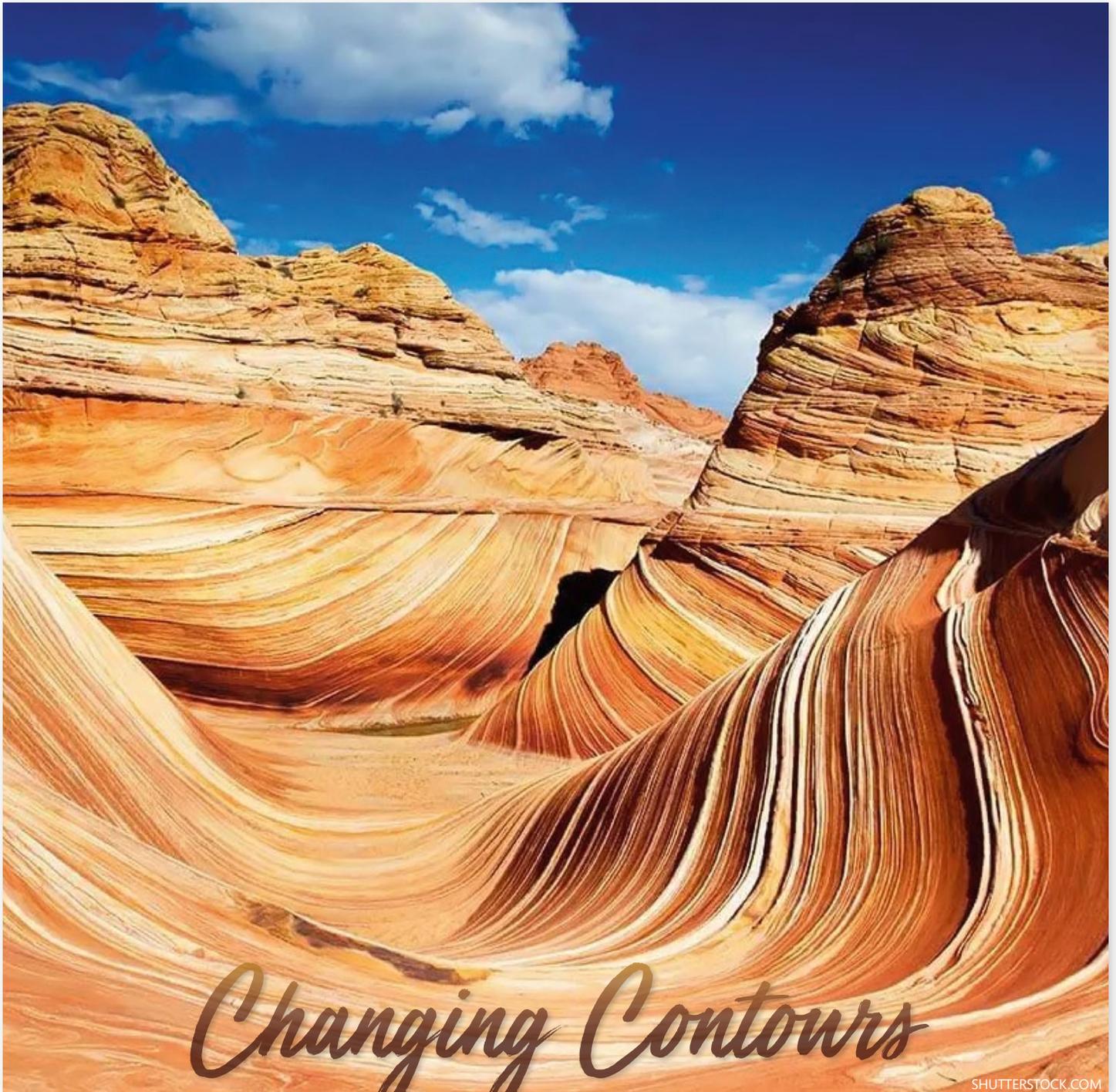


HAWAII CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



# The Friend

The Oldest Newspaper West Of The Rocky Mountains | Founded 1843 | Volume 37, Issue 3 | July 2021



*Changing Contours*

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ONE 'OHANA

UNIFIED • RADIANT • TRANSFORMING

# The 'Aha Pae'āina Now and Then

ERIC ANDERSON, PASTOR, CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS IN HILO; CONFERENCE COUNCIL CHAIR

The 199th 'Aha Pae'āina was, like the 198th 'Aha, held in a space constructed from floating ones and zeroes, taking form in tiny moving images on a screen, resolving periodically into familiar faces and swelling into familiar voices.

Sitting in Hilo, Janet Fujioka and Woody Kita recalled a much different event. When Church of the Holy Cross UCC hosted the 'Aha Pae'āina in 2006, the event began on Tuesday and ran through Saturday. The 'Aha Iki, the meetings of smaller groups within the Hawai'i Conference, included more gatherings than 2021's meetings of the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC) and the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches (SCHCC). Initially, the 'Aha Iki was a time for the Hawaiian churches to go over the business that was going to be discussed at the 'Aha Makua. In addition to the meetings of AHEC, SCHCC, State Sunday School Association (SSSA), and Christian Endeavor (CE), back in 2006 the Filipino Council, the Samoan



Council, Hawai'i Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM), and the Woman's Board of Missions also held their meetings. Workshops took place in the classroom buildings. In the central courtyard, tarps gave shade to those relaxing between events and sheltered the fundraising efforts of the Sunday Schools. And, on Friday night, there was the much anticipated 'Aha Mele.

Many 'Aha Pae'āina are remembered for their meals, and the Hilo gathering was no exception. Under the leadership of Sachi Fukuda, church members prepared Portuguese bean soup and chicken sukiyaki. They received considerable aid from local chefs who stepped in, volunteering their talents and expertise to the sizable project. The kitchen spilled out of the building beneath the overhanging roof. An entire pig went into the imu for kalua pork. Churches around Hilo and Hawai'i Island brought dessert.

"It's really the human connection," said Janet Fujioka, "a lot of connection over a meal. That's why we remember the meals, catching up with people's lives."

Woody Kita noted that the online format in 2021 did make for a more flexible schedule. Though he preferred to participate live, the recordings allowed him to benefit from presentations that conflicted

with other obligations. In some instances, the online format brought together leaders from locations off-island, fostering conversations that might not otherwise have taken place.

A global pandemic required the adoption of a digital format. It worked for some things; it worked less well for others. It made space for learning experiences that were otherwise impractical. It reduced costs for churches and individuals. It effectively handled the communication needed for the necessary business of the 'Aha Makua.

Memories of chicken sukiyaki, however, are also memories of faces over tables. Long-time friendships get reaffirmed at an 'Aha. New relationships get planted. Human faces and voices mingle in memory with textures and flavors of meals. Jesus did significant things at tables throughout his ministry in Galilee and Jerusalem. He has continued to preside at Christian tables.

As the Hawai'i Conference considers its next 'Aha Pae'āina, the 200th to be celebrated in these islands, it will be with the challenge of sharing learning as widely as digital media permits, while still laying a festive board to be blessed by Christ.

*The Rev. Eric S. Anderson was not pastor of Church of the Holy Cross UCC in Hilo in 2006, but he is now.*



God is still speaking

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# Ministering to the Mental Health Needs of the Church Family

ELLEN CARINGER, PSYCHOLOGIST AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST; MEMBER OF KEAWALA'I CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



It is an understatement to say that this pandemic has had a profound impact on all of us. Very few of us have escaped the need to make significant adjustments in our daily lives. From a psychological perspective we have had to learn how to live with a large number of unknowns, and for many, living with the unknown has been further compounded by losses—loss of loved ones, loss of financial supports, loss of our social support systems, and loss of a way of life. As pastors begin the process of ministering to congregants returning to in-person worship, there are likely to be a diversity of needs, some hidden, some more obvious.

The return to in-person worship is a major adjustment. We've dealt with a lot of uncertainties, so the clearer we are as church leaders about what to expect with our in-person gatherings the better. Will we wear masks? Under what circumstances? Will there be singing or music? How far apart do we sit? The more predictable

the return to church activities, the greater the comfort for our members. Knowing what to expect in advance, particularly for those uncomfortable about returning, allows time to process and adjust to these changes.

Then there are stressors which may not be immediately evident. Many are struggling financially. It is often hard for people to talk about their financial struggles, and it may be a useful ministry to provide a confidential resource within the faith community that families can come to if/when they are in need of help. Or, handout a list of community resources for those in need.

Many have reported unexpected emotional stressors. They now find that they are uncomfortable in a larger group of people. Some church members have expressed feeling overwhelmed by a sudden immersion back into frequent, in-person church activities and meetings. Some are reluctant to return to pre-pandemic hectic schedules. For those individu-

als, continuing online services for a while or introducing small group activities may be important to ease the re-entry process.

At the same time, others, particularly those who live alone, will benefit from increased social support. Consider a sharing circle for members to talk about their experiences during the pandemic, about what they've missed. Create opportunities for them to engage more in the life of the church and with each other.

Children have been particularly impacted. They may have lost ground academically. A tutoring ministry may be helpful for those children catching up on their education. As they begin to return to Sunday School or children's church, it may be a good forum to allow them to talk about their experiences and what they've missed in the last year. Children with emotional needs may have fallen behind in their social skills, so facilitating play time with other children may help them build and regain those skills.

Lastly, many of our congregants may be grieving. They may have lost loved ones, or are grieving the loss of a way of life, perhaps losing their place to live, or having to live with far less. This is a time when it is essential that God's love and compassion live through us, as supportive listeners to the needs and experiences of our church family.

This has been an extraordinarily challenging year. Let our ministry in this next year be one of love and support by choosing to be God's eyes, ears, and hands as we seek to meet the needs of our church family and the greater community.



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# Contours, Topography and Memory: Mapping the Pastoral Landscape

DAVID K. POPHAM, CONFERENCE MINISTER

When I pastored in Utah, I was introduced to the nature writer, Ellen Meloy. In *Eating Stone: Imagination and the Loss of the Wild*, Ellen states of the bighorn sheep which inhabit the mountains of Utah: “For bighorns, topography is memory, enhanced by acute vision. They can anticipate the land’s every contour—when to leap, where to climb, when to turn, which footholds will support their muscular bodies ... this perfect match of flesh to earth.” When memory informs contours, the landscape is always more than mountains here, or road there, or city beyond.



Memory-informed landscapes arise from our personal sojourns and allow us to view the terrain differently: here is where I found joy, in that place I left my best hat behind; this is where I fought with a friend and around the corner is where we reconciled; there is where I fell in love; here is where love leads. Such things compose our personal memories and set the contours of our lives.

Contours have the property of a ribbon fluttering in the wind, directing our focus now here and then there. Yet, even in this elastic form, contours demark edges, limits, and

thresholds. As Rainer Maria Rilke wrote in his poem *Fourth Duino Elegy*, “We don’t know the contour of feeling; we only know what molds it from without.” What molds the contours of our common life together as one ‘ohana is the Holy. While contours change over time as a beach edge changes with each reaching wave, unfolding contours continue to shape us: there is the grace of God in my life. Here is where the fruits of the Spirit lead.

Unfolding patterns in which we accomplish our common ministry and mission become the templates by which we enact church. The contours of becoming church in our day have shifted greatly. Let us just note the changing role of pastors. In the 1950’s into the 1970’s the local congregation was a franchise of the denomination. The national offices produced curriculum and material which the local church used in developing a local flavor of church-denominational identity. In this template the pastor was the CEO managing a franchise.

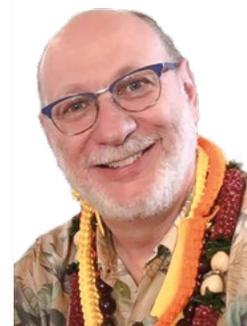
**Contours have the property of a ribbon fluttering in the wind, directing our focus now here and then there. Yet, even in this elastic form, contours demark edges, limits, and thresholds.**

As denominational identity melted away in the 1980’s and 1990’s, the template of pastor-

ing morphed into the Sales Professional. Since denominational identity was no longer the great attractor of visitors as it had been, pastors found themselves managing the attraction of new members through direct mail campaigns and Fall kick-off Sundays. Unfortunately, in the great exodus from the church during this time, many ministers found themselves managing shrinking congregations.

Around 2010 the template for ministry morphed again. Diminishing denominational output placed great pressures on local church pastors to become entrepreneurs. A new layer has been introduced as the entrepreneurial pastor also needs to develop income streams outside the congregation. Where the CEO template managed the now and the Sales Professional template managed the shrinking, the Entrepreneur template looks ahead to discern what is coming and how it will affect the life of the congregation, as there is little denominational buffering to what is called future shock.

Future shock is the distress and angst we suffer due to our inability to keep up with the rapidity of social change. Pastoral burnout, laity “done with it,” and the continuing trend toward irrelevancy are all products of our feelings of being overwhelmed. During this disruptive arrival of the future, contours keep us from becoming totally disoriented. They are the guides of memory, recalling our sacred topography: there is the grace of God in my life and here is where the fruits of the Spirit lead.



## Being Good Stewards

ANDREW BUNN, HCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There are countless challenges to running a church and one of them is the church property itself. In our polity, the core of the church is its people, so we focus on development of the congregation. This sometimes happens at the expense of overlooking the church's property and the things that need to be done to provide for a place to house the congregation.

It is important to be a good steward of your church's property, whether it is a property that is owned by the church, leased by the church, or simply a space that is borrowed or used with the permission of another. Being a good steward of your church property means a lot of things.

Some things are obvious, like picking up the trash and keeping the property clean. I was surprised, however, to see bottles and cans, abandoned cars, and non-functioning equipment strewn about the grounds of a church property I visited recently. This particular property was so bad that neighbors had justifiably complained. Every member of a congregation should be encouraged to do their part to pick up trash and clean up the property, and a church's leadership must provide the means to do so (trash cans, bags, reminders, etc.).

Another obvious thing is keeping the property in good repair and maintenance. It is easy, and sometimes regrettably necessary, to defer maintenance and repairs when cash is not on hand; however, deferred maintenance comes back to haunt churches. If regular painting and sealing of the exterior of the property

is deferred, it leads to water intrusion, dry rot, and eventually structural damage that will, at the end of the day, cost far more to deal with. Right now, water damage claims from plumbing failures are one of the largest sources of claims in the insurance industry (including our Insurance Board).

Being a good steward of your church property also means keeping it insured. Too often church leaders elect not to buy insurance or to buy a policy with very limited coverage, but, like deferring maintenance, electing to do so can be costly when



Hau'ula Congregational Church, UCC

a claim arises (and claims will arise). Coverage should include property damage and casualty, general liability, directors and officers insurance, employment liability, fidelity claims, sexual misconduct, and owned and hired automobile insurance.

Payment of taxes is also a part of being a good steward of the property. In my February 2020 article I described the necessity of paying Hawai'i general excise taxes on income generating activities of the church. Real property taxes must also be paid. Although churches qualify for

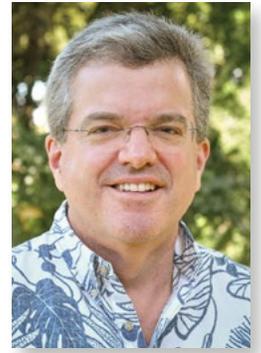
an exemption, there is still a modest "minimum" tax that must be paid each year and any portion of the church that is used for non-mission or income generating purposes will not be exempt from real property taxes.

Whenever possible, agreements for the use and maintenance of church property should be in writing. We all like to trust each other and work on the commitment of a handshake in the church world, but it is best to put it in writing so the scope of duties and expectations of the parties are clear and cannot be forgotten.

Finally, I suggest that being a good steward of the property is finding opportunities to put unused or under-utilized space to productive use for the church. This could be mission use, but it could also be purely income-generating use to help support the church's operations and its future.

A parsonage might be rented out, a commercial kitchen rented, or an open space developed for some commercial use. Some churches feel daunted by the hurdles of doing so (like the necessity to pay taxes on the use and make formal legal agreements), but if done right, it is usually very much worth the effort.

I am happy to talk with any church that may need some guidance and advice about stewardship of their property, and I encourage each congregation to consider how best to take care of the place in which they worship.



At past Nā 'Aha Pae'āina, one highlight has been a Taste of the Host Island, where attendees have been treated to a potluck dinner put together by churches on the host island. Since we gathered virtually for the second time this past June, we asked churches to submit recipes of their favorite foods! More recipes may be found on the Conference website at <https://www.hcucc.org/recipes!>

### Bavarian Apple Strudel

OLAF HOECKMANN-PERCIVAL, PASTOR, WAIMEA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

- 2¾ c. all-purpose flour
- ½ c. lukewarm water
- 3½ lbs. red apples
- ½ c. sweet cream (whipping cream in a carton)
- ½ c. sour cream
- 4 oz. sweet butter (this is usually one stick)
- ¼ c. raisins
- ½ c. cinnamon sugar (sugar with a tsp. of cinnamon mixed in)
- 2 medium-sized eggs
- 1 T. of oil
- 1 pinch of salt
- wax paper
- Rolling surface at least 6 feet long
- Long baking pan

#### Instructions:

Place flour, lukewarm water, oil, eggs and salt into a mixing bowl and knead for at least ten minutes, adding flour if needed to make a sticky pasta-like dough. Divide the dough into two or three pieces and wrap tightly in plastic wrap and leave to settle. As the dough should be left for forty minutes, use this time to prepare the other ingredients. Melt the butter in a bowl in the microwave and mix in the sweet and sour creams with a whisk. Peel, core, and slice your apples into no larger than ½ inch square pieces. Mix the apples, raisins, and sugar-cinnamon together in a colander that can allow the apple juice to drain away from the mixture. After the juice starts dripping, mix the apples and raisins once more to bring down any pointed pieces of apple that might puncture the skin of the strudel. Pre-heat oven to 365° Fahrenheit.



Take a piece of wax paper and extend it at least six feet over a flat surface. Tape the ends down to hold the paper in place on the table. Roll out your sections of dough over the wax paper, making sure to use enough flour so that the dough will not stick to the paper at all. The dough should be rolled thin enough that you can read newspaper headlines through it. Spread the cream and butter mixture over the dough. Distribute the apple and raisin mixture evenly over that. Lift one end of the wax paper and roll the strudel together, making sure that the final edge of dough is rolled under the strudel. [Note: once you have spread the cream and butter mixture over the dough, you have two minutes to get the rolled strudel into the baking pan before the dough gets too wet to lift from the wax paper!]

Carefully lift the rolled strudel onto a greased baking pan. [You may wish to use foil over the baking pan to save on clean-up time later. If possible, turn one small baking pan over and set it into a larger pan and rest the strudel on the smaller pan. This will allow for the candied apple juice to flow away from the bottom of the strudel and not candy the strudel to the pan.] Bake for 50 minutes or until golden brown.

*This strudel is traditionally served in Bavaria as the main course rather than a dessert. A warm vanilla sauce or vanilla ice cream may be served over individual slices. Be sure to share the recipe with others so that they will appreciate what you went through to make the strudel!*



### Famous Fried Chicken

POHNPEIAN MINISTRY, CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

- Deli Style Fried Chicken Breading Mix (see photo; available at Chef Zone)
- Bone-in/skin on chicken thighs
- Vegetable oil



#### Instructions:

1. Wash chicken and pat dry.
2. Batter chicken in breading mix; cover and refrigerate 2 hours.
3. Heat vegetable oil to 350°.
4. Deep fry chicken pieces in oil for about 15 – 20 minutes or until crispy. (Poke chicken to check for blood. Blood means it's not fully cooked.)

## Baked Furikake Salmon

SUSAN NAKAISHI, MAKIKI CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- 1 slab of boneless, skinless Atlantic salmon or fish filet of your preference (3 pounds will feed 10 – 12 people)
- Garlic Salt
- ¼ finely minced round onion (you can also grate it or use the food processor. You can use more or less depending on how much you like onions)
- 2 cups of mayonnaise – again, more or less to taste and size of the salmon
- 1 bottle of Mishima Brand Nori/Goma furikake (no MSG)



### Instructions:

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or aluminum foil (makes clean-up easier).
2. Spray the parchment paper or aluminum foil with non-stick cooking spray.
3. Wipe the salmon down with a damp paper towel.
4. Center the salmon on the baking sheet. "Tuck" the thinner, narrower tail end under itself so it will be about as thick as the rest of the salmon.
5. Lightly sprinkle the garlic salt over the entire surface of the salmon.
6. Mix the mayonnaise and minced onion together and "frost" the salmon, making sure the entire top and sides are covered.
7. Liberally sprinkle the furikake over the mayo/onion so no mayo shows through.
8. Bake at 350 degrees for about 25 minutes. Try not to overbake. The heat will continue to cook through the salmon after you remove it from the oven. Let "set" for 15 minutes. If the salmon bakes for too long the oil from the mayo will separate and it won't be



## Chicken Adobo

LYNNE AGBALOG, MOANALUA COMMUNITY CHURCH

- 2 lbs. chicken cut into serving pieces
- 3 pieces dried bay leaves
- 8 tablespoons soy sauce
- 4 tablespoons white vinegar
- 5 cloves garlic crushed
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 3 tablespoons cooking oil
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (optional)
- 1 teaspoon whole peppercorn

### Instructions:

1. Combine chicken, soy sauce, and garlic in a large bowl. Mix well. Marinate the chicken for at least 1 hour. Note: the longer the time, the better.
2. Heat a cooking pot. Pour cooking oil.
3. When the oil is hot enough, pan-fry the marinated chicken for 2 minutes per side.
4. Pour in the remaining marinade, including garlic. Add water. Bring to a boil.
5. Add dried bay leaves and whole peppercorn. Simmer for 30 minutes or until the chicken gets tender.
6. Add vinegar. Stir and cook for 10 minutes.
7. Put in the sugar and salt. Stir and turn the heat off. Serve hot. Share and enjoy!

as attractive to serve – but it will still taste yummy!

**Hint:** If you're planning to transport this dish to church, before you begin your prep, turn the pan you'll be baking the fish in upside down on the counter. Take a piece of aluminum foil and shape it over the bottom of the pan. This will form the "cover" for transporting the salmon. Take a pair of scissors

and make several "cuts" in the top so the hot air can escape during transport and keep the furikake from getting soggy. It's also a good idea to take a little extra furikake along with you. Sometimes the surface gets bumped en route to your destination, and you'll be prepared to touch it up when you get there.

## Meet Our Synod Delegates

Eleven delegates from the Hawai'i Conference attended 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. Six delegates in the Class of 2021 were featured in the February 2021 issue of *The Friend*. In this issue we introduce the final member of the Class of 2021 and the four new members of the Class of 2023, sharing their thoughts prior to General Synod.



### Class of 2021:

**Kristen Young**  
(O'ahu Association; United Church of Christ Judd Street)

"I am looking forward to being

moved to action as a whole church, to faithfully respond to the multi-

ple crises of our time even in the midst of this ongoing coronavirus pandemic (which has led to awesome new worship experiences). I am also excited for the greater accessibility that the online medium provides! I'm also participating in the young adult program at GS!"



### Class of 2023:

**Eric Anderson**  
(Conference Council Chairperson; Church of the Holy Cross)

the future of the UCC, our Conference, and our Tri-Isle Association. I also hope to learn more about the inner workings of the UCC that will help us/me to be more involved in the future of our denomination. And last but not the least, any knowledge and information that I will gain as a Synod delegate, I hope that I can use them in serving Maui Evangelical Church better as a pastor and also in reaching out to our community in sharing our Lord Jesus Christ."

**Clyde Fujikawa**  
(Kaua'i Association; Church of the Pacific)

"I am looking forward to being able to help to bear witness to God's love in Christ in dealing with issues of injustice to help bring about unity and not division."



**Charlene Taketa** (Hawai'i Island Association; Kona Lanakila Congregational Church)

**Photo Not Available**



**Miguel Morales** (Tri-Isle Association; Maui Evangelical Church)

"Being a Synod delegate from Hawai'i, my primary goal is for

our church and myself to be able to contribute (albeit in a small way) to



**Conference Minister David Popham** completes the Hawai'i Conference delegation as an Associate Delegate.

## Neighbors in Need

Neighbors In Need (NIN) is a mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

The Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) and its witness among indigenous churches and people receives one-third of NIN funds. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through awarded grants to UCC organizations.



Grants ranging from \$1,000–\$10,000 are awarded to UCC churches and organizations for projects that address one of the following areas: the rights and freedoms of all persons, environmental justice, or economic justice, and whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

During this year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

The suggested date to receive the offering is World Communion Sunday, October 3, 2021, but churches may select another Sunday.

For more information and to apply for a grant, [visit www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin).

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.

## NCC 9-Year-Olds Receive Study Bibles

On Sunday, July 4, the Christian Nurture Team of Nuʻuanu Congregational Church celebrated the completion of another year of Sunday School with our children. During worship, the children received a set of 31 prayer cards to help them continue to develop their prayer life. They also received some goodies because...well, just because!



Aria

Ezekiel

The special feature of the celebration was the presentation of a study bible to two of our children who are 9 years old. Aria and Ezekiel were each given a Tyndale study bible with life applications. Tucked into each bible were over 40 cards of encouragement from the congregation who wrote to tell Aria and Ezekiel their favorite bible verse or story.

We wish them all well and pray that each child will grow in Christ.

# The Pandemic and Youth: Blessing, Challenge, Learning, and Looking Ahead

Children staying at home has been a blessing, not a challenge to the church—knowing that its ministry to the youth/children is being shouldered by the parents and families. And yes, it takes a village, it takes the whole church, both gathered and scattered to raise the spiritual lives of our children.

Samoan church tradition sets aside the second Sunday of October every year as Children Sunday (Lotu Tamaiti); the UCC sets aside the third Sunday in October as Children's Sabbath/ Laity Sunday. We are looking forward to October as we will restart our Sunday schools and youth programs during and after October.

—Iese Tuuao, pastor, Nanakuli First Samoan Church of Hawaii (LMS)

My biggest challenge right now is getting the youth to want to come back to church. While we do have several who have begun attending

regularly, some families are still very concerned about COVID, some kids have been cooped up and are really just enjoying their freedom and have yet to return, and some have disconnected after the year of being away.

—Sasha Kamabele, Youth Leader, Kawaiaha'o Church



Moving forward, I think the challenge will be to make sure we are



being intentional about giving our time and creating a space for our youth to engage and explore their faith. This has become all the more difficult

during a time when ministry leaders have more demands upon them and fewer resources within the church to meet them.

—Christopher Czarnecki, pastor, First United Protestant Church

## Youth Have a Par-Tee!

Youth from Kawaiaha'o Church and Central Union Church met for a special game of mini-golf at Bayview Golf Course on June 25, and used customized score sheets challenging players to something new at each hole.



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](http://hcucc.org/yz-literature).

## News from our Associations and Affiliates

### HIA Welcomes Waikoloa Marshallese Ministry

Please support with your prayers the Waikoloa Marshallese Ministry (WMM) as they seek membership in the United Church of Christ. The WMM has been gathering as church for the last seven years. Membership now numbers over 200 of all ages. They are currently worshipping at a local park in Waikoloa. Church leaders believe a formal relationship with the Hawai'i Conference UCC will broaden their ministry on Hawai'i Island.

On May 18, WMM pastor Rev. Boktir, church chairperson Rubar Zepty, and lay representative Thalia Asheel met with the Hawai'i Island Association Committee on Ministry. The HIA COM granted the WMM Church Covenant Development Status, which begins a time of mutual discernment. Hilo Coast UCC will serve as their sponsoring congregation.

Welcome to the Hawai'i Conference!

### Churches on Kaua'i Showed Their Pride

June was Pride Month, dedicated to celebrating the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community and supporting LGBTQ rights. Hanapepe United Church of Christ and Kōloa Union Church participated in the pride parade on Kaua'i on June 5, 2021. They are two of seven churches in the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ that



Koloa Union Church



Hanapepe UCC,

are officially designated as Open and Affirming (ONA). Churches that carry the official ONA designation have gone through a time of intentional study, dialogue and prayer, and have committed themselves through an Open and Affirming covenant.

### HCUCC Disaster Ministries Continues Food and PPE Distribution

Besides having a food bag distribution once a month at Pearl City Community Church on O'ahu, Danny Tengan, HCUCC Disaster Ministries Coordinator, and the Disaster Ministries team also supported the neighbor islands, including the Maui Micronesians Ministry, with funds from the UCC COVID-19 grant to enable churches to provide food for their members. The food bag distribution is supported through the generous food donations from Angel Network Charities. Food banks are having a hard time currently with declining funding grants available. Angel Network Charities has received donations from churches such as The First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawai'i and the UCC COVID-19 Disaster Ministries grant to ensure that it can support the people still in need of food.

At the monthly food bag distribution, personal protective equipment (PPE) was also given out to any church that needed surgical face masks, face shields, hand sanitizer, and sanitizing cleaners. Thermometers and oximeters were also available for distribution.



### Meet Our Association Presidents for 2021 - 2022!

- Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC): Brian Welsh
- Hawai'i Island Association: George Winchell
- Kaua'i Association: Phoebe Eng
- O'ahu Association: Wayne Ibara
- Tri-Isle Association: James Aaron

Thank you for your commitment to serving your respective associations and the Hawai'i Conference!

# Conference News and Highlights

Go to [www.hcucc.org](http://www.hcucc.org) to learn more about these and many more stories from around the Conference.



## Pastoral Transitions

**Jeff Glass** began his ministry as Intentional Interim Minister of Hoku-  
loa United Church

of Christ on January 20, 2021.

## Sarah Rentzel

**Jones** concluded her ministry as Chaplain at Wilcox Hospital on Kaua'i on April 2. She previously served as pastor of Lāna'i Union Church and as an Associate Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference. She now serves as an Associate Conference Minister with the Tri-Conference



Ministries of Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, UCC.

**Carol "Nan" Riddle** began her ministry as Pastor of Waialua United



Church of Christ on May 1.

## Ecclesiastical Council

**Irene Willis Hassan** was approved for ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ by the O'ahu Association on May 23, 2021, pending a call. She has accepted an offer to serve in the UCC national setting as the Minister for Refugee and Migration Services in Wider Church Ministries. Her last Sunday with Ka Hana O Ke Akua Church in Waianae was June 26.



## Ordination and Installations

**David Popham** was formally installed as the Conference Minis-

ter of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ on Tuesday, June 15, during a virtual service as part of the



199th 'Aha Pae'āina. We look forward to continuing in ministry together with David!

**Jonathon Carr** was approved for ordination at his virtual Ecclesiastical Council on March 23 and was ordained and installed as Pastor of Lihue Christian Church on June 27 by the Kaua'i Association.



## Conference Office Transitions

**Nan Katsuda** began serving as the Chief Financial Officer for the Hawai'i Conference Foundation on July 12. In addition to her duties for the Foundation, she will provide accounting services for the Hawai'i Conference. Nan is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and has over 25 years of experience in accounting and finance. You can reach Nan at [nkatsuda@hcucc.org](mailto:nkatsuda@hcucc.org) or 808-791-5628. Please join the staff in welcoming Nan!



A big Mahalo also goes out to **Janice China**, who stepped in to serve as the Interim Controller from April 27-July 16.

## Conference Calendar of Events

### JULY 24

Stewardship for the 21st Century Workshop: Kaua'i

### JULY 31

Stewardship for the 21st Century Workshop: O'ahu

State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches

### AUGUST 7

Stewardship for the 21st Century Workshop: Maui

### AUGUST 14

Stewardship for the 21st Century Workshop: Hawai'i Island

### AUGUST 20

Admissions Day (Office Closed)

### AUGUST 28

Adaptive Church Leadership in the 21st Century: Half-day retreat

### SEPTEMBER 6

Labor Day (Office Closed)

## In Memory: Lawrence Corbett



**Lawrence Corbett, 77**, retired pastor, passed away on December 22, 2020. He served as Senior Pastor of Central

Union Church in Honolulu from 2007 to 2011. He was the founding pastor and pastor emeritus of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, AZ. Rev. Dr. Corbett is survived by his wife, Meredyth; a son, Matthew; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

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

July 2021

LIVE ALOHA

## A Taste of the 'Aha 2006

When Church of the Holy Cross UCC hosted the 184th 'Aha Pae'āina in 2006, Tommy and Amy Shiroma of Church of the Holy Cross had a huuuuggggge cow (according to Edith Kawai) butchered and donated to be used for the 'Aha. The Shiromas were landlords of Maulili Dickson's mother. Maulili and his wife Edith Kawai were members of Imiola Church. Maulili offered to help Holy Cross with the cooking, partly because the Shiromas took good care of Maulili's mother, so he brought his big cattle trailer and turned it into another kitchen, and he cooked hekka, stew, and hamburgers for the various meals. A side, side story: Maulili was also a cook on one of the Hokulea's voyages to Tahiti.

*[As remembered and shared by Lori Yamashiro]*



Edie Kawai and Maulili Dickson



Maulili and Woody Kita