

A photograph of a church interior during a service. People are seated in pews, facing a stage where a pastor is speaking at a podium. There are musicians and a choir in the background. The church has a high ceiling with wooden beams and several ornate chandeliers. A large stained-glass window is visible on the left wall.

CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**"We Engage and Embrace ALL
as we seek to Embody Christ!"**

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CENTRAL UNION CHURCH STAFF 2022- 2023

Clergy

Rev. Brandon Durán	Acting Senior Minister (left November 20, 2022)
Rev. Mary Herbig	Minister of Congregational Life and Care
Rev. Dr. David Smazik	Bridge Minister (started January 2023/ left May 2023 but will be advising us remotely through August 2023 in a limited capacity)

Program Staff

Margaret Lloyd	Director of Music Ministries
Kristen Young	Youth Director (relinquished position December 2022)
Melissa Thach	Youth Director (started December 2022)
Cayanna Herrera	Director of Children's Ministries/CUPS Music Teacher

Preschool Staff

Veronique Braithwaite	Preschool Director
Shelly Taira	Preschool Assistant Director (started February 2023)
René Wilkins	Development Assistant
Sandra Baldwin	Office/Admissions Manager
Elizabeth Christensen	After School Care Program Supervisor
Katrina Perez	School Chef

Administration Staff

Sam Okita	Comptroller (resigned June 2022)
Christy Wada	Comptroller (started December 2022/resigned February 2023)
Rachel Fukumoto	Executive Operations Officer (started September 2022/resigned January 2023)
Amy Inouye	Accountant
Leslie Lui-Yuen	Junior Accountant
Jane Nagel	Funeral Coordinator
Gavin Moffat	Marketing & Communications Coordinator (resigned July 2022)
Kristen Young	Communications Manager (started July 2022)
Devin Omura	Multimedia Technician
Jon Fujita	Projects & Operations Manager
Natasha Dator	Pastoral Administrative Assistant
Joanne Matsumoto	Thrift Shop Ministry Coordinator (started September 2022)

Buildings & Grounds Staff

Cory Taylor	Facilities, Health, Safety & Environment Manager
Robinson Fredrick	Buildings & Grounds Lead
Eustaquio Aganon	Groundskeeper/Custodian
Rudy Lucero	Groundskeeper/Custodian
Orlando Kehl	Building Maintenance Technician
David Gonzales	Groundskeeper/Custodian (started October 2022)

CHURCH COUNCIL 2022-2023

OFFICERS:

Chair	Carl Schlack
Vice-Chair	Greg Sato
Secretary	Reem Bassous/Sarah Nam
Treasurer	David Yee
Head of Diaconate	Martha Balkin

Class of 2023

Carol Egan
Sam Failla
Maurina Ludwig

Class of 2024

Miguel Asuncion
Mary Calantoc
Don Clifford

Class of 2025

Austen Cook
Janice Wakamatsu
Nathan Wong

Worship and Evangelism Committee

Head of Diaconate	Martha Balkin
Music Ministry	Eleanor Mudrick
Pohnpei Ministry	co-chairs, Robinson Fredrick & Jansen Santos

Christian Education Committee

Children's Ministry	Vacant
Youth Ministry	Vacant
Adult Education Ministry	Vacant

Program & Mission Committee

Community Ministry	Ronny Lynn
Mind, Body & Spirit Movement Ministry	Margie Smith & Carol Alevizos
Senior Services Ministry	Susan Johnson
Women's League	Charlene Lorenzo
World Mission Ministries	Reem Bassous
O'ahu Association	Evelyn "Evie" Hao

Administration/Finance Committee

Stewardship Committee	David Yee co-chairs, Dona Hanaike & Alexa Zen
Buildings and Grounds Committee	Sam Failla
Investment Committee	David Yee
Real Estate Committee	David Yee
Senior Minister Search Committee	Don Clifford
Vision Team	Greg Sato
Central Union Windward (CUW) Ministry	Janice Wakamatsu

Free Standing Committees with no Ministries or Committees under them

Historian/Archives	Karl Hedberg
Nominations and Governance Committee	Carol Egan
Personnel & Pastoral Relations Committee	Nathan Wong

2022-2023 Church Council



Carl Schlack
– Chair



Greg Sato
– Vice-Chair



Reem Bassous
– Secretary



Sarah Nam
– Secretary



David Yee
– Treasurer



Martha Balkin
– Head of
Diaconate



Carol Egan



Sam Failla



Maurina Ludwig



Miguel Asuncion



Mary Calantoc



Don Clifford



Austen Cook



Janice Wakamatsu



Nathan Wong

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL CHAIR CARL SCHLACK

The past Council Year (May 2022 to May 2023) has been both eventful and challenging. When the new Council Year started, we had come through the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic with our canoe upright and heading into what looked like smoother seas ahead. However, we sensed things had changed and that there would be no “going back” to having everything being just the way it used to be. COVID taught us that the life we knew and were comfortable with could change in a heartbeat, and that we needed to be able to adapt and adjust to change. The good news is that because the congregation, clergy, and staff proved to be both adaptive and resilient, the Good News of the Gospel continued to emanate from the people that are Central Union Church.

While there were many notable events during the past Council Year, allow me to highlight a few of the more significant ones:

We started our year by identifying projects and staffing needs that needed addressing, and we received updates from two existing committees whose ongoing work will impact the future of Central Union Church; the Senior Minister Search Committee and the Vision Team. One of the projects to get off the ground right away was the synchronization of our fiscal, preschool, and church calendars. Our Treasurer, David Yee, worked with the Accounting Department on the necessary adjustments to our budgeting process to accomplish the synchronization of our multiple calendars. The result was that we will go through the budgeting process twice in 2023, once for the “stub” fiscal year from January 1, 2023 through July 31, 2023, and the second for the full fiscal year from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024. Thereafter, all our calendars will be aligned on an August 1 to July 31 fiscal year.

Pastor Brandon Durán’s decision, in late summer 2022, to relocate to the mainland by the end of the year to be closer to his family, surprised and saddened many in our congregation. He had been ably serving as our Acting Senior Minister for the last two years and was a vital part of the life of our congregation for seven years. To celebrate his ministry with us at Central Union Church, many members volunteered to plan a farewell luncheon that was attended by more than 300 people in the Parish Hall. It was a heartwarming gathering that allowed church members and staff to show their aloha and deep appreciation for Pastor Brandon through music, food, dance, song, humor, gifts, a slide show, and many fond embraces. Of course, Pastor Brandon’s pending departure also set in motion a concerted effort to secure temporary pastoral assistance for Pastor Mary Herbig who was soon to be the only ordained clergy at Central Union Church. In just two short years, we had gone from three ordained clergy to one, and it was uncertain when the Senior

Minister Search Committee would be in a position to recommend a Settled Senior Minister to the Church Council.

As we entered the season of Advent leading up to Christmas, our search for a “bridge” minister continued while Pastor Mary, with the help of staff and congregation members, did a truly amazing job of preparing the congregation for the coming of the Christ Child. With all the trappings and traditions of Christmas, it was a joyous December at Central Union Church. And the additional joyful news was that arrangements had been made with the Rev. Dr. David Smazik, to come to Hawai‘i with his wife Ann, to serve as our Bridge Minister from early January to early May. With the help of staff and congregation members, the Manse was readied for Pastor “Dave” and Ann, who moved in just prior to his first Sunday with Central Union Church, on January 8, 2023.



Hybrid Council Meeting in the Family Life Building, Room #201.

The annual Budget Meeting of the congregation on January 29, 2023, had added significance this year because, in addition to affording the congregation the opportunity to review and approve the annual budget for the “stub” fiscal year from January 1, 2023 through July 31, 2023, it also served as the forum for the Vision Team to present its recommendation to the congregation on how best to address CUC’s mounting challenges of a shrinking congregation, a restrictive stewardship environment, rising deferred maintenance costs, and an increasing reliance on income streams outside of congregational control. Between the Budget Meeting on January 29, 2023, and the Special Meeting of the Congregation on March 5, 2023, that was called to vote on the Vision Team’s proposed recommendation, the Vision Team held six informational meetings with the congregation to discuss the proposed recommendation. On March 5, 2023, the congregation of Central Union Church voted to approve the Vision Team’s proposal to grant the Church Council the authority to enter into long-term ground leases and/or to sell portions of the Honolulu and Windward campuses so that underutilized portions of our real estate assets could be used to further the mission of Central Union Church. It was a bold vote and a significant statement; and it was consistent with the church’s commitment to develop the financial resources needed to secure its ability to continue ministering to the spiritual needs of the congregation while simultaneously doing God’s work in our community.

Easter services at Central Union Church on April 9, 2023, were well attended and full of joyful noise! For the first time in years, attendees had the option to not wear a mask. When CUC re-opened for in-person worship services in October 2020, precautions were taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of our members. These precautions included temperature taking before entry to the church, social distancing in the pews and, of course, mask wearing. During the next two and a half years, despite increasing mask fatigue, congregation members and staff dutifully followed the church policy of wearing a mask when on church property notwithstanding the relaxing of other precautions. As the severity of the public health threat slowly diminished, the Reopening Liaison Team and the Church Council revisited the mask policy and decided the CUC campuses would become mask optional after the Winter cold and flu season passed. Thus, as of March 26, 2023, services and events on CUC campuses became mask optional and it has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces (especially on Easter Sunday). Many thanks to the Reopening Liaison Team (and particularly, Dr. Nathan Wong and Bruce Luxton) for guiding Central Union Church through this “once-in-a-lifetime” (we hope) event.

A few other happenings at Central Union Church during the past Council Year that are worthy of note: (i) Central Union Preschool (“CUPS”) continues to thrive under the leadership of Director Veronique Braithwaite and the dedicated CUPS teachers and staff who held another successful Dazzle Fundraising Event on our Honolulu campus at the end of April 2023; (ii) the Thrift Shops on our Honolulu and Windward campuses are carrying on vibrant ministries that serve a need in our communities; (iii) our Children and Youth Ministries are becoming increasingly active; (iv) the Serving Aloha program, held every Wednesday on our Honolulu campus, continues to be an amazing expression of care and love by addressing the food insecurity of 500 to 600 people or more each week, and is one of our brightest ministry lights; and (v) our volunteers (CUC members and non-members alike) are people filled with grace who care for each other and who exhibit acts of love and generosity.

Much has been accomplished this past Council Year but much more remains to be done. We look forward to continuing the good work of Central Union Church during the next Council Year (May 2023 to May 2024).



Council, hard at work.

REPORT OF THE REOPENING LIAISONS NATHAN WONG AND BRUCE LUXTON

By Easter 2022, CUC had come through the previous two years, the thick of the COVID Pandemic, fairly well. Our mitigation measures had resulted in no spreader events. Our worship services had gone from online only to the reopening of the Sanctuary to in-person worship at 9:00 AM in October 2020. There had then followed the reopening of the CUW 10:30 AM and Pohnpeian 11:30 AM services. Singing had resumed and progressed from a single soloist to our four soloists to our eight-member Ke Aloha Pau 'Ole to our full choirs and finally, joyfully, to the congregation, just in time for Easter 2022. Communion had resumed in the form of pre-packaged units of bread and juice.

In the past year, we have resumed in-person services in the Parish Hall at 11:00 AM (April 2022) and in Atherton Memorial Chapel at 7:00 AM (November 2022). Through all this time, online services in English and Pohnpeian have continued and thrived, welcomed by a growing and loyal body of worshipers. Increased immunity to COVID in the community and congregation through vaccination and previous infection allowed the gradual reduction of our mitigation measures to that of required masking. As 2022 ended we were made aware of increasing requests from both choirs and congregation to make masking optional. Because the Winter of 2022-2023 brought the additional risk of seasonal influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) to COVID, we felt that action should best wait until Spring. Therefore, on Sunday, March 26, 2023, masking became optional in services and on campus for both Honolulu and Windward in time for Palm Sunday and Easter 2023.



Greeters at Atherton Memorial Chapel on Palm Sunday 2023.



Parish Hall greeters are all smiles on Palm Sunday 2023.

In retrospect Reopening Liaisons Bruce Luxton and Nathan Wong feel CUC has successfully negotiated the COVID Pandemic safely in compliance with State and City requirements due in no small part to cooperation and collaboration among clergy, staff and congregation, and ultimately to God's abundant grace. We are grateful. We can now back down from direct action to a state of vigilance as CUC resumes full church life, remembering that COVID is still with us and likely will be for some time.

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND TREASURER DAVID YEE, TREASURER

The Accounting Department was short-staffed and thus extremely busy with the management of our financial affairs in 2022/2023. Like the rest of our Church, they were impacted by the significant changes in senior leadership. CUC did not hire a third pastor, lost our acting Senior Minister, and started and ended the year without an EOO or Comptroller. During the year an EOO and two Comptrollers were hired, and quit, leaving the Accounting Department without the very people that should be directly supporting and supervising them. The turnover was stressful and resulted in operational inefficiencies. The two staff accountants, Amy Inouye and Leslie Lui-Yuen, had to deal with the consequences of not having a Comptroller, the key third member of the Accounting Department for almost six months of the year. The good news is that a Comptroller is expected to be hired soon. The offer letter is being prepared.

Highlights and achievements:

- The Church Council has, for years, talked about improved financial reporting and updating our old accounting software. This year we were able to meet two of the Council's requests without the need to buy new software.:

1) They now produce consolidated financials. Due to having two separate sets of books, one for the Church and one for the Preschool, the monthly financial reports to the Church Council did not include all the Preschool details except at year-end when a special consolidated report was run. Council now receives consolidated reports monthly instead of annually.

2) CUC changed to the same July 31st fiscal year-end. The Church had a December year-end while the Preschool always used July. Now consolidated statements and annual budgets are easier to combine and understand.

- ERC (Employee Retention Credit), a relief program first recommended by Veronique Braithwaite, Preschool Director, was applied for and received. This was in addition to the prior year's \$1,200,000 of PPP (Paycheck Protection Plan).

\$868,265 ERC (\$329,359 still pending payment)

600,000 Received bequests from Helen Paris, Lucille Pratt, & Newton Pratt

\$1,468,265 = \$122,355 per month, twice the current monthly Pledge and Open Plate in the budget. CUC also received God's grace in the form of once-in-a-lifetime gifts during CUC's COVID transition period.

- The Church Council recommended, and the Congregation approved, a motion to authorize the Church Council to enter long-term ground leases and/or sell portions of the Town campus and Windward campus, the latter being subject to obtaining any necessary approvals from the Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation.

Budget Comparison 2022 to 2023 Approved Budget

	Jan-Jul <u>2022 Budget</u>	Jan-Jul <u>2022 Actual</u>	Jan-Jul <u>2023 Budget</u>
<u>Revenues</u>			
Pledge Offerings	367,728	272,882	300,000
Open Plate	115,030	129,884	130,000
Trust Payments	5,120	96,390	15,220
Memorials	1,000	9,810	5,000
Program/Ministry Donations/Misc*	149,939	263,076	891,810
Wedding Ministry	72,159	23,193	45,000
Facility Use	224,583	163,988	180,000
Thrift Shop Sales	32,500	54,262	60,000
CUW Revenues	5,225	98,122	105,000
Preschool Tuition, Fees, Fundraising	2,124,543	2,276,464	2,064,635
Preschool Contribution to Church	204,167	173,077	203,235
Total Operating Revenues	3,301,993	3,561,148	3,999,900
Endowment Returns/Interest Inc	250,717	(874,184)	(124,500)
Total Revenues	3,552,710	2,686,964	3,875,400
<u>Expenses</u>			
Worship & Pastoral	82,323	46,984	73,831
Christian Education	144,772	122,039	151,365
Music Ministry	95,058	83,671	116,545
Outreach, Social Svcs. & Spec Contrib	16,067	31,171	22,010
Administration	470,835	432,077	641,840
Buildings & Grounds	518,671	410,874	695,825
Wedding Ministry	67,629	18,796	21,590
Women's League	50,984	46,841	57,300
Thrift Shop	5,075	16,688	31,010
Miscellaneous			
CU Windward Expenses	22,575	72,075	107,520
Preschool Operational Expenses	1,950,300	1,821,828	2,064,635
Total Operating Expenses	3,424,289	3,103,044	3,983,469
Net Surplus (Deficit) before Depr	128,421	(416,079)	(108,069)
Depreciation	375,899	451,243	450,000
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(247,478)	(867,322)	(558,069)

CUC Unrestricted Operating Fund Reconciliation

Represents the cash flow of the CUC operating fund which is unrestricted and used to cover operational expenses.

Less: Preschool Net Revenue	174,242	(454,637)	-
Less: Net Restricted Funds	(10,657)	-	-
Less: CUW Net Revenue	-	-	-
Add: Depreciation	375,899	451,243	450,000
Less Investment (Gain)/Loss	(250,717)	874,184	124,500
Total Reconciling Items	288,767	870,790	574,500
Total Operating Cash Inflow (Outflow)	41,289	3,468	16,431
Endowment Draws	139,522	104,578	-
Net Cash Inflow (Outflow)	180,811	108,046	16,431

ANNUAL CLERK'S REPORT **January 1, 2022– December 31, 2022**

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - JANUARY 1, 2022	1,400
MEMBERSHIP GAINED IN 2022	22
Confirmation	0
Confession of Faith	7
Reaffirmation of Faith	11
Transfer of Letter	0
Associate	4
Reinstated	0
MEMBERSHIP LOST IN 2022	64
Death	26
Transfer	0
Inactive	38
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - DECEMBER 31, 2022	1,358
BAPTISMS IN 2022	16
Children	13
Adults	3

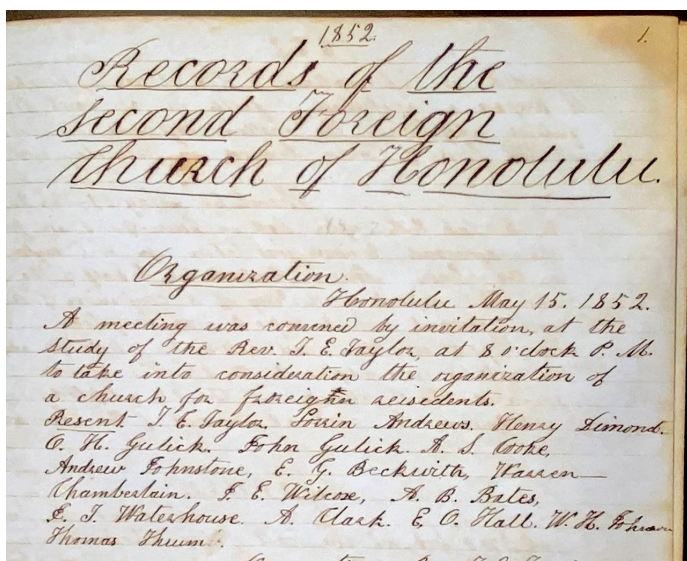
REPORT OF THE HISTORIAN/ARCHIVES KARL HEDBERG, HISTORIAN

The mission of Central Union Church Archives is to receive and preserve the history and records of the church...to locate information for inquires, and to provide access to reference materials for researchers.

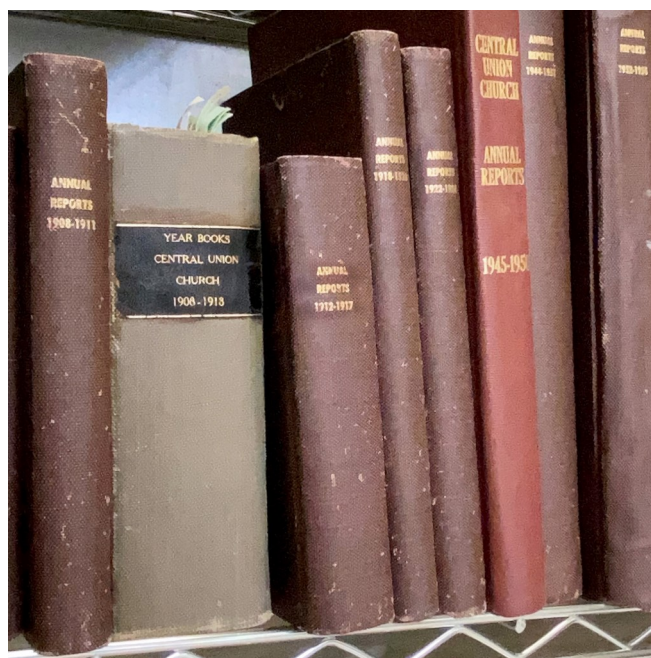
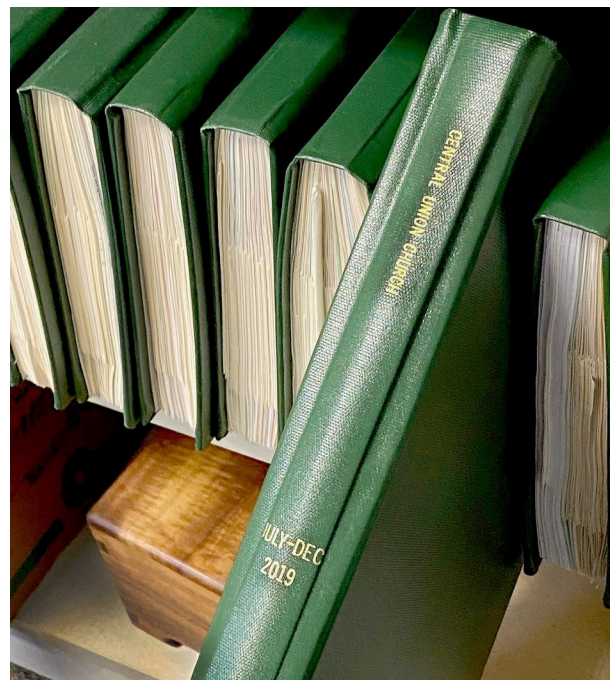
We must thank our early historians of the 1800s, 1900s, early 2000s Jean Dabagh, Suzanne Case and Rosemary Eberhardt. Without them we would not have our rich history preserved in our History Library, available to all.

On May 1, 2022, I carefully accepted the position of Central Union Church Historian.

That date also marked the move from archiving our “paper documents” (wherever possible) to digital documents. As of this writing (April 2023) we are testing trial software from PastPerfect Museum Software. If it is approved....The goal is to have our current documents (starting back on January 2021) online, available for viewing by the end of this year...to early next year. Documents, as now, range from videos, past bulletins. Spires, meeting minutes, annual reports...etc.



Fort Street Church 1852



1906—1918

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CARE THE REV. MARY HERBIG

My role is to provide worship leadership, care, guidance, and enthusiasm to the congregation and staff, while collaborating with lay leadership to move our church into the joyful future God has prepared.

Throughout this year, we have:

- Worshipped the Divine together in both timeless and new ways (e.g. refining our online worship service, restarting the 7 AM worship service, celebrating Laity Sunday, our Christmas Eve services, a Maundy Thursday dinner, Boy Scout Sunday, 50+ Year Member Sunday, and Aloha Sunday).



Aloha Sunday, 2023.



Preparing to baptize one of our keiki.

- Broadened and deepened our faith through faith formation and prayer opportunities.
- Cared for one another through countless calls, cards, emails, hospital visits, and home communion.
- Led outreach and justice efforts in the wider community (e.g. *Serving Aloha*, adopting a resolution to be a church against gun violence, serving those in need through our thrift shops, walking for the defueling of Red Hill facility, participating in the Pride Parade, and many charitable efforts).
- Stepped out in faith, voting to authorize our Council to enter into long-term leaseholds and/or sales of portions of one or both of our campuses.
- Joined our hearts with families and the community through many weddings, memorials, and baptisms.
- Remained resilient and faithful despite the challenges of transition.
 - ◇ We welcomed: Rebecca Chock (*Director of Choirs*), Emily Vidler (*Soloist*), Rachel Fukumoto (*Executive Operations Officer*), Joanne Matsumoto (*Thrift Shop Ministry Coordinator*), David Gonzalez (*Buildings and Grounds*), Christy Wada (*Comptroller*), Melissa Thach (*Youth Director*), Rev. Dr. Dave Smazik (*Bridge Minister*), and Dacyleen Amond (*Nursery Care Worker*).
 - ◇ We bid aloha to: James Watson (*Thrift Shop Ministry Coordinator*), Sam Okita (*Comptroller*), Gavin Moffat (*Marketing & Communications Coordinator*), Rev. Brandon Durán (*Acting Senior Minister*), Hermeleen Amond (*Nursery Care Worker*), Rachel Fukumoto (*Executive Operations Officer*), Rebecca Chock (*Director of Choirs*), and Christy Wada (*Comptroller*).
- Honored our denominational covenant through welcoming guest preachers, participating in Conference and Association events (e.g. *hosting the 'Aha Pae'aina virtually*), and collaborating with our sister churches (e.g. *the Longest Night service*).



Celebrating the Lord's Supper together.

Wow, what a year it has been! Central Union’s word of the year has been “transition.” Yet, we have come through it all and I am convinced we are stronger for it. In the Epistle of James, the writer opens with these words: “My siblings, whenever you face various trials, consider it all joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.”

Friends, I have seen the truth of this passage here at Central Union Church. I continue to be amazed that the challenges we have faced have led to more people pouring themselves out in ministry, not less. I have seen many who used to just attend on Sundays become deeply involved in the mission of the church. I have witnessed you reaching out to one another and to the staff in care, asking how you can help and support them. I have watched you welcome new people and families into the church with open arms and I have been blessed to see you engage in fellowship in new and deeper ways. Because of all of this and much more, I just want to say thank you. Thank you for your faithfulness and for the ways you live out that banner we choose to worship under together: Love Never Fails.

I cannot wait to see what exciting things the Spirit has in store for us in the coming years!



Time for Keiki on White Gifts Sunday.



A Wedding!



Proclaiming that God’s love is for all at the Honolulu Pride Parade.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES MARGARET LLOYD

Assisted by CUC's music staff and volunteers, I strive to provide a Christian ministry of music, serving CUC by engaging and embracing all seeking to embody Christ. Some of my responsibilities were to:

- Facilitate worship planning for Sundays at 9 AM, 11 AM, online at 10 AM and seasonal services. The 7 AM service was reintroduced on 11/6/22, with Constance Uejio as *Organist/Pianist*.
- Interact with the pastoral team and Council-appointed reopening liaisons Bruce Luxton and Dr. Nathan Wong on best practices and safety protocols for in-person worship services and events. The Church Council approved a mask-optional policy in the Spring of 2023.
- Assist and support Kristen Young, *Virtual Music Leader*, in



Gift of Music: HARPS!

Constance Uejio, director 12/4/22.



Worship Team & Youth Singers 10/30/22.

Committee, and CUW Ministry/Music Ministry in the hiring of our *Worship Musician*, Dr. Sunyong Hwang, to serve the CUW Ministry effective 5/1/22 and our *Director of Choirs*, Rebecca Chock, effective 8/1/22 (resigned 1/31/23). Guest choral directors Thomas Goedecke, Blythe Kelsey and Nadia Pagdilao provided coverage in the Spring of 2023. Dr. Jace Kaholokula Saplan, former *Director of Choirs*,

in developing music participation in online worship services, engaging CUC music staff and volunteers.

- Work with Wade Cambern, *Contemporary Service Music Lead*, on audio/video productions for the pre-recorded music library as a resource for online worship.
- Ensure copyright compliance for all music included in worship services, procuring permissions as necessary beyond coverage provided by ONE LICENSE and CCLI licensing agreements.
- Serve as pianist and/or organist for three local weddings and 12 memorial services.
- Collaborate with The Rev. Brandon Durán, *Acting Senior Minister*, Personnel & Pastoral Relations Committee, and CUW Ministry/Music Ministry in the hiring of our *Worship Musician*, Dr. Sunyong Hwang, to serve the CUW Ministry effective 5/1/22 and our *Director of Choirs*, Rebecca Chock, effective 8/1/22 (resigned 1/31/23). Guest choral directors Thomas Goedecke, Blythe Kelsey and Nadia Pagdilao provided coverage in the Spring of 2023. Dr. Jace Kaholokula Saplan, former *Director of Choirs*, transitioned to the position of *Artistic Director* effective 6/1/22. Hired Emily Vidler, *Soprano Soloist*, effective 9/1/22.



Choral Scholars Fall 2022: Nadia Pagdilao, Monique Lockett, Charles Lonborg, Thomas Goedecke.

- Support resident music ensembles: Chancel Choir, Chancel Singers, Handbell Quartet, Kaimalino Serenaders, Ke Aloha Pau 'Ole, Pohnpei Ministry Choir, Pohnpei Ministry Quartet, Soloist Ensemble, The Hawai'i Nui Chorale, Worship Team, Youth Singers. In October 2022, we welcomed the Na Wai Chamber Choir.

- Develop the Choral Scholars project, working with the Music Ministry to offer four University-based vocalists an opportunity to support various CUC choral ensembles and to interact with a faith-based community. Participants: Nadia Pagdilao (10/2022-2/2023) and Kiara



Choirs of America Choral Festival hula immersion 3/31/23.



ACDA-HI Na Leo Hou Concert 3/4/23.

Miller (2/2023-4/2023), *soprano*; Monique Luckett, *alto*; Charles Lonborg, *tenor*; Thomas Goedecke, *bass*.

- Host one-day choral festivals & concerts: ACDA-HI Na Leo Hou 3/4/23 (312 students from 12 schools); Choirs of America Na Leo `O Hawai`i 3/24/23 (237 students from AZ, CA, OR, TN, WI) and 3/31/23 (345 students from AL, CA, NV); Pacific Basin Music Festival 3/27/23 (CA, HI).
- Manage 73rd presentation of Handel's Messiah: Messiah I Ka `Olelo Hawai`i, featuring Na Wai Chamber Choir, The Hawai`i Nui Chorale, Soloists: Emily Vidler, *soprano*; Blythe Kelsey, *mezzo soprano*; Keith Wallace, *tenor*; Christopher Kelsey, *bass*; and members of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. Hawaiian translation by Dr. Jace Kaholokula Saplan, *conductor*, and text setting by Thomas Goedecke, *Choral Scholar*.
- Coordinate additional concerts: Akiko Sanai Piano Studio Recital 5/1/22; UCC Irvine Choir Concert 6/15/22; Trinity Christian School Holiday Concert 11/28/22; Akiko Sanai Piano Studio Recital 12/11/22; Na Wai Chamber Choir 1/8/23; Hakuoh University Handbell Choir Farewell Concert 3/9/23; 18th Annual AGO Organ Recital, Dr. Caroline Robinson, organist 3/19/23 (co-sponsored by the AGO Hawai`i Chapter).
- Oversee the piano restoration project of the Mason & Hamlin Grand BB (1913) in the Sanctuary completed by Phil Glenn; coordinate piano maintenance of nine pianos on two campuses and organ maintenance by James Gruber of two pipe organs and one electronic organ by Bob Alder.



Messiah: Thomas Goedecke, Jace Saplan, Christopher Kelsey, Blythe Kelsey, Keith Wallace, Emily Vidler, Rebecca Chock, Margaret Lloyd 12/4/22.



White Gifts
Sunday: Ke Aloha
Pau `Ole, Keiki and
Handbells
12/18/22.



Easter Hymn
with Chancel
Choir and The
Honolulu Brass
4/9/23.

REPORT OF THE PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR VERONIQUE BRAITHWAITE

- Central Union Preschool (CUPS) welcomed this 2022-2023 school year by allowing parents and family members back on campus as attendees for preschool events such as Pumpkin Patch, Snow Day, and Spring Event. COVID-19 pandemic restrictions for the past two years did not allow guests and visitors on campus; keiki and families enjoyed having the opportunity to participate in the festivities together.
- CUPS keiki resumed all-school Chapel worship services in person; the Sanctuary was once again filled with the joyous song and praise of the preschool children!
- New Preschool Assistant Director, Shelly Taira, was hired in February 2023 to join CUPS faculty and staff.



CUPS Assistant Director, Shelly Taira and family.



The Le 'Ohana pose for a family photo during CUPS Spring Event held on campus, March 29, 2023.



Grandmother, Martha Balkin and grandson, Sean Balkin (Room 8) during their CUPS Pumpkin Patch visit on October 21, 2022.



Preschool children in Pink Cottage singing "All Things Bright And Beautiful" for Preschool Chapel worship service.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES / CUPS MUSIC TEACHER CAYANNA HERRERA

My role at Central Union Church is two-fold. In Children’s Ministry, it is my goal to introduce children to Jesus in a way that inspires a desire to begin a relationship with God and to provide tools to parents to help each family grow in faith. As the Music Teacher at Central Union Church Preschool and Kindergarten, it is my goal to help children recognize and embrace beauty in the world, gain confidence, practice important life skills and help grow their faith using the vehicle of music education.

Highlights and achievements:

Children’s Ministry

- Continued online Sunday School classes.
- Returned fully to in-person Sunday School classes
- Held Godly Play Storyteller and Door Person trainings in preparation for opening two Godly Play Sunday School classes beginning at Advent and created a Godly Play program of Faith Formation at CUC for all Sunday School classes
- Planned and led the return of the following in-person special events:
 - ◊ Annual Easter Egg Hunt
 - ◊ Backpack Blessing and Back-to-School Event
 - ◊ Advent Workshop
- Planned and led two summer programs:
 - ◊ Who Do You Say I Am? VBS in partnership with Church of the Crossroads.
 - ◊ Who Do You Say I Am? Compassion Camp 2022 hosted by CUC.
- Dedicated the finished mural by Ronny Lynn, a CUC member, in the Children’s Ministry Room.
- Completed the move of all Sunday School classrooms (Godly Play 1 and Godly Play 2) and Nursery to the Music Building.

CUPS Music

- Planned and taught standards-based music curriculum while following current CDC and National Association for Music Education guidance on COVID-19 mitigation practices.
- Planned and led online Lei Day performance.
- Planned and led the return to in-person Christmas Chapel program.



REPORT OF THE YOUTH DIRECTOR MELISSA THACH

Central Union Youth gather to have fun, learn, and serve together (and there is always food!) Our Sunday meetings center on learning more about Jesus and growing together. We share food and prayer requests, plan fun events, and find ways to serve our community. I am continually impressed by the love our youth have for their community and desire to be LIGHT in the world.



Ho'ōla Hou iā Kalauao.



Walk for Water.



Ice Palace Adventure.



Youth Directors Past & Present (and good friends) Kristen Young & Melissa Thach.

Highlights:

- Participated in various community workdays at Ho'ōla Hou iā Kalauao.
- Participated in Serving Aloha on holiday breaks.
- Sang multiple times with the Worship Team in the 11AM worship service.
- Worked with CUC Children's Ministry to offer Vacation Bible School/Compassion Camp & Easter Egg Hunt.
- Voted to donate 2022 Punahou parking funds to six different community organizations; Voted to donate \$1,000 from 2023 Punahou parking funds to Washington Middle School.
- Did the Walk for Water to Shut Down Red Hill in April 2023.
- Went to Ice Palace and the movies and more!

And all of this through a transition of Youth Directors in December 2022.

REPORT OF THE BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (B & G) COMMITTEE SAM FAILLA

Synopsis & purpose:

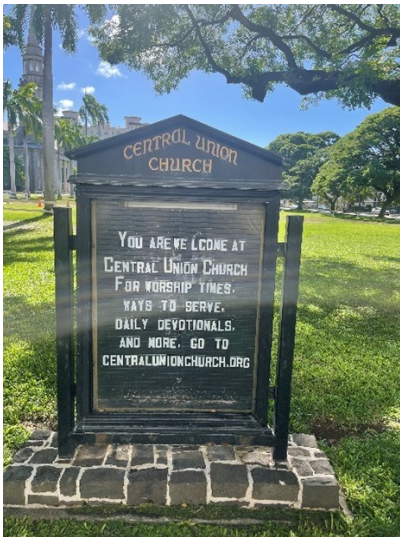
To work with the Council, other committees and church staff on planning, maintenance and repair of church campuses and properties to ensure efficient use of grounds and building spaces.
Develop and recommend appropriate policies and procedures for efficient, effective, and safe administration of all physical assets.
Make recommendations regarding preventive maintenance, renovations and new construction projects as well as outsourcing contracts and monitoring the contractor's work.
Ensure grounds and buildings are properly maintained, repaired, cared for and work is done in a timely and satisfactory manner.
Create a budget to ensure spending levels for supplies, hardware and equipment are adequate, and establish priorities for repair and maintenance.

Current members:

Miguel Asuncion [Council/accounting], Scott Ballentyne [business], Alan Hirota [architect], Sam Failla [Council/contractor], Rik Papa [contractor], Cory Taylor and Jon Fujita [staff], David Yee [Council/finance].

Highlights and achievements:

- Repaired and upgraded Punahou & Beretania Street CUC signage.



OLD (L) Punahou St. Sign and NEW (R) Punahou St. Sign.

- Completed Parish Hall kitchen recertification and made space available for use.
- Developed procedures and policies for memorial benches to be offered on Honolulu campus.
- Completed bathroom renovations in Women's Building.
- Repaired air conditioning in Parish Hall and Family Life Building.
- Replaced soffit lighting in Windward Sanctuary.
- Removed and trimmed trees on both campuses.



OLD (L) Beretania St. Sign and NEW (R) Beretania St. Sign

The B & G Committee members felt that the old signs gave a poor impression to the thousands of cars that drive past our beloved Central Union Church daily. The old worn-out signs gave passersby the impression that we were not open for God's business.

Committee members found a local company that could replace and upgrade the signs in their existing style. Timed LED lights were added within signs, NEW matching letters and messages were placed on the new signboards behind the 1/4" thick industrial-grade sunblock plexiglass. The existing black metal support frames were sanded, steel brushed and painted with two coats of black gloss metal paint.

We think these new signs shout "CUC is open for God's business" to passersby, and improves the curb appeal.

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL UNION WINDWARD (CUW) MINISTRY JANICE WAKAMATSU

The CUW Ministry met the expectation of extending services of Central Union Church to the Windward O'ahu community through regular worship services; operation of a Thrift Shop; blessing others through the Food Pantry program; providing Bible study, prayer and other spiritual development programs; and by continuing to provide meeting spaces for Windward recovery and various educational programs that meet the needs in the community.

Members of the CUW Ministry Leadership Team are: Sam Failla, Linn Garcia, Suzanne Jambeau, Virginia Kawauchi, Jocelyn Pratt, Peggy Anne Siegmund, Elbridge Smith, and Jan Wakamatsu. Cory Taylor is the CUC staff liaison.

- Worship services were held every Sunday morning along with a Christmas Eve Service—utilizing regular recurring speakers throughout the year—The Rev. Dr. Richard Walenta from the Kahumana Community; Rebecca Woodland, former CUC Member in Discernment; The Rev. Alpha Goto, retired pastor from Waioli Hui'ia Church, Hanalei, Kauai; The Rev. Arthur Briggs, a recently ordained UCC minister and his wife Jessica Briggs, who are regular attendees at CUW. Dr. Sunyong Hwang is the Worship Musician.
- The CUW Thrift Shop had another successful year under the management of Joan Bennett. We have a regular clientele, several volunteers from the congregation along with others who just enjoy the camaraderie of volunteering.
- The Food Pantry continues their long history of serving Windward clients. All aspects of the program are handled by community volunteers using CUW as the distribution center.
- Volunteers keep the office open several days each week. CUW Ministry members plan and execute worship each Sunday—open, prep and secure the sanctuary, provide worship leaders, bulletins, decorating, altar guild, and other details for worship.
- Kama'aina Kids continues as a long-time tenant, and we have recently welcomed the Honolulu Marshallese UCC congregation who share the facilities on Sundays, along with several recovery groups who use the Fellowship Hall on weeknights.



Celebrating 50+ years of membership:
Linn Garcia, Jan Wakamatsu and
Peggy Anne Siegmund .



Virginia Kawauchi, Kahu Dick Walenta
Arthur, Jessica and Gideon Briggs.

- We experienced a major accident last summer which damaged the upper fence, landscaping, the garden wall, and a portion of the gazebo. We are anxiously awaiting the final repairs and clean up.



Easter worship at CUW.

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY MINISTRY RONNY LYNN

Community Ministry

Evie Hao, Eppy Kerr, Rebecca Woodland, Ken Harding, Tom Kiyabu, Martha Balkin, Carolyn Kuahulu, Ronny Lynn

Keauhou Shelter, Family Promise, and Youth Outreach:

We have been preparing and serving 160 hot meals every 2nd Tuesday of the month since the Next Step Shelter and then Keauhou Shelter opened. Even though we are no longer hosting Family Promise families, we are now including dinners for them as well as 25 meals sent over to the Youth Outreach facility in Waikiki.

Serving Aloha began in response to the growing food insecurity on our island due to COVID, but also many kūpuna have benefitted. More kūpuna and others on fixed incomes show up regularly now. Every Wednesday morning, as many as 50 volunteers arrive from Central Union and Faith Action churches. The donations from the Hawai'i Foodbank are unloaded and repackaged for distribution. At the time of this report, our average has increased to 650 per week served.

White Gifts: This church year, our congregation responded generously with gifts of cash and gift cards. We were able to purchase 1,100 gifts that the agencies, non-profits, and churches rely on us to provide. They were very happy to receive them unwrapped and with enough to cover all age groups.

We provided financial donations to support the following organizations: Hawai'i FoodBank, UCC Women's Transition House, Institute for Human Services, Faith Action, John 17:21 Ministry, Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center.



REPORT OF THE DIACONATE MARTHA BALKIN

The **purpose** of the Diaconate, the Deacons and Deaconesses of the Church, is to minister to Church members by assisting the clergy as they conduct the Sacraments of the church and to assist in worship services, communion, baptisms, memorials, scripture readings, prayers and announcements. In addition, the Diaconate assists in greeting and making attendees feel comfortable at Church services and activities and visit church members who may be elderly, ill, or in need of spiritual support.

Members: Martha Balkin, Will Brown, Robin Campbell, Veronica Cheung, Carolynn David, Robinson Fredrick, Karl Hedberg, Sue Johnson, Adrienne Wing Lau, Maurina Ludwig, Bruce Luxton, Sally Mist, Mark Norseth, Dusty Santos, Regina Shimomura, Sylvia Spalding, Laura St. Denis, John Steelquist, Nathan Wong, Fanny Yeung.



Deacons Mark Norseth and Bruce Luxton assist our pastoral staff with the hand-washing service on Maundy Thursday.

Highlights and achievements:

- Provided financial support to those in need through the Louise Coates Fund.
- Provided support to pastoral staff in memorial services and baptisms.
- Participated in training on the Sacraments, visitation and prayer.
- Distributed 40 plants during the Advent and Lenten season to members that are homebound or in need of support.
- Prepared communion elements and assisted in service of communion.

REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE DAVID YEE

Purpose:

Our purpose is to preserve the endowment fund to provide current and future sources of revenue for the church. Our committee is responsible for the oversight of our professional fund manager. Bank of Hawai'i has managed our portfolio since July 1994. The total portfolio performance from July 1994 to March 31, 2023, has averaged 7.09%. The portfolio balance was \$7,061,747 as of March 31, 2023.

Highlights and achievements:



The graph above shows a slight underperformance gap that is growing as indicated by the gap between our actual and index performance. It is understood that the fund manager is being hired to be a balanced manager and a function of that responsibility includes asset allocation as shown in the graph on the following page. To contain risk and provide guidance to the manager, we monitor the assets allocation to a target of 60% Equity to 40% Fixed Income split. The manager has the flexibility to operate in the range of 45% to 65% for Equities and 30% to 55% for Fixed Income at any given time.

Total Portfolio Gross of Fees returns vs Benchmark



	Market Value	% of Mkt Val	3 Months	Year to Date (3 Months)	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	20 Years	Inception to Date 07/01/1994
Total Portfolio Gross of Fees	7,061,747		5.27	5.27	8.62	4.80	5.96	6.72	7.09
Total Portfolio Net of Fees	7,061,747		5.13	5.13	8.02	4.14	5.19		
45% SP1500;15% World Ex US;40% BBGC*			5.52	5.52	9.11	6.01	6.81	7.06	7.53
Domestic Equities	2,878,934	40.8	6.57	6.57	18.18	9.29	11.28	10.04	9.34
S&P 1500			7.16	7.16	18.88	10.83	12.01	10.49	
MSCI USA IMI			7.35	7.35	18.77	10.62	11.87	10.64	10.14
S&P 500			7.50	7.50	18.60	11.19	12.24	10.37	10.13
International Equities	1,232,668	17.5	7.03	7.03	12.65	1.78	3.09	6.80	
MSCI AC World Ex USA NR			6.87	6.87	11.80	2.47	4.17	7.50	
Taxable Fixed Income	2,508,802	35.5	2.67	2.67	-2.54	1.03	1.58	3.25	4.72
Bloomberg US Govt/Credit			3.17	3.17	-2.63	1.16	1.50	3.26	4.74
Cash & Equivalents	441,344	6.2	.95	.95	.87	1.26	.76	1.26	
Lipper US Treas MM IX			1.02	1.02	.80	1.16	.65	.99	1.95

REPORT OF THE MIND, BODY & SPIRIT MOVEMENT MINISTRY CAROL ALEVIZOS & MARGIE SMITH

Purpose: Our purpose has always been to care for our wonderful congregation via Mind, Body and Spirit. Once COVID-19 lockdowns began, we began to focus on finding and creating opportunities for our congregation to connect and “see” one another in new ways.

Marion Lyman-Mersereau’s Mindful Movement

Marion’s relaxing Mindful Movements exercises have now shifted to Zoom - every Wednesday at 4:00 PM. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86708591383?pwd=aEEwVG1sWG03QkEvKzIiLVFpabGFKUT09>

Mindfulness Class

Marion Lyman-Mersereau conducts a Mindfulness class every Monday from 5:00 - 5:30 PM. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87303955279?pwd=eVcweklKZXJwUWRtbEZXXZ29scEt6QT09>



Centering Prayer meetings

Carol Alevizos offers weekly in-person gatherings in the Music Building on Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

Margie Smith co-hosts a Centering Prayer plus Welcoming Prayer Mondays at 7:30 - 8 :30 PM. <https://meditationchapel.org/thomas-keating-chapel/>



Walking Moai

Kapi'olani Park walking moai meets weekly at 5:00 PM Fridays at the duck pond. Lots of free parking in the lots on Monsarrat Ave.

REPORT OF THE MUSIC MINISTRY ELEANOR MUDRICK

Our Mission is to support participation in the Music Program and assist as Greeters and Ushers at live events. The Choral Scholars are supported by the Music Ministry's approval subject to available funding, with the goal of making them a regular part of our Choirs.

Members: Ellie Mudrick, Chairwoman, (Vacant - Recording Secretary), Lisa Haley, Dr. Kalani Brady, Youth Rep. Kapai Santos, (daughter of Jansen Santos), and Council Liaison, Mary Calantoc.

Highlights and achievements:

- Renewed Funding for Choral Scholars both Fall Semester (October – December) and Spring Semester (February – May 1, 2023). Invited one new member for the Spring Semester.
- Saturday, October 8, 2022, Debbie Kelsey's Ministry Committee provided funding for three floral arrangements.
- Handel's Messiah performance presented on December 4, 2022, at 7:00 PM. We had 10 Ushers / Offering Collectors: Mark Norseth, Stephen Steiner, Ellie Mudrick, Casey Jones, Maurina Ludwig,Carolynn David, Fanny Yeung, Veronica Cheung, Dr. Nathan Wong, and Pili Lee Loy, and one additional greeter, Dr. Will Brown, Jr. Around 411 guests attended in person. It was a good start back after the shutdown of the pandemic.



Choral Scholars Spring 2023: Kiara Miller, Monique Luckett, Charles Lonborg, Thomas Goedecke.



Ellie Mudrick with Professor Hirotaka Arai.



Chancel Choir April 30, 2023; guest director Thomas Goedecke.

- January 8, 2023, a concert was offered in honor of Debbie Kelsey.
- Hakuoh University Handbell Choir's Farewell Tour in Central Union Church, March 9, 2023, directed by Professor Hirotaka Arai.
- American Guild of Organists, Hawai'i Chapter, sponsored an Organ concert, Sunday, March 19, 2023, featuring Dr. Caroline Robinson.



Saturday, October 8, 2022, Debbie Kelsey's Memorial Service; one of the three floral arrangements.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CAROL M. EGAN

Members: Martha Balkin, Mary Calantoc, Austen Cook, Carl Schlack: Carol M. Egan, Chairperson

The Nominations and Governance Committee (the “**Committee**”) of Central Union Church (the “**Church**”) is tasked with the following primary responsibilities:

1. identify and nominate from the congregation candidates to serve as Officers of the Church and as members of the Church Council (the “**Council**”) and to recommend candidates to serve on search committees and special advisory committees to the extent required by the Council Chair; and
2. review the governing documents of the Church and its Committees (i.e. Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Standing Rules and Charters) and recommend changes where appropriate; and
3. address and work to resolve conflicts of interest that may arise from time to time.

For the upcoming Council year, the Committee identified and nominated *for consideration and approval of the Congregation*, the following Church Members to serve as Church Officers and Council Members for the following offices and terms:

Officer Position whose 2-year term ends in 2025

Sarah Nam - Secretary

At-Large Council Member whose 1-year term ends in 2024

Melveen Chun

At-Large Council Members whose 3-year term ends in 2026

Jane Fyrberg

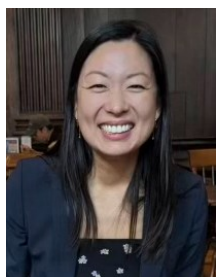
Maurina Ludwig

Carol M. Egan

Note that the other Officer positions and the other At-Large Council Member positions are currently filled by Church Members who are completing multi-year terms.

The Committee is not recommending any further changes to the Church’s governing documents at this time.

To ensure that Council decisions are made free of conflicts of interest (so that Church Members have confidence that Council Members are acting solely for the benefit of the Church and its Committees), the Committee has been available to resolve any conflicts of interest that have arisen.



Sarah Nam



Melveen Chun



Jane Fyrberg



Maurina Ludwig



Carol M. Egan

REPORT OF THE POHNPEI MINISTRY ROBINSON FREDRICK

Summary:

You have taken us in with kind hands and allowed us to become a permanent ministry of Central Union Church since 2016. We have been accepted and nourished by the many loving hearts of CUC. Your generosity has given us hope, love, and a wonderful place to worship God. There are no words that can express how thankful we are for what CUC has done for us.

The purpose of this ministry is to bring together Pohnpeian citizens on the island of O’ahu to worship in our native tongue; also to start our outreach ministry where we visit and care for those in need of God’s comfort.

During the year 2022, the pandemic continued to affect many lives, businesses, and even churches. However, the Pohnpei



Ministry of Central Union Church remained steadfast through online worship.

Highlights:

- Searching new ways of reaching out and sharing the word of God through our worship services. (Thanks to CUC for introducing Zoom to us.)
- Conducting worship service every Sunday via Zoom.
- Keeping up with our outreach visitation schedule.
- Handling funerals during pandemic and encouraging verses and prayers to those who are still with us.



REPORT OF THE PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE ALEXA ZEN

The purpose of the Preschool Committee is to support the operation of, advocate on behalf of, and further the mission of Central Union Church Preschool (CUPS).

The 2022-2023 committee is comprised of the following members: Lisa Hong, Luke Lam, Yosen Lam, Erin Lau, Brent Lewis, Kara Ly, Jess Moore, Suyin Phillips, Jenn Shinkawa, Albert Suh, Brandon Tanaka, Sisi Yang, Alexa Zen, and Shali Zhang.

Accomplishments:

- Determined 2022 DAZZLE fundraiser allocations. This year the committee approved recommending allocating the fundraiser profits among all five “E” goals:
 - ◇ Money applied to the *economic diversity* fund to support financial aid scholarships for both the 2023-2024 school year, and a reserve fund for the 2024-2025 school year;
 - ◇ Money equally applied to *endowment, events, educational opportunities, and environment* funds, to make up for the last three years in which the pandemic greatly impacted preschool fundraising efforts and during which time these four areas were not funded (priority was previously and consistently given to solely awarding money to financial aid scholarships under the economic diversity fund); and
 - ◇ Remaining reserves applied to the line of credit, to proactively pay down the principal and counter rising interest rates.
- Worked with CUPS Parent Teach Organization (PTO) to review and approve allocation of excess PTO funds to be equally distributed among the nine classrooms, music class, kitchen, and after school care. Remaining amount reserved for playground equipment maintenance and improvement.
- Made recommendations to the Council regarding CUPS tuition price for 2023-2024 school year.
- Financial aid sub-committee met in March 2023 to review and approve the financial aid applications for those applicants eligible to receive scholarship awards for the 2023-2024 school year.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SERVICES MINISTRY SUSAN JOHNSON

Members: Betsy Turgeon, Carolyn Ching, Jackie Lane, Glenda Lau, Jody Libed, Margaret Park, Ruth Stepulis, Shirley Cruthers, and Susan Johnson.

Senior Services is slow to rebound from COVID due to many not wanting to be in large groups because of age and health issues. We still would like to return to having our Over 80's party and luncheon in the future.

In September 2022, Acting Senior Minister, Rev. Brandon Durán, contacted Senior Services on behalf of Kōkua Mau, a Palliative Care Organization. We met with Jeanette Kojane and Hope Young from Kōkua Mau on Zoom. Many churches, hospitals, and other care agencies are affiliated with Kōkua Mau. Pastor Brandon wanted to start with Senior Services, then eventually involve the whole congregation. Unfortunately, Pastor Brandon resigned, and it was decided to wait for the Senior Minister position to be filled.

For further information see: <HTTPS://kokuamau.org>.

Another organization for finding care homes or in-home Senior care: <HTTPS://caresift.com>.

On January 22, 2023, we celebrated Anniversary Sunday with our 50+ year members at all three services. Senior Service members passed out goody bags to those attending.



The 50+ year members, from the January 22nd, 9AM service (photo by Kristen Young).

REPORT OF THE SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE DON CLIFFORD

The Senior Minister Search Committee (SMSC) was formed by Central Union Church's (CUC) Council for the specific purpose of searching for a new Senior Minister to replace Pastor David Rivers following his resignation at the beginning of July 2020. The following volunteers currently serve on the SMSC:

Alexa Zen	Brody McMurtry	Don Clifford
Elly Chong	Greg Sato	Jansen Santos
John Steelquist	Linn Garcia	Mark Norseth
Regina Shimomura	Tom Kiyabu	



All Members of the SMSC were selected by Council to represent the broadest possible demographic of CUC's congregation. The Council appointed Don Clifford to serve as the SMSC's Chair.

The SMSC's highlights and achievements this past year include:

- Completed CUC's new Church Profile, in order to explain in writing to the Senior Minister candidates, CUC's history, legacy, demographics, worship practices, congregational survey results, and the status of its current ministry, committee, operational, and financial endeavors; as well as the aspirations of its faith-based initiatives.
- Completed the CUC's self-produced documentary video *Love Never Faileth*, that consisted of a very broad cross section of more than twenty interviews on camera with members of the congregation, in order to explain to the Senior Minister candidates who we are as a congregation, and what we believe.
- Completed the new Senior Minister Job Description to reflect the current needs of CUC.
- Completed more than a dozen drawings and paintings for use to illustrate the Church Profile, the *Love Never Faileth* documentary, and for the advertising of the Senior Minister position and as a way to differentiate CUC from many other competing churches also advertising for a new Senior Minister.
- Completed and launched the advertising for the Senior Minister position in multiple print and digital mediums to reach the broadest possible number of candidates. To date, we have received 86 letters of interest and 44 complete applications.
- Completed the candidate screening of the 44 complete applications and the SMSC is now in the process of interviewing shortlisted candidates, conducting follow-up interviews, and developing a group of finalists.

Lastly, one of the most amazing accomplishments of this past year was the tremendous support, time and volunteerism donated by the non-voting "Ambassadors" of the SMSC:

Special Thanks to the SMSC Ambassador Members

Bruce Luxton	Member Resources & Logistics
Joy Chong-Stannard	Director & Editor of the documentary <i>Love Never Faileth</i>
Dennis Burns	Cameraman & Technical Advisor for <i>Love Never Faileth</i>
Danny Cochran	Key Grip for <i>Love Never Faileth</i>
Scott Ballentyne	Congregational Survey Strategist & Writer
Rosemary Eberhardt	Church Historian & Writer
Robin Campbell	Writer & Editor
Karl Hedberg	Photographer

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DONA HANAIKE AND ALEXA ZEN

The Stewardship Committee's responsibility is to solicit Estimates of Giving (pledges) from the congregation as a part of determining the annual budget. Other components of stewardship (legacy, capital campaign, grants, events/fundraising) are addressed through other groups or individuals.

Our Stewardship theme this year was “Reach” and it was based on Philippians 3:12-14. The theme of "Reach" connects to ideas of reaching out to one another, reaching out to the community to help, reaching out instead of shrinking back in, and reaching out to new goals.

A goal during the Stewardship Campaign is emphasizing generosity as a faith formation practice. Stewardship is about growing in faith through giving. We circulated the devotional, “The Big Secret of Giving: Hidden Treasures in Life and Church by William Green.” Our campaign was held during the month of October and included sermons centered on this theme and mission moments by members of our congregation. We also communicated with the congregation through letters, e-blasts, estimate of giving cards, and Zoom meetings to discuss the devotional.

As of January 26, 2023, \$378,047 in pledges were received. This includes 19 new donors and 20 donors who increased their pledge from the previous year. Mahalo to the staff and volunteers that worked on the campaign this year. And thanks to all who donated to Central Union Church through pledge, open plate giving, or other types of gifts.



REPORT OF THE CUC VISION TEAM GREG SATO



On March 5, 2023, the Congregation approved the Vision Team’s recommendation. The Church Council now has the authority to enter into long-term ground lease(s) or the sale of real estate. Any lease or sale must meet the restrictions imposed by the State Historic Preservation Commission (for the Town campus) and by the Samuel and Mary Castle Foundation (for the Windward campus).



The Team’s recommendation had two aims — to bolster Church finances as well as to meet the missional needs of the community. Committee members Martha Balkin, Don Clifford, Dona Hanaike, Greg Sato, Carl Schlack and David Yee, provided diligent and faithful service.

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE CHARLENE LORENZO

1. The Women's League ministry is to unite women of the church in Christian Fellowship through worship, service, education and social activities. Our purpose is to strengthen the program of CUC as it serves the cause of Christ in the church and the community. We provide women in the church with leadership roles and enable CUC to provide outreach to community organizations that are women and family-focused.
2. Below is a report, and photos, from Dona Hanaike of the Flower Committee. Sanctuary flowers are provided every Sunday to adorn the communion table and front of the church with gorgeous arrangements done by our volunteers from the Women's League and other women of the church.
3. Our Scholarship Committee has been able to offer more scholarships to applicants this year. We are grateful to assist those recipients to further their education.
4. We hired a new Thrift Shop Ministry Coordinator, Joanne Matsumoto. The Thrift Shop has been the life-line to the church as they provide substantial monetary support to the church. Our volunteers do outstanding work to provide resources to the community to individuals in need of help.



REPORT OF THE FLOWER COMMITTEE DONA HANAIKE

The Flower Committee is part of the Women's League and provides fresh floral arrangements for the Sunday services on our Honolulu campus and other projects as needed by the church.

Highlights:

- Expanded our floral arrangements to cover all three church facilities on our Honolulu campus as they opened back up for services post-COVID.
- Received generous donation of floral vases from one of our church members.
- Decorated the church facilities with poinsettia plants for Christmas and Easter lilies at Easter.
- Hosted "guest" floral arrangers (ex: The Garden Club of Honolulu) to do the Sanctuary floral arrangements.



We gratefully received these large floral vases donated by member Maureen Farineau.

Decorating the church with poinsettia plants at Christmas: Lee Champion, Laura Steelquist, Jean Yokoyama, Dona Hanaike, Hayde Villanueva.



Floral arrangement from Sunday Service in Sanctuary (guest arranger: The Garden Club of Honolulu). We do floral requests from donors in honor or memory of someone.

Our mission:

1. To perform God’s work in assisting the world community through raising funds in partnership with the CUC congregation and the wider Central Union community.
2. To focus on Relief and Development efforts through financial support.

Our members:

Reem Bassous, Koby Berrington, Robin Campbell, Ruth Chang, Remy Sonson, Sam Sonson and Janice Trubitt.

A New Beginning:

After extensive reflection, the members of WMM decided it was time to change direction, leading us to revise our mission statement and vision. We will focus our efforts on two categories: Relief and Development. Relief initiatives will immediately address crises that may arise. Development initiatives will focus on support yielding long-term results (Eswatini water project). We will also give attention to connecting with the CUC community by working in partnership towards our mutual goals. We sincerely feel that our new vision is more focused and deliberate and will guide us in selecting future projects. We hope to work on realizing our projects with our church community.

Highlights and achievements:

- UCC Ukraine Emergency Appeal:
\$10,320 was generously donated by our congregation and \$1,000 was donated by WMM to UCC’s Ukraine Emergency Appeal. Working with partner churches in Eastern Europe, The Emergency Appeal supported a spectrum of services in war-torn areas – food, shelter, medicine and sanitation.
- UCC Philippines North Highland Conference:
Through the North Highland Conference, we continue to provide tuition support to young seminarians. Our donation of \$1,500 provided tuition for three indigenous women seminarians. After completing their studies, these three women will remain in the ministry in their own communities.



United Church of Christ Philippines – our scholarship recipients for this academic year
Left-Right: Mary Jane Too (2nd year),
Roena Bomosao (4th year) and Mary Killa (4th year).



UCC Ukraine Emergency Appeal
(photo from the UCC website).

REPORT OF NEW MEMBERS 2022

Member #	Name	Date	How
15760	Palagyi, Anne	February 13, 2022	Reaffirm
15761	Palagyi, Zigmond "Zig"	February 13, 2022	Reaffirm
15762	Miller, Corrie	February 13, 2022	Reaffirm
15763	Miller, Matthew "Matt"	February 13, 2022	Reaffirm
15764	Lam, Yosen	February 13, 2022	Confession of Faith
15765	Lam, Luke	February 13, 2022	Reaffirm
15766	Kim, Ga Eun	March 27, 2022	Confession of Faith
15767	Yannone, Catherine "Kitty"	March 27, 2022	Reaffirm
15768	Sarmiento, Gerald	March 27, 2022	Confession of Faith
15769	Sarmiento, Mharie	March 27, 2022	Confession of Faith
15770	Kim, Mariko Nakayama	July 28, 2022	Confession of Faith
15771	Fernandez, Scott Stephen	August 14, 2022	Reaffirm
15772	Lamborn, Christine Suzanne	August 14, 2022	Reaffirm
15773	Lyon, Nikaela C.	July 28, 2022	Associate
15774	Gerell, Robyn Heather	September 21, 2022	Reaffirm
15775	Nam, Sarah Hyunee	November 6, 2022	Reaffirm
15776	Liao, Gordon Yu	November 6, 2022	Reaffirm
15777	Manaku, Cynthia Ann	November 13, 2022	Associate
15778	Gaines, Edward Stevens	November 13, 2022	Associate
15779	Schlack, Maya Kauai	November 13, 2022	Confession of Faith
15780	Schlack, Emily June Leina'ala	November 13, 2022	Confession of Faith
15781	Tashima, Pauli Kin Sum Wai	November 20, 2022	Associate

Total = 22

REPORT OF BAPTISMS 2022

Baptism	Name	Parents	Birthday
01/02/2022	Taylor, William John Suart	n/a	06/20/1934
01/09/2022	Santos, JoeMark Sikander	Ludwig, Deanytra M. Santos, Jerome	12/27/2020
01/16/2022	Agnello, Maya Masina	Agnello, Tai Denise Agnello, John Paul	05/25/2021
02/27/2022	Dannis, Lombardi Willy	Dannis, Otto Dannis, Karleen	01/04/2021
03/03/2022	Fujimoto-Dantas, Wendy	n/a	06/03/1976
03/03/2022	Dantas, Zara Hau'oli Fujimoto	Fujimoto-Dantas, Wendy Dantas, Eduardo Henrique Carpintero	09/07/2018
03/10/2022	Komine, Gianna Ashley Aolani	Komine, Shannell Sarme Komine, Micah Anthony	03/14/2021
03/20/2022	Sarmiento, Mason Marcos	Sarmiento, Mharie Marcos Sarmiento, Gerald Coloma	06/06/2021
03/20/2022	Fredrick, Jeffreyson Jericho	Fredrick, Robinson B. Fredrick, Ioanida M.	03/20/2017
04/16/2022	Gregerson, Connor Andrew	Gregerson, Andrea Ann Bucci Gregerson, Andrew Peter	01/05/2022
05/22/2022	Aguon, Ayda Rae Sumaoang	Aguon, Shellie Ann Sumaoang Aguon, Zamar Jofel Cruz	02/27/2022
07/28/2022	Kim, Mariko Nakayama	n/a	12/23/1969
08/07/2022	Rasa, Ionski Ryu	Rasa, Alfonso Rasa, Wanda Danns	03/23/2022
09/24/2022	Pizaña, Linnea Lilinoe Ku'uuleipunikapuakiele	Pizaña, Ericka Anuheonālanipunahelihali'aloHa Halpin Brady Pizaña-Flores, Oscar	08/25/2021
09/24/2022	Pizaña, Killian Kaleoikaikaokahīmenimaikalani	Pizaña, Ericka Anuheonālanipunahelihali'aloHa Halpin Brady Pizaña-Flores, Oscar	08/25/2021
10/13/2022	Incognito, Parker Kealani	Caparas-Incognito, Fenie Ihly Trinidad Incognito, Christopher	06/02/2020
Total = 16	(13 children/3 adults)		

REPORT OF DEATHS 2022

Member #	Name	DoD	Age
6733	Simpson, Ann	January 12, 2022	94 years old
4938	Paris, Helen	January 13, 2022	101 years old
11830	Pratt, Lucille "Taps"	January 18, 2022	98 years old
9643	Wo, Juanita	January 18, 2022	94 years old
9068	Tuttle, Elsie	January 19, 2022	94 years old
13311	Nakata, Myron	January 24, 2022	66 years old
12776	Peters, Diane	February 2, 2022	88 years old
8095	Kai, Patsy	February 16, 2022	88 years old
4879	Pratt, Joan Catharine	February 22, 2022	92 years old
13348	Rotz, Harriet	March 3, 2022	97 years old
9074	Benham, Marian	April 5, 2022	92 years old
12449	Wentworth, Eleanor	May 8, 2022	87 years old
15539	Fabella, Carla "Pua"	May 19, 2022	76 years old
1346	Cochran, Judith	May 26, 2022	82 years old
11893	Anderson, June	May 26, 2022	92 years old
1236	Kidani, Linda	June 2, 2022	78 years old
8048	Knowlton, Louise	June 23, 2022	94 years old
12034	Cooke, Mary	June 25, 2022	86 years old
9667	Goo, Anna	July 2, 2022	92 years old
14062	Etse, Elizabeth	September 14, 2022	63 years old
9196	Wylie, Jane	September 18, 2022	91 years old
11045	Case, James	September 21, 2022	102 years old
14131	Powers, Walter	September 26, 2022	100 years old
13393	Judd, Carol Silva	December 1, 2022	79 years old
10989	Shigemura, Rose	December 12, 2022	97 years old
8256	Izumo, Patsy	December 21, 2022	88 years old

Total = 26

2022 TOTAL NUMBER OF WEDDINGS: 12

Central Union Church Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 1, 2022
 Zoom Webinar and In-Person Hybrid • 11:00 AM
 Meeting is Chaired by Council Chairperson Martha Balkin
 Zoom Webinar established by Rev. Brandon Durán
 In-Person Meeting held in CUC Parish Hall

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Call to Order – 11:16 AMMartha Balkin

Council Chair, Martha Balkin, welcomed members and informed them we are waiting for the quorum count.

The Deacons finish the member count and informed Martha who announced to the congregation that a quorum has been established. Martha then called the annual meeting of the congregation of Central Union Church (“CUC”) to order.

II. NOTICE OF BUSINESS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETINGChair

Martha defined the purpose of the meeting. She announced that notice was given in accordance with the Bylaws of CUC, and that the meeting will be run according to the existing Bylaws. She notes that there are a number of members with us on Zoom, including members at CUC’s Windward campus. Martha informed the members that the purpose of the meeting will be to approve the Minutes of previous meetings, elect new Church Council members, receive reports for the Chair, the Treasurer, and the Acting Senior Minister. Additionally, there will be reports by the Vision Team and the Senior Minister Search Committee.

III. INVOCATIONRev. Mary Herbig

Pastor Mary prays for the opportunity to come together. She gives thanks and asks for blessing that this meeting may be aligned to God’s purpose.

IV. INTRODUCTIONSChair

Martha makes the following introductions:

Chair of the Council	Martha Balkin
Nominations and Governance Committee Chair	Carl Schlack
Vice-Chair and Timer	Carl Schlack
Secretary	Bruce Luxton
Treasurer	Craig McGinnis
Parliamentarian	Greg Sato
Acting Senior Minister	Rev. Brandon Durán

The rules for participating in the meeting are explained by Martha Balkin. Martha asks for patience since we are running a hybrid (i.e., in-person and Zoom) meeting.

V. LITANYRev. Brandon Durán

Rev. Durán shared the importance of the Annual Meeting in the history of Central Union Church. He asked if future generations will be able to see the heart of Central Union in the Minutes. He recognizes that there are many stories in the Minutes; they record the heart of the church. We, as a group, reconfirm the commitment to Jesus Christ with a verbal litany.

VI. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTESBruce Luxton

The Minutes from the 2021 Special Meeting (held April 18, 2021), the 2021 Annual Meeting (held on May 2, 2021), and the 2022 Annual Budget Meeting (held on January 30, 2022) were presented to the members. These Minutes were contained in previous emails, on the CUC website, and in the current Annual Report.

The question was asked if there are any corrections to these Minutes. Not hearing any corrections, the following motion was made:

Motion: The motion is made to approve the Minutes from the 2021 Special Meeting (held April 18, 2021), the 2021 Annual Meeting (held on May 2, 2021), and the 2022 Annual Budget Meeting (held on January 30, 2022).

Moved by Ken Harding and seconded by Laura St. Denis.

The vote on the motion is taken and it is approved.

VII. REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL, REPORT OF THE OUTGOING TREASURER, REPORT OF THE ACTING SENIOR MINISTER

Martha Balkin reminds the members that complete reports are in the CUC Annual Report booklet.

Treasurer, Craig McGinnis, reports the best way to be happy is to count the blessings and not the cash. It is best this year to count our blessings. Last year was challenging. We survived the year. We did not do great. He challenges the congregation to look past this year to the future. He reflected on the importance of giving. He discussed the amounts that we have received in pledges and the amounts we received from grants and the Federal Government. These amounts were a strong base for the church in this year. We had strong gains in our endowment portfolio the past two years so we paid off the existing mortgage. We will be debt free in 4 years based on the Preschool's annual scheduled reductions to our line of credit.

Craig ends by discussing the Capital Budget. He recognizes that we have large, deferred maintenance costs in the range of \$9 million. He is confident that we will pull together to manage this need.

Chair, Martha Balkin, discusses the prayers that we have prayed for the life of CUC. She shares that the ministry has created many opportunities for Christians to work together: The Windward campus, the Choral Scholars, the Thrift Shop, and Serving Aloha. Many Youth groups from CUC have met with other church groups. The remembrance we held on all Saints Day included many denominations. She believes this congregation can move forward into the future. She is grateful to the ministries and the staff for their faithful work. She is grateful for the prayers. She leaves the Church in the capable hands of incoming Chairperson, Carl Schlack.

Acting Senior minister Brandon Durán reports that we have had many programs and challenges this year. The congregation managed to step up to these challenges this year. We pray for the direction of the church in the future. As we move forward, we need to set a "Disposition of the Heart". We need to be willing and able to move forward with the will of God. Our actions will be part of our prayer. The Disposition of the Heart holds a willingness to be of service to our neighbors.

VIII. MAHALO TO OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED TERMS OF SERVICE:

Craig McGinnis

Bruce Luxton

Peter Hirano

IX. ACTION ITEMS – ELECTION of COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR THE CHURCH YEAR 2022-2023

Carl Schlack reads the names of individuals for two-year terms:

1. Officer Positions: Greg Sato (Vice-Chair), Reem Bassous (Secretary), and David Yee (Treasurer)
2. At-Large Council Members, Class of 2025: Janice Wakamatsu, Nathan Wong and Austen Cook
3. At-Large Council Members, Class of 2024: Miguel Asuncion and Mary Calantoc

Carl Schlack makes the following Motion:

Motion: That the congregation elect the entire slate of nominated candidates to serve on the Church Council in the positions, and for the terms specified.

The chair calls for a vote on the motion and it is approved.

The Chair reports in accordance with Section 4.3.D of CUC's Bylaws, the nominated candidates are duly elected for the positions, and for the terms specified.

Outgoing Chair, Martha Balkin, turned the meeting over to incoming Chair, Carl Schlack.

Carl recognizes that one member of CUC deserves special recognition. He explained that Martha

guided CUC through a world-wide pandemic that turned CUC's world upside down. Shortly after she began her term as Chair, our Senior Minister resigned. Many difficult decisions had to be made. Martha's strong leadership skills and her inclusive nature proved to be the right formula to guide our church. Carl said the best leaders lead by example. Martha is a "roll up your sleeves, let's get to work" kind of leader who leads from the front. Carl presented Martha with the paddle of the canoe steersman for guiding our church through turbulent waters. There was a very long standing ovation for Martha.

X. PRESENTATION OF THE VISION TEAM.....Greg Sato

Greg Sato, Chair of the Vision Team, presented a PowerPoint slide show entitled The Road to Emmaus. The Vision Team is looking into the future of the church. They have identified goals and looked at the assets CUC has to move forward. They are looking at a range of 5 years to 50 years forward. Greg recaps the amounts given by age groups and cash flows from campus tenants and businesses. The church campus businesses provided more money than the congregation. The church has a reverse pyramid. Many of our oldest givers are the highest givers. We have many years of deferred maintenance.

Greg recalled how we raised money for the church roof. He mentioned the successes of the church, including the fact that the weekly showing of the Pohnpeian service over the internet is reaching thousands of individuals weekly.

Greg asked us to move forward with God's will and to pray for the Vision Team.

XI. PRESENTATION OF THE SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEEDon Clifford

Don introduced the members of the Senior Minister Search Committee ("SMSC"). He also introduced the "ambassadors" of the Search Committee.

Don Clifford updated the congregation on the work of the SMSC. He presented the key ideas about the process and recaps the work of the committee including the writing of the job description and the advertising system that is to be used. He discussed the UCC "ministry call" requirements and the conditions that need to be met under our Bylaws. They have had long discussions about why we lost a Senior Minister. They have a sense of urgency to move forward.

Don shows a five minute "clip" of the thoughts of Central Union members. The clip has been done as a part of a longer movie that will be used to deliver to potential minister candidates. It is a movie about the people of Central Union Church and their commitment to Christ.

XII. CONCLUDING BUSINESS

XIII. CLOSING PRAYERRev. Brandon Durán

Motion to adjourn is moved, seconded and approved.

Submitted by Bruce Luxton.

Central Union Church Annual Budget Meeting
Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 11:00 AM
 Hybrid Meeting: Zoom and In-Person
 Meeting Chaired by Council Chairperson Carl Schlack
 Zoom connection established by Pastor Mary Herbig
 In-Person Meeting held in CUC Parish Hall

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Call to Order – 11:18 AM Carl Schlack

Council Chair, Carl Schlack, welcomed members and informed them we are waiting for the final member count to determine whether we have a quorum.

Secretary Reem Bassous is informed of the member count, and she informs the congregation that a quorum has been established. Carl calls the Annual Meeting of the congregation of Central Union Church (“**CUC**”) to order at 11:18 am.

II. NOTICE OF BUSINESS FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING Carl Schlack

Carl described the purpose of the meeting as two-fold: to consider and approve our annual budget, and to hear a presentation by the Vision Team. He announced that notice was properly given in accordance with the requirements of CUC’s Bylaws, and that the meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Congregational Meeting Rules adopted by the Council on September 25, 2012, and the Council Resolution authorizing congregational meetings via electronic technology adopted by the Council on January 26, 2021. He noted there are a number of members with us on Zoom, including members at CUC’s Windward campus.

III. INVOCATION Pastor Mary Herbig

Pastor Mary provided the invocation for our meeting, asking for God’s blessing upon our gathering.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS Carl Schlack

Carl introduces the following people:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Council Chair | Carl Schlack |
| 2. Vision Team Chair and Parliamentarian | Greg Sato |
| 3. Diaconate Chair and Timekeeper | Martha Balkin |
| 4. Secretary | Reem Bassous |
| 5. Treasurer | David Yee |
| 6. Comptroller | Christy Wada |
| 7. Minister of Congregational Life and Care | Pastor Mary Herbig |
| 8. Bridge Minister | Pastor Dave Smazik |

Carl explains to the members the rules for participating in the meeting and voting on motions and asks for patience since we are running a hybrid meeting (i.e., in-person and Zoom participants). A sample ballot is used to allow Zoom members to practice voting.

V. PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET David Yee

Carl Schlack calls on David Yee, as Treasurer and Chair of the Budget Committee, to present the budget for January 1, 2023, to July 31, 2023.

David Yee presents the budget and explains that this 7-month budget is necessary to align the Church fiscal year with the Preschool fiscal year. Each subsequent budget will be a full 12-month budget that runs from August 1 to July 31 of each year. In presenting the budget, David informs the members that although the current budget is balanced, CUC stands at the precipice of a very challenging financial future since we no longer have government subsidies and revenues are not keeping pace with increasing expenses (including substantial deferred maintenance costs) and the next budget (for August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024) will show a deficit that will only increase with subsequent budgets unless drastic action is taken.

David Yee identifies and thanks the following people who assisted in the preparation of the budget: Austen Cook, Nathan Wong, Paul Shinkawa, Thomas Kiyabu, EOO Rachel Fukumoto and the Accounting Department, and Pastor Mary and the Church Council.

Chair, Carl Schlack, opens the floor for budget-related questions, and David Yee responds to questions from members.

VI. MEMBER VOTE ON BUDGET FOR JANUARY 1, 2023, to JULY 31, 2023

Carl Schlack recognizes David Yee to provide the Motion to approve the budget. David makes the following Motion:

Motion: Be it resolved that the 2023 Budget, as presented by David Yee, and as recommended by the Council be, and hereby is, adopted.

Carl Schlack calls for debate on the Motion. After debate, Carl calls for a vote on the Motion and it is overwhelmingly approved with only five members opposing (two in-person members and three Zoom members).

VII. VISION TEAM PRESENTATION Greg Sato

Carl Schlack calls on Vision Team Chair, Greg Sato, to present the Vision Team’s recommendations to address the very challenging financial future described by David Yee during his presentation of the Budget. Greg explains the Vision Team’s conclusion that to create a long-term revenue stream to cover CUC’s growing operational and maintenance costs, and to allow member contributions to fund CUC’s missions, the congregation needs to authorize the Real Estate Committee to enter into long-term ground leases or sales of portions of our Honolulu and Windward campuses. Greg indicated the Council will call a Special Congregational Meeting for March 5, 2023, to have the congregation vote to authorize such action. Beforehand, throughout the month of February, the Vision Team will hold a series of meetings with the congregation to discuss this proposal.

Members were given time to ask questions which were responded to by Greg or other Vision Team members (i.e., Greg Sato, Martha Balkin, Carl Schlack, David Yee, Dona Hanaike and Don Clifford).

VIII. CONCLUSION OF MEETING Carl Schlack

Carl Schlack thanks the presenters and the members for their participation.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER Pastor Dave Smazik

Pastor Dave Smazik provides the closing prayer.

X. MOTION TO ADJOURN Carl Schlack

A motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Jackie Lane and seconded by John Steelquist. The motion is approved, and Carl Schlack adjourns the meeting at 12:53 PM

Central Union Church Special Meeting of the Members

Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 11:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting: Zoom and In-Person

Meeting Chaired by Council Chairperson Carl Schlack

Zoom connection established by Pastor Mary Herbig

In-Person Meeting held in CUC Parish Hall

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Call to Order – 11:25 AM Carl Schlack

Council Chair, Carl Schlack, welcomed members to this Special Meeting and informed them we are waiting for the final member count to determine whether we have a quorum. Carl then makes certain “housekeeping” announcements (e.g., location of bathrooms, silencing of noise-making devices, cell phone, etc.).

Secretary Sarah Nam is informed of the member count by Diaconate members, and she informs the congregation that a quorum has been established. Carl calls the Special Meeting of the members of Central Union Church (“**CUC**”) to order at 11:25 am.

II. NOTICE OF BUSINESS FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING Carl Schlack

Carl described the purpose of the meeting as the consideration, debate and voting on the Motion to authorize the Church Council to enter into long-term ground leases and/or to sell portions of the Honolulu campus and the Windward campus (the exact wording of the Motion will be as presented by the Church Council later in the meeting), which Motion has been the subject of a series of informational and discussion forums held by the Vision Team with the congregation. Carl also announced that notice of the Special Meeting was properly given in accordance with the requirements of CUC’s Bylaws, and that the meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Congregational Meeting Rules adopted by the Council on September 25, 2012, and the Council Resolution authorizing congregational meetings via electronic technology adopted by the Council on January 26, 2021, and to the extent not inconsistent with the foregoing rules and resolution, the Special Meeting will be governed by the latest version of Robert’s Rules of Order. Lastly, he noted there are a number of members present via Zoom.

III. INVOCATION Pastor Mary Herbig

Pastor Mary provided the invocation for our meeting, asking for God’s guidance and blessing upon our gathering.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS Carl Schlack

Carl introduces the following people:

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Council Chair | Carl Schlack |
| 2. | Council Vice Chair and Vision Team Chair | Greg Sato |
| 3. | Secretary | Sarah Nam |
| 4. | Treasurer | David Yee |
| 5. | Election Committee | Martha Balkin, David Yee and Sarah Nam |
| 6. | Parliamentarian | Brendon Kalei’aina Lee |
| 7. | Timekeeper | Kristen Young |
| 8. | Minister of Congregational Life and Care | Pastor Mary Herbig |
| 9. | Bridge Minister & Facilitator | Pastor Dave Smazik |

V. FACILITATOR FOR THE MEETING Pastor Dave Smazik

With no objection, Carl turns the meeting over to Pastor Dave Smazik to serve as Facilitator for the presentation of the Motion and the ensuing discussion, debate, and vote. Pastor Dave instructs the members on the protocols for participating in the meeting and voting on the Motion and requests the members’ patience since we are running a hybrid meeting (i.e., in-person and Zoom participants). A sample ballot is used to allow Zoom members to practice voting.

VI. PRESENTATION OF THE MOTIONGreg Sato
Pastor Dave calls on Greg Sato, Chair of the Vision Team, to present the Motion.

Greg summarizes the very challenging financial future faced by CUC as was presented by Treasurer, David Yee, at the Annual Budget Meeting on January 29, 2023, and as subsequently discussed with CUC members in a series of “town hall” meetings held throughout February 2023. Greg reminds everyone that the original Motion discussed at the Annual Budget Meeting has been modified to authorize the Church Council, not the Real Estate Committee, to enter into long-term ground leases or sales of portions of our Honolulu and Windward campuses, and then restates the Motion as follows:

THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO LONG-TERM GROUND LEASES AND/OR SELL PORTIONS OF THE HONOLULU CAMPUS AND THE WINDWARD CAMPUS, THE LATTER BEING SUBJECT TO OBTAINING ANY NECESSARY APPROVALS FROM THE SAMUEL N. & MARY CASTLE FOUNDATION.

VII. QUESTIONS OF CLARIFICATION ON THE MOTION
Pastor Dave asks if there are any questions of clarification (not debate) regarding the Motion. A couple members have questions that are answered by Pastor Dave and Carl Schlack.

VIII. DEBATE ON THE MOTION
Pastor Dave calls for debate on the Motion, specifies the rules of debate, and moderates the debate alternating between those in favor of the Motion and those opposed to the Motion. A lively debate ensues. As debate is winding down, a motion is made to “*call the question*”. A vote is held on the motion to “*call the question*” and it is overwhelmingly passed, thus ending debate.

IX. VOTE ON THE MOTION
Pastor Dave announces that for the Motion to pass, it needs the affirmative vote of a majority of members present at the meeting. He then restates the Motion and calls upon all members present (in person and on Zoom) to vote on the Motion. After tabulating the votes, Pastor Dave announces that the Motion has passed with 105 members voting in favor, 59 members voting against, and 3 members abstaining. Pastor Dave then turns the meeting back over to Council Chair, Carl Schlack.

X. CONCLUSION OF MEETINGCarl Schlack
Carl Schlack thanks the members for their diligence in attending the many informational and discussion forums held by the Vision Team and for their participation in this Special Meeting.

XI. CLOSING PRAYERPastor Mary Herbig
Pastor Mary provides the closing prayer.

XII. MOTION TO ADJOURNCarl Schlack
Carl asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn is made, seconded and approved by the members. Carl Schlack adjourns the Special Meeting at 12:59 PM.

NOTES:

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

7:00 AM – Atherton Memorial Chapel - Traditional

9:00 AM – Sanctuary - Traditional

10:00 AM – Online Worship

(Please go to our website for the link)

10:00 AM – Windward - Traditional

11:00 AM – Parish Hall - Contemporary

11:00 AM – Atherton Memorial Chapel - Pohnpeian Service
(except the first Sunday of the month)

Central Union Church - Celebrating transforming lives since 1887!

“We Engage and Embrace ALL as we seek to Embody Christ!”

Central Union Church, organized in 1887, traces its roots to the Seamen’s Bethel, founded in 1833.

The Bethel began the earliest regular church services in English in the Hawaiian Kingdom.

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