

STEWARDSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

On Friday and Saturday, September 14 and 15, clergy and laity/congregational team will be meeting at First United Methodist Church to attend a workshop entitled, "Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity." The training is designed to assist congregational teams in sharing the message of giving as a response to God's generosity to us.

Speakers for the event will be Aimee A. Laramore and Robert L. Hunter, who is replacing Dave Crittenden. Mr. Hunter has served as a long-term pastor, Executive Director of the Center for Family Life Ministries, and Director of Stewardship and Endowment. He brings a variety of experiences to his understanding of stewardship.

Clergy will attend both days; laity will attend on Saturday only.

The District Conference scheduled for Saturday, October 13, has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for the Spring, 2013.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- * District United Methodist Women Annual Meeting at Trinity UMC. on Saturday, September 22, 2012
- * The Walk to Emmaus Regional Training at St. Anthony's Retreat Center, Friday-Saturday, November 9-10, 2012 (Registration has wrong zip code in mailing address. Change to 96813.)
- * The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Celebration - Monday, January 21, 2013

If your church has a youth or young adult group who would like to perform at the bandstand, after the march, please contact Roman Leverenz via e-mail at romlev003@gmail.com or call at 779-7084. We are planning on some organized singing on this year's march as well. If your church would like to learn a few songs and join in the chorus let us know. If we all rehearse the same songs and have the words, we should be good to go and hopefully good to listen to as well!

—Roman Leverenz



Ministry Musings from the District Superintendent

Focus—to promote C.D.M.L.F. in our district:

Connection to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all people

Discipleship in Christian formation—prayer, study, meditation, etc.

Ministry using identified Gifts and Graces

Leadership development and training rooted in Christian formation

Fruitfulness that can be discerned and measured



FOCUS FOR THE YEAR, ESPECIALLY FOR CHARGE CONFERENCES

Whenever I am asked about mission or purpose statements, I always say that they must easily remembered and recited by anyone. I realize that the purpose statement I devised and was at the top of each of these columns was so long and difficult that even I could not recite it to you.

Beginning this month, I have changed it to a series of letters that serves as a memory device, CDMLF: Connection; Discipleship; Ministry; Leadership; Fruitfulness. These five areas are what I consider to be essential for the growth and vitality of any congregation. I am asking each charge conference to submit a document that gives one to three concrete, attainable, but challenging goals or plans in each area for the coming year. These can, of course, be incorporated into any existing vitality documents you may already have in place:

- Connection to the Gospel of Jesus Christ—how does your congregation make meaningful connections to each person, especially those not in your church? this covers many areas, including preaching and worship, evangelism, welcoming and hospitality, congregational care.
- Discipleship in Christian Formation—how does each person in your church or ministry grow in the knowledge and character of Christ, both individually and corporately? Discipleship is often confused with ministry, e.g., “My volunteering for the soup kitchen is my discipleship.” Actually, that is ministry (see the next letter); a good way to illustrate the difference is found in Luke 10:38-42—Martha is doing ministry; Mary is being a disciple at the feet of Jesus. Discipleship is the prayer life of each person and congregation, how it studies the Bible, how it practices spiritual growth to become more like Christ. My estimate is that most of our congregations in the Hawaii District have fewer than 20% (which is actually a high percentage in our district) who are in spiritual growth groups and/or Bible studies. If your congregation seem to be stagnant or declining, it is likely that this area is a low priority, especially if your leaders are not all actively participating in individual and group spiritual formation. Remember that Jesus’ disciples spent most of the three years with Him in learning, prayer, and observation—very little of that time was spent in ministry.
- Ministry using defined Gifts and Graces—as a growing disciple of Christ, each participant in your congregation or ministry will want to express gratitude for the Good News by servant ministries. I am encouraging each ministry to use some organized way to the identify gifts and graces of each person for ministry.
- Leadership development and training rooted in Christian formation—many of the leaders in our churches have been holding the same positions for many years, often because new leaders are not developed and trained. In addition, it is often the case that people are recruited to assume a leadership role without training, who then become frustrated and quit because they feel they have not done a good enough job, or worse, been told that they don’t know what they are doing, which is likely to be the case since they haven’t been trained. Most important, there are too many leaders who are not active in spiritual formation and are led by personal preference or opinion, rather than the leadings of Christ.
- Fruitfulness that can be discerned and measure—some might look at CDML and say, “We do that,” but is the congregation growing and vital? Concrete, measurable goals must be formulated. I agree that numbers alone do not tell the whole story, but refusal to have some measurable goals is a likely sign of decline.

I pray that this will be a helpful and meaningful way to bring all of our churches into vitality and fruitfulness.

Grace and Aloha,

Pastor Tom

MESSAGE FROM LILO

DISTRICT LAY LEADER

This is September of 2012. We say praise Lord for his love, peace, and mercy for the Aloha State of Hawaii including Guam and Saipan. Just for his almighty power that he empower the District Superintendent, Dr. Rev. Tom Choi for his leadership and thanks for the commitment of those who work in the District Office. We are trying to do our utmost in the farewell party for Bishop Swenson here in Oahu and all neighbor islands.

This month, I have asked myself why I have to struggle and have problems in order to fulfill my commitment to serve the Lord.

Today, the United States of America has political problems and financial problems. Today, the State of Hawaii has social problems and family problems.

This moment I ask you that we stand together and ask the Almighty God to do something new and special for us.

This was a new anointing in three specific miracles:

1. FINANCIAL PROPERTY - abundant and lavish provisions
2. SPIRITUAL BREAKTHROUGH -victory over your adversaries
3. DIVINE HEALING - for your Body and Loved ones

And if Jesus ready to open the window of heaven and release his three miracles we need, it will be like a tidal wave of blessing after blessing through this ministry letter represented by Ka Leo Mekokiko. Everybody say, "We ask Jesus to heal you, anoint you, empower you, break all financial hindrance and even save your loved ones. We ask all these miracles in the blessing in Jesus' name, our Lord and Savior." Everybody say, "Halleluiah, Amen and Amen."

From Sione Lilo Vakauta

Servant of God



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COVENANT RELATIONSHIP FOR A BETTER WORLD

Every year at the Cal-Pac Annual Conference awards are given to churches who give outstanding amounts to Missionary support. These were the awards given out at the 19th Annual Conference Missionary lunch in June.

Aiea UMC was the Outstanding Missionary Supporting Church in the Hawaii District in 2011. They were 100 per cent in their conference apportionments and gave more to missionary support than any other church with Covenant giving of \$12,495. Aiea UMC supports five missionaries.

Harris UMC was honored as the Highest Per Member Giving for Others Missionary Supporting Church in the Hawaii District for 2011. The church was 100 per cent in both the conference apportionments and in their missionary goal.

Several other churches in the district were given certificates for giving 100 per cent in both their conference apportionments and in their missionary goal of support of a General Board of Global Ministries missionary at \$5 per member, or \$2,500 for a church with more that 500 members. They were Hilo UMC, Christ UMC, Wesley UMC, Ala Lani UMC, Keolumana UMC, Lahaina UMC, Lihue United Church, and Na'alehu UMC. The 222 Covenant Churches in Cal-Pac gave \$331,125 during the year 2011.



2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE GIFTS:

During the Annual Conference Sessions special offerings are taken for designated ministries. During the 2012 Conference gifts exceeded \$28,000. In particular, the following totals were raised for these ministries:

- * Strength for the Journey \$4,432
- * Hunger Relief \$4,666
- * No More Malaria \$5,362 (including SWAT team collections exceeding \$1,300)
- * Neighborhood Immigration Clinics \$1,968
- * Bishop's Retirement (Water & Wells projects) \$4,000
- * Youth Service Fund \$3,106
- * Urban Ministries \$3,519
- * Other Designated Gifts \$1,119



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 7, 2012

The 7 Habits of Highly Ineffective Churches

1. **Elevate mediocrity to a spiritual discipline.** Figure out where average falls and aim below there. Doing things with excellence, joy and flair may make someone uncomfortable. God doesn't really expect much, anyhow.
2. **Take no risks.** A successful practice of risk avoidance is often best achieved by sending any and all new ideas to a minimum of four Boards or Committees who understand that it is their role to say "no" to new ideas. This process may need to be reinforced by remarks noting how a particular idea might make the church liable, cost money or ruffle feathers.
3. **Practice the following evangelism strategy: "If they want us, they know where to find us."** Assume that everyone does know where you are and what you are. It can also be helpful if your building looks like a medieval fortress. If you don't have that going for you, encourage your ushers and greeters to look like palace guards as they perform their role.
4. **Blame early and often.** Maintaining dysfunction in a congregation is made easier if scapegoats are regularly identified. In some congregations, ministers make wonderful scapegoats. You may also blame "newcomers," or "people who don't understand how we do things in this church." If all else fails, blame the Conference, the denominations, or Satan.
5. **Always be prepared to make an account of the excuses that are within you.** Have an all-purpose excuse like, "I've just been so busy" (elaborate at great length just how busy you are, implying that no one else is busy). Occasionally try out a creative new excuse, like, "Our dog ate the printer-ink cartridge and required an emergency appendectomy. He is now very busy, too."
6. **Make it clear to all that the job of the Pastor(s) and staff is to keep every one, meaning church members, happy.** Think of your church as "The Love Boat," and the Pastor as the cruise director and activity planner. The job of clergy and staff members is to keep everyone on board happy. If someone is unhappy, it's a sure sign your Pastor is not doing the job.
7. **Spend as little money as possible.** Even though you may enjoy spending money on personal things like a car or a cruise, you can demonstrate your commitment to modesty and a simple life-style at church. The very best programs cost nothing. And why would your church building need any renovations? If it was good enough for your grandparents then it'll be good enough for your grandchildren.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Churches

1. **Strive for excellence in service to Christ.** Effective churches are churches where people enjoy what they're doing and do it well. Give God your best whether in the care of church grounds, the soup you prepare for the homeless shelter dinner, or the hymns and anthems you sing in worship.
2. **Cultivate a spirit of innovation and experimentation.** Make the "Seven Last Words of the church," i.e. "We've never done it that way before," a distant memory. Be open to new ideas that advance your mission. Free people to develop and try new ministries. Just remember, if you're not failing at something, you're probably not trying anything.
3. **Take the initiative to build relationships with people and groups in the wider community beyond your congregation.** Refuse to be isolated. Take to the streets, the coffee shops, library and parks of your community. Be curious about what's going on. Get involved in community events. Meet people. Introduce yourself as a member of the church. Invite people to "come and see."
4. **Accept responsibility for mistakes, learn from them, and in all things, let grace abound.** Christians aren't perfect; they are forgiven. So making mistakes is not the worst thing that can happen. Besides we often learn the most from our failures. In the end, and in the beginning, it is about God's grace, not our achievements. Cut others some slack. While you're at it, cut yourself some, too.
5. **"Always be prepared to give an account of the hope that is within you."** Look for where the love, energy and life are flowing and focus on that. And recognize excuses for that they are: a sign of insufficient commitment. Be people of hope, trusting in God to find a way even when we can't.
6. **Be willing to let people go in order to stay focused on your core mission.** It is more important for your church to be clear and steady about its core mission than it is to make everyone happy. Some people may be better off in another congregation. When folks are unhappy, connect, talk and pray. If things remain stuck, let them go with your blessing, giving priority to your mission.
7. **Splash it on!** A hospice nurse told the story of bringing an elderly woman home for the final days of her life. Noticing a large bottle of perfume on the woman's dresser, the nurse asked, "Would you like me to dab a bit of that behind your ears?" "Honey," said the woman to the nurse, "Why don't you just splash it on!" God loves cheerful givers. So spend money wisely, well and freely in God's cause.

By **Anthony B. Robinson** Via The Congregational Vitality Initiative, United Church of Christ

Gifts given in honor of Bishop Mary Ann Swenson's Retirement

In early August there were celebrations held on each of the four Hawaiian islands honoring Bishop Mary Ann Swenson. Over \$9,800 was raised for the Tongan Water Project, the Imagine No Malaria project, and possibly another water-related project. A water fountain was dedicated at the Susannah Wesley Community Center in Kalihi.

Thank you to all the churches and individuals who gave generously. They are listed below:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| -Aiea UMC | -Johnson, Margaret A. | -Navarrete, Jailu (Mrs.) and Jesse (Mr.) |
| -Ala Lani UMC- English and Tongan Congregations | -Kahaluu UMC | -Olive UMC |
| -Ala'ilima, Rev. Piula and Mrs. Kimberly | -Kelemani, Rev. Etuini and Mrs. Tupouseini | -Omura, Grace |
| -Andersen, Collette | -Keolumana UMC | -Parker UMC |
| -Benedict, Rev. Dan and Mrs. Mary | -Kesler, Carol | -Sanchez, Rev. Consoria and Mr. Jaime |
| -Choi, Rev. Tom and Mrs. Becky | -Kihei Tongan UM Mission | -Steuer, Carolyn |
| -DeVera, Terry (Mrs.) and Mr. Toledo | -Kilohana UMC | -Takata, Bob & Lois |
| -Ewa Beach UMC - Tongan Congregation | -Kim, Ellary and Mrs. Mihae | -Taufo'ou, Mr. Petueli and Mrs. Tupou |
| -First Tongan UMC | -Koenig, Tupou (Mrs.) and Mr. H. George | -Teofilo, Armie (Mrs.) and Salvador (Mr.) |
| -Green, Rev. B. Lothair and Mrs. T. Joyce | -Kona UMC Congregation | -Tom, Vera and Gilbert |
| -Guam UMC | -Kona UMC - Tongan Congregation | -Trinity UMC - Tongan Congregation |
| -Harada, Janet | -Lahaina UMC | -Trinity UMC |
| -Harris UMC | -Lee, Betty J. | -Uluave, Sinita (Mrs.) |
| -Hartsock, Rev. Marcia | -Librie, Michelle L. | -Van Gieson, Marilyn and son, Michael |
| -Hilo UMC | -Lihue United Church | -Wake, Rev. Amy and Mr. C. Kent Coarsey |
| -Hilo UMC - Tongan Congregation | -Mangayayam, Rev. Rona and Mr. John | -Webster, Claudia |
| -Honokaa UMC Congregation | -Mansfield, Charleen | -Wesley UMC |
| -Honolua UMC | -Manuel, Genoveva (Mrs.) and Moises (Mr.) | |
| -Immanuel UMC | -Mark, Rev. Alan and Mrs. Kara Ann | |
| -Jaeger, William and Kathleen | -Matsunami, Fujie | |
| -Jeong, David and Cherry | -McBirnie, E. Ann | |
| | -Melad, Faustina (Mrs.) | |
| | -Misaka, Paul and Daisy | |
| | -Nakata, Rev. Bob | |

Also Loose Offerings were collected from the Hawaii/Big Island celebration and the Oahu celebration adding to this list many anonymous donors.

DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2012

Fri.-Sat., Sep. 14-15; 9:00 am: **Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity; First UMC**

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

October 2012

Sat., Oct. 6; 9 am-3 pm: ??DPAS meeting; Aiea UMC

Sun. Oct. 7: World Communion Sunday

Sat., Oct. 13: **District Conference - it has been POSTPONED.** Will be scheduled on Spring 2013.

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; St. Anthony's Retreat Ctr.

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

December 2012

Sun., Dec. 2: *First Sunday of Advent*

“ ” “: ?? **Welcome the New Bishop** [tentative]

Fri., Dec. 7: ?? Clergy Advent Dinner

Mon., Dec. 24: *Christmas Eve*; Dist. Ofc. closed ½ day

Tue., Dec. 25: **CHRISTMAS**; District Office closed

Mon., Dec. 31: Deadline for Jan.-Feb. Ka Leo Mekokiko

January 2013

Tue., Jan. 1: *New Year's Day*; District Office closed

Mon., Jan 21: *Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Day*; Dist. Ofc. closed

Sat., Jan. 26: UMW Local Leadership Training

February 2013

Fri.-Mon., Feb. 15-18: **Britt Lectures**; First UMC

Sat., Feb. 16: ?? **Welcome the New Bishop** [tentative]