

KA LEO MEKOKIKO

"THE VOICE OF METHODISM"

Hawaii District

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 6

ALOHA BISHOP SWENSON

Since 2000, Bishop Mary Swenson has been the episcopal leader for the California-Pacific Annual Conference. On August 31, she will be retiring and will be living in Southern California with her



husband, Jeff.

Bishop Swenson has had a special fondness for our Hawaii District and it is fitting that her final aloha celebrations will take place on our islands. We have already had two aloha celebration on Kauai: in the morning at West Kauai UMC, and in the afternoon at the Salt Pond, attended mostly by Lihue United Church folks. Thanks to both churches for your hospitality!

Here is a list of the remaining celebrations:

August 4—Big Island at Honoka'a UMC at 3:00 p.m.

August 5—Maui—2 locations: Ala Lani UMC during and after the 10:00 a.m. English worship service (Rev. Jaeman Lim is the contact person); Honolulu UMC at 3:00 p.m. (Rev. Tevita Maile is the primary contact person with Rev. Paul Tangonan assisting).

August 11—Oahu at Harris UMC at 10:00 a.m. The District Superintendency Committee has oversight. We are asking the different ethnic caucuses and other groups to present music, dance, etc. for the celebration. There will be a potluck following the more formal celebration which will celebrate the different cuisines of the district. Lorraine Kadooka of Harris is coordinating the potluck.

GIFT IN HONOR OF THE BISHOP

The bishop has requested that any gift would be for the benefit of others and be around a water theme in keeping with the conference theme of "Being the Cup Overflowing." Plans are being finalized to have a water container built in Tonga in honor of the bishop. On Oahu, a publicly accessible water fountain is being located to be dedicated to the bishop. We are encouraging congregations and individuals to contribute toward these projects as your gift to the bishop.

PLEASE NOTE!!!! Bishop Mary Ann and Jeff are moving into a very small apartment, and have very limited space. They definitely cannot accommodate tangible gifts, momentos, etc. I know that this is difficult for our district because we are a gift giving culture, but I am imploring you to respect the bishop's new lifestyle and space limitations. Certainly cards and letters are most appropriate. Each island might also consider something like the card tree that was done for the bishop at annual conference. Contributing to the "water" gifts in honor of the bishop is the best way to show appreciation.

Let us celebrate our beloved Bishop Mary Ann and Jeff and their aloha to us for 12 years!

...Written by Tom Choi



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.”

ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

The 2012 was filled with different themes, the most dominant being aloha celebrations and tributes to retiring bishop Mary Ann Swenson. Another abiding theme was responses to what transpired at General Conference, especially around human sexuality. The General Conference delegation, in desiring unity and encouraging a spirit of welcome to all people—no matter where we might stand biblically and culturally—presented the following statement, which I hope that you will consider studying and adopting as a core value for each of our congregations:

To the people and churches of the California-Pacific Conference from the General Conference Delegation:

BE THE HOPE

"We, the people called United Methodists, affirm our faith in God our Creator and Father, in Jesus Christ our Savior, and in the Holy Spirit, our Guide and Guard. We acknowledge our complete dependence upon God in birth, in life, in death, and in life eternal. Secure in God's love, we affirm the goodness of life and confess our many sins against God's will for us as we find it in Jesus Christ. We have not always been faithful stewards of all that has been committed to us by God the Creator. We have been reluctant followers of Jesus Christ in his mission to bring all persons into a community of love. Though called by the Holy Spirit to become new creatures in Christ, we have resisted the further call to become the people of God in our dealings with each other and the earth on which we live.

We stand united in declaring our faith that God's grace is available to all, that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We pledge to continue to be in respectful conversation with those with whom we differ, to explore the sources of our differences, to honor the sacred worth of all persons as we continue to seek the mind of Christ and to do the will of God in all things.

Grateful for God's forgiving love, in which we live and by which we are judged, and affirming our belief in the inestimable worth of each individual, we renew our commitment to become faithful witnesses to the gospel, not alone to the ends of earth, but also to the depths of our common life and work."

(The Preamble of the Social Principles 2012)

We pledge to fulfill our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ and as members of the United Methodist Church, commissioned and empowered by the Holy Spirit to transform the world for the sake of the Reign of God, by freely extending all the ministries of the church to all God's children. We pledge to welcome and embrace all the members of our church families in God's boundary-less love and grace and to welcome all those in our communities through the inclusive hospitality of the Holy Spirit.

We go forward In the example of John Wesley who said: "if your heart is as my heart, take my hand," that it may be said of us: "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:35)

JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE—JULY 18-20

The Jurisdictional Conference brings together delegates from the eight annual conferences in the Western Jurisdiction: California-Pacific, California-Nevada, Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest, Alaska Missionary, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone, and Desert-Southwest. Bishop Mary Swenson's ministry will be celebrated. Usually, there would be an election of a bishop, but because of General Conference action, we will not be electing a new bishop. The primary business will be the placement of the bishops, including our own.

The Hawaii District will be represented by JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto, Norma Kehrberg, Charlene Zuill, Piula Ala'ilima, and yours truly. Pray for us as we learn who our new episcopal leader will be!

Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom

THE LAITY

by Dick Englar

As I come to the end of my journey as District Lay Leader, I would like to share some comments.

It has been a wonderful journey. Even though I've gone thru some hardships Jesus was with me always.

I would like to say "Thank You" to Jesus and to my Methodist Church Family for all the support you have given to me these past eight years.

It is hard to mention everyone who has been part of my life since I've served as your District Lay Leader. Please don't feel slighted if I haven't mentioned you name for God knows who you are.

I have served under two great District Superintendents, the Rev. Dr. Woong-Min Kim and the Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Choi.

Along the journey were two great District Secretaries, Lorraine Kadooka and Leilani Zukemura and two great Finance Officers, Elizabeth E. Lee and Rosie Jacinto. I cannot leave out Alvin Maeda who has been my strength during these past eight years. (Plus)

I give thanks to God for everything he has done for my family and me. Especially for my church family and for all the churches in Hawaii District, Pastors and People who serve God through the United Methodist Churches.

I want to say "Thank You!"

Mahalo Nui Loa

Dick

P.S. Always ask yourself this question. What does the Cross mean to you? And to the New District Lay Leader, Lilo Vakauta, Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks.

"God Bless You Everyone."

CAMP MEKOKIKO

In June the Kailua Youth Work Team worked hard at the camp.

The Bloomington, Illinois team team under the leadership of Judy Woodburn and Ron Schaad moved us forward with a surge, pouring cement on day one for the last tent site, building new picnic tables for the tent sites, repairing the old ones near the lodge, putting the final caulk and paint on two tent sites, routing new lumber for construction of the last two tent sites, priming the lumber for the same, and one day even grading and resurfacing the road to the top of the property with a new chisel plow!

—/Ted Lesnett



2012 CONFERENCE MERIT AWARD

Applications are being accepted until July 25, 2012 for the Conference Merit Award administered by the Cal-Pac Conference Higher Education and Campus Ministry Committee.

Applicants need to be a member of a UMC church in the Cal-Pac Conference attending a college, university or seminary recognized by the UMC University Senate. ³Merit² is understood in terms of academic scholarship, church involvement, financial need, and special vocational preparation. Applicants must be nominated by their local church.

Each local church may nominate one student annually. Awards will be no more than \$1000 and no less than \$500.

Apply today!! Application and nomination forms are available by contacting:

Rev. Charlene Zuill at 808-949-1210 <wesleyfoundation@hawaii.rr.com> or Rev. Sam Domingo at 808-384-8701 <keolumana@gmail.com>

OF INTEREST TO CHURCHES:

The Internal Revenue Service has a webinar for Churches scheduled for July 25, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. PST, 8:00 a.m. HST. The webinar will cover many topics, including:

- ◆ How to apply for tax-exempt status
- ◆ The do's and don'ts of maintaining your tax-emept status
- ◆ Special rules for compensation of ministers
- ◆ Record keeping and filing
- ◆ Rules limiting a IRS church audit

Registration and additional information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/churchwebinar>

The 5 District Plan Transition

June 28, 2012 – www.cal-pac.org - The 2012 Annual Conference approved a re-districting plan which creates five districts (Hawaii, East, North, South, West) from the existing eight districts in the California-Pacific Annual Conference.

This plan is effective July 1, 2012. Conference and district staff members are currently transitioning from the old structure to the new structure and expect the change to last through the month of July 2012. As we update records, reports, websites, databases, files, offices, and more, you may see some data that continues to list information in the 'old' eight-district organization.

For reference and related work taking place outside of the conference and district offices, the following two documents are provided for your reference:

1. Churches Organized by Five District Plan (.pdf reader required)
2. Churches Organized by Five District Plan & Mission Area (.pdf reader required)

To link to the above documents, please go to the Cal-Pac website – address listed at the beginning of this article. Further information and updates may be provided on this webpage as they become available.

What impact does this re-districting plan have on the Hawaii District?

The impact on this district is nominal. So far, the following changes will be made effective August 1, 2012:

1. The local churches in the Hawaii District will be organized into eight Mission Areas instead of the current five HUI areas. The new areas are: East Honolulu, Central/Leeward, Gridlock Honolulu, Windward, Maui, Kauai, Big Island, Guam/Saipan.

2. A letterhead that includes all the new districts has been designed so that the letterhead will be uniform amongst the five districts.

3. The e-mail addresses of the districts will be uniform:

<calpachawaiiidistrict@gmail.com>, <calpacnorthdistrict@gmail.com>,
<calpacsouthdistrict@gmail.com>, <calpaceastdistrict@gmail.com>,
<calpacwestdistrict@gmail.com>.

This means the current district office e-mail address, <hiumc@hawaii.rr.com>, will be closed on August 1st. There will be no changes in the District Superintendent's and staff e-mail addresses at this time.

4. **The OhanaHI Yahoo Group will be closed.** Those, who are currently a part of this "Ohana Yahoo Group", will be notified of the closure and will be invited to join a new group. This Yahoo group was used by the District primarily to share prayer concerns; a new Google group will be formed with a slightly broader purpose. The plan is to have it ready and up by August 1st. The description and purpose(s) will be described then.

5. All five districts will have their District Conferences on Saturday, October 13 because the legal and technical changes in California need to be simultaneously approved. The Hawaii District also will have it on the same date as a gesture of support. The hope is to have our first **video** District Conference. Envision groups gathered in geographically convenient sites [e.g. the east side and the west side of the Big Island, Guam and Saipan, several sites on Oahu like the Windward area, Leeward area and Honolulu area, Kauai, Maui at 2 areas] and connected through the internet to conduct district business. This will alleviate the hassle of airline travel.

Summary of the 2012 Annual Conference Session

With the sounding of a Pacific Islander conch shell, the California-Pacific Annual Conference assembled once again on the campus of the University of Redlands, California, June 14-17. Retiring Bishop Mary Ann Swenson called to order the 28th Session of the Conference, and the 161st since the organization of the Pacific Conference in 1851. She was accompanied in leading worship and in presiding by conference residents Bishop Jordan (retired,) Bishop Shamana (retired, and who previously served on Conference staff,) and special guest, retired Bishop Melvin Talbert, originally a superintendent of the Long Beach district, and who, as Bishop in the Pacific-Northwest Conference, appointed the Rev. Swenson as a district superintendent. The Session was marked throughout by video clips of Bishop Mary Ann's various escapades during her assignment in the Conference.

The first full plenary began with a report of the **General Conference delegates**, each one reflecting on their experience at General Conference. The report concluded with the delegation's call to "Be the Hope," based on the preamble to the Social Principles of the U.M.C., and including a commitment to "freely extend all the ministries of the church to all God's children." In response, Rev. John Woodall, pastor of Westwood U.M.C., recalled the history of Bishop Melvin Wheatley, formerly the pastor of Westwood for 20 years, who was the first Bishop to speak openly for the inclusion of all persons in the U.M.C., regardless of sexual orientation. He spoke of "the need to see [The Book of Discipline through the eyes of Jesus, and not Jesus through The Book of Discipline](#)," and affirmed the delegation's call to "Be the Hope." The Session later re-affirmed the Western Jurisdiction's 2004 "[We Will Not Be Silent](#)" statement, calling "local churches to make clear their willingness to support and celebrate a pastor who is "out" concerning her or his sexual identity."

The General Conference report was followed by a learning plenary with keynoter Erin Hawkins, General Secretary of the **General Commission on Religion and Race**, who was raised in the Los Angeles District. Drawing from Walter Brueggemann's "Journey to the Common Good," she described challenges to today's church: "When the church rehearses the world's practice of scarcity, then it has failed in its mission. When the church recreates societal systems of fear-based decision-making and coercive action in the name of survival it has failed in its mission. The church must be the prophetic voice that argues against the claim of scarcity and stands unapologetically for the common good." She then outlined how the church can counteract these by focusing on gifts, abundance and "associational living." (continued on p.8)

Grants available from Cal-Pac New Ministries EMT

The application for **Ministry Funding 2013-2014** is now available for requesting funding for "new church starts" or "existing church revitalization." It can be initiated by a local church in need of revitalization, by a local church wanting to start a new ministry, and/or by a District wanting to plant a new church. The application must be resubmitted annually to request funding for a multi-year ministry project. Call the District Office for the application form; it will be posted on the District webpage after July 9th under 'Resources'. The deadline is September 1st to the District Office; it will be reviewed by the District Planning and Strategy Committee for their recommendation. Currently Aiea UMC and Kapolei Korean UM Mission are recipients of this funding.

Vital Worship

Many of these signs of vitality are present in worship. In what ways does your congregation express vitality in worship?

1. People are welcomed, honored, and cared for.
2. God's story, which is our story, is always told.
3. Jesus is experienced as present in love and power.
4. The people and the community are changed by the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. People are active in singing, praying, and responding.
6. There is passion in the pastor's presiding and preaching and the congregation's singing, praying, and responding.
7. Varied ages and cultures participate actively.
8. Things (food, water, candles, furnishings, fabrics, vessels) are used generously to point to the presence of God.
9. Actions (people being baptized, sharing bread and cup, offering the peace of Christ to each other) point to the presence of the risen Lord.
10. People offer their whole bodies in worship in culturally appropriate ways (posture, hands raised in prayer, dance, movement, clapping, meditation).
11. Worship space is arranged so the people can be together and see one another.
12. There are calls and responses: people experience God calling, and they respond. Leaders work in concert to prompt the participation of all the people.
13. Leaders are prepared and expect to hear God's Word and experience God's power.
14. Leaders act with the people more than for the people.
15. Everyone acts in ways that say, "Worship matters."
16. People who are experiencing hurt and isolation receive a healing touch.
17. All the people have a sense of belonging and know how to participate.
18. There is energy, and the way worship unfolds makes sense.
19. The worship reveals the planning, gifts, and preparation of the people.

Consider what's working well now and ways your congregation shows or has shown signs of vital worship. How might you and others on the worship planning team or committee help your congregation claim and build on its strengths and, over time, add more vital practices to its repertoire?

This article is excerpted from *Worship: Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation*, Copyright © 2008 Abingdon Press.

Summary of Annual Conference -(continued from page 6)

The daily business of the conference was balanced by full worship each evening. The lives and ministries of 13 clergy and 12 clergy spouses were celebrated in the Memorial-Communion Service; 15 retirees were recognized with good humor and sincere appreciation and the music of the Revelation Youth Choir from Custer Road UMC of Plano, Texas; one clergy family infant (squealing) was baptized; and one person was commissioned Deacon, two were ordained Deacon; there were 7 commissioned as Elders, and 9 ordained to full Elder. Bishop Melvin Talbert (retired) preached the ordination sermon, titled “Do the Right Thing.” After recalling his own experience as a young pastor in the conference, as well as the recent history of the church, he concluded by reciting his post-General Conference invitation to **“An Act of Biblical Obedience,”** saying “I call on the more than 1,100 clergy who have signed pledges to stand firm in their resolve to perform marriages between same-sex couples in the normal course of their pastoral duties, thus defying our church laws which prohibit them from doing so.” He concluded with, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I declare you to “Take Thou Authority”, and “Do The Right Thing.” And remember this: you are called by God; and you are confirmed and sent by your church. There will be times when you will be called and challenged to choose between God and your church, because your church does not always “Do The Right Thing.”

In closing business, Rev. Jan Wiley, chair of the Episcopacy Committee, led in the recognition of Bishop Swenson’s 12 years of service in Cal-Pac, including gifts of folding patio chairs for the Bishop and her husband Jeff, gift certificates to Disneyland, and over **\$25,000 of water projects** reflecting the Bishop’s “You are welcome to drink at this fountain” justice and relief initiative. In addition, young people on site raised over \$1,200 for Imagine No Malaria in her honor.

Bishop Swenson concluded the Session with a Service of Sending including the traditional reading of every clergy appointment using the **four new districts plus Hawaii** approved by the Session, which were composed from the previous eight. She also preached, saying that “People looked to Jesus, because Jesus looked for what God was looking for—justice, compassion, the kingdom come.” A luncheon followed, featuring southern cuisine and multiple speakers celebrating the Bishop’s Episcopal leadership in the conference and denominationally. She will retire September 1st, and begin service as the Ecumenical Officer of the Council of Bishops.

Total membership stands at 77,799* down 2369 from the prior year; average worship attendance is 41,934, down 5,617.

**Does not include three churches who have not filed their reports: one each in Hawaii, Riverside and Santa Ana districts.*

From the “Cal-Pac Upda

BITS N' PIECES...

*** * * PERSONAL * * ***

Deepest sympathy to...

...Rev. Tevita Namoa (Tongan Associate Pastor at Lihue United Church) and his family on the passing of his oldest brother, Finau Namoa who died on June 3 in a hospital in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Finau Namoa was a resident of Maui and was instrumental in starting the Tongan Ministry at Honolua UMC back in the 1980s. The service was held on Maui.

...the family of the late Bishop Leontine Kelly who passed away on June 28, 2012. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts be given to the Ila Marshall Turpeau Scholarship at Garrett Theological Seminary.

Please pray for...

...The Rev. Marcia Hartsock of Honokaa UMC on the Big Island. She is under care at Kaiser Hospital on Oahu for respiratory problems. She also continues her treatment for cancer.

...Mrs. Carolyn Steuer, District UMW President and a member of Wahiawa UMC. She is recovering from surgery done on her right knee. Get-well notes can be sent to: P.O. Box 1667, Wahiawa, HI 96786.

... Bishop Jack Tuell, who led our Annual Conference from 1980-1992. He is recuperating at home after a heart valve surgery. Get-well notes can be mailed to: 816 SO 216th St #637, Des Moines WA 98198-6331 or e-mail to: <marjac@wesleyresident.org>.

Please continue to pray for...

...Mr. Dick Englar of Waianae UMC, our District Lay Leader.

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

...Retired Pastor Misipati Karapani and retired Pastor Roby Correa.

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

New Appointments in the Hawaii District

The Hawaii District welcomes six clergy to their new appointments - three are new to the district and three have been serving or had served in the district. New to the district are: **The Reverend Joshua Clough** - West Kauai UMC, **The Reverend Chang Min Lee** - Christ UMC, Administration and Media, and **The Reverend Samuel Nam** - Christ UMC, English Ministry. Pastor Lee and Pastor Nam both have resided in Hawaii during certain periods of their lives.

The three familiar clergy are: **The Reverend Vaituulua Fonua** - First Tongan UMC (formerly served at Honolua UMC on Maui), **The Reverend Krista Givens** - Kona UMC on the Big Island (from 2001-2004 she was the Associate at Kailua UMC), and **The Reverend Tevita Maile** - Honolua UMC (formerly served at Ala Lani UMC and Kihei Tongan UM Mission).

In August Ala Lani UMC and Kihei Tongan UM Mission will hire Mr. Vaokotone Teaupā to serve their congregations. Mr. Teaupā will move from Kona, and he is working on becoming a Licensed Local Pastor.

DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2012

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; 3:00 p.m.: **Big Island's Aloha to Bishop Swenson**; Honokaa UMC

Sun., Aug. 5: **Maui's Aloha to Bishop Swenson**; times and locations to be announced.

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

Sat., Aug. 11; 10:00 a.m.: **Oahu's Aloha to Bishop Swenson**; Harris UMC

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. 15: **Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity [tentative]**

Thu., Sep. 20; 8:30 a.m.: HCOM meeting; location?

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

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

Sat., Sep. 29; 9 am-3 pm: DPAS meeting; Aiea UMC

October 2012

Sun. Oct. 7: *World Communion Sunday*

Sat., Oct. 13: **District Conference**; location and time to be announced later.

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

Sun., Oct. 21: *Laity Sunday*

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

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

Sun., Nov. 18: *Bible Sunday*

Thu.-Fri. Nov. 22-23: *Thanksgiving holiday*; Dist. Ofc. closed

Sun., Nov. 25: *United Methodist Student Day*

Mon., Nov. 26: Deadline for Dec.-Jan. 2013 Ka Leo Mekokiko

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