles of spiritual guide and employee is made easier by following these practiced guidelines and being clear about roles.



gabydesign/Shutterstock.com

outlined differences between a pastor parish relations committee and a personnel committee. Watch his presentation at <https://www.hcucc.org/single-post/pastor-as-spiritual-leader-and-employee>.

A pastoral relations committee is an advisory group to the pastor and a support group for the pastor’s leadership. It is an appropriate and safe place for a pastor to test goals, receive support for professional development, and reflect on overall well-being in ministry. This committee (3-7 members) can advocate for support for the pastor. It does not lead the process

¹*Guide to Pastoral Search and Call, a Resource of Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization*. Also see *A Sure Foundation: Resources for the Relationship between Pastors and Congregations*. Order from <https://www.uccresources.com>.

INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Eighth Initiative of the Ka Papa Ho'olālā 2018-2028

DAVID K. POPHAM, CONFERENCE MINISTER



In her now semi-classic book on Post-Modernism and Christianity, *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*, Phyllis Tickle raises the idea that every 500 years Christianity undergoes a major transition in ministry emphasis and missional focus. While Tickle's broad strokes of Christian history leave out some momentous occurrences that do not fall on the half-millennium marks, Tickle is correct in that the history of the Christian Church is indeed marked by times of significant shifts in understanding of mission and ministry.

The Reformation which birthed Protestant Christianity and Counter-Reformation Catholicism, and still provides the major frameworks by which we define "church," appeared a little over 500 years ago. Roughly 500 years before that the church split West from East, giving birth to Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy, both which faced vastly different cultural settings and expectations. Some 400 years earlier Gregory the Great sat upon the Papal Seat in Rome. In setting up the administration framework of monastic Christianity, he is credited for shaping, if not saving, European civilization. And, of course, 530 years before that, Jesus

walked the earth responding to human need out of grace and compassion.

We are living in one of these seminal times of transition. What we were doing—providing for Christian education, worship, and missionary opportunities—is no longer connecting us to a society which has moved beyond these concerns. As Tickle noted, "no standing form of organized Christian faith has ever been destroyed by one of our semi-millennial eruptions." However, the pride of place that the organized church form occupied was lost to the new form being birthed. The church we grew up in with its ministry emphasis and missional focus is being displaced.



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There are many ways to receive this news. Some people are mourning and have become lost in grief for the "death" of the church that once was. Some people are motivated to spend great time, energy, and resources in keeping the church we grew up in alive for as long as possible. Some Christians have begun to ask the question: "What is the new form that is emerging and how do we embrace it to transition our congregations to Christ's continuing ministry in this world?"

I confess I have found myself amongst all these groups. I have sighed many tears over the loss of what once was, in terms of thriving Sunday schools and full sanctuaries. I have declared "not on my watch" and

worked tirelessly to extend the life of the waning form of the church. And now, I see the wisdom of inviting the future shape of the church to inform our current ministry emphasis and missional focus.

In the Ka Papa Ho'olālā 2018-2028, seven strategic initiatives were identified to help focus the work of the Hawai'i Conference. An eighth initiative was described as "discretionary initiative reserved for settled Conference Minister." In the light of the forgoing analysis, I believe the eighth initiative needs to be one of innovation and engagement. We need an initiative given over to the purpose of discerning and guiding the Hawai'i Conference into the new church form which is emerging.

To this end, I am asking the Conference Council to bless a new missional team for the Conference to take up the discussion of emerging church systems and expansive concepts of church. This group will be supported by an Associate Conference Minister who is responsible for helping us think through and enact new ministry emphasis and missional focus. A portion of the proposed capital campaign will provide designated funds to support the work of welcoming the future church. It is my hope that this group will be able to identify the shapes and contour of what the church is becoming. In so doing we will be in a better place to participate in the reconfiguration of the rich treasures of our faith into more relevant ethics, liturgy, and theological expressions which our world is seeking.



Preparation for innovation at Kalaupapa

Basic Duties of a Church Board Member

ANDREW BUNN, HCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Most of our churches are incorporated, which means that the church corporation is led by a board of directors. The board of directors may go by another name, such as the “Church Council” or “Board of Trustees,” but its members (directors) are *fiduciaries*, meaning that they serve in a position of trust to care for the property and assets of others (their church). Directors have certain “fiduciary duties” that bind them legally and ethically to act in the best interest of the church as an entity. The main fiduciary duties are: (1) good faith; (2) care; and (3) loyalty.

tence expected of a director. It is the care that “an ordinary prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances” and “in a manner the director reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the corporation.”* There is no easy test to determine if one is acting with prudence under a particular set of circumstances; it often comes down to exercising common sense. A director is not presumed to be an expert in any particular area, but if directors have specific expertise because of background or training (such as in law or accounting), they are expected

and (3) protect confidentiality. Directors should not use their position to enrich themselves, their families, and their friends; and any circumstance where that may occur must be disclosed to the board. Directors also must not disclose sensitive information and deliberations of the organization to others. Churches should have clear written policies about these matters.

Fiduciary duties are legal duties imposed upon directors both by statute and common law. To stay on the right track, make sure the board meets regularly, attend and participate at meetings, make efforts to gather adequate information and be reasonably informed, exercise independent judgment (relying on trustworthy sources of information and advice), disclose all conflicts or potential conflicts, and keep sensitive information confidential.

The law provides volunteer directors with some protections. Even if a corporation’s action has proven unwise or unsuccessful, a director will be protected from liability if the director acted in good faith, in a manner reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the corporation, and with independent and informed judgment.

I encourage all church boards to review these duties on an annual basis as part of a regular orientation process for board members. If you need more information, please contact the Hawai’i Conference Foundation or your church’s legal counsel.

**Section 414D-149, Hawai’i Revised Statutes*



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The Duty of Good Faith. At its most basic, the duty of good faith means honesty, candor, and fair dealing. Directors must observe all laws and regulations that apply to the institution, be true to its mission, and act for the benefit of the entity (sometimes referred to as the “duty of obedience”). Directors can exercise their own reasoned judgment in how the institution can best achieve its mission but cannot act in a manner that is inconsistent with that mission. Directors always act with a conscious regard for their responsibilities.

The Duty of Care. The duty of care describes the level of compe-

to use it. A director may rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, if prepared or presented by reliable and competent officers, employees, professional advisors, or committees of the board.

Duty of Loyalty. The duty of loyalty requires fidelity and loyalty to the institution. It means putting the institution first in decision making over other competing interests of the director: (1) avoid conflicts of interest, (2) do not usurp or take advantage of a corporate opportunity for the director’s personal gain,

First Virtual General Synod Coming Up in July

Under the theme, “Rooted in Love, Special Edition,” the United Church of Christ (UCC) will hold its first virtual General Synod on July 11 – 18, 2021. The 33rd biennial gathering of the church will adopt a Sunday to Sunday schedule that will run from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Hawai‘i time, each day. Pre-Synod events will occur July 7 – 10. General Synod was originally scheduled to take place in person July 16 – 20, in Kansas City, MO.

The agenda will include worship, keynote speakers, committee and resolution work, and a service of installation for Karen Georgia Thompson as associate general minister for Wider Church Ministries and Operations. Traci Blackmon, associate general minister for Justice and Local Church Ministries, is also up for re-election at Synod. A virtual Exhibit Hall will be available to all who register.

Penny Lowes, General Synod Moderator, explained, “We do not strive to recreate a replica of an in-person Synod on the web, rather

we will be creating and living into something new gathered as God’s people in a new way.”

Bryan Johnson will serve as the General Synod music director. He is the executive director of music at Trinity UCC in Chicago, IL, the denomination’s largest congregation. He said that the music for the virtual Synod “will continue UCC



social-justice traditions, using inclusive and expansive language as well as arrangements from many styles and cultures.” “I’ve always felt style should never be the issue,” he said. “The issue should always be content.” Johnson feels that this online Synod

is an opportunity to be more inclusive than in the past. He plans to have a big, online Synod choir, where anyone can join in song from around the country.

The planning committee is committed to making the cost of attending affordable. The registration fees will be:

- Delegates: \$175.00
- Visitors: \$100.00
- Youth: \$150.00
- Young adults: \$100.00

Youth and young adult programming is scheduled to begin earlier in the day and run from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Hawai‘i time.

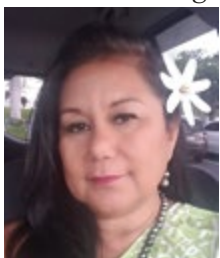
In their welcome letter to General Synod 2021, Moderator Penny Lowes, Assistant Moderator Bob Sandman, Karen Georgia Thompson, and John Dorhauer write, “A virtual General Synod presents a significant opportunity for this body of Christ to join together in full participation at General Synod. Thousands of people can join in full virtual participation. We look forward to welcoming you across the miles.”

Meet Our Synod Delegates

Eleven delegates from the Hawai‘i Conference will attend the first virtual General Synod of the United Church of Christ, from July 11 – 18, 2021. Delegates serve for four years on staggered terms and attend two Synods. Meet our local church folks who have been selected by their associations to represent our Conference. In this issue, we highlight the Class of 2021.

Class of 2021:

Kerisa Carmelo (Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches;



Lanakila Congregational Church on Hawai‘i Island) “At General Synod in 2019, the excitement, synergy and the camaraderie of being together with other delegates from around the

country was immeasurable. My hope for the first virtual Synod is that it will be just as exciting, pleasant and engaging as being in person without leaving the comfort and safety of my home.”

Florentino “Tino” Cordova (Tri-Isle Association; Iao United Church of Christ on Maui)



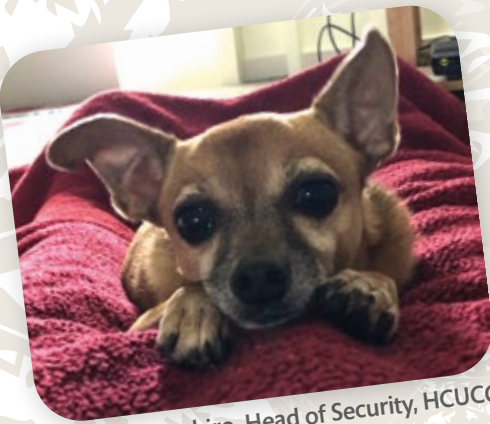
Tino is the pastor an Open and

Affirming church for ALL people. When asked how attending the first virtual Synod compares to his previous experience at Synod, Tino said, “I will miss the touch of community.”

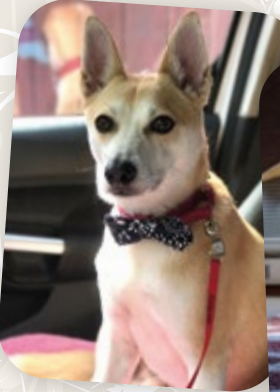


Linda Kaaui-Iwamoto (Kaua‘i Association; Kapa‘a First Hawaiian Church)

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Dexter Yamashiro, Head of Security, HCUCC



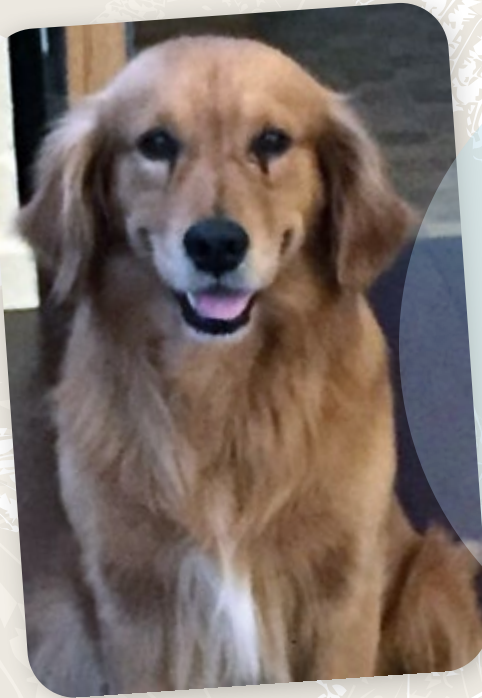
Hachi Bunn



Ipo Shahan



Ollie Buto



Cooper Buto

Meet the pets of the Hawai'i Conference staff! If you have visited the Conference office, you have probably been greeted by Dexter Yamashiro, our head of security! Especially during this time of the pandemic, these animals bring much joy and comfort to all who know them.



Eleu Maunakea



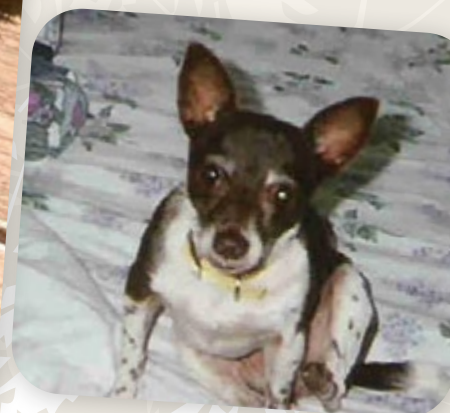
Muffin "Sassy" Nuhiwa



Kwincy and KJ Young



Tortoise Osalvo



'Onipa'a Maunakea

UCC Website Still in Progress

At the end of December 2020, the UCC launched a reconstructed national website that promised to be more user-friendly and navigable, with a clean, minimalistic and modern display. The new site was designed to load faster on mobile devices and desktop computers, be easier to navigate, and draw more hits on the internet. This was an undertaking of enormous proportion, and impressions are that navigation of the site is difficult, often not resulting in needed information. Some searches for infor-

mation critical to local churches and conferences land on empty pages, and information appears to be missing altogether. Links to resources and webpages likely have changed. National staff understand the frustration and disappointment. Please understand that those who work in the national setting of the UCC are aware of the many problems and are working diligently to correct these glitches, bringing the website up to initial expectations. The UCC asks for everyone's patience and understanding.

News briefs are adapted from *UCC News*, the online news portal for the United Church of Christ. For details on this and other stories, visit www.ucc.org/news.

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Kyle Lovett (O'ahu Association; Central Union Church)

Kyle is an authorized minister of the UCC and is the Chairperson of the O'ahu Association Committee on Ministry.



"I am excited about attending the upcoming virtual Synod. Although we as delegates won't get the 'immersion experience' of gathering with hundreds of other dedicated leaders of the UCC, a virtual Synod means that every single person in the UCC has a greater opportunity to attend! Think of the cost savings! And visitors can pick and choose what events, plenary sessions, hearings, committee meetings, workshops, and worship opportunities they want to, without feeling guilty about having paid for travel and hotel to get there. I sincerely hope everyone in the Hawai'i

Conference registers for and attends this year's Synod!"



Neal MacPherson (O'ahu Association; Church of the Crossroads)

Neal is a retired UCC pastor, having served churches in Hawai'i for the past forty years.

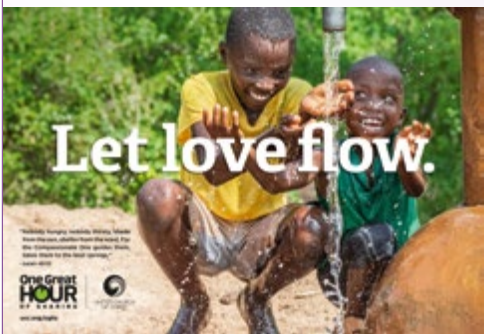
John Narruhn (Hawai'i Island Association; Church of the Holy Cross)

John is a student attending Wheaton College.



Mission Offering One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing® (OGHS) is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis around the world and supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. The theme for this year's offering is, "Let Love Flow."



The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

In today's world fraught with the COVID-19 pandemic, climate-induced natural disasters and an unprecedented refugee crisis, your gifts to OGHS are needed more than ever.

Nearly 65 percent of UCC congregations participate in the annual OGHS offering, and 95 cents of every dollar goes directly to mission programming. The associated administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support.

Gifts to OGHS are the promise of a better future. The suggested OGHS offering date is Sunday, March 14, 2021, although churches may choose to receive this offering any time during the year.

Resources for promoting the offering are available at <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-OGHS-Guide-for-Website.pdf>.

ADVENTures

SASHA KAMAHELE, YOUTH DIRECTOR, KAWAIAHA'O CHURCH

At the 2020 'Aha Pae'āina, we heard from the youth and learned that two of the biggest things on their hearts are connecting and uniting with their peers from different churches and engaging in more causes that they feel are important and relevant to them. We created "ADVENTures" (at the start of Advent) with the purpose of giving youth participants a platform to interact with youth from other churches and allow them to create their own outreach opportunities. The project focused on hope, peace, joy, and love—the themes of Advent—as the inspiration for each outreach opportunity.

As much as we would have loved to do this in person, we had to get creative to stay within COVID safety guidelines. Youth met on Zoom for fellowship and to discuss and plan their outreach projects. They had the following two weeks to complete their missions. Throughout that time they stayed in communication via email to share what they were working on, get feedback on ideas they had, and to

encourage one another. At the end of the two weeks, the youth met again on Zoom to share photos, videos, and stories of what they had accomplished.

It was a really wonderful experience to watch them interact and come up with innovative ways to help and encourage others in the midst of a pandemic. My hope is that we are able to continue this program, and I am excited about the potential it



has when our youth are able to gather in person. Their many ideas, from the smallest and simplest acts of kindness to large outreach efforts, were truly the most rewarding things for me to witness. I learned so much about our youth and their commitment to make a Christ-like impact on this world.

Kristen Young, Youth Director, Central Union Church, shared, "As we prepared for Christmas—the birth of Christ—throughout Advent, I hoped that with 'ADVENTures' we could reflect on how hope, peace, joy, and love could be born and brought to life through each of us."

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.



Youth directors Sasha Kamahele (Kawaiaha'o Church) and Kristen Young (Central Union Church) teamed up to host "ADVENTures" which was open to all youth. Though few participated, several churches and islands were represented among the group.

Youth of Hau'oli Kama'āo Church were inspired to start their own online youth gathering. Soon after "ADVENTures," their youth met on Zoom for the first time and now meet weekly for Bible study and fellowship.

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

Home Again

Update by Transition House Board

In June 2020, readers of *The Friend* were informed that UCC Transition House in Honolulu hoped to reopen in the fall to provide shelter, counseling, and nurture to survivors of domestic abuse after closing to restructure services and hire new staff with training in trauma-informed care. The Transition House board of directors is pleased to announce that on December 21, 2020, the renovated facility was blessed. The facility is again providing housing for those making the transition from emergency shelters to independent living.



We are delighted to report that the Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC), the largest agency in the state that supports abuse victims, is now partnering with us in our mission. Counseling services, community support, and other services are provided to help the women successfully become self-sufficient.

The re-opening could not happen soon enough. While stay-at-home orders and quarantining have been essential in suppressing COVID-19, they can trap women and their children with abusive persons where they



Lady_Luck/Shutterstock.com

should be safest—at home. Between late March and early October 2020, DVAC reported a 46% increase in calls to its helpline, which mirrors a troubling nation-wide trend. This makes our mission even more important.

Transition House was founded by the Church of the Crossroads in 1991 and is a member of UCC's Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM). We are grateful for the generous support of UCC churches and individuals that help us keep this vital mission running, especially at a time when women and children are at increased risk. If you would like more information about the Transition House or would like to make a donation, please contact us at uccthbod@gmail.com or The UCC Transition House, P.O. Box 11885, Honolulu, HI 96828.

Hawai'i Conference Missional Team Chairs 2020 - 2021

Meet your Missional Team Chairs for the year:

Administration Missional Team:
Elwood "Woody" Kita, Church of the Holy Cross



Woody Kita



Jack Belsom

Formation Missional Team: Jack Belsom, Wailuku Union Church



Linda Rich



Sharon Matsuyama

Justice and Witness Missional Team:
Linda Rich, Church of the Crossroads

Stewardship Missional Team: Sharon Matsuyama, Pukaana Congregational Church

Thank you for stepping up and taking on these leadership roles! We know that the work of the Conference is in very capable hands!

Save the Dates! Associations Plan to Gather for Spring 'Aha Mokupuni

May 1

Hawai'i Island Association (HIA)

May 8

O'ahu Association



Conference News and Highlights

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

Pastoral Transitions

Janice Ogoshi began her ministry with the Moloka'i Topside Churches on September 1, 2020. She serves as Kahu to Ho'olehua, Kalaiakamanu Hou, Kalua'aha, and Waialua Congregational Churches.



will join the leadership team at University Congregational UCC in Seattle.

Sausau Faalevao concluded his



ministry with the First Samoan Congregational Christian Church—Hakimo in January 2021.

Dale Vallejo

Sanderson began his ministry with Kailua Christian Church on January 31. He returns to the church where he had served previously.



Ben Sheets has been called to serve as the settled pastor of Lāna'i Union

Church. His official start date was February 1, but he will be working remotely until his arrival on Lāna'i on March 7.



Christopher Eng concluded his interim ministry with Kailua Christian Church on January 17.

Steve Jerbi concluded his

interim ministry with Lāna'i Union Church on January 31. He will remain on Lāna'i for a little while until he relocates to Washington state, where he



In Memory

Janice Sommerville, 69, passed away on December 31, 2020, of non-COVID related health issues in Berkeley, California. Janice was the director of the Pacific School of Religion (PSR)'s Theological Education for Leadership (TEL) program and instrumental in the partnership that recently brought this program to the Hawai'i Conference. Expanding the TEL program to Hawai'i had been a dream of Janice's for many years, and she worked persistently and tirelessly to bring that dream to fruition. We rejoice and give thanks that she was able to see the launching of the program and its enthusiastic reception in Hawai'i.

Janice also served as Associate Pastor of Administration and Member Services, City of Refuge, Oakland, CA, a congregation aligned with both the United Church of Christ and The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM).



Conference Calendar of Events

MARCH 20

HCF Board of Trustees

MARCH 26 - 27

Conference Council Retreat via Zoom

MARCH 26

Kuhio Day (Office Closed)

MARCH 29

Furlough Day (Office Closed)

APRIL 1 - 2

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday (Office Closed)

APRIL 17

Conference Council

APRIL 24

State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches Board
HCF Board of Trustees

Save the Dates!

199TH 'AHA PAE'ĀINA:

JUNE 13 - 19, 2021

The 199th 'Aha Pae'āina, the annual meeting of the Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ, will be held virtually June 13 - 19, 2021. More details will be coming soon!

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'uuanu Avenue, Honolulu, HI, 96817

February 2021

HOW DO YOU SAY *ALOHA*?

Kaselelia **The Pohnpeian Aloha**

CAROLYNN JEAN DAVID, CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

Growing up on the island of Pohnpei and following family traditions is a splendor! No matter what the religion is, the Pohnpei welcome and love is *Kaselelia*!



Carolynn Jean David

One major way of showing it is when inviting visitors into our homes. We greet one gracefully with putting a *mwaramwar* (*haku*) upon the head and offer an invitation for a meal. While the visitor is enjoying a meal, we start with our never-ending sing-a-longs and gather the best gifts to give. In the old days such gifts would include one's best from his farm (pigs, chicken, fish, yams, breadfruit, or even the *sakau* (the *kava* plant), and her handmade sewed dress, colorful skirts, and shell necklaces. Sometimes one would spray her most expensive perfume on the visitor. This happens all in the midst of a meal and all with great love.

Kaselelia means Aloha!

