

New Manual Enables New Expressions of Ministry

In December 2016, conference ministers and associate conference ministers from around the United Church of Christ met in San Antonio, Texas, to take their first look at the new Manual on Ministry. This essential resource is used by committees on the ministry in carrying out their primary tasks of authorizing ministers in the UCC and providing ongoing support and accountability to authorized ministers.



Malcolm Himschoot and Elizabeth Dilley of the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Team were in Hawaii in January to conduct workshops on O'ahu and Maui.

The last revision of the Manual on Ministry, or MOM, as it is often called, took place over thirty years ago. The latest effort, which began in the fall of 2013, is a complete re-imagining from the ground up. Numerous changes are proposed to the appearance and content of MOM, including: slimming down the document

from ten sections to three; moving to one order of ministry (ordained) and discontinuing licensed and commissioned ministries; creating a "Member in Discernment with Limited Standing" category; clarifying the "Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers"; and introducing "Omega Standing" for ministers who are retired and no longer active in ministry.

With support from the Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization (MESA) Ministry Team of the United Church of

(continued on page 7)

Moloka'i Volunteers Extend Wide Hand

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the church. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that churches and religious organizations are the places where volunteers contribute the most hours.



Edwina Cacoulidis is a Moloka'i volunteer who faithfully donates her time wherever needed.

As motivated as church volunteers are, two Moloka'i women take volunteering to a whole new level.

Jackie Stone and Edwina Cacoulidis are active at their home church, Kalua'aha Congregational Church, and they are also among the primary organizers of the Topside Moloka'i Churches' annual bazaar sponsored by Kalua'aha and sister churches, Ho'olehua, Kalaiakamanu Hou and Waialua.

But as if that weren't enough for Jackie and Edwina, they also offer their time and talents to other churches on the island, and they will leave their contact information for churches that are needing volunteers for events or projects.

One church that they have volunteered for consistently over the past three years is Heart of Aloha, a small church without a sanctuary. The women found time to help since their own church, Kalua'aha, has only a handful of members and holds services once a month.

Known affectionately as the "sugar babes," Jackie, 72, and Edwina, 81, regularly carpool for forty minutes across the island to sugar and package over a thousand malasadas at every Heart of Aloha fundraising event. Their efforts will help the church build its own house of worship.



Jackie Stone feels good when she helps others.

"I just love serving the Lord and this is one way to serve Him," said Jackie. "It is so aloha—so warm—when you just get out there and help others. Edwina and I feel so good about it."

"We feel it is really important to help them reach their goal of building a church," said Edwina, who is also treasurer of Kalua'aha. "They are not a UCC congregation, but we are willing to help people no matter what religion or denomination they belong to."

(continued on page 7)

What's Inside

- 2 God's Ministers by Charles C. Buck
- 3 Meet Our Synod Delegates
- 4 Faces Around the Conference
- 5 Book Reviews
Resource Box: One Great Hour of Sharing
- 6 UCC News
- 7 Highlights from the Website
Conference Calendar
- 8 Our Historical Roots: Kahu Abraham Akaka

God's Ministers

by Charles C. Buck, Conference Minister

The Manual on Ministry is changing.

This important document, which guides the work of committees on the ministry, is being updated and revised. The proposed changes are currently being tested throughout the United Church of Christ. By the time you read this, members of all church and ministry committees in Hawai'i will have met together to review them and offer comments. You can learn more about what's proposed in the page 1 article of this *Friend*.



The revision—which is the culmination of nearly three years of work by a 17-member committee from around the UCC and co-chaired by Eleanor Chong, member of Central Union Church—proposes many things new and continues many things currently in practice. I predict that our church and ministry committees will simultaneously welcome and find themselves challenged by the proposals.

Although the Manual on Ministry deals primarily with “authorized ministers”—pastors of churches and chaplains of institutions, for example—it is guided by the foundational belief that all God's people are ministers.

Among the whole community of ministers are some called to a specific ministry of “equip[ing] the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). These persons, who are “set apart through prayer and the laying on of hands in the rite of ordination,” are the authorized ministers, and for whom our church and ministry committees practice oversight.

To be sure, this theology of the “priesthood of all believers” is neither new nor unique. It's as old as the Bible and common to many denominations. But it is a very distinctive and foundational belief of the UCC. For example, it's stated in the UCC Constitution (paragraphs 20 and 21) and the Minister's Codes (for ordained, licensed and commissioned ministers).

But it is often missing or overlooked in our faith practices and church life. Except at the occasional baptism, we rarely hear it much said or emphasized in sermons and mission statements. If it were, I believe we would realize that it holds profound implications and immense consequences. Many come to mind—enough for a book or whole sermon series, in fact—but let me suggest a few here.

1. A church where everyone is a minister will be focused on fully utilizing the gifts of every single person. *Are we doing that constantly and intentionally, with both those who are new to our churches and those who have long been there?* The ministry of a church is to prepare ministers, which has nothing to do with filling pews. It's about inspiring and equipping

people to get out of the pews and use what they have to share the good news and transform lives.

2. A church where everyone is a minister will discover how God has provided an abundance of potential. *When we look at the people in our churches, what do we see?* Sadly, many churches look at themselves and see limitations: too few people, too few gifts, too little commitment, too little hope for the future. Churches will never achieve their fullest by lamenting and wishing for what they don't have. It can only happen by recognizing what is possible with what they have, as inadequate as it first seems. We must re-focus and see each person or situation in a new light, challenging ourselves to try new things and developing fresh attitudes and approaches.

Do we expect too much from our pastors?

3. A church where everyone is a minister will not rely on the authorized minister to save or revive the church. *Do we expect too much from our pastors; or, lacking one, do we believe that if we had a pastor, all our problems would be solved?* Pastors, no matter how good or talented, are neither saint nor savior, and they won't make much difference in a church or in anybody's life if the ministers, the laity, aren't doing their part. Instead of blaming a minister when things don't go right or looking for a pastor who can bring in the crowds with rousing messages, we—the real ministers—should focus on Christ's call and figure out how to make good things happen together with our pastor.

There are many more implications we could come up with, but these suffice to suggest that a church cannot function without ministers—the whole people of God—who are each allowed, commissioned and set free to do God's bidding in each their own way. To the common question we all ask—What plan, program or project can we implement to revive or revitalize our church?—there is only one answer: Nothing works unless all the ministers of the church are living out their call.

We could come up with so many more implications of a church where everyone is a minister. But the consequences of each are the same: It will be a church that knows its purpose, focusing not on itself but on God's mission. That's God's call to all of us—all God's ministers.



God is still speaking

The Friend is published six times a year by the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ, 1848 Nu'uauu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96817.

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

Fax: (808) 521-7196

E-mail: leehenrychang@hcucc.org Lee Henry-Chang

Contributing Writers: Scott Davis, Sarah Jones, Richard Kamanu

Meet Our Synod Delegates

Thirteen delegates from the Hawai'i Conference will be in Baltimore from June 30 to July 4 for the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ. This issue of *The Friend* and the next will feature introductions to these delegates.



Kathy Tanaka (Tri-Isle Association), member of Iao UCC on Maui, serves on her church's Worship and Fair Fundraising committees. Her very first Synod experience came in 2011, when she was a chaperone for the Hawai'i Conference youth group. About her second Synod as a delegate, she said, "I love the different types of services that Synod offers. It exposes me

to worshipping in a different way than I'm used to, and everybody is so welcoming, which is what I hope our church is about."

Joshua Weible (O'ahu Association) is a member of Kailua Christian Church and attends George Fox University in Oregon. As a youth/young adult delegate in 2015, he enjoyed meeting people. "Being with the other delegates was an awesome experience," he said. "Being at Synod was so much fun and easier when bonding with other delegates at the table."



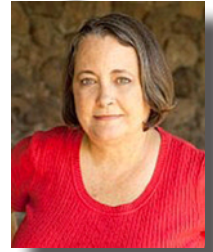
Haleaka Martin (Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches) is a member of Kalihi and Moanalua Church on O'ahu and looks forward to her second Synod. Currently she is Vice-President of Hawai'i Pacific Islander Asian American Ministries and church delegate to the State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches. She looks forward to voting on resolutions and hearing the prophetic messages of Synod speakers.



Linda Petrucelli (Hawai'i Island Association) is Pastor of Hilo Coast UCC and Chair of the Church and Ministry Committee of the Hawai'i Island Association. She attended her first of five General Synods in the 1990s while serving as a missionary for the United Church Board for World Ministries. This will be her first Synod as a delegate from Hawai'i. "The worship at General Synod is always amazing, as well as the sense of the whole church gathering as one," she said. "And the exhibits are always so informative and interesting."



Jayne Ryan Kuroiwa (O'ahu Association) is Pastor of Windward UCC and a member of the O'ahu Association Board of Directors. As a minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), she has attended that denomination's General Assemblies. About going to her second Synod, she said, "I look forward to hearing an update from our General Minister and President, John Dorhauer, about the UCC's vision and mission under his leadership."



Glenn Frazier (Kaua'i Association) retired as Pastor of Church of the Pacific and is currently Team Coordinator for the Kaua'i Association's Waineke Cabins. He has served on the Hawai'i Conference Council and Formation Missional Team. For his second Synod term, he said, "I'm really looking forward to something I found to be so affirming at the last Synod, and that was the diversity within the church. That is the keystone of growth in a world growing less appreciative of diversity."

In addition to delegates, every UCC Conference sends two associate delegates, the Conference Chair or President, and the Conference Minister.

Iese Tuuao (Conference Council Chair) will attend his ninth Synod and his second as associate delegate. He is Chair of the Conference Council, Pastor of Samoan Church of Hawai'i, LMS, in Nanakuli, and Secretary of United Samoan Ministry. He says, "It's quite an experience to witness and be part of a 'glad' denomination that gathers in unity to worship, makes decisions and has fun in the presence of Christ."



Charles Buck (Conference Minister) has attended numerous General Synods in various capacities, including as delegate, associate delegate, committee chair and workshop leader. "Synod is a great way not only to see the church at work, but how it all works together as a body of Christ," he says. "Although our vision statement—United in Christ's love, a just world for all—is new, we've been living it every time Synod meets."

2016 Year in Review

Clockwise from top: Youth from around the Conference attended Fall Youth Camp; Mission Partnership with the South Seoul Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea was approved at the 194th 'Aha Pae'aina; Church Leaders Event brought over 200 together; Hawai'i youth participated in worship at National Youth Event in Orlando, Florida; Hawai'i Island Association installed Eric Anderson to Church of the Holy Cross; Kaua'i clergy gathered at the Association's 'Aha Moku'puni; John Dorhauer was affirmed as UCC General Minister and President at a community-wide worship service.

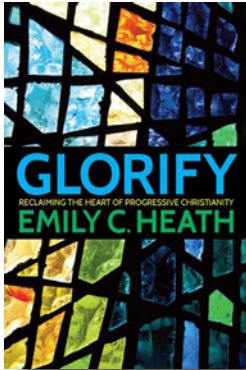


Book Reviews

Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity

By Emily Heath (Pilgrim Press, 2016)

Reviewed by Sarah Jones



A personal and collective faith in God through Jesus Christ is the single most important factor in the vitality and viability of our churches. That is the claim that UCC minister Emily Heath makes in her first book, *Glorify*, an enjoyable and accessible read for all church people.

Emily, who is senior pastor of the Congregational Church of Exeter, New Hampshire, rehearses the same surveys and vignettes about declining mainline churches and the reasons behind this state of affairs. But she does not leave the reader in the valley of despair. Instead, she suggests that the major reason for decline is that we fail to articulate the convictions of our faith.

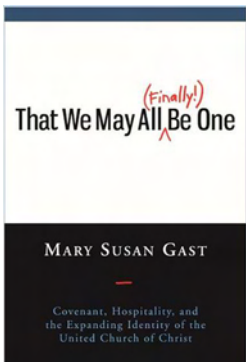
If we are bold enough, she says, to be transformed by God into disciples—which she reminds us means being “learners”—of Jesus, and if we are willing to be transformative witnesses to God’s love in the world, then our churches will be infused by our passion and convictions.

Although the book offers nothing that is groundbreaking or new, it is worth reading if only to be reminded that when church is a place to truly meet Jesus, not just to gather with friends or carry out projects in the name of social justice, we will discover renewal and vitality both personally and as a community.

That We May All (Finally!) Be One

By Mary Susan Gast (Pilgrim Press, 2016)

Reviewed by Richard Kamanu



Living out Jesus’ prayer for unity was the founding hope of the United Church of Christ. But that goal has been elusive, especially in a “composite denomination,” as Mary Susan Gast describes it in her new book on UCC history and polity.

Drawing on her varied and rich experiences as pastor, conference staff, national executive and conference minister, Mary Susan illustrates the tensions that are inevitable in a diverse denomination of “native peoples, immigrants, and those forced to come ashore in the Americas.”

In engaging, story-telling style, Mary Susan weaves historical anecdotes with theological insight to show how the UCC has evolved and changed as it has sought to live out Jesus’ prayer, summarizing it in the constant refrain: “Those who were ‘them’ yesterday are ‘us’ today, and ‘we’ are forever changed.”

Her book will likely “forever change” how the UCC is introduced and taught, not just to seminarians and new pastors, but to confirmands, new church members and long-time UCC members.

resource List

One Great Hour of Sharing

This year, remember the unprecedented tens of millions of refugees displaced by war, famine and natural disasters when making your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).

Through OGHS, the Lenten offering of the United Church of Christ, churches respond to refugee, development and disaster needs in 138 countries across the world. Providing clean water, food, education,



healthcare, small business micro-credit, advocacy and refugee resettlement help people move beyond trauma toward a vision of healing and peace. Domestically, OGHS supports ministries for immigration assistance and disaster preparedness and response.

On average, ninety-two cents of every OGHS dollar go directly to mission programming. Nearly seventy-five percent of UCC congregations participate in the annual offering, which is needed more than ever amid the rising threat of climate change and a snowballing refugee population.

The suggested OGHS offering date is March 26, though churches may receive the offering any time during the year. Resources for promoting OGHS are available at www.ucc.org/oghs.

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.

UCC Disaster Ministries works in 21 countries, 10 U.S. states in 2016

In 2016, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries extended expert recovery assistance in 21 countries, including the United States, to people whose lives were turned upside down by wind and water, wildfires and floods, earthquakes and radiation, drought and hunger.



“In several places this past year, disaster struck where people were still struggling to recover from previous years’ disasters,” noted

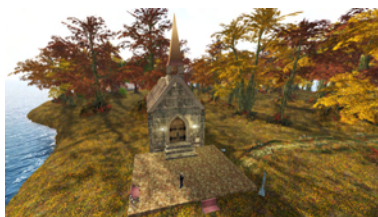
UCC Disaster Ministries Executive Zach Wolgemuth. “Being there for the long haul is all the more important in these communities where hopes have been dashed repeatedly and resources have been stretched thin.”

UCC Disaster Ministries’ commitment to long-term community recovery is evidenced by ongoing responses in 2016 to Superstorm Sandy, Typhoon Haiyan, the Nepal earthquake, and the “triple disaster” in Japan of typhoon, tsunami and radiation from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant.

“Focusing on filling gaps in services and responding to long-term recovery needs don’t typically land us on the front page of the *New York Times*,” Wolgemuth said, “but what is so important is that our supporters recognize the significance of walking with communities along the long road to recovery, and for their support we are extremely grateful.”

Virtual church extends extravagant welcome to marginalized

A California congregation fulfills its mission by using the virtual world to change real lives. Visitors can participate around the clock in First UCC Second Life, a 3D (three-dimensional) virtual reality church and the first virtual reality congregation among mainline denominations in the U.S. to be recognized with full standing.



Jerold Garber, who has served real-world UCC churches as an interim and settled minister, founded First UCC Second Life to meet the needs of people in marginalized groups seeking a place of faith that is genuinely welcoming of everyone.

First UCC Second Life offers worship services every day of the week, as well as monthly social events. It has a virtual campus complete with 3D buildings that users can wander around through their avatar—a 3D graphical representation of a person. This method differs from other online communities that use video conferencing as their means of communication.

“Since we are open twenty-four hours a day, every day, we are always a place of quiet and refuge for those who need a break from whatever else they may be engaged in doing,” said Garber. The church was installed into full standing in the Eastern Association of the Southern California-Nevada Conference last November.

UCC web partner offers churches free website set-up to kick off 2017

To make online communication easier and more effective for every United Church of Christ congregation in 2017, the UCC’s web partner, Ministry Designs, is giving away websites to every local church that needs one to kick off the New Year.

In this offer, which runs from January 1 through February 15, Ministry Designs is offering to help create a website for local churches using one of four designs created



specifically for UCC congregations. That service, when sold to the public, usually costs \$1,000. Churches will still be responsible for a minimal monthly hosting fee of \$35, which includes support, system updates, unlimited storage, unlimited pages and unlimited emails.

Once the website is up, Ministry Designs’ content management system can be revised directly by people at the church. The company also provides churches with the knowledge and the tools to update and maintain their site.

Churches that are interested in taking advantage of this offer or looking for more information should check out the company’s UCC page. They have four themes built specifically for the UCC, with 18 looks that work for any faith community.

(Manual on Ministry, continued from page 1)

Christ, a committee of seventeen persons from across the denomination labored for over two years to draft the new MOM. One of the co-chairs of the group was Eleanor Chong, member of Central Union Church and the O'ahu Association Church and Ministry Committee.

The Habakkuk Group, the name given to the committee, surveyed the landscape of the denomination and envisioned what was needed in the UCC, and then, like their namesake prophet, endeavored to "write the vision."



Church and Ministry Committee members from each association attended a day-long workshop to learn about changes to MOM.

Throughout the coming year, MESA will introduce the changes to MOM at regional gatherings of committee on ministry members. The effort began in Hawai'i with a joint day-long workshop on January 21, led by Elizabeth Dilley and Malcolm Himschoot of MESA, and attended by nearly all the members of the five associations' church and ministry committees.

Before coming to Hawai'i, the Rev. Dilley explained why there was a need for a new MOM: "The UCC is living in a time that calls for renewed focus on existing ways of being church while simultaneously giving breath and expression to new expressions of ministry. The new draft Manual on Ministry materials represent the deep discernment of the Habakkuk Group in equipping Committees on Ministry to do their work of discernment, preparation, and oversight of ministries in the UCC. Malcolm Himschoot and I are excited to provide time and space to explore these resources with the Hawai'i Conference."

(Volunteers, continued from page 1)

The *Moloka'i Dispatch* newspaper recognizes the selfless labor of Jackie and Edwina by publishing their names each time they volunteer. Their greatest reward is not publicity, however, but knowing they are doing God's work.

"Up to this day I have really enjoyed it, and I keep thanking the Lord to be able to help people like this," said Jackie. "Once you start helping, you don't want to stop. Your heart keeps going."

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 \$10 will pay for one person's subscription for one year. Gifts may be sent to the Hawai'i Conference UCC, 1848 Nu'uauu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96817.



Highlights from the Website

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

Sharon Inake concluded six months of part-time interim ministry at Lili'uokalani Protestant Church on Sunday, December 25, 2016.

David Kieffer ended as Interim Minister of Lihue Christian Church on December 25, 2016.

Malcolm Carr was called as Pastor of Lihue Christian Church beginning January 8, 2017. Previously, he served as pastor of Heidelberg United Church of Christ in Schwenksville, Pennsylvania.

Charles Poole began as Interim Pastor of the four Topside Moloka'i churches—Ho'olehua, Kalaiakamanu Hou, Kalua'aha and Waialua—on February 1. He previously served the churches in 2006 and 2012.

Conference Calendar of Events

February 17-18	AHEC 'Aha Halawai
February 20	Presidents' Day (Office Closed)
February 25	Church Leaders Event
March 4	Conference Council and Foundation Trustees
March 6-8	Clergy Retreat
March 27	Kuhio Day (Office Closed)
April 1	Conference Council and Foundation Trustees
April 13-14	Maundy Thursday/Good Friday (Conference Office Closed)
April 28-29	Kaua'i Association 'Aha Mokupuni
April 29	State Council of Hawaiian Congregational Churches Board



HAWAII
CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 894

1848 Nu'uuanu Avenue * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Return Service Requested



February 2017

Our Historical Roots

Kahu Abraham Akaka

by Richard Kamanu

This article begins a new series on the lives of people that helped shape the faith, religion and church in Hawai'i today.



On Palm Sunday, the Sunday school students stood ready to process down the long aisle of the grand church, carrying canned goods to be placed in coconut woven baskets lining the altar. The pipe organ began playing, "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna," and the children walked forward. As they neared the altar, a five-year old boy

saw a large figure in white robe and black stole growing larger before him. Fear and trembling overtook him, and suddenly he shouted out, "He Akua!" "It is God!"

Actually, it was Abraham Akaka, minister of Kawaiaha'o Church in Honolulu, and I was that five-year old, awed by this much loved, much revered, Hawaiian pastor.

The Rev. Dr. Abraham Kahikina Akaka, born in 1917 in Honolulu, was the fourth of seven children to parents who

placed God at the center of their lives, beginning each morning with 'ohana (family) devotions.

After college, he became a delegate to the World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam, Holland, which took place at the height of Hitler's power. These events marked a turning point in his life, leading to his decision to serve God as a minister and to his life-long commitment to peace and justice.

Abraham attended Chicago Theological Seminary and then served several churches in Hawai'i, including the famed Kawaiaha'o Church, established by the first missionaries to Hawai'i in 1820. Kahu Akaka, as he was called, also composed poetry and music and led and participated in protests for civil rights and peace. Unable to attend the famous Selma March in 1965, Kahu Akaka sent flower lei to his friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, which were worn by many of the marchers that day.



Kahu Akaka was, and still is, revered by many in Hawai'i for his genuine humility, loving compassion, and burning passion for peace and justice.