

## Hawai'i Island Recovering from Fire and Flood

BY ERIC ANDERSON,  
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

In August, the liquid rock fountains subsided within the spatter cone newly risen in the Leilani Estates subdivision. The massive lava river crusted over its nine-mile course to the sea. By mid-September, steam plumes ceased to blossom at the ocean's edge, but the official count of houses destroyed topped 700.

As the lava cooled, Hurricane Lane passed south of the Big Island, turned north, and slowed. Though the massive storm's center never made landfall, it brought four days of heavy rain. The 52.02 inches measured surpassed previous tropical storms. Hilo's flooding control systems limited the impact—water spread across the bayfront parks rather than through populated neighborhoods—but three more families lost their homes, and 146 houses and business suffered at least minor damage in Hawai'i County.



The island's churches stepped in to help their members, friends, and neighbors. Pu'ula United Church of Christ, Kalapana Mauna Kea Church, and Haili Congregational Church embraced those whose homes were threatened, then lost or cut off by the lava flows. They offered one another temporary shelter and spiritual

support. First United Protestant Church UCC in Hilo also adopted displaced families in the first days of the eruption.

For weeks, worshipers could not gather at 'Opihikao Congregational Church, as county officials closed

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## MOM 2018: A Preview

BY ELEANORE ATHERTON CHONG, CO-CHAIR, THE HABAKKUK GROUP

*I will stand at my watchpost to see what the LORD will say. Then the LORD answered and said, "Write the vision; make it plain so a runner may read it. For there is still a vision."*

(Habakkuk 2:1-3)

The **Manual on Ministry 2018** (MOM), to be published in November, addresses the needs of the church in the 21st Century. It is a living guide for Committees on Ministry (sometimes known as Church and Ministry Committees) as they authorize and oversee ministers and churches of the United Church of



Christ. It replaces the present MOM written in 1986 and last revised in 2002.

MOM takes into account the Ministry Issues

Pronouncement of the 2005 General Synod which called for the adoption of "multiple paths" to ordained ministry. It affirms changes in vocabulary used by Committees on Ministry since 2002.

A new designation, Member In Discernment (MID), replaces what was formerly called a Student In

[\*continued on page 3\*](#)

## One in Christ

BY GABRIELLE CHAVEZ,  
INTERIM CONFERENCE MINISTER

The last time all the conference ministers met in Cleveland, we talked and prayed about the rise of angry divisiveness rending our society and threatening to tear apart some of our churches. Is there a unifying word of faith the UCC can hold to in this antisocial tsunami of mutual anathema, any solid theological ground to stand on to speak our truths in love?

Let's start by remembering "The Three Great Loves"—"love of God, love of neighbor, and love of creation"—adopted to guide the national UCC strategic mission several years ago. In Hawai'i, we echo this in the words of our own new mission statement: Sent forth by the Spirit, walking humbly in Christ's footsteps, we seek peace, justice and the renewal of all creation.

While these basic affirmations, both biblical and trinitarian, will resonate in every Christian heart, is there something more we can witness to in our faith experience as the UCC



Connecticut Conference Minister, suggested that it might help to "exegete" (or explain) the name of our denomination, The United Church of Christ. I love that idea, so here's my effort to exegete the UCC name.

**United:** This is a keynote energy in the UCC's very DNA as four previously separated historic national denominations left their institutional pasts behind to come together to create the United Church of Christ. UCC members and church bodies are committed to living into what it takes to answer Christ's prayer "That they all may be one," our founding motto.

**Church:** UCC members dedicate their lives to the purposes and work of Christ by being joined to the

that defines our distinctive spiritual gift to the body of Christ? Something Christians on all sides of the political spectrum can agree with?

Kent Siladi,

Body of Christ—or church—through the life-transforming sacrament of baptism. We are part of the global church composed of all who have chosen the way of Christ, joined in one great body with many diverse members.

**Of Christ:** Christ is the only reason for our church, and Christ's purposes and work described in the New Testament, are our purpose and work. UCC members aim to be "of Christ" in every thought, word, and deed. Being "of Christ" defines our personal and church life at every level. When we are not "of Christ" (and this is obvious to any witness) we seek forgiveness, grace, and reconciliation.

As expressed in our name, I believe the UCC's special call and gift as a denomination of the wider Body of Christ is to demonstrate the unity in the diversity of the Body by holding ourselves to the standard of being "of Christ."

How might you express the unifying core of our UCC DNA? As we boldly speak our common faith in the noise of the news, we are realizing our Conference vision to become "One 'ohana, a unified, radiant and transforming Body of Christ."

One 'ohana in Christ with you,  
*Gabrielle*

### Recovering, continued from page 1

access to the area. With the eruption's pause, members have returned to praise God in their church with their pastor, Harriet Daog.

Brian Welsh of Haili Church and Eric Anderson of Church of the Holy Cross UCC took active roles in the Faith Leaders Hui, an ad hoc group coordinating congregations' response to the crisis. At Kalapana Mauna Kea, members provided laundry services for evacuees. As large aid organizations such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army sought volunteers, they found many among the interfaith community and UCC congregations.

The big shelters have now closed, and the national organizations have ceased their operations, but the needs remain. Kalapana Mauna Kea will

shortly resume its regular meal program, said Michael Warren. Though some residents of Leilani and Kapoho have left the island, hundreds of households still lack homes. New transitional shelters have sprung up. Church of the Holy Cross has joined those providing meals at Hale Iki in Hawaiian Paradise Park and Sacred Heart in Pahoa. Other UCC churches are considering how they may assist with the ongoing recovery and the pre-existing needs that never went away.

The process will continue for years. Hawai'i County simply does not have hundreds of available residences. Businesses will need new structures. Farms and orchards will need to be replanted, and many of them in a new location. As these new neighborhoods take shape, the UCC churches of the island will be there to serve faithfully.



God  
is still  
speaking



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# “Go Bag” Is a Must

BY DANNY TENGAN, HAWAI'I CONFERENCE DISASTER COORDINATOR

Recent disasters are a fresh reminder that one can strike at any time and evacuation may occur without warning. People may not have time to gather everything needed. Be prepared with a “go bag” for every member of the family including pets. It can be a daunting task to gather supplies to last 14 days, so why not start with a “go bag” for up to 72 hours or more?

A “go bag” is a packed bag or case to grab on the way out the door that will help keep a family comfortable in the coming hours and days. Pack a separate “go bag” for every household member and keep them stored in the same location.

Residents of the recent Marco Polo Condominium fire evacuated from their homes, and some have never returned. Many took nothing with them as they hurriedly left and had to depend on handouts and donations while staying in a shelter or with relatives and friends.

## “Go Bag” Suggestions

### Basic electronics

Pack an extra phone charger in case there is electricity, and a portable battery pack if not. Also stash a long-lasting LED flashlight and a small hand-cranked or battery-operated AM/FM radio (with extra batteries).

### Personal needs

List every toiletry in daily use, then buy a travel-size version of each. Pack backup eyeglasses, as well as a first-aid kit, baby wipes and a multipurpose tool.

### Clothing

Pack a few days' worth, including clothes that can be layered, plus lightweight rain gear and slippers.

### Medications

Pack about five days' worth of each prescription, which should last until a pharmacy opens. If larger items, such as an oxygen tank, are needed, have a portable version.



### Sleeping gear

Remember, a shelter has no amenities; bring everything that may be needed, including a cot or air mattress, light blanket, and small pillow.

### The perfect bag

Think small and portable. A backpack is ideal, but a lightweight suitcase with wheels will also do.

### Paperwork

Fill a zip-top waterproof bag with photocopies of important documents: birth certificate; driver's license; Social Security and Medicare cards; power of attorney and will; any marriage, adoption or naturalization certificates; proof of address; insurance, medical and immunization records; and information about credit and ATM cards.

### Food and drink

Bottled water or a water flask is essential. Granola or energy bars are great because they are small and filling, and they come in a variety of flavors. Remember, a shelter may not be feeding evacuees.

### Cash

In addition to enough money for a few days, include small bills and a roll of quarters to buy something out of a vending machine without having to ask equally desperate strangers for change.

The main thing is to prepare now. It will be too late when an emergency happens if there has been no planning or “go bag.” The next step is to start preparing a 14-day emergency kit.

MOM 2018, continued from page 1

Care. The MID process has been refined to enable Committees on Ministry (COMs) to set milestones and measurable outcomes for those seeking ordination. COMs are encouraged to use the “Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ.” These “Marks” are a tool created to expand the UCC definitions of learnedness and leadership in authorized ministry and to emphasize excellence in ministerial formation.

Another new designation is that of Lay Ministerial Standing which will replace the designation of Licensed Minister. LMS is a *temporary, accountable covenantal relationship* among the Association, the individual member, and a Local Church. Lay Ministers are charged with particular roles and tasks in which they are in service to, or on behalf of, a *particular congregation*. COMs, along with the Lay Minister and the Local Church should, during the Lay Minister's service, be in discernment together as to whether the Lay Minister's call by the Holy Spirit is to a life of ministerial leadership as an Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ. COMs are encouraged to cease granting Licensed Minister Standing and to grant Lay Minister Standing when present licenses come up for renewal.

COMs are also urged to cease granting Commissioned Minister Standing. Those who presently hold such standing will continue to be recognized.

The MOM is not a document that needs General Synod approval to go into effect. (The 2021 General Synod will, however, be asked to revise the UCC Constitution and Bylaws to adequately reflect designations outlined in the new MOM.) It is the use of MOM by

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## Happenings Around the Conference



Ukulele choir performs at Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church



Friends enjoy Kaumakapili Church's annual luau



Friends support the Pohnpei Ministry at Central Union Church



Worship at Hau'ula Congregational Church



Pohnpei Ministry celebration



Huaka'i Mission House Event



Waiola Church's 195th Anniversary celebration



Installation of Alex Tychkin at Lihu'e United Church



Gabrielle Chavez guest preaching at Nu'uaniu Congregational Church



Conference staff at Alex Tychkin's installation



Douglas and Yulanda Wooten at his installation



Interfaith service at 'Iolani Palace honoring Queen Lili'uokalani



## Conference Minister Search Committee Update

BY ELWOOD KITA, CHAIRPERSON

The Conference Minister Search committee is working diligently in assessing Conference Minister applications. We pray together, have honest discussions and sharing together, and laugh together enjoying each other's personality and working company. The UCC website position posting generated a good selection of Conference Minister candidates. There were varying backgrounds with many having Conference-level work experience. Target dates for activities leading to the 2019 'Aha Pae'aina have been identified and the committee is progressing on schedule.

### Completed to date:

- Developed the posting for UCC website recruitment (Posted June - August)
- Received applications up to September 5

- Vetted applications to focus on four leading candidates
- Formalized a reference check information sheet to include specific Hawai'i concerns

### Planned activities for the next four months:

- Complete extended reference checks
- Committee review of reference data to prepare for candidate interviews
- Formalize an interview format and schedule internet-based interviews
- Complete initial candidates interviews in January 2019.

The committee's time together has nourished our relationships and appreciation for the bodies we represent. Members extend their thanks to the five associations and the Conference Council for entrusting us with this awesome task.

### MOM 2018, continued from page 3

Committees on Ministry that will give MOM its authority.

As has always been true in the United Church of Christ, local adaptations of MOM are inevitable. However, we are best served by every COM's efforts to do its work faithfully within the guidelines of the MOM 2018.

MOM 2018 represents four years of work of the Habakkuk Group, a 17-member committee representing

the breadth in life experience, theological and ecclesial perspective, church roles, and voice from across the church. Its work was supported by the Ministerial Excellence Support and Authorization (MESA) Team of the national offices of the United Church of Christ.

*Eleanore (Elly) Chong, a member of Central Union Church, was chosen in March 2014 for the Habakkuk Group, which recently completed its work. Mahalo, Elly, for your leadership!*

mission *Offering*

## Support the Christmas Fund Offering

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

Formerly known as the Veterans of the Cross offering, the fund is administered by the UCC Pension Boards and provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.

"The Light Is Surely Coming," is the theme for this year's offering, which churches are invited to receive the Sunday before Christmas, but donations may be made at any time. Visit [www.pbucc.org](http://www.pbucc.org) for more information.

## UCC, Puerto Rico Church Move Toward Full Communion

The United Church of Christ and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR) are renewing their relationship and taking steps toward a Full Communion agreement. Several representatives of the UCC traveled to Puerto Rico in September, visiting churches and meeting with the Rev. Edward Rivera, IEUPR general pastor. The IEUPR separated from the UCC following the 2005 General Synod, stating that the longing for autonomy was central to its decision to leave the UCC. A full communion agreement would allow



both churches to recognize each other's sacraments and the ordination of ministers, granting ministers the privilege to be called by congregations of either denomination. This would be the UCC's fifth full communion agreement.

*News briefs are adapted from UCC News, the online news portal for the United Church of Christ. For details on this and other stories, visit [www.ucc.org/news](http://www.ucc.org/news).*

## New Faces Around the Conference Office

**Danny Tengan**, member of Hawai'i Kai UCC, has been appointed as the volunteer Hawai'i Conference Disaster



Coordinator. He will also act as a liaison for the Conference with the national UCC Disaster Ministries team. With his wealth of experience and knowledge, he is eager to help our churches be both prepared and responsive in the wake of disasters and is offering Disaster Preparedness/Awareness training for churches around the Conference. If your church is interested in sponsoring a training in your church or association, please contact Gabrielle Chavez in the HCUCU Office.

**Tracy Barnowe** joined the Conference Staff as a temporary full-time Minister for Church Vitality



on September 10. She comes to us from the Northern California-Nevada Conference where she most recently served as pastor at First Congregational Church in San Rafael, California. Tracy is eager to get to know all the churches in the Conference and welcomes opportunities to visit and talk story with congregations. Her email address is [tbarnowe@hcucc.org](mailto:tbarnowe@hcucc.org) and she can be reached at 510-703-0108.

**Bertman Lee** has been hired as the new Controller for the Hawai'i Conference. Bert's previous job for the last six years was as the Finance and Administrative Director for Alternative Structures International, a large non-profit in Waianae, whose programs include homelessness, persons



## Advent Resources

### Open Your Heart to Advent

Interim Conference Minister Gabrielle Chavez is offering a 3-session series for lay people and pastoral leaders titled "**Opening Your Heart to Advent—First Steps on the Christ Path.**" The class will consider the significance of the birth of Christ on earth, called the incarnation, and the meaning of the second birth of Christ in the heart of the Christian. Spiritual practices for inner transformation will help students integrate their learning in daily life.

Sessions will be held from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on three Saturdays: November 17, December 8, and December 15. Participation will be remotely via Zoom, with an option of attending the first two classes in person at the Conference office. Four CEUs are available for those completing all classes and homework. This class is the first in a series on Christian initiation which Gabrielle has been teaching for several years through her home congregation in Oregon. For more information, visit the Hawai'i Conference website at [www.hcucc.org](http://www.hcucc.org).

### Bridges to Bethlehem Christmas Series

The Middle East Council of Churches is proud to announce the "**Bridges to Bethlehem**" Christmas documentary series. This series of 12 short documentaries showcases the rich diversity of tradition surrounding the celebration of the coming of the Christ child across the Middle East. Filmed in five countries (Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt and Iraq), the series represents the liturgical customs of churches from all four ecclesiastical families of the Council — the Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant families. For more information, go to [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org).

*For additional Advent resources go to [www.uccresources.com/collections/advent](http://www.uccresources.com/collections/advent).*

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## 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

### Pastoral Changes

**Russ Kirby** concluded his ministry as Acting Minister of Congregational Life at Central Union Church on August 30.

**Mary Herbig** concluded her ministry as Associate Pastor at United Church of Christ-Judd Street on September 7. She began a new ministry at Central Union Church on September 10 as the Minister of Congregational Life.

### Services of Ordination and Installation

**Jonathan Stockton** was recognized by the Tri-Isle Association on August 18 as a licensed minister of Wananalua Congregational Church in Hana.

**Alexander Tychkin** was installed as Senior Pastor of Līhu'e United Church by the Kaua'i Association on September 23.

**Douglas Wooten** was installed as Pastor and Teacher of Kaumakapili Church by the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches on October 6.

### Conference Office Transitions

**Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa** departed the Hawai'i Conference staff as a part-time Administrative Assistant for Search and Call on August 2.

**Ngu Castro**, Controller for the Hawai'i Conference and the Hawai'i Conference Foundation, ended her employment on September 5 to relocate with her family out of state.

*New Faces, continued from page 6*

with disabilities and sustainable living. Bert is a licensed CPA (not in public practice) and has over 18 years of experience in private industry. Bert can be reached at 808-791-5628 and his email is [blee@hcucc.org](mailto:blee@hcucc.org).

## In Memory

**Susumu "Sus" Yamane**, 90, Retired Pastor, died on July 9. He was ordained in 1953 and was recently recognized at this year's 'Aha Pae'aina on his 65th anniversary of ordination. Prior to retiring in 1993, he had faithfully served Church of the Holy Cross in Hilo for 22 years.



**George Baybrook**, 89, Retired Pastor, passed away on July 28. He was ordained in 1955 and celebrated 60 years in ministry in 2015. He served several local churches on Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i and Maui, and was an Associate Conference Minister deployed to Hawai'i Island from 1993 – 1999. George also served in a number of leadership positions at the Association and Conference levels.



**Faith Jackson**, 88, Retired Pastor, passed away on August 7. She was ordained in 1986 and was recognized at the 194th 'Aha Pae'aina in 2016 in celebration of 30 years of ordained ministry. She served numerous churches in Hawai'i as an interim minister and was a Chaplain Resident at the Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu.



## Conference Calendar of Events

<b>October 27</b>	<b>Hawai'i Island Association 'Aha Mokupuni State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches Board</b>
<b>November 3</b>	<b>O'ahu Association 'Aha Mokupuni</b>
<b>November 4</b>	<b>Kaua'i Association 'Aha Mokupuni</b>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Conference Minister Search Committee</b>
<b>November 22-23</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday (Office closed)</b>

## Save the Dates!

**Church Leaders' Event:** February 23, 2019, on O'ahu

**Pastoral Leaders' Retreat:** March 20-22, 2019, at St. Anthony Retreat Center on O'ahu

*More details to follow.*

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## Ka Papa Hoʻolālā

# Conference Now at Work on New Initiatives

As the Conference carries out the strategic initiatives for 2018-2021, Caroline Belsom, Chair of the Conference Council, sees the role of the Council as 1) to provide leadership in the articulation of the Conference vision; 2) to coordinate the work and review the activities of the missional teams, including the teams' annual budgets, so the teams are able to properly prioritize their work, set realistic goals for their specific initiatives, implement such initiatives to the greatest extent possible, and assess the success of each project in light of the progress measures that are included in the strategic plan; and 3) to establish policies to guide the implementation of programs.

The Administration Missional Team, chaired by Jayne Ryan



Kuroiwa is tasked with initiatives 2 and 7. In 2019 the team hopes clearly to align the Hawaiʻi Conference's budget with the new mission initiatives. Needed updates in governance best practices will likely result in a clearer delineation between the Hawaiʻi Conference and the Hawaiʻi Conference Foundation. This may alter staffing needs, financial policies and budgets, all of which will need the Administrative Team's careful work.

Watch this page for updates on the work of Conference teams and the Council in carrying out the Strategic Initiatives.

### Conference Strategic Initiatives

1. Training and spiritual formation
2. Mission-based financial stewardship
3. An expansive concept of church
4. Valuing the gifts and wisdom of the next generation
5. Speaking as prophets in our time
6. Living aloha
7. Creating organizational support for the vision