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New Year, New Look for *The Friend*!

The Friend, the printed newsletter of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ, has a new look for the new year!

- We begin with a masthead featuring the Conference logo designed by Kristen Young, Social Media Specialist and Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Conference.

- The first page of every issue will feature artwork depicting the theme for the issue, making it look more like a magazine cover. "Formation" is our first theme.

- We added four pages to each issue, with dedicated pages for Youth

and Young Adult Ministries, called YZ [pronounced "wise"] literature (page 9); and news from our Associations and Affiliates, called We Are ... the Hawai'i Conference (page 10); in addition to regular columns from Conference Minister David Popham (page 4) and Hawai'i Conference Foundation Executive Director Andy Bunn (page 5).

- We are including more photos and items featuring our local churches and associations.

- In this issue, we are also unveiling a new Bicentennial logo designed by Myrna-Lyn Diaz Abang of Ewa

Community Church! Read more about it on page 12.

We will continue to publish *The Friend* five times a year.

Most of all, it is the hope of the Editorial Team that *The Friend* will continue to facilitate and improve communication among our churches, associations, the Conference, the United Church of Christ, and the larger world, sharing news and items of interest. We encourage submission of articles, artwork, photos, suggested topics and themes for consideration. We are excited by our new look, and we hope you like it, too!

Personal Preparedness

DANNY TENGAN, DISASTER MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

In today's world we take so much for granted. A recent example is the shooting/fire on January 19, 2020, where two police officers died after they were shot while making a routine response call. There were also seven homes that were destroyed as firemen could not put out the fires because live rounds of ammunition were going off in the blaze.

Other parts of the country were also affected by violence: A Utah

family of four was shot by a juvenile relative. In Kansas City, an armed security guard shot and killed a heavily armed man who had killed one and wounded 15 others.

Natural disasters are occurring all over the world. It seems no place or no one is immune from devastation due to unpredictable, unexpected disasters. Therefore, it behooves each person to take responsibility to prepare for potential crises and make a plan for how to respond. No one is going to come to your aid initially.

Individuals should also talk to friends, family and neighbors to **create a support network** that can help with communication, transportation, and essential care during periods of time when other community-based services and supports are not available.

Be informed—keep up with the latest sources that will provide you with information about the current situation. You cannot afford to be in the dark and

not know what is happening.

Plan ahead—know that there will be the next disaster; we just don't know what and when it will occur. Know your surroundings and expect the unexpected. This is the world we live in now.

We are starting a new year. We all need to do a better job of preparing ourselves and our loved ones for the next unexpected event.



God is still speaking

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Exploring Our Theme

Formation in the church does not start from a void. Underlying our formation efforts in 2020 are 2,000 years of the Gospel and 200 years of the Gospel in Hawai‘i.

The Hawai‘i Conference United Church of Christ’s Formation Team works throughout the year to initiate, plant, shape, and crystallize ideas and programs. Sometimes the outcome is a tight grouping that moves us in new directions with programs and resources, but there are also more fluid actions that subtly influence our ideas, increase our faith, and inspire us. The United Church of Christ does not value our marching in lock-step formation, but rather considers formation as openness to new opportunities of dealing with ancient truths.

Jack Belsom, Chairperson of the HCUC Formation Missional Team, reflects on the meaning of formation in this way:

“We are one ‘ohana: a unified, radiant and

transforming expression of the body of Christ.” We believe that is God’s vision for the Hawai‘i Conference UCC. That vision for us will not be fully realized in our lifetime even as we are moving toward it. We use the word “formation” to describe our calling. How we understand formation changes as we learn and grow. Since 2017, the Formation Missional (another elusive word!) Team has understood that the overarching goal is to form all—individuals and churches—into the Body of Christ. All bodies, including the Body of Christ, change with time, training, experience, and nurture. At best, all the church can do is provide opportunities for God to “form” us for mission and ministry in ways that our time and settings require. It follows that our mission is, “Sent forth by the Spirit, we walk humbly in Christ’s footsteps pursuing peace, justice and the renewal of all creation.”

Collaboration

Hawaiian Mission Bicentennial Reflection and Rejuvenation 1820-2020

Based on “Letters from the Ali‘i,” by permission of Peter T. Young

Ali‘i Asked the Missionaries for Literacy, the Missionaries Collaborated

The arrival of the first company of American missionaries in Hawai‘i in 1820 marked the beginning of Hawai‘i’s phenomenal rise to literacy. The chiefs became proponents for education and edicts were enacted by the king and the council of chiefs to stimulate the people to reading and writing.

“By August 30, 1825, only three years after the first printing of the *pī‘āpā* [spelling book], 16,000 copies of spelling books, 4,000 copies of a small scripture tract, and 4,000 copies of a catechism had been printed and distributed.”

“On October 8, 1829, it was reported that 120,000 spelling books were printed in Hawai‘i. These figures suggest that perhaps 90 percent of the Hawaiian population were in possession of a *pī‘āpā* book!”

“This literacy initiative was contin-

ually supported by the ali‘i. Under Liholiho, ships carrying teachers were not charged harbor fees. During a missionary paper shortage, the government stepped in to cover the difference, buying enough paper to print roughly 13,500 books.”

Ali‘i Asked the Missionaries for More Teachers, the Missionaries Collaborated

On August 23, 1836, fifteen chiefs signed a letter addressed to the American missionaries, asking for more teachers.

Shortly after, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) sent the largest company of missionaries to the Islands; including a large number of teachers.

Ali‘i Asked the Missionaries for a Special School for Their Children, the Missionaries Collaborated

In 1839, King Kamehameha III, Hoapili and Kekulouhi . . . signed a

letter asking missionaries to run the Chiefs’ Children’s School.

In a missionary general meeting, “This subject was fully considered in connection with an application of the chiefs requesting the services of Mr. Cooke, as a teacher for their children; and it was voted, . . . That the mission comply with their request, provided they will carry out their promise to Mr. Cooke’s satisfaction; namely, to build a school house, sustain him in his authority, over the scholars, and support the school.” [Sandwich Islands Mission General Meeting Minutes, 1839]

The school was unique because for the first time ali‘i children would be brought together in a group to be taught, ostensibly, about the ways of governance. The school also acted as another important unifying force among the ruling elite, instilling in their children common principles, attitudes and values, as well as a shared vision.

Half Full or Half Empty?

DAVID K. POPHAM, CONFERENCE MINISTER

In mid-January I attended the Bishop's Red Mass, a worship service designed to ask God's Spirit and blessings to fall upon the Hawai'i Legislature as they open their new session. Since it was a mass (red being the liturgical color for the service), I went understanding that if communion were served, I would not be allowed to partake as I am not a member of the Catholic Church. When I arrived at the Cathedral of Our Lady, I found the staff friendly and affable and true to form was politely told I would not be receiving communion but could be in prayer for those doing so. As we approached

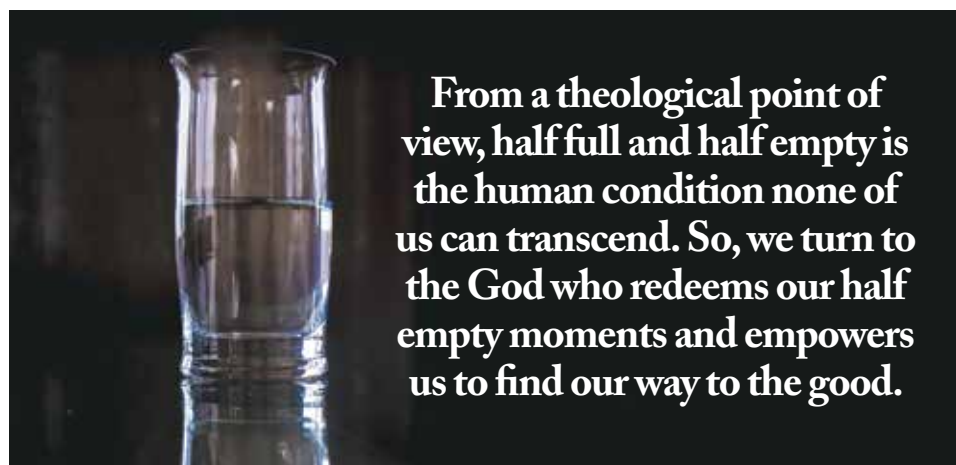
are both half full and half empty. Each of us has assets and strengths—things we intuitively understand and have a knack for doing well. Likewise, each of us has deficits—things we do not do as well, attitudes that get in our way, and mistakes that we make. For example, I am very good at holding the big picture in mind and understanding how what is happening in one area of the Conference affects the other areas of the Conference. However, I am less adept with details. Embarrassingly, in pre-smartphone app days, I recall arriving at an airport and running around to various airline kiosks until I found

observe the aloha spirit of the Hawaiian culture and ali'i to welcome and support the light of the Gospel across the archipelago. We know that missionary endeavors to other Pacific Island nations did not fare as well, for a welcoming spirit was not among those populations. When cultures are open, Christ is encountered and lives are transformed—the glass is half full. Praise God.

At the same time the Congregational missionaries came, bearing within their thinking, nascent understandings of capitalism of the early industrial age as well as ethnic relational patterns born out of a slave-trading nation. We all have trouble finding the vantage point from which to critique ideology that lies within our unconscious which we are unaware of, and in these moments the glass is half empty.

I humbly suggest that the coming of the missionaries is not a black and white photo, but a rather dramatic painting. People of Hawaiian and New England backgrounds worked to heed the call of God to go into all the world. The ali'i welcomed those who brought love and fellowship to the culture, which premises itself on aloha. Unfortunately, in the mix of what developed in this partnership were the seeds of other yet-formed conceptions which would have a weighty effect on Hawaiian history.

From a theological point of view, half full and half empty is the human condition none of us can transcend. So, we turn to the God who redeems our half empty moments and empowers us to find our way to the good.



the Eucharistic Rite of the mass, an announcement was made from the chancel indicating that since the Catholic Church emphasized one body of believers, those not of the Catholic faith (and therefore, not of the one body) were asked to remain in our spots and enter into prayer. In my mind I thought, "Ah yes, the glass is half full and half empty."

The glass being both half full and half empty is a leadership insight I picked up from Paul Schmitz, former Executive Director of the young leadership training non-profit Public Allies. Paul argues there is no such thing as the perfect leader as humans

the one that recognized the credit card I used to reserve my flight.

As I travel around the Hawai'i Conference, I have noticed that when we speak about the bicentennial observance of the arrival of the Congregational missionaries, the conversation tends to turn to talk of right and wrong. Either the missionaries were good for Hawai'i or they were bad for Hawai'i. May I suggest that the missionaries, being human like us, were both half full and half empty.

There is no doubt that we observe with the Bicentennial the arrival of the Gospel in a way it had yet to come to the Hawaiian population. We also

Churches Must Pay General Excise Taxes

ANDREW BUNN, HCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

General excise taxes ('auhau helu Waiwai). It's a price of living in paradise that we are all subject to State of Hawai'i general excise tax (GET). Merchants, service providers, and virtually all other businesses in Hawai'i are required to pay the GET on gross income they receive. For retail merchants and services, the rate is 4% (plus a county surcharge 0.5% on O'ahu and Kaua'i and 0.25% on Hawai'i Island), and that is passed on to us as customers every day when we buy groceries, pay for a movie ticket, pay our electrician, and so on.

religious organization, and (b) does not have as a primary purpose the production of income."

What does this mean? It means that churches do not have to pay GET on the following types of income: (a) donations, (b) interest earned on bank accounts into which the church's funds have been placed for safe keeping, (c) fees for religious seminars, (d) sales of religious item, and (e) tuition from church operated schools. These are examples of activities that are deemed by DOT to be consistent with fulfilling the exempt purpose and not primarily income producing.

What if you have a bake sale to raise money for the church, is this subject to GET? Yes, according to the DOT, "income received from fundraising activities such as bake sales, rummage sales, car washes, and the rental of church facilities" is subject to GET. This may seem harsh if all the proceeds from the bake sale go to supporting the church, but the

DOT looks only at the type of activity, not how the funds are used. If the intent of the activity is primarily for the purpose of generating income, it is taxed. Even if a church offers "free" car washes in exchange for a donation, the DOT will

still view this as activity intended primarily to raise money, so it is subject to GET. The same is true when the church permits the use of its facilities to an outside group in exchange for a donation.

What about holding tourist weddings? Surely a wedding is a reli-

gious ceremony and must be exempt, right?

Not necessarily.

It will depend on whether the primary purpose of the tourist wedding is religious or fundraising in nature. If the church hosts the marriage of couple who came to the church on their own seeking a service of holy matrimony performed in the church by the church's minister, this will likely be an exempt religious activity. However, if the



"Income received from fundraising activities such as bake sales, rummage sales, car washes, and the rental of church facilities" is subject to GET.

wedding was performed as part of an arrangement with a tour operator or through advertising of the venue to the public for wedding purposes (taking on a commercial hue), then the wedding revenue will not be exempt from the GET. The DOT will look at all the attending facts and circumstances around the wedding arrangement to determine if it is a religious activity or a fundraising activity.

I encourage all church leaders to review further the recent Tax Facts 2019-2, General Excise Tax Information for Churches and Ministers, published by the Department of Taxation and available online at tax.hawaii.gov to learn more.



What about churches? Are they required to pay the GET? It depends on the type of income. According to the Department of Taxation (DOT), a church qualifies for an exemption from paying GET "on income that (a) is derived from its activities that fulfill its exempt function as a



Central Union becomes a Blue Zones church



David Baumgart Turner, David Vásquez-Levy and David Popham



E.C.O. 4 Youth camp on O'ahu Support Bill 40



Aloha service for Dorothy Lester



Aloha service for Sharon MacArthur



Youth attending Tri-Isle Mokupuni



Kaua'i Association Aloha potluck for Jeannie Thompson



Filipino UCC adult Bible study



Lihue Christian Church Going and Growing Green



Robin Lunn on her installation day



Micronesian Council UCC Board meeting in Pohnpei



Ho'okuikahi Queen Lili'uokalani Service



Filipino UCC Bible study for youth



Christmas mele with Samoan churches



Nicavangelists perform at Manoa Valley Church



East Hawai'i Clergy Christmas Luncheon

All That We Are

Most of us are probably very familiar with the symbol of the United Church of Christ. But how many of us can identify all of the symbolism that is included?

As described on the back of the UCC Sunday Bulletin on January 19, 2020:

More than a logo, our symbol imparts the meaning not only of all that we are in the present day as a denomination, but all that we yearn to be in the future.

At the top of the symbol is a **crown**. By the use of the crown, we remind ourselves that Christ is the ruler, the head of all, greater than any earthly power or authority.

Below the crown is a **cross**. The cross reminds us of Christ's suffering in solidarity with the pain of victims of violence in all times and places. For many, the cross

is a reminder of the redemptive power of life over death, and salvation over the powers of evil.

Below the cross is an **orb** divided into three parts, reminding us of Jesus' command to go out into the world in all directions, witnessing to his life-giving power.



Encircling these symbols are the words "**That They May All Be One.**" (John 17:21)

The words remind us of our history as a union of different Christian traditions. And it calls us to activism in the present. In the UCC, it is our calling to engage in ecumenical relationships that seek to heal the broken unity of the Body of Christ. And the words also call us to the future, to the time envisioned by Christ when "all may be one."

So much meaning is packed into our abiding symbol!



Bee the Church

The Rocky Mountain Conference UCC has started a campaign called, "Bee the Church," inviting all to care for the earth by creating environments in which  can thrive. All UCC Western Region Conferences are invited to encourage their churches to put up " Hotels" and plant pollinator-friendly vegetation on their grounds.

How can your church participate in the Bee the Church campaign?


The campaign runs from **March 20 to June 20, 2020.**

• **Appoint a "Pollinator" for your**


church. The Pollinator is in charge of overseeing the project and getting the word out within your congregation.





- **Recruit volunteers** for building and maintaining your  hotel and planting pollinator-friendly vegetation on your grounds. Additionally, you could have youth and kids decorate your  hotel to get everyone involved!
- **Promote your Bee the Church project** in your church newsletters, Sunday bulletins, and the HCUC's Coconut Wireless to increase awareness about the campaign in your community.
- **Take photos** of your church members getting involved and share them on your social media pages using #BeeTheChurch! Send photos and updates to Daryl Schreiber at connect@rmcucc.org by June 26, 2020.

The above information and more can be found at www.RMCUCC.org/Bee-The-Church.

In Hawai'i, some things that the community can do to help protect the  are:

1. Avoid burning or breaking coastal

plants—these plants may be home to the endangered yellow-faced  who nest in hollow stems and branches of coastal plants.

2. Plant natives such as Naupaka, Akulikuli, Akoko, Ohai, Naio, and Ilima which the  depend on for nesting and/or forage resources.
3. Be careful not to spread ants. In Hawai'i, all ants are introduced invasive species and are a serious problem for our native  and other native wildlife.
4. Volunteer to help with the yellow-faced  project. There are many opportunities to help through spreading education about the , to helping with online development, to field or lab work.

The above information is from Jason Graham's list, which can be found at <https://crownbees.com/faq-central/post/4-ways-to-help-hawaii-s-endangered-bees.html>.



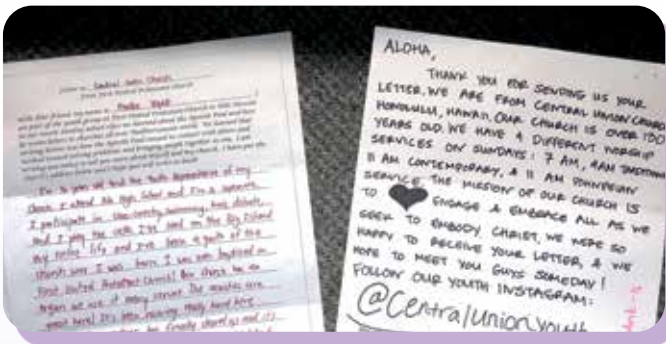
BEE THE CHURCH

Save the bees! Care for the earth
Embrace biodiversity. Love nature.
Save our planet. Share resources.

Making Friends the Old-Fashioned Way

CHRISTOPHER CZARNECKI, FIRST UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

During my children's sermon on Sunday January 19, I told youth that the Apostle Paul wrote letters to early churches of the Jesus Movement across the Mediterranean world. I explained to them that Paul used letter writing to stay in contact with churches and to help them move toward overcoming conflicts and divisions. Paul reminded the people that they were all united and connected to the body of Christ and although they had disagreements or saw things differently, they were called to be in unity with people of different races, cultures, beliefs, and places. I told the youth that the call to be part of the body of Christ is a call to be a people constantly revealing a new way of being and living together in community.



In the spirit of Apostle Paul's desire to keep these early communities united in Christ and in communication with one another, I asked youth to write letters to 12 randomly selected churches across the Hawai'i Islands to tell them more about themselves and their church without knowing what the response would be. The youth group sent all 12 letters in the hope that someone would write them back to tell them about who they were and what their church was like. As of early February, the youth have received two responses from youth groups on O'ahu: Central Union and Kawaiaha'o. I believe the youth have learned that although many churches are far from them, they can remain united by creating and building new relationships.

YZ [pronounced "wise"] literature is wisdom from the young, Generations Y and Z to be more specific. This isn't your basic news. In every issue of *The Friend*, page 9 will be dedicated to the art, songs, poems, prayers, letters, stories, and more, of young people shining, witnessing, and reflecting light. This isn't necessarily just for young people, rather it's by young people who are not only the future but also bearers of Good News today. Stay wise, get lit with YZ literature.



Leon Nickolas, a young Pohnpeian woman and UH Manoa student from Central Union Church reflects on these words from Martin Luther King Jr. who is honored and remembered each January. February is Black History Month and February 9th was Racial Justice Sunday in the UCC. In 2020 we continue to dream Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of justice for all.

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

THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

149th ANNUAL MEETING & FELLOWSHIP

"Knowing the Signs and Wonders of Our Time"

Saturday, April 25, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Central Union Church Parish Hall
1660 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu

SILENT AUCTION

Cost: \$35
(lunch provided)

For more information please call:
(808) 791-5647 or (808) 990-0503

Tickets can be purchased from our office or
through WBM members.



Never Underestimate the Power
of a CHRISTIAN woman

Tri-Isle Association Installs New Pastor

Robin Lunn was installed as Pastor of Makawa'o Union Church by the Tri-Isle Association on January 19. In the church newsletter, *'Elele*, Robin wrote,



The "installation was the most perfect embodiment of who we are! It is the dance of relationship that marks the unique and magical community here at the MUC! The Tri-Isle Association clergy and leaders, our interfaith leaders, members and friends of MUC and the dance community all came together to celebrate the dance of relationship that makes this place so very special . . . I am honored and grateful to share this dance with you!"

Haili Church Brings Inspiring Sign into the Light

In 1900 during alterations and repairs at Haili Church in Hilo, the old motto "Ua La'a No Iehova" (Dedicated to God) was gilded in gold leaf above the choir by the wish of the blind Deacon Kawaha, and at his own expense: "That all may see that the place is dedicated to the Lord, even if my old eyes cannot look upon the words, but my heart is established thereon, and that the young generation may reverence the name of Iehova." This message inspired a generation of Hawaiians in their Christian faith until the large pipe organ covered the wall in 1929. The sign awaited its resurrection for public viewing for 90 years. In 2019 the pipe organ underwent a massive upgrade and renovation. Part of the back wall and the entire sign were removed to preserve it during this renovation. A local artist, Miles Sumida, framed it in curly koa and re-hung it at the rear of the auditorium. Last Christmas Eve during the Candlelight Service, Brian Welsh and the Deacons revealed the sign in all its authentic glory. Come worship and be inspired by this historic sign during regular Sunday services!



Lana'i Union Church Bids Aloha to Pastor

Members and friends of Lana'i Union Church bid a fond Aloha to Pastor Dorothy Lester as she concluded her ministry there on January 19. She now serves as an Associate Conference Minister on a full-time basis at the Conference Office on O'ahu.



A Special Nativity

We celebrate with the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC) the nativity displayed this past Christmas Season at the State Capital Building. The nativity featured a portrait of Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia, as well as interpretive information on Henry's role in bringing the Christian faith to the Hawai'i Islands. During this year of the Bicentennial Observance of the arrival of the Congregational and Hawaiian missionaries, the display reminded passers-by of the role of Hawaiians in launching the mission endeavor and of God's providential love and aloha.



Highlights from the Website

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

Local Church News

Hokulua United Church of Christ, Puako, voted to become an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation after a two-year discernment process and



adopted an ONA Covenant on November 24, 2019. They are the sixth

UCC congregation in Hawai'i and the first on Hawai'i Island to become an ONA congregation.

Pastoral Changes

Sharon MacArthur concluded her service as Interim Minister at Community Church of



Honolulu on January 26. **Jeannie Thompson** concluded her ministry at Kapaa United Church of Christ on February 2.



Steve Jerbi began serving as Interim Pastor of Lana'i Union Church and his first Sunday in worship was February 2. He is an ordained

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) minister and is joined by his wife, Jen, and their two daughters.

Kealahou Alika retired and concluded his ministry at Keawala'i Congregational Church in Mākena on February 16.



Calendar of Bicentennial Events

MARCH 30–APRIL 5

Kawaihae Commemoration of the missionaries' first sighting of the Islands starts with gathering at the Pua Ka'ilima Cultural Surf Park at Kawaihae Harbor with a torch run to Moku'aikaua Church in Kailua-Kona beginning at 10:00 a.m.

APRIL 1 - 4

Reading of the New Testament from Moku'aikaua Church's steps, music, living history performances, a pageant, and worship services are scheduled.

APRIL 4

Ali'i Drive will be closed from the Pier to Huala-lai Road for activities.

APRIL 5

A Bicentennial Celebration Service will be held at Moku'aikaua Church at 9:00 a.m.

For more details and activities planned from March 30 through April 5 in Kailua-Kona, see: <https://www.missionhouses.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Hawaiian-Mission-Bicentennial-Planning-Ahead-Hawaii-Programs-02032020.pdf>.

In Memory



Cally Rogers-Witte, 74, a longtime pastor, former Conference Minister, and retired United Church of Christ national officer, passed away on November 12 in Rockledge, Florida. She is survived by her husband, Frank, their two daughters and their spouses, and their grandchildren.

Clement Malani, Sr., 92, retired Kahu of Laupahoehoe Congregational Church, passed away on February 6, 2020, in Hilo. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Leilani, four adult children and their families.



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.

Conference Calendar of Events

MARCH 26

Kuhio Day (Office Closed)

MARCH 27

UCC Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization (MESA) Team Training of Committees on Ministry

MARCH 28

Fitness Review Response Team

Training by MESA staff

APRIL 2

Conference Council and Foundation Trustees

APRIL 9 - 10

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday (Office Closed)

Introducing the Bicentennial Logo

MYRNA-LYN DIAZ ABANG, EWA COMMUNITY CHURCH

The bicentennial logo that is found in the box on each page of The Friend was the winning logo in a contest announced by the Hawai'i Conference UCC.



Aloha. Allow me to introduce myself to you. I am Myrna-Lyn Diaz Abang, the Office Manager at Ewa Community Church. One could very well say I was

born in the church as I was baptized, confirmed, and married there—and now I work there! My interest in art started long ago. I went to college for an art degree, but my mom nixed that saying I needed something to fall back on—so, I switched to office management. That decision was 40+ years ago, but I maintained my interest and

work in art. I dabble in photography, and I love to look at designs created by others and always appreciate God's handiwork in everything.



What do you see in the Hawai'i Conference UCC Bicentennial logo? Here's my explanation.

- The "200" represents the 200 years from the beginning of the Hawaiian Mission.
- The silhouette is of the Brig Thaddeus which brought the

missionaries from New England.

- The "200" stands on the Bible, the Holy Word, as the missionaries held on to their faith to do their mission to spread the Gospel.
- The scarlet represents the ribbon that many Bibles have as a marker; it also represents the "tongue" as the missionaries spoke the Word and translated the Word so that the Gospel could be spoken and shared.
- The outline of the islands where the gospel was shared are on the ribbon.
- The gold color represents the pages of the Bible.
- Scarlet and gold were also chosen as they are highly recognized and significant in the Hawaiian culture.