

# Hawai'i Conference UCC 2015 Clergy Retreat

## “Christian Theology of World Religions”

Monday, March 9–Wednesday, March 11

**Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel**

75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua-Kona

This year's clergy retreat will focus on “Christian Theology of World Religions” and will explore central issues of Christian theology and its relations with the religious “other.”

The program will be lead by four renowned scholars and church people:

- **Paul F. Knitter**, Professor Emeritus of Theology, World Religions and Culture at Union Theological Seminary in New York City
- **Dale Bishop**, former Executive Minister of UCC Wider Church Ministries
- **Damayanthi Niles**, Professor of Constructive Theology at Eden Theological Seminary
- **David Greenhaw**, President of Eden Theological Seminary and Professor of Preaching and Worship

\*\* 16 hours of continuing education credit to participants \*\*

For information and to register visit [www.HCUCC.org](http://www.HCUCC.org)



**Date:** January 7, 2015  
**To:** Hawai'i Conference Clergy  
**From:** Charles Buck, Conference Minister  
**Re:** Clergy Retreat

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You are invited to join colleagues and friends at the Annual Hawai'i Conference Clergy Retreat, sponsored by the Hawai'i Island Association.

### **Dates and Times**

The Clergy Retreat begins on Monday, March 9, 2015, at 1:00 p.m., and ends on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 12 noon. Tuesday morning is free time to sightsee, recreate, and read, or sleep in!

### **Location**

The venue for lodging, program and meals is the Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel located at 75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua-Kona. (This is the same site as the past few years.)

### **Program and Guest Speakers**

This year's clergy retreat will focus on "Christian Theology of World Religions" and will explore central issues of Christian theology and its relations with the religious "other." At a time when relations between world religions have become a significant issue, and in a place like Hawai'i where many religions are practiced and observed, it is important not just to respect other religions, but even more so to understand our own religion's approach to adherents of other religions. The goal will be to deepen how we understand and practice our own engagement with other religions of the world.

The program for the retreat will launch the Armin and Shirley Limper Program in World Religion of Eden Theological Seminary. The Limpers, members of Waipahu UCC and former UCC missionaries, have generously provided resources for Eden Seminary to create a series of events that will engage the wider church community in theological thinking about religions and religious people of the world.

Leading the program are four renowned scholars and church people:

- *Paul F. Knitter*, Professor Emeritus of Theology, World Religions and Culture at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, is recognized as a leading figure in the field of world religions and is the author of numerous books and articles.
- *Dale Bishop*, former Executive Minister of UCC Wider Church Ministries, is a Middle East scholar and has written extensively on Iran, Lebanon and the Israeli-Palestinian issue. He most recently served as Pastor of First Congregational UCC in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.
- *Damayanthi Niles*, Professor of Constructive Theology at Eden Theological Seminary, teaches in the areas of interfaith studies, comparative theology, contextual theology with particular interest in Asia, and language of theology in a landscape of conflict and violence.
- *David Greenhaw*, President of Eden Theological Seminary and Professor of Preaching and Worship, is a frequent speaker and preacher at gatherings around the world. Most recently, he lectured and preached in Ghana, taught at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, and participated in a World Council of Churches conference on Christians in the Middle East.

The program will provide continuing education credit of 16 hours to participants who attend in full.

### **Schedule (Tentative)**

Monday, March 9	1-1:45 p.m. 2-5 p.m. 5-6 p.m. 6-9 p.m.	Gathering and Worship Program Dinner Program
Tuesday, March 10	Free morning 1-5 p.m. 5-6 p.m. 6-9 p.m.	 Program Dinner Program
Wednesday, March 11	9 a.m.-12 noon 12 noon	Program Closing Worship

### **Registration and Cost**

Registration form and fee must be received at the Hawai'i Conference office before 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, to guarantee your registration. A late registration fee of \$25 will be assessed for registrations received after this date. You can register and pay online at <http://ezregister.com/events/12373/>. Cost is \$65 per person, which includes materials and dinners on Monday and Tuesday. Transportation, hotel and meals not listed are on your own.

### **Hotel Accommodations**

Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel has reserved a limited number of rooms for those attending the Clergy Retreat at a special rate of \$139 per night, plus taxes, for a standard room. This rate is good for three nights before or after for those who wish to spend extra time on the island.

*To take advantage of this special rate, book your reservation by calling the hotel's toll-free number at 800-367-2111. When making your reservation, identify yourself as a member of the **Hawai'i Conference Clergy Retreat**. A major credit card will be required to guarantee your reservation. **Reservations must be made by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, to receive the special rate.** Reservations after this date will be accepted at the prevailing room rates and are subject to availability. Self-parking is available at the hotel for \$10 per day. Please note that the room and parking rates listed do not include applicable taxes.*

Although the retreat begins at 1:00 p.m. on March 9, check-in time for the hotel is not until 3:00 p.m. If your room is not ready when you arrive to the hotel, the Front Office Services department can hold your luggage for you. There will be a break in the afternoon to allow time to check in.

### **Air Transportation**

Please make your own airline reservations, ensuring that you will be able to stay until 12 noon on March 11.

### **Ground Transportation**

Ground transportation to the hotel is on your own; however, carpooling can be arranged. Please indicate on the registration form if you will need a ride from the airport or if you can offer one to another participant. This is limited to those arriving the morning of March 9 and leaving after 12 noon on March 11.

### **Scholarships**

You are encouraged to use any continuing education funds first before applying for a Henry Opukaha'ia Scholarship. Scholarship applications may be found at [www.hcucc.org](http://www.hcucc.org) (click on Resources, then choose Grants and Scholarships. Click on the Henry Opukaha'ia Scholarship link).

Hawai'i Island clergy needing assistance with the \$65 registration fee may request a scholarship from the Hawai'i Island Association. Check the appropriate box on the registration form.

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
for  
**Hawai'i Conference UCC Clergy Retreat**  
**March 9 - 11, 2015**  
**“Christian Theology of World Religions”**

**There are two ways to register for this event:**

1. Register and pay online at <http://ezregister.com/events/12373/>
2. Mail this form along with a check payable to Hawai'i Conference UCC to: Hawai'i Conference, 1848 Nu'uuanu Avenue, Honolulu, HI, 96817. **Registrations must be received before 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10.** (Late registrations are subject to a \$25 late fee and accepted on a space-available basis only.)

The registration fee includes materials, dinner on Monday and Tuesday. Other expenses (e.g., airline, car, hotel, additional meals) are not included. See registration information letter for scholarship information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church (or Association where standing is held): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number where you can be reached during the day: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ground Transportation**

Are you able to provide a ride from the airport to the hotel?      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

Do you need a ride from the airport to the hotel?      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Hotel**

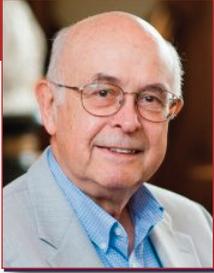
Please follow the instructions on the registration information letter to make your hotel reservation with the Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel. Deadline to receive the special rate is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11.

**Hawai'i Island Clergy**

I am requesting a scholarship from the Hawai'i Island Association      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes  
(Registration payment is required at the time of registration. The Hawai'i Island Association will reimburse your registration fee after the event.)

## Limper Program Core Leadership:

## The Armin and Shirley Limper Program in Christianity & World Religions

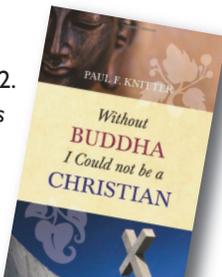


### Dr. Paul F. Knitter,

the Paul Tillich Professor of Theology, World Religions and Culture at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Dr. Knitter is Professor Emeritus of Theology at Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, where he taught for 28 years before coming to Union in

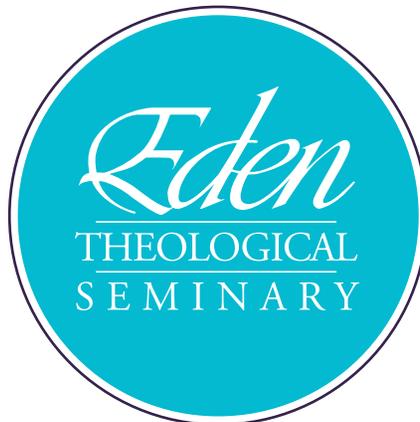
2007. Dr. Knitter is recognized as one of the world leaders in this field. His extensive publications on this topic include:

- *Towards a Protestant Theology of Religions*, 1974.
- *No Other Name? A Critical Survey of Christian Attitudes toward World Religions*, 1985.
- *The Myth of Christian Uniqueness: Toward a Pluralistic Theology of Religions*, edited with John Hick, 1987.
- *Faith, Religion, and Theology: A Contemporary Introduction*, 1989, with Brennan Hill and William Madges.
- *Buddhist Emptiness and Christian Trinity Essays and Explorations*, 1990, edited with Roger Corless.
- *Death or Dialogue: From the Age of Monologue to the Age of Dialogue*, 1990, with John B. Cobb, Jr., Monika Hellwig and Leonard Swidler.
- *Pluralism and Oppression: Theology in World Perspective*, 1990, editor.
- *One Earth Many Religions: Multifaith Dialogue and Global Responsibility*, 1995.
- *Jesus and the Other Names: Christian Mission and Global Responsibility*, 1996.
- *The Uniqueness of Jesus: A Dialogue with Paul Knitter*, 1997, edited by Leonard Swidler and Paul Mojzes.
- *Introducing Theologies of Religions*, 2002.
- *Subverting Greed: Religious Perspectives on the Global Economy*, 2002, edited with Chandra Muzaffar.
- *Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian*, 2009.



## Hawaii March 9-11, 2015

Eden is fortunate to have been able to pull together a team of outstanding experts in the field for its initial offerings. This program will include the clergy retreat for the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ. In addition, leaders from the core team will teach in congregations around the Conference.



Contact [events@eden.edu](mailto:events@eden.edu)  
for more information.

## The Armin and Shirley Limper Program in Christianity & World Religions

Eden  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

# The Armin and Shirley Limper Program in Christianity & World Religions



## Dr. Dale Bishop,

most recently the pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. He served as Area Executive for the Middle East for the United Church Board for World Ministries from 1980 to 1999, when he became Executive Minister of the United Church of Christ's Wider Church Ministries. From 2004-2006, he was Director of Resources and Relationships for Interfaith Understanding at Hartford Seminary.

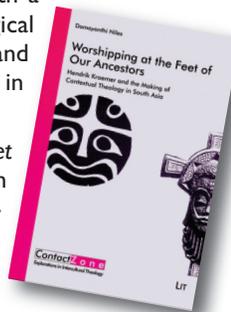
- A graduate of Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, Dr. Bishop holds master's and doctorate degrees from Columbia University in New York City, where he also taught Middle East languages and cultures as well as Iranian Studies.
- Dr. Bishop's interest in interfaith relations has a particular focus on Christian-Muslim relations. A member of the World Council of Churches delegations who have engaged in dialogue with Iranian Muslim religious leaders, he has written a number of articles on Iran, Lebanon and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His doctorate is in Iranian Studies, and he was a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship for study in India.



## Dr. Damayanthi Niles,

Professor of Constructive Theology at Eden Theological Seminary. She has served Eden in numerous ways, including as Chair of the Faculty Development and Continuing Education Committees, leader of two study-travel seminars to India, director of the Master of Theological Studies degree program, and Interim Academic Dean.

- Dr. Niles received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1998, her B.A. from Saint Olaf College in 1988 and her M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1991.
- Dr. Niles' areas of interest and teaching include constructive theology, interfaith studies, comparative theology, theology and power, contextual theology with a particular interest in Asia, theological language in a landscape of conflict and violence, and the use of aesthetics in teaching theology.
- Dr. Niles' book, *Worshipping at the Feet of Our Ancestors*, was published in 2012, and she is working on a forthcoming text, *Constructing a Christian Theology in a Pluralistic World*.



## Dr. David Greenhaw,

President of Eden Theological Seminary and Professor of Preaching and Worship. Before coming to Eden in 1997 to serve as president, he was the pastor of First Congregational Church, Bay Shore, New York; Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics at Vanderbilt University and Academic Dean and Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

- Dr. Greenhaw holds degrees from the University of Kansas, Eden Theological Seminary and Drew University, as well as honorary degrees from Elmhurst College and Heidelberg University.
- At church gatherings around the world, Dr. Greenhaw is a frequent speaker, preacher and retreat leader. Most recently he lectured and preached for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana and lectured at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, where he participated in a World Council of Churches conference on Christians in the Middle East.
- Dr. Greenhaw is a regular participant in the Council on Foreign Relations' Religion and Foreign Policy Task Group, is active in the United Church of Christ Just Peace working group, and served on the UCC/United Church of Canada Full Communion working group. This fall, Dr. Greenhaw was honored as an interfaith leader of the year by the Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis.

Eden is persuaded that theological engagement with the religions of the world is one of the most significant issues for the Christian Church in the twenty first century. While it is important to understand as much as possible about religions of the world, it is equally or perhaps even more pressing to understand our own religion's approach to adherents to other religions.

Through a generous gift from Armin and Shirley Limper, Eden Theological Seminary is launching a program of theological engagement on Christianity and World Religions. Armin Limper, Professor Emeritus of Theology and Religion at Elmhurst College, has had a lifelong commitment toward thoughtful Christian engagement with the religions of the world. Dr. Limper, Eden Class of 1948 and his wife Shirley have provided resources for Eden Theological Seminary to engage lay and ordained leaders in educational experiences to explore central issues of Christian theology in relation to the varied religions and religious people of the world.

The Armin and Shirley Limper Program in Christianity & World Religions is intended to deepen the way lay and ordained leaders of the Christian church understand how their own religion does and could engage with other religions of the world. By providing visibility and promotion of the topic through interpretive materials, educational events, curriculum offerings and on-line publication of lectures and papers, Eden hopes to play a leading role in improving relationships among adherents to the world's religions.