

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Friend

The Oldest Newspaper West Of The Rocky Mountains | Founded 1843 | Volume 40, Issue 5 | December 2024



ONE 'OHANA

UNIFIED • RADIANT • TRANSFORMING

As we bring this year’s run of *The Friend* to a close, the Editorial team wants to challenge our Conference to consider sustainability within the context of innovation and engagement. This year we have explored innovation and engagement from many different perspectives and angles, but unless we foster innovation that is sustainable, it will not make a difference in the long term. If the rains don’t fall mauka, even the greatest waterfall will run dry. But this issue of *The Friend* is like a waterfall after a wet Kona Low, it is not a trickle of new ideas or even a steady flow of fresh perspectives; rather, it is a roaring force of innovation that changes everything as it flows toward the sea.

In this issue, our Conference Minister David Popham asks us to consider that one size doesn’t fit all. He encour-

ages us to consider that different congregations, even across the street from each other, will need different models and approaches to live into God’s vision for them. As David shares “see what works for you and as best as you can, manifest that aspect of the Gospel to your community. We sustain innovation and engagement when we embrace who we have been all along in the mystery of God’s love pouring through our congregation.”

Guest columnist Diane Weible provides congregations with tips for creativity and the passion that drives creativity to innovation and leans into the still-acting Spirit. Warren Orikasa, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Conference Foundation, asks for volunteers because new people bring fresh perspectives, new eyes to old problems, and energy to try something innovative. And this



PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

ask is built upon by Manu Nae’ole, kahu of Kalihi and Moanalua Church and chaplain at Kamehameha Schools, as he frames a ministry lab experiment around the question: “How do we build up new leaders?”.

Along with news, announcements, and our deepest wishes for a Mele Kalikimaka, we hope that this issue finishes 2024 on a high note as the refreshing waters of the Spirit flow!

We Want You to Join Our Foundation ‘Ohana

WARREN ORIKASA, MEMBER OF IAO UCC; CHAIRPERSON OF THE HCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



I nominate Bobby for Class Secretary!” Nah, I no like.
 “I nominate Terri for Class Secretary!” I don’t think so. Not me.
 “Me! Me! I volunteer to be Class Secretary!” *No way! You don’t know how to write!*

There are challenges when councils, boards, and committees attempt

to recruit qualified applicants for various positions throughout the organization. The success in populating the positions with competence is often the difference between a poor or mediocre organization, or one that thrives with its successes.

The Hawai’i Conference Foundation (HCF) is a critical element of our Hawai’i Conference UCC. It is responsible for the financial health of both. The responsibilities are many and the challenges are a continuum. While the HCF has an

excellent professional staff in place, this staff is not the Foundation. The staff works to accomplish the necessary duties and tasks to benefit our continued existence. The Directors of the Foundation, who represent the Hawai’i Conference UCC members, are tasked with making recommendations, decisions, and setting directions.

In the coming year, the HCF will have a few openings for Directors, as well as non-Director positions on our various committees. Here are a few minimum qualifications:

1. An interest in learning more about the HCF
2. An interest in playing a different role in service to the UCC
3. A willingness to participate wholeheartedly and with purpose



4. An interest in getting to know more of our HFC leaders, ordained and lay

5. An interest

Without question, no one would willingly volunteer for something they do not understand fully. Please reach out to one of our current Directors (Warren Orikasa: worikasa@gmail.com) or staff (Andrew Bunn: abunn@hcucc.org) and we would be pleased to have a confidential conversation to explain the benefits of serving in our HCF family.

Tips for Leaning into Creativity

DIANE WEIBLE, OWNER, ENKEI RESOLUTIONS

I've been lucky in my ministry career to connect with churches doing some amazing and innovative work. Innovation may emerge unexpectedly through opportunities no one saw coming. It could come from necessity due to limited human or financial resources. Or it could come from new members with new ideas, experiencing extravagant welcome in a faith community.

Spirit by nature invites creativity and innovation. Sometimes our own limiting beliefs or fears get in the way of being able to see it but if we are open to where God is leading, we can see beyond the wall that is blocking what God knows is possible.

Churches able to lean into the creative ministries that Spirit is calling them to share similar characteristics. First, they are curious and not afraid. They are curious about what is possible and not afraid of failure. They recognize that it may take repeated attempts and a lot of tweaks before it feels like they are headed in the right direction, and they are ok with that.

Innovative practices and ideas require commitment to not giving up and to keep trying. If you search for the words "failure" and "success," you will discover they are intricately entwined. Winston Churchill said, "success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm."

Ask yourselves reflective questions like, "Why does our ministry matter?" and "Where do we want to be in three or five years?" One of my favorite questions is, "What does the community need from our church in this moment and how can we meet that need?"

Another valuable tool for churches looking to try something new is to go where the passion is. You don't need leadership to decide what needs to

happen and then form a committee in order to begin. If someone has a passion for something, let them run with it. Invite them to find a couple more people and offer support. The other side of that is if someone comes to you with a good idea that "you really should try," don't panic.



Just remind them that their passion for this is evident and invite them to take it and run with it. If the spark of creativity is not sustained in the person who first felt it, it is very likely not a fire worth tending.

There is a scarcity mindset in some churches about a lack of resources. This leads to hesitation to try too many new things. I believe the opposite is true. Many people can be following their passions and those creative ideas that take root will be because others saw the value and got involved. The resource of passion should never be underestimated. If someone(s) is really excited about something, it is contagious and it is amazing how God's abundance can show up.

The final piece of wisdom I have learned through the years is that it's ok to let something go. A successful community bazaar one year does

not mean that the church is forever bound to doing it again. In the new year, something else might rise up in

terms of passion and commitment. It's ok to let the bazaar rest a year (or more!) in order to move where passion and Spirit are leading. It's definitely ok to stop doing something just because "we have always done it that way." If you ever hear those words, I invite you to get curious about why that is so, and whether it might be time to let it go to make room for something new.

Innovation may feel scary and big but it's really not. It's actually something we have always done in the church. We didn't get to where we are today without taking big risks and leaning on God's strength to move forward. With God, it is true that all things are possible.



God is still speaking

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The Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ
 700 Bishop Street, Suite 825, Honolulu, HI, 96813

Phone: (808) 537-9516 or (800) 734-7610 (Neighbor Island Toll Free)

Fax: (808) 521-7196

E-mail: hcucc@hcucc.org

Editorial Team: Julie Buto, David Popham, Jonathan Roach, Lori Yamashiro, Kristen Young

Contributing Writers: Warren Orikasa, Diane Weible

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PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK



Be the Church That Only You Can Be

DAVID K. POPHAM, CONFERENCE MINISTER

At the recent Ministry Lab 2024 hosted by the Innovation and Engagement Missional Team, I asked the question: “why are there so many churches in your town?” The answers given were right on target: different denominations, different ethnic and language legacy, different styles of worship, and so on. I pressed further narrowing the question, “why are there two UCC congregations across the street from each other, or down the block from each other, or just a couple of miles away from each other?” Most of the answers, except for denominationalism, applied.

These answers are correct when understanding the question from the perspective of town life. Yet, when we broaden our perspective to include God’s presence through the plurality of Gospel expression the answer shifts: there are many churches in our towns because each congregation embodies and expresses a unique aspect of the Gospel, that without that church or your congregation, would go unexpressed and unembodied.

At first this answer may seem nonsensical since all churches express the Gospel. That is true. It is also true that your congregation embodies an aspect of the Gospel in such a unique way that without your church that

part of the Gospel will go unexpressed in your community.

For example, there is the church in Iowa where a couple who newly moved into the town started attending. As a young couple they stood out in the small congregation of mostly kupuna. Everyone got excited when the couple became pregnant. Everyone got concerned when the pregnancy and birth moved into dangerous territory for the mother. The church did what it has always done to express love and concern; it started a casserole list. As is often the case, the dishes were too large for two people to eat so the couple invited their friends over to dinner to help clear the casseroles out. The curious friends asked about the casseroles and the couple explained about their church and the love and attention given to them during the pregnancy. The friends – who were also new arrivals to the town – hearing of a church who would set aside months to prepare and deliver casseroles, wanted to experience this church for themselves. In this case, and it doesn’t always happen, the church found itself growing with what it labeled the “casserole generation.” Except for that unique embodiment of the Gospel, those young married couples would

not have had the Gospel expressed to them.

Similarly, a church in Georgia, small and heavy with kupuna, had one of their grandmothers begin bringing her newborn granddaughter to church. The grandmother asked for a rocking chair to be set up in the back of the sanctuary so she could rock the baby and still be present in church. The word got out and more grandparents began showing up with their grandbabies and eventually the entire back of the sanctuary was refurbished to allow for more rocking chairs. Except for that unique embodiment of the Gospel, kupuna who were worried about how their squiggly grandchildren would be welcomed in church would not have had the Gospel expressed to them.

My encouragement is that our congregations will drill down on that aspect of the Gospel they embody and express in such a unique way that it would otherwise be absent from your community. Experiment and play. See what works for you and, as best as you can, manifest that aspect of the Gospel to your community. We sustain innovation and engagement when we embrace who we have been all along in the mystery of God’s love pouring through our congregation.

Reimagining Church Property: Elements for Long-Term Success

ANDREW BUNN, HCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As churches face declining attendance and financial challenges, reimagining how to use their properties is a necessary endeavor. Churches must step beyond addressing immediate needs. A successful approach integrates mission, financial health, and meaningful community engagement.

At the core of this transformation is aligning property use with the church's mission. Churches are expanding their traditional roles by offering services such as daycare, food banks, and health clinics, often in partnership with local nonprofits. These efforts strengthen community ties and help the church maintain its presence and relevance to the community. Affordable housing is another impactful initiative. Across the country, churches are converting underutilized land or buildings into housing for low-income families, seniors, and the homeless, addressing pressing societal needs and highlighting their values of compassion and service. Taking the mission beyond Sunday in the pews can bring new life.

Ensuring financial sustainability is equally crucial. Generating revenue to cover expenses and generate bottom line (net) income is essential. Leasing parts of the property to local businesses or nonprofits generates consistent revenue and brings the church into the fabric of a community in a new way. For instance, a church could rent space to a coffee shop or a food truck, thereby creating a welcoming gathering spot for residents while

covering operational costs. Event hosting is another avenue for revenue. Churches may also be ideal venues for weddings, concerts, and conferences (especially for churches with kitchen facilities and yard areas that are conducive to these gatherings). Renting space not only generates income but also introduces new people to the church and fosters potential connections for future engagement.

Cultural and educational initiatives can also play a role for the church in the community. Churches can leverage sanctuary and assembly space by hosting performances, community events, or exhibits that attract new audiences and revitalize these areas. Similarly, offering workshops, vocational training, or after-school programs enhances the church's role as a center for education and personal growth, which strengthens connections with local residents.

Some churches capitalize on their history by opening to tourists or creating small museums, deepening their connection with the broader community and generating supplemental income. Indeed, many of our Hawai'i Conference churches have played an important role in preserving Hawaiian culture and tradition and sharing that in creative ways.

Environmental stewardship is a sometimes overlooked element of maintaining success. Churches that adopt sustainable practices, such as installing solar panels, energy-efficient lighting, and water-saving systems, reduce operating and insurance costs and demonstrate a commitment to the 'āina. These efforts may also qualify for

grant money or inexpensive financing.

Open spaces might be used for community gardens, farmers' markets, or agricultural hubs, which serve dual purposes of environmental sustainability and community outreach.

Adaptive reuse strategies can transform older buildings into functional, multi-purpose spaces but still preserve the traditions of the church. Flexibility is important, both with space and with outlook. The willingness to share space with another organization, whether a business, a charity, or another worship community, requires some compromise and adaptability. Additionally, creating adaptable environments allows churches to serve diverse needs and purposes in both the church and the community.

Tax and regulatory compliance concerns often discourage churches from pursuing these "business type" opportunities, but they should not. It is well worth getting the advice and taking the steps needed to address these issues and do them correctly.

The key to sustaining success lies in balancing innovation with mission, aligning property use with long-term goals and community needs, and carefully considering financial sustainability. It is a challenge, but many of our churches in the Hawai'i Conference are working along these lines. Some are struggling but others are finding success. We encourage everyone to share their experiences so we can learn from each other. We also encourage you to reach out to the Hawai'i Conference Foundation if you have questions, thoughts, or would like some guidance and support.



Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches 'Aha Hālāwai

PHOTO CREDIT: ANGIE WARREN



Hawai'i Island Association Fall Mokupuni

PHOTO CREDIT: JONATHAN ROACH



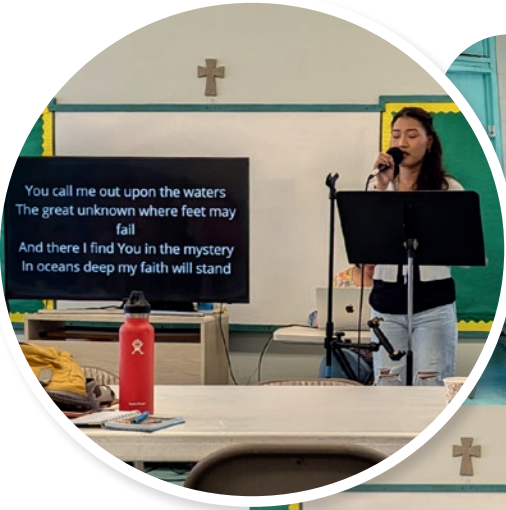
Kaua'i Association Fall Mokupuni

PHOTO CREDITS: ALAN AKANA, DAVID POPHAM



O'ahu Association Fall Mokupuni

PHOTO CREDITS: KYLE LOVETT, DAVID POPHAM



Pastoral Leaders Retreat 2024, Honomu, Hawai'i Island



Karen Georgia Thompson Sends Post-Election Message

No matter who you wanted to see elected as our next President, the election season was filled with contention, division, and heightened emotions for many. Our Conference Minister, David Popham, reminded us that “the election results brought joy to some and disappointment to others. In a Conference as diverse as ours, not only are both major parties represented, but I suspect most of the minor parties also are present among our own varied political opinions. This diversity is not to be feared; rather, it is our strength as we are bound together in the joy of our salvation.”

Following the outcome of the election, Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC’s General Minister and President, released a video message through UCC News stating, “now is a time to pause for prayer, to break

from the toxicity of this election cycle, and to gather ourselves for the work that is ahead for us as people of faith,” acknowledging how the “vitriol of the political season” has created pain and brokenness among people.

She went on to say “no outcome of the election would deter us from our quest for justice. As people of faith and followers of Jesus, our values and our commitments are not changed by the politics of the day. Instead, we remain called to be advocates for justice and to find ourselves providing solidarity with those whose voices have been silenced, those who find themselves living on the margins of our society, and those whose rights are threatened among us.”

In closing, Thompson offered the following prayer:

Holy God, you call us to follow you and to live love boldly. Among us

we are feeling a range of emotions – and above all else, an exhaustion from the divisiveness we have experienced. We are yet anxious as we anticipate the aftermath of the election; we wonder what will come next.

Be present with us in the days to come. Guide us, protect us, and direct us as we learn to love you more and seek to live the truth of your comfort, peace, and joy in the days ahead. Grant us vision, courage, and wisdom for the living of these days.

Amen.

Watch her video message in its entirety at https://www.ucc.org/gmp-offers-post-election-message-to-live-love-boldly/?inf_contact_key=32e6f4fa4c807ae1a132e5ce115ca93c7e470d92b8b75168d98a0b8cac0e9c09



Mission Offering: Kalaupapa Sunday

On the fourth Sunday of every January, churches are invited to commemorate the estimated 8,000 people diagnosed with Hansen’s Disease who were exiled to Moloka‘i’s remote Kalaupapa peninsula.

Resources for observing Kalaupapa Sunday are available on the Hawai‘i Conference website (www.hcucc.org).

The suggested date for observing Kalaupapa Sunday is **January 26, 2025**, though churches may honor the patients of Kalaupapa and their families any Sunday in the year.



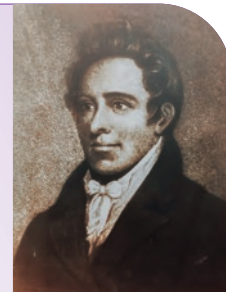
Kanaana Hou Siloama UCC, Kalaupapa

Henry ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia Scholarship

Each year on the third Sunday in February (closest to the anniversary of Henry ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia’s death), churches are invited to receive an offering to support scholarships in his name.

Henry ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia Scholarships, which honor the legacy of the young Hawaiian credited with inspiring the Sandwich Islands mission that brought Christianity to Hawai‘i, are available to candidates for ministry attending an accredited seminary and clergy pursuing continuing education.

Churches are invited to receive an offering to support these scholarships on **Sunday, February 16, 2025**. The offering may also be collected on another date.



Show Them the Love

“How do we build up new leaders?”
Manu Nae’ole, kahu of Kalihi and
Moanalua Church and chaplain
at Kamehameha

Schools Kāpālama,
asked this question
at the beginning
the Ministry Lab
presentation on
November 19,
and this question
framed an evening
of rich discussion.

Ministry Lab is
a recent experiment
of the Innovation
and Engagement
Missional Team.

Kahu Manu
Nae’ole, Chaplain,
Kamehameha
Schools Kāpālama

Each session is designed to engage
people from congregations of all
sizes and types throughout our
Conference and encourage them
to be creative, to experiment, to try
something new in their settings. And
these experiments often begin with
questions that people are passionate
about, such as Nae’ole’s question.

He challenged the participants
that evening to think not only about
building up new leadership, but also
to listen to prospective new leaders
as they shared with the audience
what they needed to grow and to
discern their potential calls into
ministry. The panel included
Kahuwailani Wong, who is a new
Member in Discernment with the
Association of Hawaiian Evangelical
Churches and a member of Kalihi
and Moanalua Church; Keoua
Green, a recent graduate from
Kamehameha Schools from Hawai’i
Island; and Galen Kaohi, a senior
at Kamehameha Schools whose
home church is Hanapepe Hawaiian
Congregational Church.

This powerful panel explored
discipleship, what has strengthened
their relationship with Jesus, how
mentors have helped them develop
both spiritually and as a leader,
and the ordination process. Kaohi
reminded the audience that his
generation is looking for mentors
“who don’t force me into the situa-
tion rather they build up the founda-
tion with me...they are looking for
someone who will walk with them
through this journey.”



The panel then turned the tables
and started asking the audience
questions: how do you know if/when
God is calling you into ministry? What
was the biggest obstacle you faced
in the ordination process? And what
is one piece of advice you can give
to me to prepare me for the future
of the church, and potentially a future

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.

in the ministry? And these questions
produced a rich discussion with
Heather Barfield of Kaumakapili
Church, Jack Belsom who recently
retired again from ‘Īao United
Church of Christ, Jancie Ogoshi
from the Topside Churches of
Moloka‘i, and Ben Sheets from
Lāna‘i Union Church among
others.

When asked how “we” in the
church can best support them in
the discernment and formation
process, Kaohi made it very simple
when he challenged the audience
to “just show them love.” He
highlighted the value of conversa-
tion and talking about faith and
challenges. Green continues on
these themes as he shared, “I like
listening to stories about what
other people have gone through
in life and their relationship with
God...one big thing is that people
support youth by showcasing and
telling their experiences.”

It was a very rich night of
conversation that highlighted
the formation of the next generation
of leadership in our Hawai’i Confer-
ence. And it gave the Innovation
and Engagement Missional Team
an opportunity to challenge people
and congregations to design experi-
ments for their communities. This
Missional Team also wants to share
that they have seed money for grants
and people who can provide experts
who can empower local experiments.
Please reach out to Heather Barfield,
chair of this Missional Team, for
more information.

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

SUBMITTED BY DEBBIE WONG YUEN,
PRESIDENT, HAWAII ISLAND ASSOCIATION

Aloha from the Hawai'i Island Association!

The Fall 'Aha Mokupuni meeting of the Hawai'i Island Association, was held on Saturday, October 19, 2024 in sunny Hilo and hosted by Church of the Holy Cross.

The Rev. Eric Anderson opened our gathering with worship, with Holy Communion assisted by Kahu Wryen "Keoki" Kiwaha.

The past few months have been hard on the Committee on Ministry (CoM) with the unexpected passing of two members. The membership confirmed the Executive Board's appointment of the Rev. Eric Anderson as CoM Chairperson. The second seat has not been filled as yet.

The Rev. Jonathan Roach provided a much needed and welcomed presentation for the Professional Development section of the day, with a presentation on Safe Church Policy & Planning.

Our time together concluded with our hosts blessing everyone with a wonderful lunch that enhanced the great fellowship everyone enjoyed.

Hawai'i Island Association continues to bless Maui Clergy who are in need of respite and relief, by providing coverage on Sundays due to the Maui wildfires.

The Association has also supported Clergy, Members in Discernment, and Lay leaders with professional development giving them the opportunity to attend the Anti-Racism training held in September/October, the Pastoral Retreat in Septmeber which was held at Hilo Coast UCC in Honomu, and the recent Boundary Training last month.

O'ahu Association Celebrates at Ecclesiastical Council

An ecclesiastical council was convened on Sunday, November 10, at Nu'uuanu Congregational Church to examine Cara Ann Maeda for ordained ministry. Cara Ann is a Member in Discernment with the O'ahu Association and is currently serving as a licensed minister at Hilo Coast UCC. The delegates unanimously approved Cara Ann for ordained ministry pending a call. Congratulations to Cara Ann!



"Sorry Is Not Enough. I Need Chocolate"

At their recent 'Aha Mokupuni, the Kaua'i Association invited guest speaker Rev. Dr. Zoughbi Alzoughbi to deliver the keynote presentation, "Peace and Reconciliation." Zoughbi, a Christian, is the Founder and Director of the Wi'Am (meaning "agape, unconditional love") Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center in Bethlehem, Palestine.

He shared, "to break the cycle of violence we need collective responsibility, restorative justice, as well as transformation. Restorative justice is very important, how to address the wrongs that have been done to you." He learned about restorative justice from his daughter, Marcelle, when she was a young girl. A friend of his, an Israeli Jew from Jerusalem, had called the home to inquire how Zoughbi was doing and Marcelle answered the phone. The friend asked her, "How do you live?" to which she responded that there was no fresh water, there was no electricity, and no fresh food. The friend could only reply, "Sorry." Marcelle answered, "Sorry is not enough. I need chocolate." For her, this was restorative justice, at least getting something for herself.

Watch Zoughbi's keynote presentation in full here: <https://www.hcucc.org/single-post/kaucc-hosts-director-of-bethlehem-wi-am-center-for-peace>



PHOTO CREDIT:
ALAN AKANA

Conference News and Highlights

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

Pastoral Transitions



EJ Ravago was installed as the pastor and teacher of Waialua UCC by the O'ahu Association on Sunday, October 13.

Cara Ann Maeda successfully conducted her ecclesiastical council on Sunday, November 10, at Nu'uaniu Congregational Church by the O'ahu Association.



Sam Masilamoney was installed as the designated term pastor and teacher of First United Protestant Church in Hilo by the Hawai'i Island Association on Sunday, November 17.

Conference Calendar of Events

JANUARY 1 - 3, 2025

New Year's holiday (Office Closed)

JANUARY 9 - 10

AHEC Spring 'Aha O Nā Kahu

JANUARY 10

Last day to submit OCWM offerings for 2024

JANUARY 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Office Closed)

JANUARY 25

State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches

FEBRUARY 17

Presidents' Day (Office Closed)

FEBRUARY 22

Conference Council/Board of Directors

Rennie Mau Recipient of UCC Scholarships

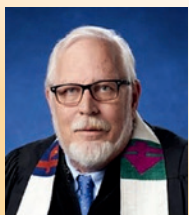
Rennie Mau is the 2024 recipient of both the "Make a Difference! Doc Award" and the "Adrienne M. and Charles Shelby Rooks Fellowship for Doctoral Students." Rennie is in his 4th year of the PhD Global Contextual Theology program with Claremont School of Theology and



Chang Chung Christian University (Taiwan). Recently he received his Pasifika Philosophies Scholar certificate from Pacific Theological College (Suva, Fiji). Semi-retired he is the part-time pastor at Ewa Community Church and teaches as an adjunct professor at several local colleges. He is an academic tutor with the Vancouver School of Theology and the present Hawai'i PAAM moderator.

In Memory

John DeSaegher, 92, retired ordained minister, passed away on September 18, 2024. He served several churches in the Southern California Nevada Conference as well as Ewa Community Church on O'ahu (2010 – 2014). He is survived by his wife, Norma DeSaegher.



Charles (Chuck) Blaisdell, ordained minister, passed away on September 22, 2024. He once served as the minister at Hilo Coast UCC on Hawai'i Island and was the Regional Minister in Northern California Nevada (Christian Church, Disciples of Christ) just before that. He attained both master's and doctoral degrees in divinity from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

He is survived by his wife, Rev. Barbara (Shires) Blaisdell; a brother; a hanai brother; his children Micah, Rebecca, Andrew, Katherine, and their spouses; and three 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, 700 Bishop Street, Suite 825, Honolulu, HI, 96813.

December 2024

MELE KALIKIMAKA

May the joy and peace of Christmas fill your hearts and 'ohana this holiday season. Wishing you and yours a Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou from the Hawaii'i Conference United Church of Christ staff.

