



# Ka Leo Mekokiko

Hawaii District

THE VOICE OF METHODISM

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## DISTRICT VISIONING WITH THE BISHOP

Our district conference this year is early—March 22 at Harris UMC. This is so that we can have the widest representation possible from the district when Bishop Carcaño, Rev. Steve Hundley—the annual conference director of connectional ministries—and members of the annual conference Mission-Vision Discernment team visit to conduct a visioning event toward a comprehensive vision for the annual conference. This is an unprecedented effort led by our bishop to get feedback from the entire annual conference to form the vision and direction of our annual conference. The visioning will take place after the conclusion of the district conference, approximately 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Because of the visioning event, our Hawaii United Methodist Union annual meeting and the district conference will be shortened and only essential business will be conducted. One item will be nominations for General and Jurisdictional Conference. The 2012 General Conference voted to allow elections of delegates two years before the next general conference. Registration forms for the District Conference will be e-mailed very soon to the pastors.

### JUST A REMINDER:

The annual Britt Lectures will be held on February 14-17, 2014, at the First United Methodist Church of Honolulu. The lectures are at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. A workshop for clergy is from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Monday. For the intermissions, there is a need for finger food refreshments to be brought to the First UMC Kitchen in disposable trays and containers.

This year's lecturer is **the Rev. Mike Slaughter**, lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Ohio. Pastor Mike is the three-decade dreamer of Ginghamburg Church and spiritual entrepreneur of ministry marketplace innovations. Mike's wife, **Carolyn Slaughter** is an adult ministries specialist and provides leadership to two of the covenantal ministries of Ginghamburg Church—membership and marriage preparation. Carolyn will be presenting a special workshop on effective new member classes on Saturday, February 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at First UMC Honolulu.



***Ministry Musings from the District Superintendent***  
*FOCUS: Through Discipleship and Witness*  
*We Strengthen Churches for the Present,*  
*Build Churches to Ensure the Future.*

**MAHALO NUI LOA FOR 102% APPORTIONMENT GIVING!!!!!!!!!!!!**

I am so proud of our Hawaii District. ***Every*** chartered congregation gave at least 100% of its 2013 apportionments, and one mission congregation, Kapolei Korean UM Mission, gave a large donation toward apportionments. Special thanks go to the following churches: Kahuku UMC gave over 121%, which was the highest percentage of any congregation in the annual conference and one of the top ten highest percentages ever; Christ UMC gave 110% of its apportionment in celebration of its 110th anniversary; Aiea UMC gave 108% and Kam-Nam UMC gave 103%.

Our record of being at or near 100% apportionment giving every year is a great testimony of faith, commitment, and sacrifice. My heartfelt thanks to all of you. Praise be to God!!!

**HOPE RETREAT HOUSE HAS BEEN SOLD**

By action of the Hawaii United Methodist Union (HUMU), the Hope Retreat House location in Ka'aawa, which was the site of the Hope UMC, was sold in early February. Hope UMC was discontinued as a congregation in 2009, and hopes for a retreat center did not materialize, as the facility would have required a considerable amount of renovation and expansion to be a viable retreat facility. For years, the expenses for maintaining the location have far exceeded the income from facility use. It was finally decided to sell the property.

The California-Pacific Annual Conference has rules governing the disposition of the proceeds of the sale of discontinued churches after satisfying existing obligations; for example, a loan from HUMU that the Hope UMC had taken previously will be repaid. 25% of the net proceeds reverts to the annual conference, 25% goes to HUMU outright. The remaining 50% will be determined for the district, but must have a missional purpose with the goal of revitalizing or starting new ministries. I have recommended that our District Planning and Strategy committee come up with a recommendation. Feedback from members of the former Hope UMC tended toward supporting ministries to young people.

It is bittersweet to see the end of a United Methodist Connection in Ka'aawa, but we are hopeful that this end will bring about a resurrection of dynamic ministry to our district in the future.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE DATES—JUNE 18-21 WITH CLERGY BEGINNING ON JUNE 17**

Annual Conference will be held at the University of Redlands from Wednesday morning to Saturday evening, ending with the Service of Commissioning and Ordination. The Orders of Ministry will have an event on Tuesday evening.

*Pastor Tom*

## **MESSAGE FROM S LILO VAKAUTA, District Lay Leader**

Hawai`i District,

Happy New Year. Praise the Lord and thanks to the Almighty God for His Love and mercy who guides and leads us to 2014. We promise to make a covenant with God.

Covenants were used by God throughout Biblical times; they were used as a divine method to reach out to men by the creator. This reaching, giving and loving was initiated by God himself through God's Covenant with man in the Garden of Eden. Then in the New Testament through the promised Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

A Covenant is not complete until both parties fulfill their obligations to the Covenant. The Abrahamic Covenant, guaranteed the blessings of physical health and material prosperity. However, Abraham had to remain obedient to God and faithfully follow His commandments. Seeking after God, as Abraham did, moves us into a New Relationship with Him.

Seeking God first means trusting Him with our lives and with all we have. It means giving to God not only when we have something to give...but also giving in times when we have little. Giving to God both out of our abundance and out of our need is an act of worshipping God.

It is much easier to give to God when we have plenty than giving out of our need. However, it is this giving, in our time of need, I believe, that touches God most...it is worshipping God in our time of need. Can you see how this sacrifice touches God, moves God into action, and releases Miracles toward you?

MANY SAY...Hawai`i District, I have nothing to give. I am fully convinced that this is very seldomly true. However, this is when we must activate our faith by vowing to God. How does this work? When you vow to God it is a way of thanking God, by faith, for receiving a blessing in advance. A vow is saying to God, I come into covenant with you. I make this promise to you concerning my giving and expect a return from you.

Abraham came into a vow-covenant with God. ..He acknowledged the fact that it was God who empowers him to prosper and he vowed to give back to God a portion of those blessings. When you VOW to God I believe you activate the same covenant of prosperity, health and blessing that God made with Abraham.

The Psalmist said, "VOW AND PAY UNTO YOUR GOD...AND HE WILL DELIVER YOU IN TIMES OF TROUBLE (Ps 50: 14-15)." God's promise to you is, if you are facing any kind of trouble. VOW and PAY and He will deliver you. When you VOW and PAY you are actually storing up blessings before you need them. There is no doubt about it. VOWING is a way of thanking God in advance for receiving His blessings. It is declaring to Satan that we are under God's Power of Protection and it releases God's Miracle Working Power toward our lives in advance EVERYONE CAN VOW. Don't worry about how you are going to pay your vow. Obey God and pay something each week or each month toward your vow until you have paid your vow because God has PROMISED TO HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR VOW.

The Holy Spirit spoke these words to us very clearly, "*Tell Hawai`i District you cannot enjoy God's blessings today or plan for a happy, successful future for tomorrow...IF HE IS STILL TIED TO SOMETHING IN THE PAST!*" I'm not just talking physically. It is what's IN YOUR MIND i am referring to You see Hawai`i District, success, health, happiness, AND THAT CHANGE MUST START IN YOUR MIND. Proverbs 23:7 "As a person thinks...SO THY ARE!" The real secret of getting ahead and succeeding today is BEING ABLE TO "CUT LOOSE" FROM YOUR PAST! Why? Because everything in your past *IS DEAD!* And, "DEAD THINGS" MUST BE BURIED! Amen? The truth is, there is not a one of us who wouldn't do anything if we could go back in our past and CHANGE SOMETHING we said or did. But, *WE CAN'T!* It's impossible to "un-ring" a bell once it's been rung. Today God is saying to you, "Hawai`i District, as long as your PAST IS DEAD! You must "cut loose" from it, bury it, and *when you do, A NEW TOMORROW WILL OPEN UP TO YOU AND BE DIFFERENT!*

Hawai`i District, as long as the devil can keep you tied to something dead, or, keep some "dead thing" embedded in your mind you will spend your time feeling guilty over things in your past YOU CAN'T CHANGE ..and fail to take advantage of THE MANY "NEW OPPORTUNITIES" AND FRIENDS GOD HAS FOR YOU TODAY!

(continued on p.6)

**ANNOUNCING Spring 2014 LAY SERVANT Class  
OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED (not reserved for Lay Servants)**

**Advanced Course: Living Our Methodist Heritage**

**Time: Friday, April 11, 5:30-9:00 PM and Saturday, April 12, 8:30 AM-3:00 PM**

**Place: Harris United Methodist Church, 20 South Vineyard Blvd, HI 97617**

**Instructor:** Norma Kehrberg. She has had a variety of experiences with the United Methodist Church – spanning over 40 years, including 25 years in Nepal as a missionary, Chief Executive of UMCOR, served as local pastor in Saipan, elected as delegate to Jurisdictional Conference and alternate to General Conference, Hawaii District Chair of Global Ministries, Director of Christian Unity and currently as Vice President of the Hawaii District United Methodist Union. She served as chair of a national planning team for a mission convocation at Garrett Evangelical Theological School called “Bridges of Understanding” and was the convener of the “Rethink Mission Conference: Reflection and Action” at the Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville. She taught junior and high school. She holds master degrees in music and public health

**Living Our Methodist Heritage:**

**This is one of the courses required to become a Lay Speaker.** Other courses required to become Lay Speaker are: Leading Worship. Leading Prayer, Preaching, Discovering your Spiritual Gifts and United Methodist Polity. These classes will be offered in the future.

This course focuses on

- Learning some history of the Methodist Church
- Following our founder, John Wesley’s life style
- Learning Wesley’s ways as doorways into knowledge and love of God

Cost: \$25.00 includes registration and book: Living Our Beliefs. Call Winnie Ching 808 692-6638 or email: [wingin322@yahoo.com](mailto:wingin322@yahoo.com) for more information.

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**Registration:**

As soon as possible send this form with your registration fees to :Lay Servant Ministries, c/o Hawaii District Office, 20 South Vineyard Blvd, Honolulu, HI 96813-2317 or bring to first class.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Living Our Methodist Heritage

Cost: \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Checks are made out to HUMU

Received by \_\_\_\_\_

Other classes interested in are: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL LAY PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD**

In 1961, the Bishop Gerald Kennedy Award was established. It was to be given annually to a person or persons for distinguished service, selected by a committee appointed by the Bishop. Today that responsibility rests with the Laity Council of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference. After 1980 it was given to an outstanding Lay Man and Lay Woman each year. In 2004 a third category was added to name an outstanding Young Adult Lay Person. The award is now presented at the recipient’s local church by the Laity Council. Recipients are also named during the annual conference session and acknowledged at the Laity Dinner.

Guidelines to consider when submitting a nomination:

- ◆ Nominees must be an active member of the Congregation submitting the application.
- ◆ Nominee should currently exemplify strong leadership skills within the congregation in activities such as Bible study, training programs, local participation, Sunday school, and in general should be an example of Christian stewardship.
- ◆ Nominee should be currently active in one or more community evangelistic or outreach programs and/or be active on a Conference, District, Mission Area, or ecumenical level through committee activity, Lay Servant Ministries, training programs and/or seminars.

A congregation may make more that one nomination.

Current Laity Council members are not eligible. If nominee is a paid staff member please provide description with the nomination form.

The form may be completed by any lay person in the church and needs the endorsements of at least one other lay person and the pastor.

Please complete the online nomination form and send two copies to the Conference office to arrive by **March 1, 2014**. Electronic submission is encouraged. Send to **Pam Allen pallen@cal-pac.org**. The 2013 Lay Woman of the year was Ms. Deborah “Debbie” Ellen Wise of Guam UMC.

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**Harris UMC Christian Education Scholarship Program:**

Applications are now available for The Christian Education Scholarship Program of Harris United Methodist Church. Eligibility requirements include being a member/constituent of Harris UMC or Hawai'i District UMC and open to students currently enrolled or accepted into an accredited institution. Deadline is April 30, 2014. For further details on the scholarship and application, eligibility and submission requirements, please see Harris UMC website at [harrisumc.org](http://harrisumc.org).



**Notice of Upcoming Event From the Conference:** A Disaster Academy will be held at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center in Federal Way, Washington from March 3-6, 2014. Speakers will describe ways one can put their faith into action by helping to respond to natural disasters, such as fires, floods, and earthquakes. Featured speakers are Bishop Hagiya; UMCOR Disaster Response for the United States Gregg Forrester; and UMCOR Director of Communications, Jim Rollins.

**CST President to visit Hawaii in March:** The Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, President of the Claremont School of Theology, will be visiting Hawaii from March 21-28, 2014. If any one is interested in meeting with him, contact Noemi Ortega, Director of Alumni/Relations, at <nortega@CST.edu>.

# CAMP MEKOKIKO

The Wisconsin VIM group is putting the finishing touching touches on the chapel before the dedication held on January 14, in honor of Donna and Wayne Kiefer, seven time Camp Mekokiko volunteers.



← the final coat of special masonry paint being applied in chapel.



**In mid-February we will share the celebration day pictures. The team members were: Gail & Harold Burgess, Mike & Bobbie Couillard, Donna & Wayne Kiefer, Jim & Pat Houwers, Nancy & Gordon Hubbard, Steve & Karen Rankin. The pictures are lightly annotated for your recognition of these wonderful people. Enjoy.**

**Ted Lesnett, Director  
Camp Mekokiko**

Laying tile on floor of chapel  
Applying paint to ceiling.

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(continued from page 3)

Hawai`i District, I've seen many good Christian people, come to church, worship and praise God, enjoy his Anointing and blessings. But, when night falls, and they are laying in bed, in the privacy of their own home, the guilt and ghosts, heartbreak and fear, LEAP OUT OF THE DARKENESS OF THE PAST AND PLAY "MIND-GAMES" WITH THEIR HEAD! Maybe a broken marriage...a business that failed...a broken relationship..an affair with the wrong person,. a broken home, an abused childhood..a broken heart..I could go on and on..***BUT THE TRUTH IS, the only placed these things live is IN YOUR MIND!*** And the only way you can free yourself is to **CUT THEM LOOSE.**

Hawai`i District, listen to what Paul said, "...Forget those things which are behind you...AND PRESS FORWARD!" (Phil. 3:13) You see, everything God has allowed you to go through in the past HAS BEEN FOR A PURPOSE! This is why the enemy has fought you so hard. He knows God has His hand on you and you are about to see your harvest. Praise Him! God said, "***YOU HAVE HURT LONG ENOUGH AND SHED ENOUGH TEARS...***" A certain amount of tears are necessary during the sowing season. But, when it comes "Harvest Time" ***DON'T LET THE DEVIL KEEP YOU WEEPING!*** Psalmist David said, "***THEY THAT GO FORTH WEEPING, SHALL COME AGAIN REJOICING!***" Ps. 126:6

Hawai`i District: Remember, we make a covenant with God and rejoice in the Lord, out strength. We love you all, Hawai`i District.

In Jesus Name,

Sione Lilo Vakauta

# **BITS N' PIECES...**

**\* \* \* PERSONAL \* \* \***

### **Please pray for...**

...continued healing for Leilani Zukemura, Hawaii District  
Office Administrative Assistant

### **Please continue to pray for...**

...Mr. Dick Englar of Waianae UMC, our former District Lay Leader  
...Mr. Mark Britt, adult son of Mrs Caroline Britt, Britt Lecturer benefactor  
...Mrs Dot Bloom of Kiloohana UMC and former District Camp Secretary  
...Rev. Colleen Chun and Rev Kana Shimasaki who are both on Incapacity Leave



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## **The Rev. Samuel Cox given MLK Peacemaker Award**

Nominated by attorney Ellen Godbey Carson and selected by a committee from Church of the Crossroads UCC, the Rev. Samuel Cox received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Peacemaker Award on Monday January 20. Samuel was recognized for his peacemaking efforts through the years: desegregation work in the 1950's; social work in inner city Tokyo; director of Moiliili Community Center; director of Hale Kipa for 27 years; and beginning the Beacon of Hope house for women leaving prison. A graduate of Iliff School of Theology, Samuel was ordained in the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference. He also received a Masters in Social Work at UH.

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### **Annual Conference news:**

For those attending the Annual Conference in June, 2014, delegates will be leaving Honolulu on Monday evening June 16. They will be leaving Los Angeles on Sunday morning on June 22. The clergy meeting is scheduled for Tuesday,, June 17. Travel information and forms will be forthcoming.

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### **Hold the following churches, ministries and their pastors in your prayers:**

I hope people were praying for the following churches, ministries and their pastors for the past month: Kiloohana (Pastors Sam Domingo and Petueli Tafo'ou) and Kapolei Korean UM Mission (Pastor SonHye Kim)

- 2/16—Kam-Nam UMC—Pastor Jay Ahn
- 2/23—Kailua UMC — Pastors Tim Ellington and Sam Cox
- 3/2—Kahuku UMC—Pastor Manako Kemoeatu
- 3/9—Kahaluu UMC—Pastor Joseph Yun

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**DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**February 2014**

Fri.-Mon., Feb. 14-17: **Britt Lectures**; First UMC  
Sat., Feb. 15; 8:30 am: UMW Mid-Winter Event  
Mon., Feb. 17: *Presidents' Day; District Office closed*  
Mon., Feb. 24: Deadline for Mar.-Apr. Ka Leo Mekokiko

**March 2014**

Sat., Mar. 22: **Visioning Hawaii District with Bishop; District Conference**  
Wed., Mar. 26: *Prince Kuhio Day; Dist. Office closed*  
Mon., Mar. 31: Deadline for Apr.-May Ka Leo Mekokiko

**April 2014**

Sun., Apr. 13: *Palm Sunday*  
Thu., Apr. 17: *Maundy Thursday*  
Fri., Apr. 18: *Good Friday; District Office closed*  
Sun., Apr. 20: **EASTER Sunday**  
Mon., Apr. 28: Deadline for May-Jun. Ka Leo Mekokiko

**May 2014**

Sat., May 3: Ann. Conf. Pre-Conference Briefings??  
Thu.-Sun., May 22-25: **Walk to Emmaus for Men**  
Mon., May 26: *Memorial Day; District Office closed*  
" " " : Deadline for Jun.-Jul. Ka Leo Mekokiko

**June 2014**

Wed., Jun. 11: *King Kamehameha Day; Dist. Ofc. closed*  
Wed.-Sat., Jun. 18-21: Cal-Pac Annual Conference  
Mon., Jun. 30: Deadline for Jul.-Aug. Ka Leo Mekokiko

**July 2014**

Fri., Jul. 4: *Independence Day; Dist. Ofc. closed.*  
Mon., Jul. 28: Deadline for Aug.-Sep. Ka Leo Mekokiko

**August 2014**

Thu.-Sun., Aug. 7-10: **Walk to Emmaus for Women**  
Fri., Aug. 15: *Statehood Day; District Office closed*  
Sat., Aug. 16: HUMU Board meeting [tentative]  
Mon., Aug. 25: Deadline for Sep.-Oct. Ka Leo Mekokiko

<p><b>HAWAII UNITED METHODIST UNION</b> 20 South Vineyard Boulevard Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: (808) 536-1864 Email: calpachawaii@district@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>KA LEO MEKOKIKO February-March 2014</b></p>	<p>Page 1 Camp Mekokiko Page 4 Laity of the Year Nomination Forms Page 5 Lay Speaking Workshops</p>	<p>Page 6</p>
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