



# Ka Leo Mekokiko

“The Voice of Methodism”

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## MUSINGS from General Conference

From April 24 to May 4, 2012, 988 delegates met in Tampa, Florida for the 2012 General Conference (GC). Two thirds of the delegates (330) were from central conferences outside the U.S, the majority of those from Africa. The 2012 gathering brought pluralism, multi-cultures and cyber-space connections face to face with “Roberts Rules of Order”.

Multiple social networks were active and many times you could see heads bowed. They were not praying - they were texting, posting tweets or “facebooking”. GC Methoblog estimated there were 80,000 users with over 2,500 tweets from outside the US. People around the US knew the vote even before the delegates exited the rooms through Twitter.

The two issues that topped the list for 2012 GC – Church Restructure and “ending guaranteed appointments” for Clergy, met different fates. The ministry study which recommended the end of guaranteed appointments sailed through its legislative process. The plan for restructure did not! It was the official position designed to combine nine general church agency programs and assets under a 15 member board of directors concentrating power. Up to \$3 million was proposed to spend on legal issues alone. It was not approved in the legislative committee. Two other plans also died in committee.

As the delegates observed Sabbath through worship and rest, a small back room group designed another restructure plan. Through a torturous parliamentary session, it was approved and GC went on to other business. However, near the scheduled adjournment time of the conference, the Judicial Council, the highest ranking court in the UMC, ruled the restructure plan unsalvageable and unconstitutional. Everyone was shocked. (I was relieved, maybe a little jubilant.)

Decorum prevailed and essential legislative items including the general church budget were approved. Worship ended just before midnight in time to vacate the convention center for another group.

I was a first reserve lay delegate and was pleased to cast my first vote, on what appeared to be mundane rule changes. But rules are never mundane as we are United “Method - ists” and we like methods and rules. Well, maybe not **all** the rules!

Norma Kehrberg,  
First Reserve Lay Delegate, Cal-Pac Annual Conference

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## LOOKING AHEAD:

Hawaii District Annual Conference —May 19

Cal-Pac Annual Conference—June 14-17

Western Jurisdictional Conference in San Diego— July 18-20

Cal-Pac UMW School of Christian Mission (Korean Women) — July 26-29

Cal-Pac UMW School of Christian Mission — July 27-29

Special farewells for Bishop Mary Ann Swenson will be held in Hawaii throughout the summer (dates to be determined)





## **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.”*

**GENERAL CONFERENCE KEY ACTIONS** The 2012 General Conference (GC) concluded on May 4 with some new directions for ministry. The one that will probably affect our annual conference most obviously is the elimination of security of appointment. This means that elders and associate members no longer have a guaranteed fulltime appointment. GC legislation goes into effect on January 1, 2013.

One of the most talked about topics was a planned major restructuring of the denomination, which was eventually called “Plan UMC.” The plan, in my opinion, was too hastily drawn up, and was even though was approved by the GC, the Judicial Council (kind of like the Supreme Court of the UMC) ruled it unconstitutional. So what we have is the previous structure, with the boards and agencies reduced in size.

Legislation about Human Sexuality was again the most controversial. The GC voted to affirm the existing language that considers homosexuality to be incompatible with Christian teaching plus related language. The discussion was heated and passionate. For me, a major disappointment was that a middle ground position that affirmed both perspectives while trying to reach a common ground of love and dialogue was voted down.

The presence of international delegates—who now comprise about 40% of the GC delegates—had great impact, particularly the rapidly growing UMC in Africa. It will be interesting to see how our denomination is shaped by the changes in demographics and culture.

It was a great blessing and honor to be the first elected delegate from our annual conference, as well as the clergy delegate from Hawaii. Your lay delegate, JoAnn Fukumoto, as well as Norma Kehrberg (who was first alternate) were great blessings to the delegation.

The three of us will give short presentations at the District Conference. We are always available to answer questions and dialogue with you.

### **DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON MAY 19**

By now, you should know that the 2012 Hawaii District Conference will be on Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon at Parker United Methodist Church in Kaneohe. The conference will be followed by lunch picnic (bring blankets and picnic chairs!); after lunch there will be the Annual Conference Pre-Conference Briefing for all clergy members and Lay Members to Annual Conference beginning at 1:30 p.m. (Please encourage your Lay Member to Annual Conference to attend District Conference and the Pre-Conference Briefing that follows.)

The focus for this conference is “*Rewarding Habits in Ministry*”. Selected people who have excellent faith affirming habits will be sharing: Helena Ogle on prayer; Jim White on Scripture Journaling; Peter Lee on reaching out to non-churched people; Wahiawa UMC on outreach ministry.

We will celebrating milestones in ministry, as well as saying aloha to appointed clergy.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THREE 100% CHURCHES!!!**

I am truly grateful to three churches that have given 100% to apportionments: Kam-Nam, First Tongan, and West Kauai. Let us follow their faithful example!!

Grace and aloha,

*Pastor Tom*

## THE LAITY

By Dick Englar

In Hawai`I on May 1st we celebrate "Lei Day." All kinds of lei are made to be shared with others. The flowers are shared with one another as an act of love and kindness.

Lei are a beautiful symbol that says, "Love your neighbor."

What really matters is Loving God and Loving our neighbors Let us love one another because Love is from God.

You know today and everyday is a good day to lean on God. God is always willing to help us clean up the messes we sometimes make.

Following Jesus takes us on Life's most important journeys.

What really matters is Loving God and the people in our lives.

Nothing this world offers can compare to the life God has in store for us.

The gift of time is a gift of Love. If your looking for directions "Follow the Cross",—that's what it is all about.

In the face of Christ is the look of Love.

Each day look for someone who needs your help and give it in the name of Christ.

You are never too old to learn more about God and God's ways.

The gift of salvation calls for Joy and Thanksgiving.

Remember this

God is a Father who is and always will be with us.

Hope these words of encouragement Teach you in some way.



Aloha,  
Dick

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### **ATTENTION: Hawaii Clergy and Lay Members to Annual Conference**

Only those who plan to arrive at the University of Redlands when the Hawaii Group arrives (which is Wednesday, June 13 around 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.) may register at Cortner Hall. **If you plan to arrive on Tuesday (any time during the day/night) or Wednesday (morning or afternoon) or Thursday (any time during the day/night), please register/check-in at Hunsaker University Center - Lounge.** The Hawaii District staff will only have the registration packets/keys for those who arrive on Wednesday evening. Please call the District Office if you plan to arrive at the same time as the Hawaii Group on Wednesday evening.

**WAIANA E EXPERIENCE:** UM volunteer in Mission Team coming to Hawaii August 13-20, 2012

Come and join in building relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Waianae. We will be working with Waianae UMC under the leadership of Pastor Debra Murray. Our work will have us doing Vacation Bible School, ministry with the homeless, and worship and fellowship with disabled adults at the nearby adult day care center. In addition, this team will also experience and study the culture and history of Hawai'i. If interested in joining this team please contact the Team Leader Heather Wilson at 818-333-6730 or via email at umvimwi@hotmail.com by June 1. She should be able to give you a discounted price for local people.

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***Camp Meḱokiko***

Good news!! Certificate of occupancy for the duplex has been issued and it can be legally rented—for \$85 a night. Also the building permit has been issued for construction of the bunkhouse. Still needed are donations for the chapel. A special donation of \$55,000 is welcome to begin its building.  
—Ted Lesnett, Director



**BITS N' PIECES...**

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

Deepest sympathy to...

...Rev. Dr. Dan Benedict and family on the recent death of his brother, Gerry. Gerry Benedict died suddenly in an accident clearing the Finger Lakes Trail in upstate New York. He was retired and doing what he loved. Notes of sympathy can be sent to: 67-207 Kahaone Loop, #A, Waialua, HI 96791.

Please continue to pray...

...Mr. Dick Englar of Waianae UMC, our District Lay Leader. He is still experiencing pain from his right shoulder through the arm to the hand.

...Mrs. Dot Bloom of Keolumana UMC and former District Camp Secretary.

...Retired Pastor Misipati Karapani who is recuperating at home.

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

***You are invited to District United Methodist Men Breakfast***

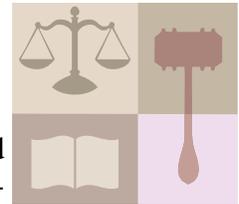
Come and listen to a talk by Dr. Ignacio "Nash" Torres on his most recent trip for the Hawaii Medical Mission to the Philippines. This event is on Saturday, June 2nd, 8:00 a.m. at Aldersgate UMC. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. and it is open to all UMMen. Spouses are invited. Donations will be accepted.

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**AROUND THE CONFERENCE and beyond**

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY is June 3.

Noting the presence of more than 1 million Tongans, Samoans, Fijians and native Hawaiians living in the United States, the General Conference delegates approved a national plan for Pacific Islanders. The sixth racial/ethnic national plan will provide resources for 80 U.S. churches, congregations and fellowships ministering to Pacific Islanders. The General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) will administer the work of the new entity. The general budget includes \$544,000 to fund the plan.



Camp Mekokiko has a new web page: same old address: MEKOKIKO.COM

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Please hold the following churches, ministries and their pastors in your prayers

5/27 - **Kam-Nam UMC** - Pastors Sangyong Jung & Woon Yong Jeong

6/3 - **Kailua UMC** - Pastors J.T. Greenleaf & Sam Cox

6/10 - **Kahuku UMC** - Pastor Manako Kemoeatu

6/17 - **Kahaluu UMC** - Pastor Bob Nakata

6/24 - **Immanuel UMC** - To Be Supplied

7/1 - **Hope Prayer House**



**DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS****May 2012**

Fri., May 18: Spring Clergy Gathering; St. Stephen's

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**

Sat., Jun. 2; 8:00 a.m.: **UMMen Breakfast**; Aldersgate

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

Sun., Jun. 24: **Aloha to for Bishop Swenson;**

**Kauai [tentative]**

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: **Aloha to Bishop Swenson; Maui??  
and Big Island??**

Sat., Aug. 4; 9:00 a.m.: Dist. UMW Exec. mtg; SWCC

Sat., Aug. 11: **Aloha to Bishop Swenson; Oahu**

[tentative]

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

**September 2012**

Mon., Sep. 3: *Labor Day*; District Office closed

Sat., Sep. 8; 8:30 a.m.: DLT mtg.; Susannah WCC?

Sat., Sep. 22; 8:30 a.m.: Dist. UMW Annual Mtg; Trinity

Mon., Sep. 24: Deadline for Oct.-Nov. Ka Leo Mekokiko

**October 2012**

Sun. Oct. 7: *World Communion Sunday*

Sun., Oct. 14: *Children's Sabbath*

Sun., Oct. 21: *Laity Sunday*

Mon., Oct. 29: Deadline for Nov.-Dec. Ka Leo Me-  
kokiko

**November 2012**

Tue., Nov. 6: *Election Day*; District Office closed

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 9-10: **Walk To Emmaus Regional  
Training**

Sun., Nov. 11: *Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday*

Mon., Nov. 12: *Veterans' Day Observ.*; Dist. Ofc. closed

Sat., Nov. 17; 9:00 a.m.: HUMU Board mtg.; Harris