



Ka Leo Mekokiko

“The Voice of Methodism”

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GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012—A PREVIEW by Rev. Tom Choi



General Conference is a quadrennial meeting held every leap year, and decides mission and ministry direction, rules, and policy for The United Methodist Church. This year's General Conference will be held in Tampa, Florida, from April 24 through May 4. 1,000 delegates plus many other leaders and observers from all over the world will gather to worship, work through thousands of pieces of legislation, and ultimately vote on the direction of our denomination for the next four years and beyond.

Our annual conference will be represented. The lay delegates are: Ken Ellis, Leanne Nakanishi, Mele Maka, and JoAnn Fukumoto from the Hawaii District; the alternates are Norma Kehrberg from the Hawaii District, and Marjorie Suchocki. The clergy delegates are Molly Vetter, Cedrick Bridgeforth, Patricia Farris, and yours truly; the alternates are Frank Wulf and Mary Elizabeth Moore.

Out of the thousands of pieces of legislation proposed, there are three categories that I would uplift as being of particular importance, as they have the potential of having great impact on our denomination:

CALL TO ACTION REPORT

This report from the Interim Operations Team for the denomination includes proposals for sweeping changes to the structure of the denominational boards and agencies, from eleven (such as the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Discipleship, etc.) into one “super-agency,” going from about 600 directors and members to a Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry with 15 directors and an advisory council of 45 members. There are many varying opinions on this report, realizing the need for some consolidation, but also concerns that vitality of ministry at the denominational level will be severely reduced, and concerns that diversity will be diminished.

WORLDWIDE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

While the United Methodist Church is declining slowly in the United States, it is growing rapidly in the rest of the world, such as in Africa and the Philippines. For many decades, the emphasis of the Book of Discipline and general church resources and policies has focused on the American church. This General Conference will consider legislation that will allow more flexibility in the style and governance of mission and ministry in the different areas.

MINISTRY STUDY COMMISSION LEGISLATION

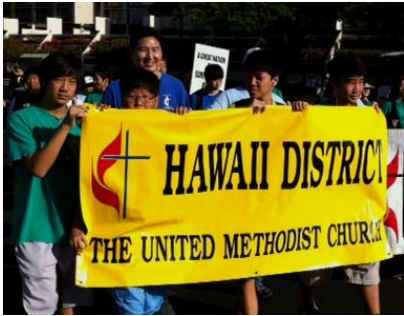
I was blessed to have been a member of this 2008 General Conference mandated committee to study the nature of the ordained ministry. One of the most important emphases is a renewal of a culture of calling to the ministry, especially the ordained ministry. With only 5% of our clergy 35 years of age and younger, there is a great need to recruit and convince more young people of the viability and appeal of the pastoral ministry as a vocation.

Perhaps the most controversial is the recommendation to eliminate the *guarantee* of an appointment and full-time salary for elders in full connection. As a member of the sub-committee that wrote this legislation, I feel that it is necessary to take this major step as a way of optimizing the missional aspect of appointment-making, allowing for flexibility, and taking into consideration the financial realities facing our churches.



Ministry Musings from the District Superintendent

“To develop healthy, life-changing, missional, multi-generational, prayerful, and covenantal congregations and ministries that make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MARCH ON JANUARY 16

Over 100 United Methodists of all ages were present at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., march. It was a blessing for Becky and me to be with such a strong presence from our Hawaii District!



My thanks to the churches and ministries represented: Christ, First, Harris, Kahalu'u, Keolumana, Kilohana, Olive, Parker, Wesley Foundation, Wahiawa, and Waianae.

THE BRITT LECTURER: THE REV. DR. LOVETT WEEMS

Professor Lovett Weems of the Wesley Theological Seminary is the 2012 Britt Lectures, to be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings at the First UMC of Honolulu from February 17-19, 2012, beginning at 7:00 p.m. A workshop designed for clergy will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on February 20, also at First UMC.

Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr., is distinguished professor of church leadership and director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. He is considered one of the leading authorities and consultants on church growth, church leadership, and effective church ministry.

He is a highly sought speaker and lecturer, and we are very blessed to have him as our Britt Lecturer.



MAHALO FOR THE HOW-TO WORKSHOPS

My thanks to the Division on Discipleship for another great training event. Although the numbers were smaller than other years, I understand that it was an inspired time for those who attended.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR 2011 APPORTIONMENT GIVING!!

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of our churches in the Hawaii District. 32 out of 33 churches were able to give 100% of their apportionments, and the one church that did not still gave 82% and had intended to give 100% but missed the deadline. That meant that the Hawaii District gave 99.7% of its apportionments, which is the highest percentage in the annual conference!

Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom

Just Us... The Laity

By Dick Englar

To God be the Glory, Great things He has done. On January 10, 2012, I was in an automobile accident. As I went by ambulance to Queens Hospital, different things went through my mind, but I could feel the presence of Jesus riding along with me. I prayed and the young female attendant prayed with me. She was one of Leilani Zukemura's daughter's friend. I thank God for her and all those who helped me during the crisis.

I was amazed that God put me into the hands of people who really cared. When we arrived at the hospital, I knew to put all my faith into God's hands. I just want to give God the glory. It's like going to church on Sunday and thanking God for the music. He uses music to call people and it ignites their spiritual passions. Music is an all-occasion, all inclusive art form. Music is a wonderful metaphor for the church because everyone participates by doing what they do best.

One of the best uses for music is praise. I thanked God for beautiful music that night. It's like a preview of heaven where the Glory of God will dwell forever. I hope and pray you understand what I'm trying to say. To God be the glory.

Aloha,

Dick

Emmaus Walks for 2012



Men's #37: May 24-28, 2012

Women's #38: August 16-19, 2012

Now is the time to start praying for those pilgrims whom WTE alumni may want to sponsor for the 2012 Walks.

Applications are on the Hawaii Emmaus website: <http://walktoemmaus.hawaiiunc.com/applications/>. Turn them in as soon as they are filled to: HUMU Walk to Emmaus, 20

South Vineyard Blvd, Honolulu, HI 96813. Deadline for applications is **May 17, 2012** for the Men's Walk and **August 9, 2012** for the Women's Walk.

Go to the following website to get more information about sponsorship.

<http://upperroom.org/emmaus/invitation/>.

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 Hawaii District UMC and open to students currently enrolled or accepted into an accredited institution. Deadline is April 30th, 2012. For further details on the scholarship and application, eligibility and submission requirements, please contact Cheryl Yamamoto of Harris UMC: cherylyamamoto@gmail.com

Other United Methodist student loans are available for spring term: applications must be completed by midnight, March 1. Loan applications for the fall term will open on June 1, 2012. All applications will be available online including references, transcripts, and award notification. They are completely electronic. Scholarship applications are currently being accepted at: <www.gbhem.org/scholarshipapplication>.

SHARING THE "GOOD NEWS"

In its efforts to reach out to the local churches, the District Division of Evangelism would like to feature a regular column in every local church newsletter. A monthly article by the division dealing with evangelism will be sent to the pastor and/or the editor of the local church's newsletter.

The hope is to keep evangelism in the forefront...in the minds and hearts of United Methodists in the Hawaii District. "We've Got Good News"; let us share it!

Pre-Retirement Workshop for Clergy

The Cal-Pac Conference Board of Pensions and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry present **Life Enhancement 101 - Pre-Retirement Workshop**, Tuesday-Thursday, May 1-3, 2012 at the Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center, Sierra Madre. The cost is \$75.00 per person which includes 2 nights accommodations and six meals. For registration forms call PH: (626) 568-7318 or e-mail <wbethea@cal-pac.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE HAWAII DISTRICT:

Britt Lecture Series at First UMC on February 17-20

Ash Wednesday and beginning of Lenten Season - February 22

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

Feb 12 - Waianae UMC - Pastors Debra Murray & Sione Taukolo

Feb 19 - Wahiawa UMC - Pastor Frances Wiebenga

Feb 26 - Trinity UMC - Pastors Robert Miyake-Stoner & Solomon Uluave

Mar 4 - Parker UMC - Pastor Andrew Lee

Mar 11 - Pacific Islander UMC - Pastor Faaagi Taufetee

Mar. 18- Olive UMC - Pastors Sang Ho Yi & Suega Leui



BITS N' PIECES...

CONGRATULATIONS. . .

...to the members of Kona United Methodist Church. On January 14th they had a "Mortgage Burning" party to celebrate having paid off the mortgage.

* * * *PERSONAL* * * *

Please pray for...

...Mr. Dick Englar of Waianae UMC, our District Lay Leader. He was in a car accident and fractured his sternum. He is recovering at home and has been experiencing pain from his right shoulder through the arm to the hand. Get-well cards can be sent to: P.O. Box 572, Waianae, HI 96792.

...retired Pastor Roby Correa who has undergone surgery on her leg. Get-well cards can be mailed to: P.O. Box 974, Waianae, HI 96792.

...Mrs. Dot Bloom of Keolumana UMC and former District Camp Secretary. She encountered some post-surgery complications.

Deepest sympathy to...

...the family of Mrs. Kyung Hee Nam upon the passing of her father in Denver, Colorado. Mrs. Nam is the spouse of the Rev. Kyu Woo Nam of Calvary United Methodist Mission in Honolulu.

...the family of the Rev. Malyong Yi, pastor of Hilo UMC. Mrs. Jane Caldwell, Pastor Mal's oldest sister, passed away in Camarillo, California at the age of 79 years.

Please continue to pray for...

...Mrs. Elinore Lott, spouse of the late Rev. Bob Lott. She is at home recovering from a fall and surgery.

...Retired Pastor Misipati Karapani who has been suffering from swelling in his legs.

...Rev. Colleen Chun and Rev. Kana Shimasaki who are both on Incapacity Leave.

* * * *CLASSIFIED* * * *

Metal folding chairs available...

...Kailua UMC would like to give another district local church on Oahu 60 (brown) metal chairs. Please call Kailua UMC at PH: 261-6238 if interested.

Available: Church facilities to share...

...Bethany Korean United Methodist Church is looking to share their facilities with any interested Christian church. It is located at the Sears Distribution Center in Pearl City. For further details, please contact Pastor Myong Duk Han at PH: (808) 347-6114.

Job Openings at Harris United Methodist Church...

Secretary to the Pastor (Full Time)

Job Description: Facilitator of organizational team work, secretarial duties and minor administrative oversight. Compensation: \$30,000 to \$35,000 plus benefits. Please mail email your resume to : no-bukoms@harrisumc.org

*Harris United Methodist Church is seeking a **preacher** on a part-time or on a regular basis to give the message for its contemporary worship service on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. If interested please contact Harris United Methodist Church, 20 So. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI 9813, ATTN: SPRC*

DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2012

Fri.-Mon., Feb. 17-20: **Britt Lectures**; First UMC
Sat., Feb. 18: Dist UMW Mid-Winter Event; Waianae
“ ” “ : HUMU Board Mtg. - cancelled
Mon., Feb. 20: *Presidents' Day*, District Office closed
Wed., Feb. 22: *Ash Wednesday*
Sun., Feb. 26: *First Sunday in Lent*
Mon., Feb. 27: Deadline for Mar.-Apr. Ka Leo Mekokiko

March 2012

Sat., Mar. 10; 8:30 a.m.: DLT meeting; SWCC
Sun., Mar. 18: *One Great Hour of Sharing*
Mon., Mar. 26: *Prince Kuhio Day*; District Office closed
“ ” “ : Deadline for Apr.-May Ka Leo Mekokiko

April 2012

Sun., Apr. 1: *Palm / Passion Sunday*
Thu., Apr. 5: *Maundy / Holy Thursday*
Fri., Apr., 6: *Good Friday*; District Office closed
Sun., Apr. 8: **EASTER SUNDAY**
Sat., Apr. 21: District UMW Spiritual Retreat
Sun., Apr. 22: *Native American Ministries Sunday*
Tue.-Fri., Apr. 24-May 4: GENERAL CONFERENCE;
Tampa, Florida
Mon., Apr. 30: Deadline for May-June Ka Leo Mekokiko

May 2012

Wed., May 2; 7:00 p.m.: Dist. UMW Executive mtg.
Thu., May 10; 8:00 a.m.: HCOM meeting
Sat., May 12; 9:00 a.m.: HUMU Board Mtg.; Harris

Sat., May 19: **District Conference**
Thu.-Sun., May 24-27: **Walk To Emmaus for men**
Sun., May 27: *Pentecost Sunday*
Mon., May 28: *Memorial Day*; District Office closed
“ ” “ : Deadline for Jun.-Jul. Ka Leo Mekokiko

June 2012

Sun., Jun. 3: *Peace with Justice Sunday*
Mon., Jun. 11: *King Kamehameha Day*; Dist. Ofc. closed
Thu.-Sun., Jun. 14-17: Cal-Pac Annual Conference
Mon., Jun. 25: Deadline for Jul.-Aug. Ka Leo Mekokiko

July 2012

Wed., Jul. 4: *Independence Day*; Dist. Office closed
Wed.-Sat., Jul. 18-20: WESTERN JURISDICTIONAL
CONFERENCE; San Diego
Thu.-Sun., Jul 26-29: Cal-Pac UMW Korean School of
Christian Mission
Fri.-Sun., July 27-29: Cal-Pac UMW School of
Christian Mission
Mon., Jul. 30: Deadline for Aug.-Sep. Ka Leo Mekokiko

August 2012

Sat., Aug. 4; 9:00 a.m.: Dist. UMW Exec. mtg; SWCC
Sat., Aug. 11???: **Mission Festival**
Thu.-Sun., Aug. 16-19: **Walk To Emmaus for women**
Fri., Aug. 17: *Statehood Day*; District Office closed
Sat., Aug. 18; 9:00 a.m.: HUMU Board meeting; Harris
Sat., Aug. 25???: **Mission Festival**
Mon., Aug. 27: Deadline for Sep.-Oct. Ka Leo Mekokiko

Inside Ka Leo Mekokiko - Feb-Mar 2012
General Conference
Walk to Emmaus
Page 1
Scholarships, Pre-Retirement Workshop
Page 4

HAWAII UNITED METHODIST UNION
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