

## Miloli'i Church Helps Manage Dengue Outbreak

Last December, the small South Kona fishing village of Miloli'i was closed to the public after being declared a hotspot for dengue fever. Thanks to efforts by Hau'oli Kamana'o Church, officials were able to eradicate the outbreak before widespread transmission occurred.



*The state Department of Land and Natural Resources closed Miloli'i Beach Park in response to illness and heavy mosquito activity in the area.*

"When the government declared us a hotspot, we were shocked," said Kaimi Kaupiko, the church's moderator. "We had a few cases of sick people who didn't know what they had,

and a youth in our church was later hospitalized."

Like other mosquito-borne diseases, dengue flourishes in areas abundant with standing water. Because families in Miloli'i rely on rainwater catchment systems, their homes became prime breeding grounds for infected vectors.

Before authorities could inspect and treat catchment tanks, families had to sign waivers allowing entomologists to spray their properties with powerful pesticides. Some initially felt reluctant to consent.

"It was difficult to enter into that community," said Becky Kanenaka, Hawai'i State Department of Health virology unit

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## Arcadia Program Lets Seniors Live Longer at Home

With aging comes some common fears: that we will fall and become unable to walk, that we will find ourselves unable to drive and handle our own errands. And in Hawai'i, there is also the fear that adult children will move away or move parents away from the islands as they grow older and need more help.

But Arcadia, known for its continuing care retirement communities, Arcadia and 15 Craigside, is doing something different. It is called Arcadia at Home. Put simply, it is a new kind of stay-at-home-in-Hawai'i insurance policy.

Arcadia at Home is a membership plan that enables seniors to become associated with Arcadia and 15 Craigside before they need the full array of services those complexes provide. Seniors can immediately begin to enjoy all the amenities, such as meals in the dining room, concerts and lectures, ukulele lessons, heated pool and group outings, including shopping excursions. In other words, the chance to make friends and have fun.

And if something should happen, the program provides a personal emergency response system and overnight care five times per year.

Longer-term, members also have guaranteed access to skilled nursing care at Arcadia or 15 Craigside, when and if it is needed. In the meantime, members get to remain at home, in their own neighborhoods, with all their treasured possessions and memories.

"Many of these people have beautiful homes with magnificent vistas," said Philip Isaacs, corporate outreach coordinator for Arcadia at Home. "These are things that aren't easily left behind."

Arcadia at Home was launched last year and is part of a growing trend, in Hawai'i especially, to address the needs of a rapidly growing senior population. Current members include Royal and Aurora Fruehling, long-time Manoa residents. Royal was a professor of education at the University of Hawai'i, and Aurora was the winner of the Amanda DuPont Service award in 2014 for her lifelong community volunteerism.

The cost is \$60,000 for an individual or \$90,000 for a couple, plus a monthly fee of \$475 for an individual or \$650 for a couple. The monthly fee also includes access to the clinic and

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## Compassion in Limbo

by Charles C. Buck, Conference Minister

What if you discover that the home you've known was never your home to begin with?

That's the situation for tens of thousands in the U.S. As foreign-born children adopted between the 1950s and 80s, they were granted residency but not automatic citizenship when they arrived in America, their adoptive parents unaware that they needed to apply for naturalization.



Although they grew up in America, it was not until they were adults, looking for jobs or applying for driver's licenses and passports, that they learned the truth. Worse, some were potentially deportable, such as one man, adopted from Korea at 10 and arrested as an adult on a drug charge.

After serving a prison sentence, he was deported to South Korea, where he did not speak the language. "The first week, I was living on the street underneath a bridge." He now works for a dollar store in Seoul, unable to return to the United States even on a South Korean passport. "I'm banned for life—that's what the judge said," he said. "I have my family there, my friends, I went to school, I went to college. What more American can you get?" (*The Washington Post*, September 2, 2016).

On-line comments to this story have run universally in favor of granting immediate citizenship, no questions asked. After all, they were kids. It wasn't their fault. Fortunately for them, proposed legislation would address their plight.

Unfortunately, there is much less hope for many others around the world who live in a similar limbo, without nation or citizenship, literally with no place to call home. These are refugees, bombed out of houses, fleeing war and bloodshed. They are also migrants, desperately escaping violence, oppression or poverty. For these, virtually invisible to the rest of the world, there is no hope of legislation or intervention to rescue them.

It was temporarily heartwarming to see the "Refugee Team" competing at the Summer Olympics in Rio last August. Competing under the flag of the International Olympic Committee, these six men and four women had all fled conflicts in their home countries of Syria, Congo, Ethiopia and South Sudan. The president of the IOC said,

These refugees have no home, no team, no flag, no national anthem. We will offer them a home in the Olympic Village, together with all the athletes of the world. The Olympic anthem will be played in their honor, and the Olympic flag

will lead them into the Olympic Stadium....These refugee athletes will show the world that despite the unimaginable tragedies that they have faced, anyone can contribute to society through their talent, skills, and strength of the human spirit" (*The New Yorker*, August 2, 2016).

But now, post-Olympics, they have rejoined fellow refugees and still lack nation and home. What will be remembered of them and their plight?

To have neither home nor country, neither citizenship nor rights—that is, to have utterly nothing that identifies us—must be a terrifying existence, both practically and existentially, a hellish limbo that most of us can only ever imagine. Yet this is the living reality for many persons around the world, even in the U.S.

So horrible is this state of being that it is a recurrent theme in the Bible. There are many stories of those who are cast out (Ishmael, Jacob), forced to become refugees (Hebrews), and banished into exile (Elijah in the wilderness, Judahites in Babylon). And even though they all appear to be heroic tales of courage in the face of adversity, they actually serve more as poignant reminders of where they came from. For example, as the Hebrews are about to enter the land that will become their home and nation, God tells them to remember for themselves that:

A wandering Aramean was my ancestor. He went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous (Deuteronomy 26:5).

This was no invitation to be proud of themselves, but to connect with their own stories of alienation in themselves or their ancestors; to remember those who were alien, immigrant, poor, homeless, nameless—all those who were likely to be forgotten or forsaken by those with wealth, power, privilege and prestige. And in so doing, they would hear God's call to respond with acts of compassion.

To practice compassion for the alien and alienated among us has been God's constant call for us as individuals and as the church. More than ever, in these days when our politics and social policies turn xenophobic and threaten to condemn and shut out the alien, we need only remember how we ourselves, or our ancestors, or even our adopted children were once aliens, and yet were loved and favored by God. Only by remembering this and acting with compassion is there hope for those living in limbo.



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## Youth Are Inspired, and Inspire, at National Gathering

Forty-two youth and fifteen adults from five of the Hawaiian islands traveled to the United Church of Christ's National Youth Event (NYE) in Florida at the Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World (see photos on page 4). This was also the first NYE planned in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which sent over three hundred youth.

Over three thousand young people convened for four days of worship, workshops, service, and fun. Twice each day, attendees gathered in a cavernous hall to praise God in song and prayer and to hear from inspiring speakers, many of whom were youth doing amazing work on causes God had inspired them to address. Youth were challenged to live out the NYE theme, "BELIEVE: We're inviting you to believe that God calls you to be leaders of faith and leaders of change—not tomorrow, not someday, not eventually, but today!"

Among the speakers at NYE were Sean Russell, whose "Stow It—Don't Throw It" project addresses disposal of fishing line in a way that is environmentally safe and clean; Michelle Higgins, a #BlackLivesMatter activist; Aidan Hornaday of Aidan Cares, an organization he founded to help promote and raise money for other nonprofits; Trisha Prabhu, whose "ReThink Words" smartphone application helps prevent cyberbullying; and Hadiqa Bashir, winner of the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award for working to end the practice of child marriage in her native country of Pakistan.



The youth from Hawai'i were energized and inspired by the speakers they heard, and in turn had the opportunity to inspire and "Spread a Little Aloha" at one morning worship service through dance and song. Youth from Pearl City Community Church performed two liturgical hulas, and all the youth sang "Spread a Little Aloha" and the Doxology in Hawaiian. Many who attended NYE from all over the country praised the youth for their poise and generous, loving spirit!

Youth ended their week with a full day at the Disney parks on Friday before catching very early morning flights the next day to get home in time for the start of school on Monday! As tired as they were, all agreed that months of planning, fundraising and coordinating were worth the experience of a lifetime.

## Church Consultant Leads Conference Assessment

Following on a commitment at the last 'Aha Pae'aina to evaluate the mission and ministry of the Hawai'i Conference, the Conference Council approved the hiring of a consultant to lead an assessment process.

Alan Oliver of Sun Valley, Idaho, was selected for his long experience in church and consulting work. The Council's executive committee, which was authorized by the Council to make the final selection, chose Al, as he prefers to be called, for his extensive experience in leading planning studies and capital campaigns for fourteen different denominations around the U.S.



The assessment process, which will start in November and conclude in early March with a report to the Conference Council and Foundation Trustees, will involve personal interviews and focus group discussions throughout the islands. At the time of this writing, the exact schedule of interviews and focus groups was being determined, and announcements of times and locations for focus group meetings will be made during the month of October. All persons with interest throughout the Conference are encouraged to attend a focus group meeting that works for them.

Al Oliver is a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister and has over thirty years of pastoral and church consultation experience. For fifteen years, he was senior pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood in Ketchum, Idaho. As a consultant, he directed planning studies for denominations and church associations, as well as mission organizations and seminaries. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in social work and psychology from the University of Washington, and earned the Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary.

The assessment will test case statements of missional initiatives from the Conference's four missional teams and the Hawai'i Conference Foundation. The case statements will be used to test views of the Conference's effectiveness in fulfilling its mission, as well as to bring out the desires and dreams that participants have for the Conference.

Interviews and focus groups will be conducted on two islands in November, and then two more islands in January 2017. In February, Al will prepare a report of his findings and present them to the Council in early March.

The Council's goal is to use the results from the assessment report to develop a strategic plan for the Conference and the Foundation. The hope is to present a proposal for a strategic plan for discussion and approval at the 'Aha Pae'aina, the Conference's annual meeting, in June 2017.



# Faces around the Conference

The Friend

## Hawai'i Youth Attend National Youth Event in Orlando, Florida





## Conference Staffs Meet, Learn and Share

The office staff of eight western United Church of Christ conferences, including Hawai'i, met September 6-8 at the Hawai'i Conference Office. The gathering, believed to be the first of its kind in the Western Region of conferences, was facilitated by Edith Guffey, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference Minister and former Associate General Minister of the UCC.

Thirty-two persons, including thirteen from Hawai'i, found ways to strengthen their work and ministries through peer learning, sharing of information and resources, and building a network within the region.

Topics of discussion were gleaned from results of a survey completed by administrative staff prior to the gathering. Peer learning sessions covered essential areas such as communications (the most requested topic), search and call, file and record keeping, finances, volunteer management, conflict resolution and Data Hub/Yearbook management.

At the end, there was resounding sentiment that the gathering provided concrete knowledge and resources that will improve overall ministries. Rich and fruitful discussion led to ideas for improvements and efficiencies, as well as ways to partner and collaborate across the conferences to better serve local churches.



*Thirty-two staff from eight Western Conferences met in Hawai'i in September.*

"This has answered a lot of questions for things that were taking up a lot of my time," commented a participant from the Southwest Conference. "This gathering has been incredibly helpful."

"I feel like I'm not in the ocean of UCC by myself now," said another participant. "We may not be in the same boat [conference], but we're all connected and moving in the same direction."

Takeaways from the event included:

- Streamlined procedures for pastoral transfers between conferences
- Possible cross-conference collaboration for accounting services

- Improved efficiency in assisting churches in pastoral transition
- Methods for preserving institutional knowledge and digitizing records
- Shared resources for event registration and promotion
- Suggested platforms for video conferencing
- Ideas for improvements to the Data Hub
- Effective ways to promote Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

"Having eight conferences come to a shared understanding of the transfer of pastoral standing is a dream come true," said Diane Weible, Conference Minister of the Northern California Nevada Conference.



*Edith Guffey, facilitates the gathering.*

## resource List

### Christmas Fund Makes Difference in Lives

Gifts to the Christmas Fund make a critical difference in the lives of people who have faithfully served the church.

One of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ, the fund provides pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to families of clergy and lay employees, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.

This year, Christmas thank-you checks will be distributed to approximately 454 people, totaling \$183,200. More than \$1,500,000 in annuity supplementation, \$452,000 in health premium supplementation and \$91,000 in emergency grants were provided in 2015.

Among 5,000 UCC congregations, Lahuikalanani Ka'anapali, Waioli Hui'ia and Koloa Union Churches were ranked among the top ten per capita givers in 2015. Central Union Church was second in total overall giving, and Hawai'i churches gave a total of \$50,684.

Churches are encouraged to receive the Christmas Fund offering during Advent, but donations can be made at any time. Visit [www.pbucc.org](http://www.pbucc.org) for more information.

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](http://www.ucc.org/news).

## UCC leaders speak out in opposition to Dakota Access pipeline

Tribal leaders who traveled by bus from the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation in North Dakota to a U.S. District courthouse in Washington, D.C., were joined by advocates from the United Church of Christ in a public demonstration of solidarity against the Dakota Access pipeline. The Tribe lawsuit challenges a decision by the Army Corps of Engineers that approved construction of the pipeline along reservation lands and under their sole water source, the Missouri River. The Tribe contends that the Corps has failed to follow the laws—risking leaks or breaks under the river and failing to protect their ancestral and sacred sites. Although a September 9 federal court decision denied the Tribe's request for an injunction to stop construction, the U.S. government is asking the Texas-based Energy Transfer Corporation to pause construction "until the Army can decide if it needs to reconsider its previous decision under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or other federal laws."



## Churches Gather to Advocate for Peace in Israel-Palestine



In anticipation of the fiftieth year of the state of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, more than sixty representatives of a dozen churches and human rights organizations from around the world—including the United Church of Christ—gathered in Washington, D.C. in September. At a National and World Council of Churches consultation, participants assessed the role that churches have played in the struggle for peace in the Middle East, and repeated their call to the Israeli government to end its occupation of the Palestinian territories, calling for the United States to adopt a neutral position in hopes that Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace as equals.

The UCC is among a handful of churches that has called for divestment and boycott of companies profiting from the Israeli occupation, with the General Synod adopting a resolution in 2015 that highlights education, non-violent action and interfaith dialogue as strategies that the denomination can pursue toward a just peace in the conflict.

## UCC Selects New CFO

Stephen Jones has been hired to serve as Chief Financial Officer for the UCC national setting. Jones brings more than twenty-five years of senior leadership experience in both private industry and the non-profit sector to his new position. Prior to coming to the UCC, Jones served as president and CFO of Cambridge Educational, as well as CFO for West Virginia Wesleyan College and Hiram College. He has already identified some areas where he hopes to make improvements. "We want to make better use of technology," he said, "and I've identified some processes and procedures we can fine tune."



## Cornerstone Fund CEO announces retirement

Gordon Gilles is retiring as president and CEO of the Cornerstone Fund, concluding 21 years of service to that ministry of the UCC. Gilles is stepping down October 2 and will serve as president and CEO emeritus during an October-to-December transition period as his successor assumes the leadership of the fund. Then he and his spouse head for the Carolina beaches to build their retirement home. The Cornerstone Fund provides real estate-secured loans that help congregations repair, renovate, expand and improve accessibility to buildings, as well as refinance real estate debt.

## It's time to have an open conversation about White Privilege

On September 1, the UCC launched "White Privilege: Let's Talk," an adult education curriculum designed to invite members to engage in



safe, meaningful, substantive and bold conversations on race. John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President, is one of the authors and has a doctoral degree in White Privilege. He promised to create this curriculum as one of his first initiatives in office, noting that the "United Church of Christ, in its long history, has preached the hard truths about social justice to a world often unwilling and unready to hear those truths. When we preach the gospel faithfully, we often anger and disrupt the comfort people have grown accustomed to living with." The UCC curriculum is available for download, free of charge, at <http://privilege.uccpages.org>.



*(Dengue, continued from page 1)*

supervisor. “We needed to approach people in a way that wouldn’t come across as being authoritative, but as a good neighbor coming in to help.”

That is when Becky, a member of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church on O‘ahu, reached out to the Hawai‘i Conference for help, which put her in touch with Kaimi, who in turn helped galvanize community support to fight the outbreak.

With assistance from a local nonprofit, Hau‘oli Kamana‘o Church raised over \$5,000 through a gofundme.com account to distribute mosquito nets, DEET coils and other mosquito repellents throughout Miloli‘i. Educational classes for youth were held at the church in conjunction with the Department of Health.

“We felt like it was a spiritual battle, and we were not going to let this bring our community down,” said Kaimi. “A lot of us were praying to protect our families and anyone who was sick or affected.”

A total of ten Miloli‘i residents, including at least one member of Hau‘oli Kamana‘o Church, are believed to have contracted dengue, said Kaimi. The outbreak, which at one point had spread island wide, totaled 261 confirmed cases. On March 11, Miloli‘i reopened to the public.

Becky attributes eradicating dengue from Miloli‘i in a timely fashion to getting in touch with church leaders. “It allowed the Department of Health to enter an area they probably would not have had access to otherwise,” she said. “The outbreak could have gone on longer.”

Charles Kaupiko, a licensed minister of Hau‘oli Kamana‘o Church, said, “The church has always been a big player in helping the community, and we wanted to look after the safety and well being of everyone. We basically set the example of what needed to be done, which was to heed the advice of authorities.”

As a proactive measure, churches are encouraged to partner with the Department of Health to educate parishioners about preventing the transmission of diseases such as dengue, Zika virus and hepatitis A. Disease control experts can deliver information in a congregational setting, said Becky.

“Churches can be a great conduit for disseminating information,” she said. “Whether it is a vector-borne disease like dengue or a communicable disease passed person to person, being able to disseminate information quickly within a community is really important. Miloli‘i is a perfect example.”

**T**hanks 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‘uanu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96817.



## Highlights from the Website

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

### Services of Installation

**Alan Patadlas** was installed as Pastor of Honolulu Cosmopolitan UCC on Sunday, September 4.

**Eric Anderson** was installed as Pastor of Church of the Holy Cross (Hilo) on Saturday, September 10.

### Pastoral Changes

**John Lee**, Associate Pastor of First Chinese Church of Christ, resigned on Sunday, August 7.

**Mary Paik** concluded her ministry at Nu‘uanu Congregational Church after eight years of service. Her last Sunday was August 21.

**James Fung** ended as Interim Minister of Church of the Crossroads. His last Sunday was September 11.

**Napua Burke** retired as Pastor of the Topside Moloka‘i churches on September 25.

### **In Memory: Dana Ka‘ohelauli‘i**

Dana Ka‘ohelauli‘i, 64, died September 10 at Straub Hospital after long illness. Dana was licensed minister of Ohana Ni‘ihau O Waimea Church on Kaua‘i. Memorial service was held on September 24.

*(Arcadia, continued from page 1)*

four hours of personalized consultation services each month, arranged by a skilled elder-care specialist.

This is less expensive than other programs that require residents to move into the retirement communities. The entrance fee for residence at 15 Craigside, for example, which also offers guaranteed lifetime care, ranges from \$176,100 to \$429,000.

The program is being limited to 150 members. Prospective members, who must be at least 62 years of age to qualify, need to apply for admission. “We want to ensure we have enough beds, if necessary,” Isaacs said.



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## ***Around the Conference***

### **Conference Calendar of Events**

October 9-12	Fall Youth Camp
October 14-15	AHEC 'Aha Halawai
October 15	O'ahu 'Aha Mokupuni
October 22	Conference Council and Foundation Trustees
October 28-29	State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches Retreat
November 6	Kaua'i 'Aha Mokupuni
November 19	Hawai'i Island 'Aha Mokupuni
November 24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)

### **Tips to Avoid Preaching Mistakes**

Frank A. Thomas, Director of the Academy of Preaching and Celebration at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, outlines the five most common preaching mistakes in a series of short videos (<http://tinyurl.com/preaching-mistakes>). Following are summaries of his tips:

1. Lack of structure: Sermons should be organized into four parts (situation, complication, resolution and celebration).
2. The close and celebration are not connected to the sermon: If the celebratory close is disconnected from the sermon, it effectively erases the message.
3. Too much bad news in the sermon: Sermons should contain no more than thirty percent bad news, which should be delivered early.
4. Biblical text is not the central focus of the sermon: Focus your message around a single biblical text.
5. Preachers only read the Bible to develop sermons: Read the Bible to cultivate your spiritual life. As we grow spiritually, our sermons grow.