

Missionaries Sail from Boston in 1819

On October 23, 1819, a crowd gathered on Boston's Long Wharf to send off the first Protestant missionaries bound for Hawai'i. They arrived at Kailua Bay on April 4, 1820, after a voyage of 164 days.

Seven couples, four newly married—endured five months of difficult travel on the Brig "Thaddeus." They sailed around Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America, on a nautical route considered one of the most challenging and which even sailors dreaded. The New Englanders survived, with four families pregnant by the time they reached the Sandwich Islands, now known as Hawai'i.

Several of the men who left Boston for Hawai'i in the fall of 1819 had been classmates at a mission school in Cornwall, Connecticut. A fellow student there was Henry 'Opūkaha'ia — called "Obookiah,"

the first Hawaiian identified as a convert to Christianity. He left the Island of Hawai'i in 1808 aboard a merchant vessel. Once in the United States, he trained to become a minister. The stories he shared of the people of Hawai'i inspired potential missionaries. Although he did not live to sail back to Hawai'i, four native Hawaiians returned on the "Thaddeus."

It was unlikely the missionaries would ever see their loved ones again. After their 18,000-mile journey, the missionaries were expected to become permanent residents of the Sandwich Islands (Hawai'i). They were required by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission to give up their U.S. citizenship. They were challenged to "aim at nothing short of covering those islands with fruitful fields and pleasant dwellings, and



Park Street Church in Boston

schools and churches; of raising up the whole people to an elevated state of Christian civilization."

As part of the 200th anniversary of the first missionaries being sent to Hawai'i, on October 9, 2019, The Congregational Library & Archives in Boston will host the one-man play, *My Name is 'Opūkaha'ia*, written by and starring

[continued on page 7](#)

By BPL - Park Street Church, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7637287>

What's Inside

- 2 **Autonomy and Covenant in the United Church of Christ** by Neal MacPherson
- 3 **United in Faith through The Insurance Board**
Andrew R. Bunn to Lead Hawai'i Conference Foundation
- 4 **Faces Around the Conference**
- 5 **OCWM: A Personal Reflection** by Richard Young
Mission Offering: The Christmas Fund
- 6 **UCC News**
- 7 **Highlights from the Website**
Conference Calendar
- 8 **The Centennial**

Transition and Change in the Hawai'i Conference

It has been a summer of transition and change in the Hawai'i Conference office, but with the changing of the season comes some much anticipated stability. Once again, we bid a very fond *aloha* to Iese Tuuao as he concluded his ministry with us as the Acting Conference Minister. We thank him for his calm presence and wise leadership among us



Iese Tuuao

and wish him well as he returns as the full-time pastor of Samoan Church of Hawai'i, LMS, Nānākuli. Iese previously served as Acting Conference Minister prior to the arrival of Gabrielle Chavez in 2018.

We welcomed **David Popham and his wife Kerrie Shahan** to Hawai'i, as David began as our settled Conference Minister on September 15. His first official act as Conference Minister was to deliver

[continued on page 2](#)



David Popham

Autonomy and Covenant in the United Church of Christ

BY NEAL MACPHERSON, CHURCH OF THE CROSSROADS

The *ethos* of the United Church of Christ revolves around two important words: *autonomy* and *covenant*. We value the freedom that comes with *autonomy*. For us, it means that each setting of the United Church of Christ, whether it is a local church, an association, a conference, or the General Synod, is free to determine its own life and mission. Autonomy also means that no setting of the church speaks for any other setting. As an example, when the General Synod adopts a position on a social issue, it does not speak *for* the local churches belonging to the UCC. It can only speak *to* local churches, associations, or conferences. In an example closer to home, we are aware that recently the Justice and Witness Missional Team of the HCUCC took a position opposing the construction of the 30 Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea. The team can only speak to churches; it cannot speak on behalf of our churches.

That being said, our *ethos*, or church culture, also emphasizes the importance of *covenant* in our life together. This part of our church culture is often overlooked or downplayed, but it is crucial. It essentially means that just as we are in a covenantal relationship with God in and through Jesus Christ, we are also, as Christ's body, in covenant with each other. Each church setting bears a responsibility for the wellbeing of all the settings of the church. Primarily, we have a responsibility to listen to one

another and pray for one another. In our local congregations, when the General Synod, the Hawai'i Conference, or our Association takes a position with which we do not agree, we are called to take seriously what has been decided. We are to do our part to maintain the unity of the church, bearing in mind the central affirmation of the United Church of Christ, "that they may all be one." (John 17:21)

On a personal note, I would like to say that it is the importance of both autonomy and covenant that draws me to the United Church of Christ. I cherish the freedom of conscience, the freedom of the pulpit, and the freedom to act that is so part and parcel of the UCC. I also cherish the covenantal responsibilities we bear towards one another as we seek to be a sign, foretaste, and instrument of the kingdom of God in this, our time and place.



Neal Macpherson

Transition and Change, continued from page 1

the message at Kōloa Union Church's Capital Campaign Sunday when the plaque for their very successful capital campaign was dedicated. David is doing his best to get adjusted to life in the islands, and looks forward to visiting churches and getting to know the people of the Hawai'i Conference. He can be reached at dpopham@hcucc.org, or 808-537-9516.

The Hawai'i Conference Foundation is pleased to announce that they have hired a new Executive Director, **Andrew Bunn**. Andrew is an attorney and a partner at Chun Kerr, LLP, concentrating in real estate and general business law. He begins serving with the Foundation on November 1. Read more about Andrew on page 3.

While there have been major changes, we also celebrated stability. On August 14, 1989, the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ, hired a bookkeeper for their accounting department. The bookkeeper's supervisor at the time noted, "Her positive approach to working is admirable which makes her more of an asset to the Accounting Department. Her relationship with co-employees is always well-meaning, honest and good, and I believe she is a very kind person who can also be frank and forward."

The same is true today about **Vivian Maunakea** as it was 30 years ago. Her warmth, ready smile and genuine desire to do her ministry as our Ambassador of Aloha make her the heart of our Conference office and we are so blessed to have her. We congratulate Vivian on this awesome milestone, giving thanks for her ministry with and among us and for being crazy enough to stay this long. We look forward to many more years of her "ambassadorship" with us!

During this time of transition, the Conference staff has appreciated your patience and understanding, as together we have moved forward in faith and have continued to stay focused on our mission and vision.



God is still speaking

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United in Faith and through the Insurance Board

The United Church of Christ has varying relationships with denominations and religious organizations throughout the world. We are joined through the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches to carry out Christ's mission. The UCC also has close ecumenical relationships through formal agreements with specific denominations.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Canada share full communion. We share ministry, such as the Common Global Ministries Board, formed by the UCC's Wider Church Ministries and the Disciples' Division of Overseas Ministries for international work. We have a formula of agreement with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Reformed

Church in America. Pastors in these denominations may seek a call in any of the denominations. The UCC is a Partner in Mission with the Alliance of Baptists. These formal agreements are based on shared history, beliefs, and commitments.

Our ecumenical commitments are visible through The Insurance Board. This property and liability program was begun by UCC conferences concerned about affordable, effective insurance for United Church of Christ congregations, organizations, and their ministries. The Insurance Board has expanded to churches and ministries in the U.S. that participate in official ecumenical agreements with the UCC. There are more than 4,000 participating churches and \$13 billion in assets. Coverage is available only for churches and organizations belonging to these denominations.



The UCC and our ecumenical partners are eligible to use The Insurance Board for property and church liability insurance, risk management, and loss control resources. Because the insurance is only open to the UCC and our partners, churches that officially leave the UCC are no longer eligible for insurance from The Insurance Board. Churches that have a gap in service may find that a claim from their prior time of coverage is no longer considered an eligible claim.

For more information see: <https://www.insuranceboard.org>. David Takagi, a member of Church of the Crossroads, is the Hawai'i agent.

Andrew R. Bunn to Lead Hawai'i Conference Foundation

The Hawai'i Conference Foundation has elected **Andrew R. Bunn** as Executive Director of the Foundation effective November



Andrew Bunn

1, 2019. Roberta Jahrling, chair of the Foundation Board of Trustees, noted, "Andy's warm and caring personality reflect his passion to serve others."

Andrew Bunn has been the Hawai'i Conference attorney since 1996. He is a partner at Chun Kerr LLP, a Honolulu-based law firm. His concentration at Chun

Kerr has been real estate and general business law, including commercial leasing, condominium and rental housing development, and business and real estate acquisitions and sales.

Andrew has a B.A. from Williams College and a J.D. from the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Prior to law school, he worked in Washington, D.C. with the German Marshall Fund of the United States, a foundation devoted to improving U.S.–European relations and public policy.

He served on the Executive Committee of the Association of Conference Attorneys of the United

Church of Christ. Locally, Andrew is active in the Punahou Alumni Association, The Pacific Club, and Honolulu Chamber Music Series. He's a stringed instrument musician who is part of the "The Bus Boys" band. His wife Mikiko Yazawa Bunn, a physician; daughter Anna; and son Chris all enjoy playing music. He is a member of Central Union Church.

An attorney with real estate experience who has worked with the Hawai'i Conference and the United Church of Christ brings together the commitments and experience the Hawai'i Conference Foundation needs. Andrew Bunn "will be an asset and welcome addition to the Foundation," said Roberta.

Faces Around the Conference



Amataga Fou Church welcomes new pastor and his wife



Central Union Youth lead worship at CUC Windward



Central Union Youth handbell choir



O'ahu Association installs Heather Barfield



Staff bid Aloha to Iese Tuuao at luncheon



Roney Joel enjoys lunch with friends before returning to the Marshall Islands



Judd Street members hard at work at kalua pig sale



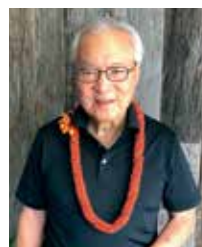
Pohnpeian Ministry celebrates Third Anniversary at Central Union



Tri-Isle Mokuuni attendees with Moses Goods



Heather Barfield at her installation on August 25



Sherman Hee at his retirement luncheon



Vivian Maunakea celebrates 30 years of service with HCUC



Malaeotofiga and Tuloto Levaula



Tri-Isle Mokuuni



Attendees at Tri-Isle Mokuuni



Hawai'i Conference Committee on Ministry #ThursdaysInBlack



OCWM: A Personal Reflection

BY RICHARD YOUNG, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST—JUDD STREET

As my understanding of the United Church of Christ has grown over the years, the idea that I am part of a much larger church, beyond the circle of folks with whom I feel most comfortable, is something that's intrigued me to be the Church I believe Christ meant us to be.

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is a key expression of our faith as United Church of Christ—Judd Street. In following our covenant as a UCC church, our church had been a regular contributor for as long as I can remember. I joined the Board of Directors as we entered a new era of shrinking memberships and revenues. Like many of our sister Hawai'i Conference churches, and our denomination, decreasing income against increasing needs and expenses were a financial equation we had to ponder, line item by line item.

What was most significant to me as we tried to "balance" our budget was my greater realization that our giving to OCWM had as much to do with our own survival as that of the ministries it supported. Above all, our giving was an

expression of our covenant as a UCC church. If we, as a church, could not keep our covenant with our Conference and our denomination, it would be difficult to ask that our members covenant with the church rather than giving if, and when, they could. Knowing the amount and timing of our income makes all the difference in our planning for personnel, programs, and operating expenses. The same is true of our Conference, and our denomination.

The fruits of OCWM will become more evident to all of us concerned as we ponder the faith foundations offered our youth, the health and growth of our pastoral leadership, and the relationship we share as a United Church of Christ. May our growing covenantal support of OCWM, reflect the original motto of our United Church of Christ, "that they all may be one."



Richard Young



Youth from grades 6-12 are invited to participate in E.C.O. 4 Youth, a three-day camp which will combine Earth Care Opportunities with fellowship while exploring how our faith calls us to care for God's creation. Youth from Maui County and O'ahu should attend their island's camp and youth from Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island are invited to register for either of the two camps (airfare is not included).

Tri-Isle: October 10 – 12
(Thurs. - Sat.) at Waiola Church on Maui

O'ahu: November 9 – 11
(Sat. - Mon.) at Waialua UCC.

Register now by visiting hcucc.org/eco4youth.

Support the Christmas Fund Offering

Gifts to the annual Christmas Fund special mission offering embody the spirit of the season by supporting those in need who have faithfully served the church.

Formerly known as the Veterans of the Cross offering, the fund is administered by the UCC Pension Boards and provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ

authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.

Churches are invited to receive this offering the Sunday before Christmas, but donations may be made at any time. Visit www.pbucc.org for more information.





Got Lunch! Feeds Children in New Hampshire Over Summer

What happens to all the school-aged children who receive free or reduced lunch in school when the summer months roll around? In Laconia, New Hampshire, a community collaborative anchored by a United Church of Christ congregation steps in and delivers groceries to local families, ensuring 500 children have access to healthy food. Got Lunch! Laconia is a 10-week program created in 2011 to feed school-aged children over the summer months. The first year, they fed 300 children and had 70 volunteers, 80 percent of whom were church members of Congregational Church of Laconia. This year, they fed 500 children and had 240 volunteers, only 20 percent who are church members. Gordon Rankin, New Hampshire Conference Minister, sums it up like this: "This, for me, is what love of neighbor looks like. It is when we say, 'I see you, I see your need and I see that we can make a difference.' The people of the Congregational Church and the wider town of Laconia are saying that loud and clear."

Hip-Hop Pastor-Scholar Gives Lecture on Media Justice

Julian DeShazier, Senior Pastor of University Church in Chicago, will give the Everett C. Parker Ethics in Telecommunications Lecture in Washington, D.C. on October 17. DeShazier, an ordained UCC minister, is also a hip-hop artist and seminary teacher at two seminaries in Chicago. The Parker Lecture is named for Everett C. Parker, founder of the UCC's Office of Communication, who fought for ethics and fairness in public media. In addition, the Everett C. Parker Award will be presented to Cayden Mak, Executive Director of 18 Million Rising, a digital movement that brings Asian American communities together "online and offline to reimagine Asian American identity with nuance, specificity, and power." The Donald H. McGannon Award, which recognizes special contributions in advancing the role of women and persons of color in the media, will be presented to the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) of the World Association of Christian Communication. The program's global coordinator, Sarah Macharia, will travel from Africa to receive the award on behalf of GMMP.



Rev. Julian DeShazier

Being a "Just Peace" Church Helps Getting Organized to Do Something

Since the General Synod pronounced the UCC to be a Just Peace Church in 1985 and encouraged local churches to do the same, at least 178 congregations have

answered the call. At a time when there are numerous overwhelming problems that need to be addressed in our society, some UCC congregations are finding that being a Just Peace Church is a good stimulus to get organized around a particular issue and to spur them on to meaningful action.



- For two small churches in rural Indiana, it means living out an alternative to "just war" theory by talking to their lawmakers, going overseas and making peace.
- For a tall-steeple church in Nebraska's state capital, it means seeking a balance between feeding the poor and challenging systems that keep people poor.
- In a city church in Florida, it means hands-on poverty work, talking about gun control and giving a big welcome to newcomers.
- And in Fremont, California, a congregation is about to become the latest to take a Just Peace Church vote.

As Diane Weible, Conference Minister of the Northern California Nevada Conference and a UCC Just Peace Steering Committee member, says, "Being a Just Peace Church reminds us that we're not alone. There are people working on similar issues. We can partner with them and have a bigger impact and find the strength to keep going."

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

Conference Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 5

Conference Council and Foundation Trustees

OCTOBER 10 – 12

E.C.O. 4 Youth Camp on Maui

OCTOBER 12

Hawai'i Island Association (HIA) Fall Mokupuni

OCTOBER 18 – 19

Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC) Fall 'Aha Halawai

OCTOBER 19

O'ahu Association Fall Mokupuni

OCTOBER 26

State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches Board

NOVEMBER 9 – 11

E.C.O. 4 Youth Camp on O'ahu

NOVEMBER 10

Kaua'i Association Fall Mokupuni

Highlights from the Website

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

Pastoral Changes

Malaeotofiga Levaula began his ministry as Pastor of Amataga Fou in Aiea on August 3.

Irene Willis Hassan began her ministry as Licensed Minister of Ka Hana O Ke Akua Church in Waianae on September 1.

Robin Lunn began her ministry as Pastor of Makawao Union Church on Maui on September 15.

Service of Installation

Heather Barfield was installed as Associate Pastor of United Church of Christ—Judd Street by the O'ahu Association on August 25.

[*Missionaries Sail, continued from page 1*](#)

Moses Goods. The play was commissioned by the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives and supported by the Massachusetts Humanities Council.

The program also features Po'ai Lincoln, a prominent local singer/musician and Hawaiian Mission Houses' Cultural Programs Coordinator, who will accompany the program with Hawaiian oli and mele.

The Congregational Library event is part of a month-long New England tour, honoring the bicentennial. Other stops include the Phillips Academy in Andover, Old Sturbridge Village, Williams College, and the American Antiquarian Society. The tour ends with a Sunday morning service on October 20 at the Park Street Church, featuring a delegation from Kawaihae'o Church, and Kenneth Makuakane preaching. The service will include a sermon in Hawaiian with translation.

In Memory

Donald Sevetson, 85, retired pastor, died in Portland, Oregon



Donald Sevetson

on July 31. He was ordained in the UCC and served churches in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois before serving

as Conference Minister for Oregon and southern Idaho, a post he held for 16 years. In Hawai'i, he served as minister of Kōloa Union Church, interim Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference, and interim minister of Waiola Church. He is survived by Mary Louise, his

wife of 62 years, three children, and three grandchildren.

David E. Milotta, 98, former Executive Director of the Hawai'i



David E. Milotta

Conference Foundation (HCF), passed away on August 25. He served as the HCF Executive Director for 12 years, starting in

1972. He was preceded in death by his wife Doris and was the father of David S. Milotta, retired pastor, and the grandfather of D. Makana Milotta, pastor of Waipahu UCC.

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 \$10 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.



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The Centennial

In the spring of 2020 the Hawai'i Conference will observe the bicentennial of the first Christian Mission in Hawai'i. We thought it would be informative to see what was written at the time of the Centennial in 1920. Below is an excerpt from the minutes of the Hawaiian Board of Missions special meeting.

A special meeting of the Hawaiian Board of Missions was called at 10 A.M. Friday April 16, 1920, in the Mission Memorial Auditorium.

Mr. Schenck spoke of the opportunity before the Christian Church in Hawaii and presented the following Bulletin which had been posted in one of the Chinese Churches:

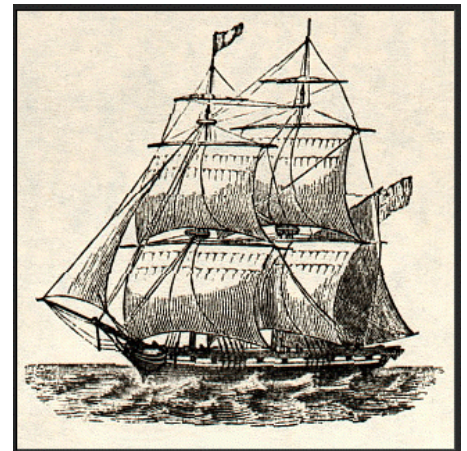
The Centennial, celebrating the

one hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Christians to Hawaii, is dawning.

It signifies success, triumph and splendid achievements made possible only by the efforts of the noble pioneers from the shores of New England. Obstacles have been surmounted; barriers crossed; and their labors have not been made in vain.

Upon the coming generation devolves the arduous but unescapable burden of carrying on. The lure of materialism, the desire for money, fame and glory and all the evil and tempting things of the twentieth century life are veritable lions on the path of future success.

However, if this coming generation will live true to the principles of Jesus Christ and form a cohesive nucleus



The Thaddeus

around which to work, there is no doubt but that the second Centennial will be a carnival of successful evangelization and Christian triumph.

Will we topple on the brink of materialism or shall we send forth the vivifying and clarifying light into the hearts of wretched souls? In our hands lies the fateful decision.