



# CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT



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

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## **Report of the Senior Minister:** The Rev. A. Rushan Sinnaduray

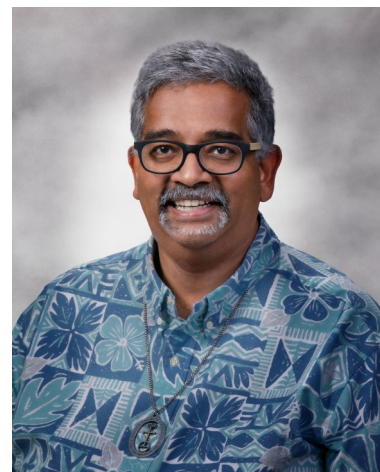
*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,  
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

– Jeremiah 29:11

As I mark the end of my second year as Senior Minister at Central Union Church, I am filled with deep gratitude and reverence for the journey we have shared. These past two years have been rich with transformation, challenge, and grace. Together, we have navigated seasons of change, embraced new possibilities, and recommitted ourselves to the sacred work of being the Church in the heart of Honolulu.

### **A Spirit of Gratitude**

Gratitude is the thread that weaves through every aspect of our life together. I give thanks for each of you—for your prayers, your presence, your leadership, and your love. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me, for the ways you have welcomed my family, and for the shared vision we continue to cultivate. Central Union Church is a place of profound beauty and spiritual depth, and it is a privilege to serve alongside you.



### **Transitions and New Beginnings**

This year, we bid a heartfelt farewell to our beloved Associate Minister, Rev. Mary Herbig. Her ministry among us was marked by energy and enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to justice. As we celebrated her contributions and blessed her on her new path, we also entered a season of discernment regarding our clergy staffing structure. This is a time of listening—to God, to one another, and to the Spirit’s leading—as we imagine what our pastoral team might look like moving forward. We are asking important questions about how best to support our congregation’s needs and how to align our staffing with our mission and values.

### **Reclaiming Our Core Business**

In this season of reflection and renewal, I have been working intentionally to reclaim the “core business” of the Church. What is it that God is calling us to be and do in this time and place? Through prayer, dialogue, and discernment, we have identified several key areas that define our core purpose:

- **Worship** that is vibrant, inclusive, and rooted in the Gospel.
- **Spiritual Formation** for all ages, nurturing faith and deepening discipleship.
- **Community Care** that embodies Christ’s love through service and compassion.
- **Outreach** that responds to the needs of our neighbors and community.
- **Stewardship** of our resources, buildings, and relationships.

These pillars guide our decisions and shape our ministries as we seek to be faithful to God’s call.

### **The Heartbeat of Our Church: Lay Leaders & Volunteers**

Our lay leaders and volunteers are the backbone of Central Union Church. Their faithful service—whether managing finances, caring for our buildings, leading ministries, or offering hospitality—keeps our church vibrant and strong. Especially during this year of transition, their steady presence and deep commitment have helped us move forward with grace. Their work is a living expression of love in action, and we are deeply grateful.

We are reminded through their example that the Church is not built on finances, programs or

personalities alone, but on the shared calling of God’s people to serve, lead, and love. Their dedication inspires us all to step more fully into our own roles as co-builders of God’s kingdom.

### **Next-Gen Ministries**

One of the most joyful aspects of our life together has been the revitalization of our ministry with children, youth, and young adults—our Next-Gen Ministries. This year, we celebrated our first Confirmation Class in many years, a milestone that reflects our commitment to nurturing young people on their faith journeys. These confirmands brought energy, curiosity, and insight to our community, and their presence reminds us of the importance of investing in the next generation.

Our Godly Play program continues to flourish, offering children a sacred space to explore the stories of our faith through wonder and imagination. This Montessori-based approach honors the spiritual lives of children and invites them into a deeper relationship with God.

We are also expanding our engagement with young-ish adults, creating opportunities for connection, conversation, and service. Their voices and perspectives are vital to our church’s future, and we are committed to walking alongside them as they navigate life and faith.

### **Spiritual Formation: Growing Together in Faith**

This year has seen a beautiful resurgence in our commitment to adult spiritual formation. Through book discussions, Bible studies, and other small group opportunities, we are creating spaces where adults can wrestle with Scripture, share their stories, and grow in faith together. These gatherings are not only educational—they are transformational. They are helping to revitalize our church by deepening relationships, sparking new ideas, and encouraging spiritual maturity.



One of the most exciting additions to our ministry this year was our first Messy Church event. Designed to be intergenerational, creative, and welcoming, Messy Church offered families a chance to explore faith through hands-on activities, storytelling, and shared meals. It was joyful, chaotic, and deeply meaningful—a reminder that church can be playful and profound at the same time. We look forward to offering more Messy Church gatherings in the future as part of our commitment to inclusive and engaging ministry.

### **Worship: Widening and Revitalizing**

Worship remains at the heart of our communal life, and this year we have taken bold steps to widen, revitalize, and deepen our worship offerings. In addition to our traditional services, we have introduced a monthly Jazz Vespers service, which has quickly become a

beloved gathering for reflection, music, and spiritual renewal. The beauty of jazz, with its improvisational spirit and soulful depth, offers a unique way to encounter the divine.

We have also begun offering a regular Service of Healing and Prayer, creating sacred space for those seeking comfort, restoration, and peace. These services have been deeply meaningful for many, reminding us that healing is a central part of Christ’s ministry and our calling as the Church.

In our Sunday morning worship, we have made intentional changes to encourage deeper engagement

with Scripture, prayer, and spiritual reflection. Through thoughtful liturgy, music, and sermons that invite personal and communal discernment, we are helping one another grow in faith and listen for God's call on our lives. Worship is not just a weekly ritual—it is a transformative encounter with the living God, and we are committed to making it a space where hearts are stirred, lives are changed, and disciples are formed.

### **Serving Aloha: Feeding the Community**

Our Serving Aloha food distribution program continues to be a beacon of hope and compassion in our community. Each week, we serve more than 700 households, providing essential nourishment and a tangible expression of God's love. This ministry is powered by volunteers, donors, and partners who embody the spirit of aloha and the call to serve. It is a powerful reminder that the Church is not confined to its walls but is called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

### **Gratitude for Our Staff Team**

Central Union Church could not thrive without the dedication and support of our exceptional staff team. Their behind-the-scenes work, creative energy, and steadfast commitment to this community have been especially vital during this past year of transition. As we navigated changes in clergy leadership and explored new directions in ministry, our staff ensured that the day-to-day life of the church continues to move forward smoothly and faithfully. Their talent, professionalism, and deep care for this congregation are gifts we do not take for granted. I am profoundly grateful for all they have done—and continue to do—to help us live out our mission with grace and purpose.

### **Looking Ahead: Dreaming God's Dream**

As we look to the future, we do so with hope and holy imagination. We are reclaiming the central mission of the Church—to love God, love our neighbors, and make disciples of Jesus Christ. This mission calls us to be bold, creative, and faithful. It invites us to dream God's dream for Central Union Church—a dream of inclusion, peace, joy, and transformation.

We are exploring new ways to deepen our spiritual formation, expand our outreach, and strengthen our community. We are listening for the Spirit's guidance as we discern our path forward. And we are committed to being a church that proclaims that *love never faileth*.

### **A Grateful Heart and a Hopeful Vision**

As I reflect on these two years, I am filled with gratitude for the journey we have shared and excitement for the road ahead. Central Union Church is a place of deep faith, rich history, and vibrant possibility. Together, we are building a future rooted in God's love and guided by God's vision.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. Thank you for your prayers, your service, and your generosity. Thank you for being the Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. A. Rushan Sinnaduray  
Senior Minister



# Church Council 2024 – 2025

\*( ) = council liaison

**OFFICERS:** Chair David Yee \*(Preschool Ministry)  
Vice-Chair Brody McMurtry \*(Welcome & Engagement Ministry)  
Secretary Colleen Ho‘omana \*(Adult Education Ministry)  
Treasurer Ciarra Sapigao  
Head of Diaconate Dusty Santos

**Class of 2025** Melveen Chun \*(Children’s Ministry, Youth Ministry)  
Janice Wakamatsu \*(Central Union Windward Ministry)  
Nathan Wong \*(Community Ministry)

**Class of 2026** Carol Egan \*(Mind, Body & Spirit Movement Ministry)  
Jane Fyrberg \*(Music Ministry)  
Maurina Ludwig \*(Pohnpei Ministry, World Mission Ministry)

**Class of 2027** Sam Failla \*(Buildings and Grounds Committee)  
Paul Hayes \*(Investment Committee)  
Joan Murata \*(Women’s League)

## Worship and Evangelism Committee

Head of Diaconate  
Music Ministry  
Pohnpei Ministry  
Welcome & Engagement Ministry

## Chair

Dusty Santos  
Eleanor Mudrick  
Mark Ludwig  
Tom Kiyabu & Marian Soo

## Faith Formation Committee

Children’s Ministry  
Youth Ministry  
Adult Education Ministry

Cayanna Herrera  
Melissa Thach  
Rev. Sinnaduray

## Program & Mission Committee

Community Ministry  
Mind, Body & Spirit Movement Ministry  
Women’s League  
World Mission Ministry

Ronny Lynn  
Carol Alevizos  
Charlene Lorenzo  
Janice Trubitt

## Administration/Finance Committee

Stewardship Committee  
Buildings and Grounds Committee  
Investment Committee  
Real Estate Committee  
Central Union Windward (CUW) Ministry

Rev. Sinnaduray  
Sam Failla  
[vacant]  
David Yee  
Janice Wakamatsu

## Freestanding Committees with no Ministries or Committees under them

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

# CENTRAL UNION CHURCH COUNCIL 2024-2025

Chair



David  
Yee

Vice Chair



Brody  
McMurtry

Secretary



Colleen  
Ho'omana

Treasurer



Ciarra  
Sapigao

Class of 2025



Melveen  
Chun

Class of 2025



Janice  
Wakamatsu

Class of 2025



Nathan  
Wong

Class of 2026



Carol  
Egan

Class of 2026



Jane  
Fyrberg

Class of 2026



Maurina  
Ludwig

Class of 2027



Sam  
Failla

Class of 2027



Paul  
Hayes

Class of 2027



Joan  
Murata

## Central Union Church Staff 2024– 2025

### **Clergy**

The Rev. A. Rushan Sinnaduray Senior Minister  
The Rev. Mary Herbig Associate Minister (resigned March 2025)

### **Program Staff**

Margaret Lloyd Director of Music Ministries  
Melissa Thach Youth Director  
Cayanna Herrera Director of Children’s Ministries/CUPS Music Teacher

### **Preschool Staff**

Veronique Braithwaite Preschool Director  
Shelly Taira Preschool Assistant Director  
Alana Alissa Yoshiko Anderson Advancement and Communications Manager  
Sandra Baldwin Office/Admissions Manager  
Elizabeth Christensen After School Care Program Supervisor  
Katrina Perez School Chef

### **Administration Staff**

Troy Tomita Chief Operations Officer  
Natasha Dator Pastoral Administrative Assistant  
Kristen Young Communications Manager  
Samuel Matsuzaki Multimedia Assistant  
Amy Inouye Accountant  
Leslie Lui-Yuen Accountant  
Jennie Scott Human Resources & Reservations Manager  
Jane Nagel Funeral Coordinator (retired February 2025)  
Martha Balkin Funeral Coordinator (started February 2025)  
Jon Fujita Projects & Operations Manager (resigned March 2025)  
Joanne Matsumoto Thrift Shop Ministry Coordinator

### **Buildings & Grounds Staff**

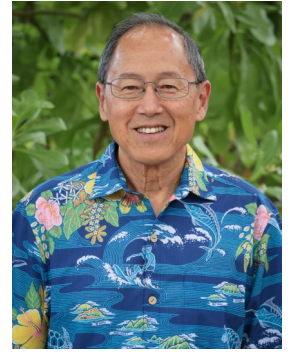
Cory Taylor Facilities, Health, Safety & Environment Manager  
Robinson Fredrick Buildings & Grounds Lead  
Eustaquio Aganon Groundskeeper/Custodian  
Rudy Lucero Groundskeeper/Custodian  
Orlando Kehl Building Maintenance Technician  
David Gonzales Groundskeeper/Custodian

## Report of the Council Chair: David Yee

### Highlights and Achievements

\* The fiscal year for our church ran from August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025. Our “Council Year” however did not start until after the Council officers and members were duly elected on September 8, 2024, at our Annual Meeting. Pastor Rushan led a Council retreat in place of the October Council meeting.

\* **Arcadia.** The Church founded Arcadia as a program of the Church in 1967 and 20 years later participated in the formation of Arcadia as a nonprofit corporation. As a result in 1987, CUC became the sole member of that entity. Since 1967, the Arcadia Family of Companies’ activities have evolved considerably and have grown far beyond their Punahou Street origins. The Arcadia Family of Companies now includes 15 Craigside Retirement Residence, The Arcadia Foundation, Arcadia Home Health & Home Care Services, Arcadia Adult Day Care & Day Health Center, Hale Ola Kino by Arcadia, and others. With this growth has come complexity, including the formation of numerous nonprofit corporations and the management of several boards of directors. Arcadia is considering ways to streamline their operations, including the consolidation of various corporate entities. These consolidation plans are complicated by Arcadia’s structure as a membership corporation, as well as the Church’s role as sole member.



Arcadia Retirement Residence

Suzie Schulberg, President & CEO of Arcadia Retirement Residence and Martin Zorn, Chair of all Arcadia Boards were guests at our first November 2024 meeting. They proposed Central Union Church relinquish our sole member status subject to our approval to the amended and restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Arcadia Retirement Residence (ARR). This desire to reorganize Arcadia as a non-member corporation would allow Arcadia to be governed solely by its board of directors and not by any other entity.

As reported in the April and May 2025 *Spire*, the Council supports in principal Arcadia’s reorganization by agreeing to relinquish our Sole Member status. This results in CUC losing the right to approve Arcadia board decisions related to:

- a) The sale, transfer, conveyance, or disposition of all or substantially all the assets of ARR;
- b) the merger of the ARR; and
- c) the dissolution of ARR.

We retain the right via Article IX and Exhibit A of the previously mentioned Amended Articles that should ARR dissolve, the real property identified in Exhibit A of approximately 126,643 square feet together with all improvements thereon, shall be distributed to CUC so long as the Church continues to exist and qualify as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

The Council has discussed, and we should be aware that it is unlikely that CUC will ever collect on the dissolution clause. Arcadia has no plans to dissolve, and should they dissolve, the real property may not exist at that time due to a previous sale or be heavily mortgaged.

\* **Employee Assistance Program (EAP).** Council approved offering employees an EAP as a new employee benefit. The program provides confidential support for personal and work-related issues which can reduce stress and improve overall well-being, leading to increased productivity and engagement at work. It demonstrates employer commitment to employee health and welfare.

\* **Central Union Church Preschool.** The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of DAZZLE was celebrated at the Alohilani Resort in Waikiki. DAZZLE is the Preschool's annual fundraiser that supports the 5 E's Educational opportunities, Environment, Events, and Ethnic diversity via tuition assistance. The fundraiser was a smashing success returning to gala events common in the pre-COVID-19 years.

\* **Ministry of Rev. Mary Herbig.** March 2025 marked 6.5 years of serving our church. We are grateful that she was here to assist our church through the COVID-19 years and remained after the Senior Minister left, followed a year later by the Associate Minister. This made Pastor Mary the last woman standing. She served as the acting Senior Minister until Pastor Rushan Sinnaduray became our Settled Senior Minister in September 2023.

\* **Departing Council Members.** We congratulate and say a *hui hou* to Council members Melveen Chun, Nathan Wong, Janice Wakamatsu and Ciarra Sapigao for their many years of service. Dr. Nathan Wong has agreed to return for a second term to continue chairing the Personnel & Pastoral Relations Committee.

- **As we IMAGINE Together about the future of our church, here are 2 – 3 dreams we have for the Church Council for the year ahead:**

- Develop Employee Performance Evaluation Metrics.
- Expand our Preschool's Toddler Program.
- Real Estate Committee closes in on a development deal.

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**Report of the Comptroller/Treasurer:** Ciarra Sapigao, Treasurer

(drafted by David Yee)

Last year's annual report mentioned that the Comptroller that was hired was not able to successfully complete her orientation (training) period. Our salary was substantially below market which made it difficult to attract or keep a Comptroller. Both Pastor Rushan and the Council recognize we have not had stability at this position and plan to make hiring a Comptroller a priority this year. The budget reflects a salary close, but slightly under market.

**Financial Highlights:**

- Financially, resources during the fiscal year ended 7/31/25 were not focused towards any particular project as in prior years. There were some salary and employee benefit reductions to expenses due to staff reductions. We had vacancies in the Associate Minister and Project Manager positions.

- We upgraded our sound system to enable live streaming of the 9AM service in the Sanctuary.
- Pledge and Open Plate giving for the ten months ended May 31, 2025, is \$595,500, \$21,300 less than the prior year's \$616,800.
- Wedding revenue for the ten months ended May 31, 2025, is \$43,300, \$23,400 less than the prior year's \$66,700.
- Facility Use revenue for the ten months ended May 31, 2025, is \$351,600, \$48,400 more than the prior year's \$303,200.
- Overall campus improvements - see the Buildings and Grounds Committee report.

## Five for Five UCC Giving

Being 5 for 5 means that CUC is a leader, providing support to Our Church's Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings, usually collected around these dates:

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** – Fourth Sunday of Lent

**Strengthen The Church** – Pentecost Sunday

**Neighbors in Need** – First Sunday of October as part of World Communion Sunday

**The Christmas Fund** - Sunday before Christmas or Christmas Eve

UCC 5 for 5	FYE 7/31/24 Contributions	FYE 7/31/25 Contributions
OGHS	\$3,872	\$2,080
Strengthen the Church	\$2,103	\$2,862
Neighbors in Need	\$2,327	\$1,549
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$11,000	\$11,000
The Christmas Fund	\$3,165	\$2,863

Budget Comparison FYE 7/31/24 to Proposed FYE 7/31/25 Budget					
Line #	Description	PY Actual FYE 7/31/24	CY Estimated FYE 7/31/25	CY Budget FYE 7/31/25	Budget FYE 7/31/26
	<b>REVENUE</b>				
5	Total Contributions	\$719,927	\$716,666	\$746,000	\$731,000
14	Total Other Contributions	47,079	7,499	14,000	10,500
23	Total Special Contributions	33,393	46,259	31,090	47,100
36	Total Other Special Contributions	12,515	18,319	13,740	18,700
45	Total Trust Revenue	110,097	163,865	98,120	175,300
57	Total Other Revenue	997,238	1,008,752	1,019,206	1,095,668
79	Total Holding Revenue	148,249	109,029	0	0
79i	Total Central Union Windward Revenue	225,347	238,720	202,737	180,898
79j	Total Preschool Tuition and Fees	3,661,410	3,719,712	3,713,591	3,808,667
79k	Total Preschool Donations/Other Income	453,088	555,738	386,302	393,702
80	Total Operating Revenues	\$6,408,343	\$6,584,559	\$6,224,786	\$6,461,535
83	Total Investment Revenue-Church	784,254	310,821	109,400	156,300
79ii	Total Investment Revenue - Preschool	252,683	94,420	25,434	30,953
84	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$7,445,280</b>	<b>\$6,989,800</b>	<b>\$6,359,620</b>	<b>\$6,648,788</b>

Line #	Description	PY Actual FYE 7/31/24	CY Estimated FYE 7/31/25	CY Budget FYE 7/31/25	Budget FYE 7/31/26
	<b>EXPENSES</b>				
93	Total Worship & Pastoral	\$308,888	\$308,152	\$275,954	\$231,720
100	Total Faith Formation (Christian Educ.)	88,691	91,687	143,556	151,400
115	Total Music Ministry	186,711	222,880	230,982	242,650
125	Total Outreach	20,246	16,667	23,500	20,500
130	Total Spec. Contrib. Exp.	14,932	20,105	14,590	18,000
143	Total Social Services	14,007	35,920	3,150	7,200
168	Total Administration	861,948	868,078	1,130,895	1,102,024
184	Total Campus Buildings & Grounds	775,576	796,694	928,030	912,250
190	Total Wedding	81,262	73,407	79,238	59,501
200	Total Women's League	104,085	56,241	141,123	157,382
248	Total Holding Expenses	47,610	75,106	0	0
248aa	Total Central Union Windward Expenses	172,639	187,191	221,195	193,945
79a	Total Preschool Expenses	3,532,190	3,761,228	3,970,437	4,307,711
<b>249</b>	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$6,208,785</b>	<b>\$6,513,356</b>	<b>\$7,162,650</b>	<b>\$7,404,283</b>
250	Depreciation	531,396	529,028	0	0
251	Change in value of split int agr.	(183,344)	0	0	0
<b>253</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$6,556,837</b>	<b>\$7,042,384</b>	<b>\$7,162,650</b>	<b>\$7,404,283</b>
255	Net Surplus/(Deficit) before Endowment Draws	\$888,443	(\$52,584)	(\$803,030)	(\$755,495)
256	Add: Total Transfers	37,812	109,844	0	0
<b>257</b>	<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$926,255</b>	<b>\$57,260</b>	<b>(\$803,030)</b>	<b>(\$755,495)</b>

<b>CUC Unrestricted Operating Fund Reconciliation</b>					
Line #	Represents the cash flow of the CUC operating fund which is unrestricted and used to cover operational expenses.	PY Actual FYE 7/31/24	Estimated FYE 7/31/25	Budget FYE 7/31/25	FYE 7/31/26 Budget
84	TOTAL REVENUE	\$7,445,280	\$6,989,800	\$6,359,620	\$6,648,788
253	TOTAL EXPENSES	6,556,837	7,042,384	7,162,650	7,404,283
255	Net Surplus/(Deficit) before Endowment Draws	\$888,443	(\$52,584)	(\$803,030)	(\$755,495)
256	Add: Total Transfers	37,812	109,844	0	0
257	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	926,255	57,260	(803,030)	(755,495)
250	Add Depreciation	531,396	529,028	0	0
81a	Less Unrealized Investment Gains	847,517	197,706	0	0
79e	Less Unrealized Investment Loss	0	0	0	0
	Net Cash (Outflow) Before Draw	<b>610,134</b>	<b>388,582</b>	<b>(803,030)</b>	<b>(755,495)</b>
	Add Endowment Draws 9.29%	224,812	749,532	803,030	755,495
	<b>Net Cash Inflow (Outflow) after Draw</b>	<b>834,946</b>	<b>1,138,114</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Annual Report of the Clerk: January 1, 2024 – July 31, 2025

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - JANUARY 1, 2024** **1,361**

**MEMBERSHIP GAINED IN 2024** **+17**

Confirmation	0
Confession of Faith	6
Reaffirmation of Faith	9
Transfer of Letter	1
Associate	1
Reinstated	0

**MEMBERSHIP GAINED: JAN 1 ~ JULY 31, 2025** **+19**

Confirmation	3
Confession of Faith	6
Reaffirmation of Faith	6
Transfer of Letter	2
Associate	2
Reinstated	0

**MEMBERSHIP LOST IN 2024** **-13**

Death	13
Transfer	0
Inactive	0

**MEMBERSHIP LOST IN JAN 1 ~ JULY 31, 2025** **-10**

Death	9
Transfer	1
Inactive	0

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – AS OF JULY 31, 2025** **1,374**

**BAPTISMS IN 2024** **12**

Children	10
Adults	2

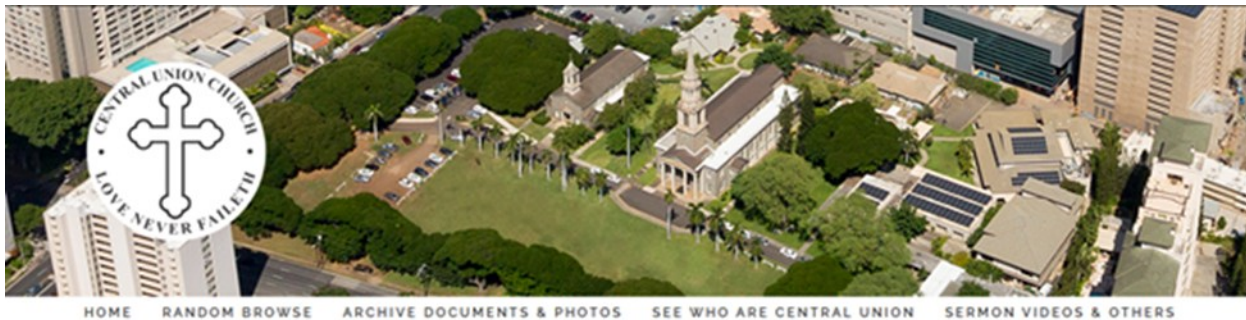
**BAPTISMS IN JAN 1 ~ JULY 31, 2025** **10**

Children	8
Adults	2

## Report of the Historian: by Karl Hedberg. (Call at any time 808.741.3066)

This year, our history is available in a few places: our second floor Library in the Family Life Building, our Museum on the second floor of the Sanctuary, and online. Once files are moved online, they are backed up in the cloud through Past Perfect Museum Software and viewable through Past Perfect Web Edition. Go to our website and have a look.

Here's the link: <https://centralunionchurch.catalogaccess.com/>



## Welcome to Central Union Church Archives

The image, above, greets you on the home page of the website.



The white arrow points to the location of the second floor Museum in the Sanctuary.



Available for viewing in the Second Floor Museum, by appointment. The poster in the photo says:

### **Big Bible**

Written in longhand by people of Honolulu Churches, and bound by students of Kamehameha Schools.

Displayed September 30, 1952 at Central Union Church when Honolulu Churches held a Bible Festival celebrating publication of the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

## Report of the Director of Music Ministries: Margaret Lloyd

My role at Central Union Church is to provide a Christian ministry of music. I am blessed to serve our congregation and wider community with the support of CUC staff, the collaborative assistance of gifted musicians and the ongoing commitment of dedicated volunteers.



Chancel Choir ~ Sarah Young, *Director of Chors* ~ The Honolulu Brass



"HARPS!" ~ Constance Uejio, director



Jazz Vespers ~ Jim Guss, Scott Shafer, Rachel Gonzales, Shawn Conley, Cheryl Bartlett

### **Ministry responsibilities and highlights this year:**

- Facilitated worship planning for Sundays at 7 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM; Jazz Vespers; seasonal services. Incorporated new music for special worship services, e.g., Woman Composer Sunday, Holy Humor Sunday, "The Gospel According to Broadway" sermon series.
- Ensured copyright compliance for all music included in worship services/livestreaming and procured permissions as necessary beyond coverage provided by ONE LICENSE, CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) and CCS (Church Copyright Solutions) licensing agreements.
- Served as pianist and/or organist for three local weddings and 11 memorial services.
- Partnered with the Senior Minister in the hiring of two Soloists: A. Ezinne Dawson, *mezzo soprano*, and Miranda Saenz, *soprano*.
- Supported music ensembles: Bellissima!, Chancel Choir, CUW Ministry Chancel Singers, Jazz Ensemble, Kaimalino Serenaders, Ke Aloha Pau 'Ole, Pohnpei Ministry Choir, Pohnpei Ministry Quartet, Soloist Ensemble, The Hawai'i Nui Chorale, Worship Team.
- Encouraged Choral Scholars in various CUC choral ensembles and provided an opportunity for them to interact with a faith-based community. Participants: Agata Highstein, *soprano*; Naomi Travis, *alto*; Brett Keniston, *tenor*; Matthew Yamada, *bass*.
- Hosted choral festivals & concerts: ACDA-HI Nā Leo Hou 2/14-15/25 (almost 400 students from 15 schools); Choirs of America Nā Leo 'O Hawai'i 3/15/25 (362 students in 11 choirs from AZ, CA, CO, MI, NV and Canada); WorldStrides Heritage Festival 3/21/25 (236

students in seven choirs from CA, FL, WA and Tokyo; 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Basin Music Festival 3/24/25 (76 students in three choirs from AK and CA).

- Managed the 75<sup>th</sup> presentation of Handel’s *Messiah*, featuring The Hawai‘i Nui Chorale; Chamber Singers of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa; Soloists: Natalie Mitchell, *soprano*; A. Ezinne Dawson, *mezzo soprano*; Keith Wallace, *tenor*; Dr. Christopher Kelsey, *bass*; members of the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra; Dr. Alec Schumacker, *conductor*.



Worship Team, two confirmands, Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray on Confirmation Sunday



Bellissima! ~ Margaret Lloyd, Kristen Young, Melissa Thach, Natasha Dator, Martha Balkin, Sarah Young, Cayanna Herrera



ACDA-HI Choral Festival ~ Dr. Alec Schumacker, clinician



20<sup>th</sup> Annual Organ Recital ~ Lukas Hasler



Choirs of America Choral Festival, hula immersion~ Nola Nahulu, Lauren Kanoelani Chang Williams, Dr. Joshua Habermann



*Messiah 2024*

- Coordinated additional concerts: Trinity Christian School Holiday Concert 12/13/24; 20<sup>th</sup> Annual AGO Organ Recital, Lukas Hasler, organist 3/30/25 (co-sponsored by the AGO Hawai'i Chapter).
- Oversaw piano maintenance by Phil Glenn of nine pianos on two campuses; organ maintenance by Steven Hoover of two pipe organs; carillon programming; Spire clock maintenance by Rick Alhadeff and Robinson Fredrick.



*Messiah 2024 ~ Keith Wallace, A. Ezinne Dawson, Dr. Christopher Kelsey, Natalie Mitchell, Sarah Young, Margaret Lloyd, Dr. Alec Schumacker*

### **Imagining the future:**

- Explore creative, collaborative opportunities for ensembles.
- Expand the volunteer base living CUC's mission through the ministry of music.

## Report of the Preschool Director & Preschool Ministry: Veronique Brathwaite

Central Union Church Preschool and Kindergarten is a Christian-based early childhood program that promotes spiritual, cognitive, socio-emotional, and physical growth in a nurturing environment and provides a solid foundation for early learning. Its purpose of educating the whole child to promote a life-long enthusiasm for learning and provide a smooth transition from home to school remains. It promotes the value of early childhood education throughout the community and provides for the ongoing growth of its faculty and parent community.

The Preschool is a thriving ministry under Central Union Church and provides a nurturing and stimulating environment with a program designed to promote the cognitive, social, physical, emotional, and spiritual growth of children. Teachers bring a variety of strategies based on sound and proven developmental theories that encompass the diversity and broad range of children's learning needs. The classrooms are center-based and equipped with materials that promote development through multi-sensory experiences. The children's developmental, individual needs, and interests provide the basis for planning and scheduling the content of the program. Hands-on activities and experiences in drama, art and music; reading and literature; math and science; culture; physical education; Christian education; and technology are incorporated into the curriculum. An integrated curriculum based on a unit approach provides the basis for the development of independence, fine and gross motor skills, language and mathematical skills, self-awareness, social skills, and creative expression. Children are encouraged to explore, discover, question, and seek their own answers to problems. The growth of the whole child is always the focus. Excursions and outdoor and indoor play are essential aspects of the program.



Ms. Alana Anderson,  
CUPS Advancements &  
Communications Manager

Preschool faculty: Melanie Pine,  
Staci Nakamura, Taryn Solis,  
Jacie Oda, and Brenda Bitonio, along  
with emcee, Kelly Simek posing at  
the CUPS 2025 DAZZLE event



DAZZLE 2025 program cover

CUPS Faculty & Staff photo  
fronting DAZZLE 2025 step  
& repeat



## **Report of the Director of Children's Ministries: 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 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.



Backpack Blessing 2024



Godly Play Workshop 2024



Christmas Eve Family Service 2024



Compassion Camp 2025

### **Highlights:**

- Successfully helped to plan and participated in special worship services and events including: Annual Backpack Blessing, Christmas Eve Family Service, Intergenerational Worship Service, Annual Advent Workshop, Annual Easter Egg Hunt, and Christmas in July activities .
- Collaborated with CUPS administration to grow and expand our Godly Play program at the Preschool and planned and executed special programming at CUPS that included the annual Christmas Chapel and Lei Day programs.
- Continued collaboration with World Missions Ministry for Lenten/Easter season mission fundraising through Heifer International.

- Continued collaboration with island churches to help lead Godly Play training for our members and members of other congregations.

**Imagining the future:**

- Continued partnership with CUC ministries to expand Godly Play into additional ministry areas as opportunities as presented to become a leading Godly Play church in a variety of ministry arenas including Godly Play in clinical settings (hospitals, hospice, memory care, and long-term care facilities, etc.) and other ministry opportunities such as homeless and addiction recovery programs.
- Continued professional development in Godly Play as we worked to lead Godly Play trainings for our congregation and members of other statewide churches.
- Continued development of our facilities to accommodate Godly Play trainings and become a resource for churches in our state to become Godly Play churches.
- Continued professional development and innovation to expand Godly Play at Central Union Church Preschool and Kindergarten.
- Continued professional development to grow and innovate in music instruction for CUPS.

**Report of the Youth Director: Melissa Thach**

We exist to inspire and empower young people to embrace their faith, grow in character, and make a positive impact in the world. Through meaningful relationships, engaging activities, and faith formation, we provide a supportive community where youth can explore their spiritual journey, discover their purpose, and develop into compassionate leaders who reflect the love and teachings of Christ. (And there’s STILL always food!)



Youth retreat on Kaua’i



Punahou Parking Fundraiser



2025 Confirmands!

### **Highlights:**

- Youth retreat to Kaua'i.
- Successful Punahou Parking fundraiser that enabled us to give back to Central Union and donate to Children's Ministry, Messy Church startup fund, Heifer Project, Maui Humane Society, Genki Ala Wai Project, and more!
- Concluded year-long confirmation journey with Confirmation Service for 3 youth.
- Strengthened relationships with one another.

### **Imagining the future:**

- To welcome new friends into our fun and supportive youth group.
- To participate more in service to our community.

## Report of the Buildings & Grounds Committee: Sam Failla, Chair

### Per Standing Rules:

Work with the Real Estate Committee and church staff on planning, maintenance, and repair of church campuses and properties.

### Per charter:

- Develop and recommend policies and procedures for efficient, effective, and safe administration of all physical assets.
- Ensure grounds are properly maintained and cared for.
- Repair & maintenance done in a timely and satisfactory manner.
- Ensure efficient use of grounds and building spaces.
- Ensure there is adequate provision for supplies, hardware, equipment etc. and obtain reasonable bids with quality workmanship when outsourcing contracts.
- Ensure staffing requirements are adequate.
- Ensure budget spending levels are adequate and priorities for repair, maintenance equipment, etc. are established.
- Make recommendations regarding preventive maintenance, renovations, and new construction projects as well as outsourcing contracts and monitoring the contractor's work.

**Members:** Scott Ballentyne, Sam Failla, Dona Hanaike, Alan Hirota, Shane Kumura, Rik Papa, David Yee, Sanford Ching, and Mike Sudol. **Staff:** Cory Taylor and Troy Tomita.



The Committee gathers to discuss the Windward cottage.



The Garden Club: (left to right) Joe Elm, Maureen Farineau, Dona Hanaike, and Troy Tomita.



Working at the Windward cottage.

## Highlights and Achievements:

- Renovated and repaired the Minister's cottage located on Central Union Windward's campus.
- Removal of over 60 chickens infesting the Central Union's Honolulu Campus.
- Implemented live-streaming of 9:00 AM Sunday services in the Sanctuary.
- Repair and extensive cleaning of Parish Hall carpeting.
- Improved and expanded Honolulu campus security lighting and cameras.

Creation of the "Garden Club" to improve the Honolulu campus beginning with the premises surrounding the Sanctuary, Atherton Memorial Chapel, and the Administration Courtyard.

Treatment of the Royal Palms located on the Honolulu Campus to protect them from the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

## Wish list:

- Upgrade irrigation system on the Honolulu campus so we can monitor/improve water usage, while developing and implementing a landscape/planting plan to help beautify the grounds, protect the existing trees on the campus, and carry out "The Church in the Garden" concept.
- Create Reserve Study for Honolulu campus to project and provide for long-term capital improvement needs.

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## Report of the Central Union Windward Ministry: Janice Wakamatsu

The CUW Ministry met the mission we outlined of extending services of Central Union Church to the Windward community by offering worship services each Sunday morning; operating the CUW Thrift Shop every Wednesday and Saturday; and providing space for a group of volunteers outside of our congregation to bless those in our community who are less fortunate with a Food Pantry program. A small group of women meet on campus once a week for Bible study. We share the church side of the campus on Sundays with a large congregation from the Honolulu Marshallese United Church of Christ; sponsor Boy Scout Troop 223, and provide meeting space for them and their Cub Scout Troop; in addition to recovery, educational and other groups who use the campus evenings and weekends. Part of the campus is used by Kama'aina Kids for daycare and preschool education. All of the above programs meet various needs in our community.



Naomi, Jadine, Jeannie, Sarah Jordan and Gabriel of E Ho'onani I Ke Akua E Ka Hula share their gift of hula.

**Members of the CUW Ministry Leadership Team are:** Sam Failla, Linn Garcia, Suzanne

Jambeau, Virginia Kawauchi, Elizaeth Neill, Jocelyn Pratt, Peggy Anne Siegmund, Elbridge Smith, and Jan Wakamatsu. Cory Taylor serves as the CUC staff liaison.

- Worship was held every Sunday along with a Christmas Eve Service. Kahu Richard Walenta was our primary speaker with kokua from Pastor Rushan, Rev. George Scott, Kahu Alpha Goto, Rebecca Woodland and Melissa Thach. Lorna Bright also filled the pulpit as a speaker and is our Pianist and Choir Director.

- The CUW Thrift Shop continues under the management of Joan Bennett and did well enough to add an additional external storage container to accommodate space for seasonal items. We are blessed to be supported by regular clientele and we are staffed by members from the congregation along with friends from the community who enjoy the camaraderie and opportunity to volunteer.



Some of the CUW Thrift Shop volunteers were able to share a pizza lunch to bid a fond aloha to one of our volunteers relocating to the continent. (L-R): Kristen Kear, Carol Asuncion, Joan Bennett, Peggy Sun, Jan Wakamatsu, Nancy Rivers, Lana Fountain and Karla Claybaugh.

- We welcomed Tracy Tassie to our CUW family as a part-time Office Administrator. She provides office coverage and a presence on the campus three days each week.
- The Lifeline Fire and Security system has provided excellent service and a feeling of safety for those who use the facilities during the day and evening hours and to deter overnight trespassers.

**As we imagine a future for the Windward campus in the coming years:**

- We will continue to reinforce the ties with the Honolulu campus.
- We are working with the Building & Grounds Committee by providing labor and monetary support to renovate the cottage located on the CUW campus for future use by an assistant CUC pastor.
- We dream of having a permanent/part-time pastor at CUW.

## **Report of the Diaconate: Dusty Santos**

This past year, the Central Union Church Diaconate has faithfully carried out its ministry of service, worship support, and spiritual care. Grounded in our mission to engage and embrace all as we seek to embody Christ, we have offered our time, gifts, and compassion to uplift the body of Christ—within our congregation, among our partner churches, and throughout the wider community. Our work is made possible through prayer, partnership, and a shared commitment to serve.

### **Mission and Purpose**

The Diaconate of Central Union Church is called to be a ministry of presence and compassion. We assist in worship services, provide spiritual care, support pastoral ministry, and extend hospitality to all. As spiritual caregivers and helpers, we seek to represent Christ's love through acts of service, prayer, and accompaniment.

### **Summary of the Year's Ministries & Activities:**

The Diaconate's ministry continues through the work of our dedicated standing committees. Each plays a vital role in nurturing the church's spiritual and communal life:

- **Communication Committee**

This team kept members informed and connected through regular updates in worship bulletins and digital platforms. We shared announcements, prayer invitations, and ministry highlights to foster transparency and unity.

- **Ushering Committee**

Our ushers offered a warm welcome each Sunday, guided seating, and supported communion and special events. Their presence helped maintain an atmosphere of reverence and hospitality.

- **Visitation Committee**

Visitation efforts brought encouragement and prayer to those unable to attend in-person worship. We offered in-home visits, phone calls, and spiritual support to members in times of illness, grief, or isolation.

- **Baptism Committee**

This committee assisted in preparing families and candidates for the sacrament of baptism, working with clergy and ensuring all ceremonial needs were met. We rejoiced with each individual and family as they embraced new life in Christ.

- **White Lei, Prayers & Memorials Committee**

Our memorial ministry honored and remembered those who have entered eternal rest. We provided lei, coordinated service details, and stood with grieving families in love and prayer.

- **Funds Committee** (Louise Coates, Charles R. Bishop, and Deacons' Theological Scholarships)

This committee oversaw the stewardship and distribution of scholarships for theological education

and continuing education. Through this ministry, we supported individuals pursuing seminary studies, as well as youth and young adults engaged in academic advancement.

These ministries are expressions of our collective calling to serve Christ within and beyond our church walls. We give thanks for the opportunity to serve the church, our CUC sister churches, families, friends, and the greater community.

### **Reflections & Impact:**

This year offered us both blessings and lessons. The Diaconate responded to evolving needs in worship, pastoral care, and outreach. Whether comforting grieving families or preparing sacred space for baptism, our ministry was one of presence. We have seen how quiet acts of service—prayers offered, doors opened, communion shared—carry lasting spiritual impact.

### **Partnership with Pastoral and Lay Leadership:**

We are deeply grateful for our ongoing collaboration with the Senior Minister, pastoral staff, worship planners, and lay leaders. Together, we nurtured the spiritual life of the congregation and supported meaningful worship throughout the liturgical year.

### **Looking Ahead:**

As we look to the coming year, the Diaconate remains committed to growing in faith, hospitality, and outreach. We hope to:

- Expand visitation efforts to include regular intergenerational connections.
- Offer more opportunities for lay leadership training.
- Deepen our prayer life through small group gatherings.
- Welcome and mentor new Diaconate members.

### **Acknowledgments**

With gratitude, we honor the faithful service of this year's Diaconate members. Your prayers, presence, and compassion continue to bless our church and community in immeasurable ways.

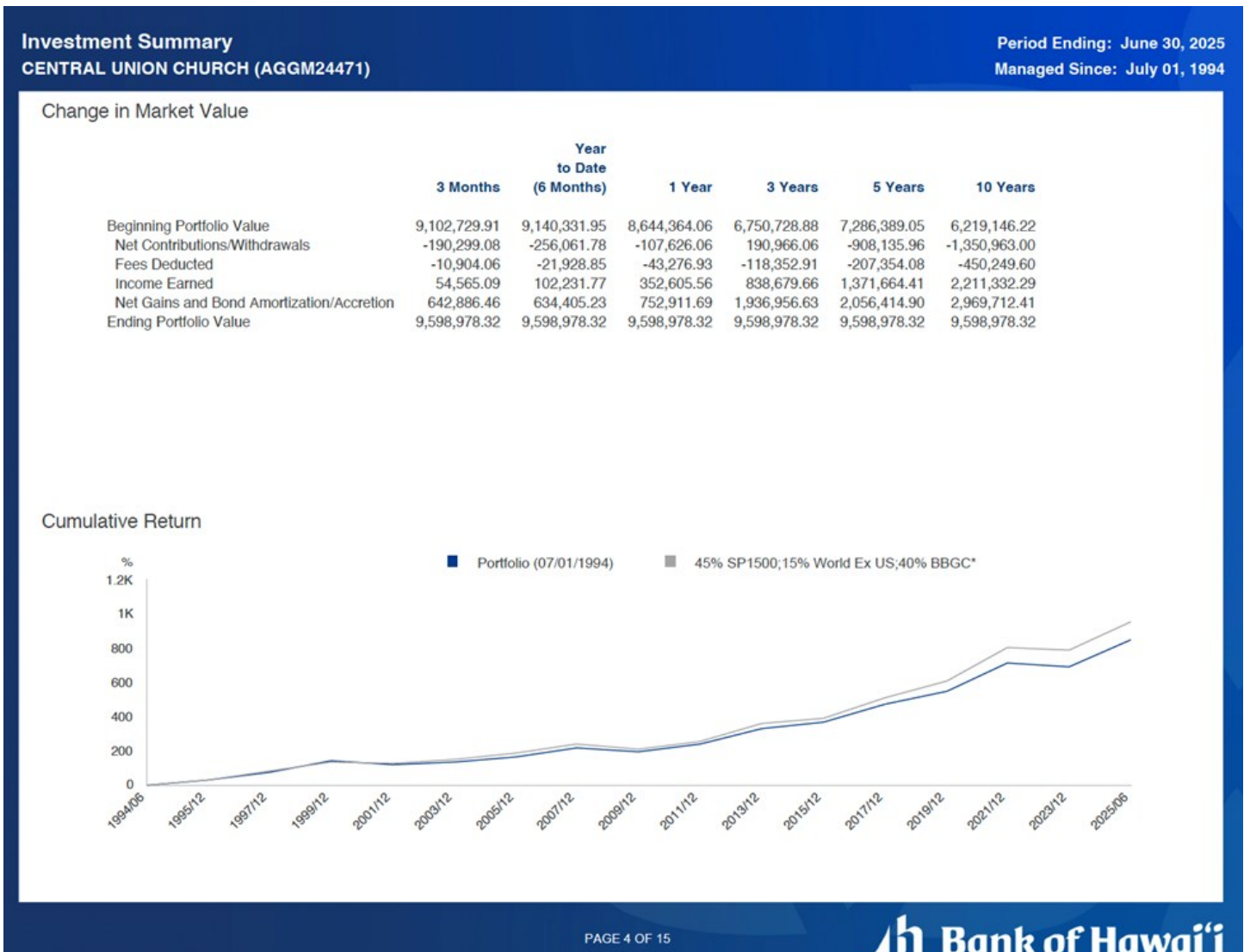
Respectfully submitted,  
Dusty Santos, Chair,  
Central Union Church Diaconate

## Report of the Investment Committee: Paul Hayes

**Purpose:** To preserve the endowment fund to provide current and future sources of revenue for the church. The committee is responsible for the oversight of the Church’s professional fund manager. Bank of Hawai‘i has managed our portfolio since July 1994. The Committee is currently made up of Paul Hayes (chair and council liaison), David Yee, and Ciarra Sapigao.

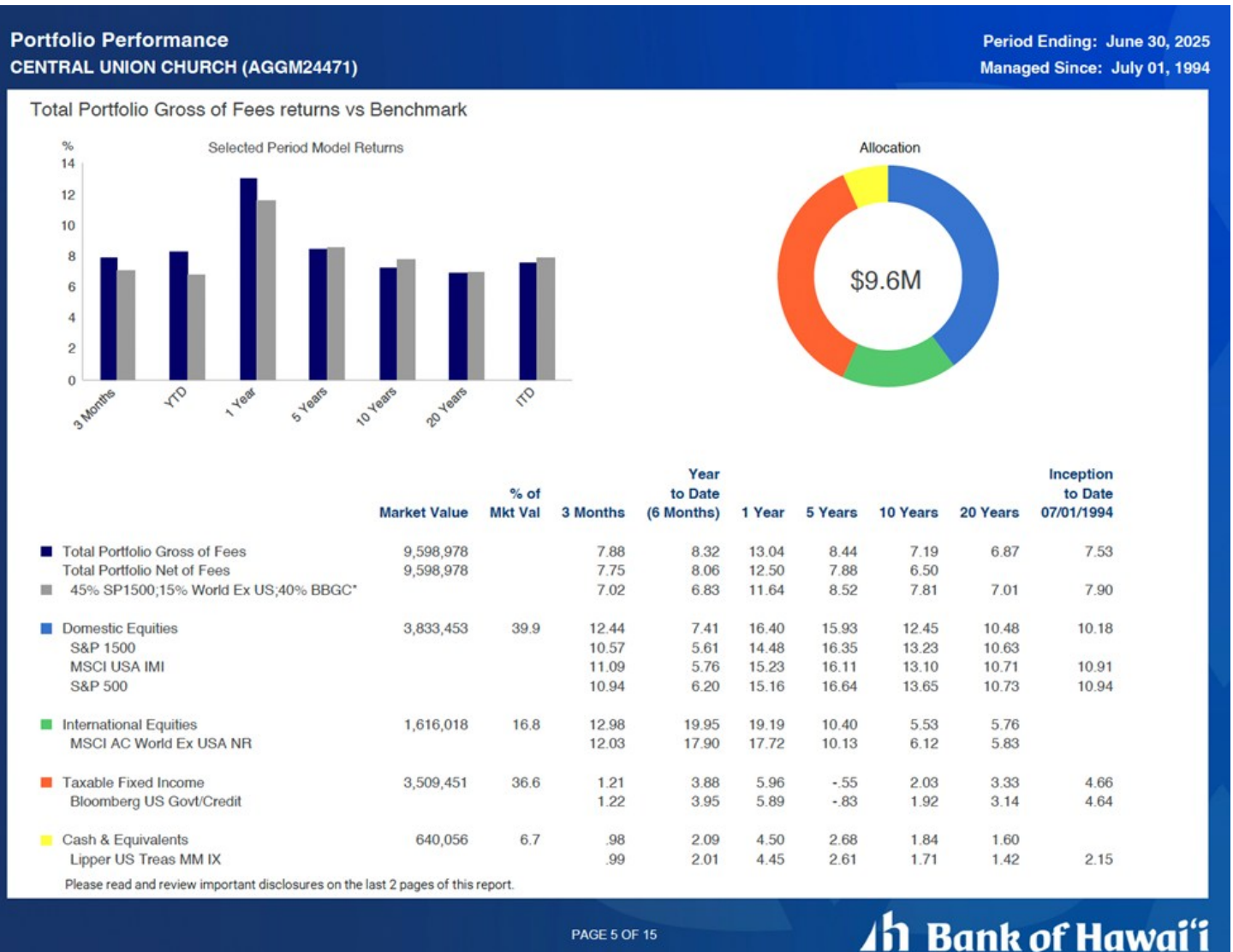
### 2024-2025 Highlights and Achievements:

- The total portfolio performance from July 1994 to June 30, 2025 has averaged 7.53% gross of fees.
- The portfolio balance was \$9,598,978 as of June 30, 2025.



The graph above shows a slight underperformance gap 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% Equities and 30% to 55% for Fixed Income at any given time.



As we **IMAGINE Together** about the future of our church, here are 2 – 3 dreams we have for the Investment Committee for the year ahead:

- Find a new Chair for the Investment Committee, ideally a registered financial professional who works as an investment advisor or wealth manager.
- Review portfolio, Investment Ministry Charter, and Investment Policy.
- Continue to evaluate, on an annual basis, whether to retain Bank of Hawai'i as the sole investment portfolio manager.

## Report of the Mind, Body & Spirit Movement Ministry: Carol Alevizos

**Purpose:** Our purpose is to care for our wonderful congregation via Mind, Body and Spirit. All are welcome to our offerings which include:

- **Mindful Movements with a Bamboo Stick**

Relaxing Mindful Movements exercises with Marion Lyman-Mersereau, are online every Wednesday at 4:00 PM, and in person, starting Tuesdays, Sept. 2, at 2:00 PM in the Women's Building. It includes a series of 16 movements that help strengthen and stretch different parts of your body while enhancing your balance. This routine was developed by an elderly Zen Master who wanted to keep his body supple. Every joint is addressed. The bamboo stick movements are followed by some gentle yoga to relax the lower back and absorb the benefits of the routine. Supplies needed: Yoga mat - If you would like to join the gentle yoga session in the second half of the class.



- **Mindfulness Class**

Marion Lyman-Mersereau conducts a Mindfulness class online every Monday from 5:00 - 5:30 PM.

- **Centering Prayer Meditation & Spiritual Journey Videos by Thomas Keating** (<https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/>)

Centering Prayer is a how-to method to deepen our relationship with God. *“Be still and know that I am God.”* Psalm 46:10. Carol Alevizos offers a weekly in-person small group in the Rewick Boardroom on Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:00 PM. There is also a Morning of Centering Prayer Meditation on the third Saturday of every month from 9:00 - 11:30 AM in the Women’s Building where members of Centering Prayer groups from around the island gather together for Centering Prayer and a class is provided for newcomers. *“God’s first language is silence, everything else is a poor translation.”* Thomas Keating.



Carol A., Pili, Karen, Carol E., Ken, Arlene, Richard.

## **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.

**Members:** Eleanor Mudrick, Chairwoman, (Vacant - Recording Secretary), Lisa Haley, Dr. Kalani Brady, Casey Jones, Youth Rep. Kapai Santos, daughter of Jansen Santos, and council liaison, Jane Fyrberg.

### **Highlights of our year:**

- Handel's *Messiah*, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary performance, under the direction of Dr. Alec Schumacker, was presented on December 8, 2024, at 7:30 PM to a full house, the largest audience since 2019. We had 12 Ushers / Offering Collectors: Veronica Cheung, Lisa Haley, Stephen Haley,



*Messiah 2024*



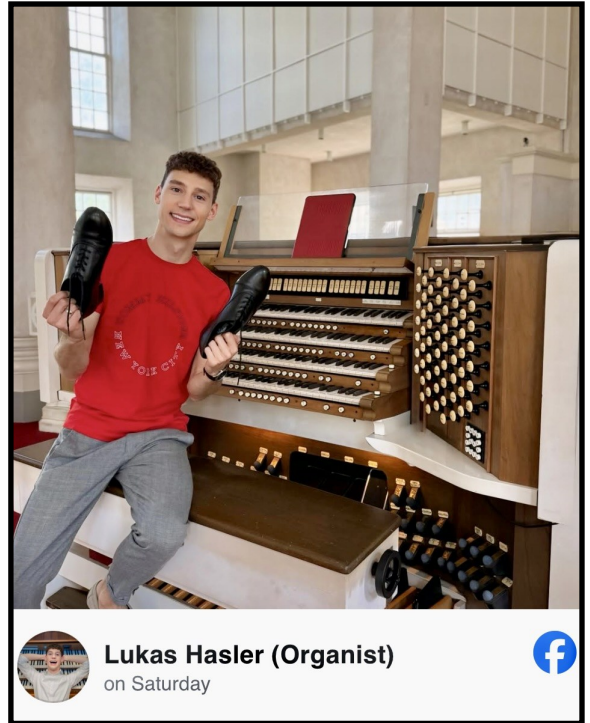
Dr. Alec Schumacker, Margaret Lloyd, Sarah Young

George Lingle, Maurina Ludwig, Marion Lyman-Mersereau, Eleanor Mudrick, Mark Norseth, Laura St. Denis, Stephen Steiner, Gerardo Villa, and Fanny Yeung.

- Choral Scholars: Due to the success of our “Choral Scholars Project,” this fiscal year we included the funding in our program budget. During the regular season, when the Chancel Choir was in session, the Choral Scholars joined them.
- American Guild of Organists—Hawai'i Chapter co-sponsored an Organ Recital, Sunday, March 30, 2025, featuring Lukas Hasler.



The Honolulu Brass on Easter Sunday



Lukas Hasler on Facebook



Ministry of the Month



Margaret Lloyd, Stephen Steiner, Keith Wallace, Eleanor Mudrick

- Music Ministry supported The Honolulu Brass for our Christmas Eve and Easter Services, with funding budgeted as Seasonal Musicians.
- The Music Ministry was featured in our reception office in November of 2024 as “Ministry of the Month”, through the creativity of Barb Elm, a dedicated Volunteer who serves in the office weekly.
- Our tenor Soloist, Keith Wallace, relocated to Texas. We bid him and his partner, Stephen Steiner, a fond farewell from our Handbell Quartet, at a luncheon in February.

**Dreams for the future:**

- Recruit and encourage new volunteers to serve with the Music Ministry.
- Help create a welcoming sense of community for all when hosting special events.

**Report of the Nominations and Governance Committee:** Carol Egan, Esq, Chair



Carol Egan, Chair

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 Council Members for the following offices and terms:

**At-Large Council Members whose 3-year term ends in 2028** are Grant Itomitsu, Jocelyn Pratt, and Nathan Wong.



Grant Itomitsu, Jocelyn Pratt, and Nathan Wong

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.

## **Report of the Pohnpei Ministry:**

Pohnpei Ministry still continues to have services every Sunday at 11 AM in the Atherton Memorial Chapel! Except the first Sunday of every month! First Sunday of every month are reserved for the ministry to partake activities with the 9 AM service in the Sanctuary!

Currently, there are two active head leaders in Pohnpei Ministry: Robinson Fredrick and Mark Ludwig. Jansen Santos has asked for some time off for now, due to his work schedule. Dusty Santos had stepped up to the plate and has been helping the two leaders with the needs of the ministry. And he is the ministry's current treasurer for last year and this year!

### **Activities that Pohnpei Ministry accomplished:**

Easter 2024 - members gather on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the week for an evening service on campus! Ministry welcomed other members from the other sister churches during the Easter week and disciple together!

Summer Fun 2024 - Ministry hosted a Summer Fun at Ala Moana Park and had great fun activities with families and friends!

Christmas 2024 - Ministry gifted members with some goody bags for the children and adults!

### **Special Occasions:**

Funerals - Ministry has been continuously helping the Pohnpeian community with funeral services at the parks and sometimes in Atherton Chapel for viewings, as the need arises.

Outreach - Ministry is still continuing to outreach to the Pohnpei House (the version of the Ronald McDonald House) at Tripler on the first Sunday of every month!

Other special events - Ministry continuously partaking in the celebrations for birthdays and weddings within the community!

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## **Report of the Real Estate Committee: Carl Schlack**

The Real Estate Committee (“REC”) of Central Union Church (the “Church”) was formed in the Spring of 2023 to advance the Congregation’s decision on March 5, 2023, to explore ways in which portions of our Honolulu and Windward campuses could be used to generate additional revenue needed to address the Church’s long-term financial concerns, thus assuring the continuation of the Church and its mission throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

The intent was to engage with Hawai‘i’s real estate development community to determine the viability of a development that would result in the creation of a revenue stream from either (i) long-term ground lease rents, or (ii) annual income from the investment of land sale proceeds. Strong preference was to be given to a long-term ground lease solution (instead of a land sale), and also to a use consistent with the mission of the Church and its role in caring not just for its members but also for the community in which the Church exists. So while any decision to proceed with

development on portions of our Honolulu and Windward campuses must be revenue driven, it also should, to the extent possible, be a further expression of our Christian faith, the foundational elements of which are love of God and love of neighbor.

**To date, the work of the REC can best be summarized in three phases:**

During the first phase (Spring of 2023 to the end of 2023), the REC met with those developer entities who had reached out to the REC (after learning of the Church's desire to develop a portion of its land), and also with other developer entities the REC decided to contact. By the end of 2023, the REC had completed initial meetings with twelve developer entities that included campus site tours (for those who wanted them), delivery of preliminary information about our campuses and our financial and mission objectives, and question and answer sessions. This gave the REC the opportunity to gauge the developers' level of interest. By the end of 2023, all twelve developer entities expressed continued interest of varying degrees.

During the second phase (early 2024 to the end of 2024), the REC prepared additional, more detailed handouts providing key information about the Church's financial and space requirements and shared these handouts with interested developers. In subsequent meetings and teleconferences (and some additional campus tours), developers gained a more comprehensive understanding of the portions of our campuses available for development and the financial goals the Church sought to achieve through development. The developers who continued to express interest were asked to provide the REC with their ideas and development concepts. By the end of 2024, only two developers had submitted conceptual proposals. This decline in interest appeared to have multiple causes such as (i) changing market conditions (e.g., rising interest rates and construction costs), (ii) lack of interest in the type of development project desired by the Church, (iii) apparent difficulty to achieve the Church's financial goals, and (iv) developer desire to focus on existing projects that were already underway.

Although the REC found the two conceptual proposals to be unworkable (primarily due to the amount of space they would occupy on our Honolulu campus), they were, nonetheless, instructive as they demonstrated the disconnect between our financial goals and the amount of space we were willing to have developed. Moreover, the process of engaging with the real estate development community and testing our requirements against what is feasible and sustainable in the evolving real estate market has been a valuable part of the REC's journey.

During the third phase (early 2025 to the present), the REC has been reevaluating our development and financial assumptions. Instead of a single large, multi-phase development intended to resolve all the Church's long-term financial concerns, the REC is now focusing on a few smaller to medium size projects that are realistically achievable. The revenue from these projects, in the aggregate, will be an important contribution to ensuring the continued viability of the Church.

The current members of the REC are David Yee, Martha Balkin, Paul Shinkawa, Dona Hanaike, John Field, Paul Hayes,Carolynn Bell-Tuttle, and Carl Schlack.

## **Report of the Young(ish) Adult Ministry:**

The Central Union Church Young(ish) Adult Ministry is for people in generations X, Y, Z. We hope to support especially those recently out of high school, to parents of young children, and to single adults early in their careers.

Since there are multiple services each Sunday, we want to offer time and activities for people in this group to connect since they may not see each other on Sunday.

### **Our guiding goals have been:**

- To provide space where young people can be authentically themselves, creating meaningful connection and building community.
- To offer opportunities to grow in knowledge, wisdom, faith, and community.
- To shine God's light in the wider community through works of service and justice.



Dinner Church in the Atherton Courtyard.



Danielle Kim's reflection at Dinner Church.



Polo outing with the Young(ish) Adult group in 2024.

**Young(ish) Adult Leadership Team:** Melinda Dallass, Lindsey Garnick, Danielle Kim, Shane Kumura. Pastor Mary Herbig was instrumental in starting and supporting this ministry. In her departure, Kristen Young and Pastor Rushan have been providing staff support.

### Highlights and achievements of our year:

- First year in action, lots of momentum and engagement by ~84 different people.
  - Various activities: Halloween & Christmas parties, beach days, polo outing.
- Held three Dinner Church gatherings with testimony shared by members.
- Held regular “Brunch Bunch” gatherings about once a month.
- Participated in our first service project as a group—joined a wider community work day at Papahana Kualoa.



Papahana Kualoa service work day



Halloween 2024 group photo

### Imagining the future:

- To collect feedback from relevant members to help inform planning of future events and activities.
- Continue momentum of our ministry especially after significant staff transitions.
- Greater interaction and collaboration across ministries.

## Report of the Community Ministry: Ronny Lynn

### **Our mission statement:**

“Turning faith into action, we engage our congregation to transform lives by serving people in need in our community.”

### **Our members:**

Ronny Lynn, Evie Hao, Rebecca Woodland, Ken Harding, Martha Balkin, and Laura Steelquist. De facto members, Fanny Yeung and Veronica Cheung for their dedication to forming Serving Aloha and their continued leadership roles therein.

**What we do:** We provide CUC with opportunities to serve others in need and we sponsor ongoing programs and events that promote justice and community equity as well. To accomplish our mission, we often partner with other churches and community organizations.



Presentation—Gaza in International Context (11-25-2024)

Community Ministry Food Prep (08-12-2025)

- **Hot Meals.** On the second Tuesday of the month, a dedicated team prepares 100 hot meals for Keauhou Shelter, and the Youth Outreach shelter in Waikiki.
- **Serving Aloha.** Our weekly food distribution has continued every Wednesday with help from dozens of volunteers from the church and wider community. Each week, we provide close to 800 families with grocery essentials like fresh produce, dairy, and meat.
- **White Gifts.** The congregation responded generously with donations of money and gift cards. We were able to purchase over 800 gifts, enough to fill all requests for all age groups.
- **2024 Pride Parade.** We partnered with some of our sister churches to have a presence in the Pride Parade and let our neighbors know that love is love and God’s love is for ALL! We rented a trolley and several church members rode or walked in the joyful parade.
- **Community learning opportunities.** We hosted a film screening of *Israelism* and a panel discussion (offering education on the situation in Palestine/Israel) on March 9, 2024. This was offered in partnership with Jewish Voice for Peace, Hawai‘i for Palestine, Faith Action, and other community organizations. Over 150 people, both church members and wider community members, were in attendance.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Holy Spirit, as we build towards God’s kingdom of peace, justice, and equity in our community and in this world!

## **Report of the Women's League:**

- 1) The Women's League ministry's purpose 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 & the community.
- 2) We provide women in the church with leadership roles and enabled CUC to provide outreach to community organizations that are women- and family-focused.
- 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) The Thrift Shop has been the lifeline to the church as it provided substantial monetary support to the church. Our volunteers do outstanding work to provide resources to the community to individuals in need of help.



2025 Scholarship recipients at the awards luncheon.



2025 Thrift Shop sale in the Women's Building.

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## **Report of the World Mission Ministry:**

It is our mission to perform God's work as Christ's by sending money, goods, and missionaries throughout the world, spreading Christ's Gospel to all. We create partnerships by acts of outreach nurtured with prayers, concerns, and encouragement. We want to educate, call to service, and build "person to person" and "people to people" bonds in the name and teachings of Christ. So, it is our goal to seek and support projects and programs which endorse our mission while engaging Central Union Church members as valuable resources.

**Central Union Church Annual Member Meeting**  
**Sunday, September 8, 2024, at 11:00 AM**  
**Hybrid Meeting: Zoom Webinar and In-Person**  
**Meeting is Chaired by Council Chairperson Carl Schlack**  
**Zoom Webinar established by Rev. Mary Herbig and Kristen Young**  
**In-Person Meeting held in CUC Parish Hall**

**I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM and CALL TO ORDER**

Council Chair, Carl Schlack, welcomes members to the Annual Member Meeting and informs them we are waiting for the final member count to determine whether we have a quorum. David Yee, serving as Treasurer, is informed of the member count by members of the Diaconate, and informs the chair that a quorum has been established. Carl calls the Annual Meeting of the members of Central Union Church (“CUC”) to order at 11:26 AM.

**II. NOTICE OF BUSINESS FOR THE ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING**

Carl Schlack states the purpose of the meeting as four-fold: (1), the approval of the minutes of our last Annual Member Meeting held on May 21, 2023, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Members held on June 25, 2023, and the minutes of our Annual Budget Meeting held on August 27, 2023 (all of which are in the annual report that was made available to all members by posting on the church website and shared in the CU Weekly, and by making hard copies available to those who requested them); (2), to consider and vote on our annual church budget for the new fiscal year (August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025); (3), the receipt of reports from the treasurer of the council, the chair of the council, and our senior minister; and (4), the election of new members and officers of the council. Carl announces 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 Annual Meeting will be governed by the latest version of Robert’s Rules of Order. The meeting will be a hybrid format as there are a number of members present via Zoom.

Carl then makes certain “housekeeping” announcements (e.g., location of bathrooms, silencing of noise-making devices, cell phone, etc.).

Carl states Notice for today’s meeting was properly given more than 20 days before the meeting. The notice included a description of the matters requiring approval of the members of CUC, all as required by section 3.5.B. of our Bylaws.

**III. INVOCATION**

Pastor Rushan Sinnaduray provides the invocation for our Annual Meeting.

**IV. INTRODUCTIONS**

Carl introduces the following members on the dais:

**Council Member and Treasurer:** David Yee

**Council Member and Chair of the PPRC:** Nathan Wong

**Council Member and Chair of NGC:** Carol Egan

**Secretary:** Colleen Ho’omana (filling in for Sarah Nam)

**Timekeeper:** Kristen Young (electronically on screen)

**Senior Minister:** Pastor Rushan Sinnaduray

Carl explains the rules for participating in the meeting and provides instructions for online members.

## **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Carl notes the Minutes from the May 21, 2023 Annual Meeting, the June 25, 2023 Special Meeting of the Congregation, and the August 27, 2023 Annual Budget Meeting have been distributed to members. These Minutes were made available to all members by posted links in the CU Weekly and special emails to members, and by printing in the annual report that was made available to all members through email or hard copy upon request. Carl asks if there are any corrections to these Minutes. Hearing none, Carl called for the following Motion:

*That the Minutes from the May 21, 2023 Annual Meeting, the June 25, 2023 Special Meeting of the Congregation, and the August 27, 2023 Annual Budget Meeting, be approved.*

The motion is made by Dr. Will Brown and seconded by Jackie Lane. With a raise hand vote, the motion passes.

## **VI. REPORT OF THE TREASURER and CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET.**

Carl notes consideration of our Annual Budget for our new fiscal year, August 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025. David Yee, our treasurer and chair of the budget committee, will now present the budget.

**Treasurer, David Yee,** reports we have reached the waterfall in our budget and are considering other areas of revenue generation; opening bookings for weddings and events and rental of the commercial kitchen. David will be working with new COO, Troy, for other avenues of fundraising.

Carl opens the floor for questions of clarification regarding the proposed budget.

## **VII. MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET**

**MOTION from DAVID YEE:** Be it resolved that the Budget for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, as presented and as recommended by the Council, be and hereby is adopted.

*No second is necessary as the motion is made on behalf of the council.*

Debate on the Motion: None, motion approved by the majority of members present.

Carl states be it resolved that the Budget for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, as presented and as recommended by the Council, be and hereby is adopted.

## **VIII. REPORTS OF CHAIR, TREASURER AND MINISTER**

Complete written reports of the treasurer of the council (including a financial report), the chair of the council, and the senior minister are provided in the annual report previously made available to all members through email or hard copy upon request.

No updates to previously provided reports.

## **IX. MAHALO TO DEPARTING COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Carl thanked four Council members that are departing council for different reasons or were unable to complete their term, but still very much appreciated their work on the council and service to Central Union Church: Austin Cook, Don Clifford, Sarah Nam, and Greg Sato.

## **X. ELECTION of COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR THE CHURCH YEAR 2024-2025**

Carl Schlack calls on Carol Egan, chair of the Nominations and Governance Committee.

The candidates nominated to serve as officers or members of Church Council effective as of September 8, 2024, are as follows:

**OFFICER POSITION** (2-year term commencing 2023 and ending 2025):

**CHAIRPERSON:** David Yee

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON:** Brody McMurtry

**TREASURER:** Ciarra Sapigao

**SECRETARY:** Colleen Ho‘omana

**AT LARGE MEMBER POSITION** (1-year term ending 2025):

Melveen Chun

**AT LARGE MEMBER POSITIONS** (3-year term ending 2027):

Sam Failla, Paul Hayes, and Joan Murata.

**MOTION from CAROL EGAN:** The motion before the congregation is as follows: *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 committee motion does not require a second. The Chair calls for a vote by a raise of hands and the motion 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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCLUDING BUSINESS**

Carl thanked Cory, Robinson, and the B&G staff for helping set up this meeting. He also thanked Cayanna, Natasha and Kristen for disseminating the information presented and producing the Annual Report, members of Diaconate for assistance with meeting logistics, Laura Steelquist and Pohnpei Ministry for the snacks provided, and the congregation for participating. Carl stated it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the CUC Council and is excited for the future.

David Yee stated that he is looking forward to a time of growth for Central Union Church.

**CLOSING PRAYER** was offered by Pastor Rushan.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Sam Failla, seconded by Talbert Fox and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Colleen K. Ho‘omana, Secretary

## Report of New Members in 2024

<b>Member #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>How</b>
15800	O'Mara, Joan	March 10, 2024	Reaffirmation
15801	Paiva, Tiago	March 10, 2024	Confession of Faith
15802	Nikolaidis, Nikolas	March 17, 2024	Confession of Faith
15803	Nikolaidis, Arisa	March 17, 2024	Confession of Faith
15804	Ekman, Thomas "Tom"	May 5, 2024	Confession of Faith
15805	Curry, Jeffrey	May 5, 2024	Reaffirmation
15806	Christiansen, Nisha Mei	July 14, 2024	Confession of Faith
15807	Sudol, Michael	July 14, 2024	Associate
15808	Joel, Aslain	July 21, 2024	Reaffirmation
15809	Field, Charles	July 21, 2024	Reaffirmation
15810	Soo, Marian	July 21, 2024	Reaffirmation
15811	Neill, Elizabeth	August 4, 2024	Letter of Transfer
15812	Hubbard, Shayne Edward	November 3, 2024	Reaffirmation
15813	Hubbard, Nicole	November 3, 2024	Reaffirmation
15814	Itomitsu, Grant Satoru	December 8, 2024	Confession of Faith
15815	Holliday, Sean Robert	December 8, 2024	Reaffirmation
15816	Holliday, Jacquelyn Ann	December 8, 2024	Reaffirmation

**TOTAL =17**

## Report of Baptisms in 2024

<b>Baptism</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>Birthday</b>
1/26/2024	William, Nisay Albert	Ropi, Raener William, Yumileen	12/10/2023
2/25/2024	Sarmiento, Jeremy Marcos	Sarmiento, Gerald Coloma Sarmiento, Mharie Marcos	6/13/2023
3/10/2024	Wong, Jaime Nani'ikumālie	n/a	10/16/1993
5/12/2024	Edgar, Laveah K.	Edgar II, Manasa Luzama, Latasha-Jean	10/17/2023
8/11/2024	Cruz, Kanōpu'uonāmoku Kamohoali'i Winona Uli'i Lila	Keawe-Cruz, Tiffany- Michelle Winona Uli'i Cruz, Zachary Mark	11/22/2023
11/17/2024	Ho, Karen Jane	n/a	3/25/1958
12/8/2024	Holliday, Luc Daniel	Holliday, Sean Holliday, Jacquelyn	4/29/2021
12/20/2024	Gamble, Beau Brooks	Gamble, Broke Piersch Gamble, Craig Kaikaina	9/28/2024
12/22/2024	Liao-Nam, Adeline Suji	Liao, Gordon Yu Nam, Sarah Hyunee	3/27/2021
12/22/2024	Liao-Nam, Emmeline Rui	Liao, Gordon Yu Nam, Sarah Hyunee	3/25/2024
12/22/2024	Hanson, Kaipō Kaumana	Hanson, Shazel Riel Domingo Hanson Jr., Stacy LC	3/10/2016
12/22/2024	Olivas, Skylar Hope	Olivas, Cheryl Domingo Olivas, Ronel Baniaga	10/22/2015

**TOTAL = 12 (2 Adults, 10 Children)**

## Report of Deaths in 2024

<b>Member #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>DoD</b>	<b>Age</b>
11203	Hallman, Nyle	February 14, 2024	95 years old
13542	Migata-Dooley, Patricia	February 16, 2024	67 years old
10650	Allen, J. Richard	February 26, 2024	84 years old
13247	Denning, Violet "Lois"	March 26, 2024	89 years old
14357	Lee, Douglas	March 26, 2024	91 years old
15683	Scott, Geraldine	March 29, 2024	
15367	Ching, Barbara	May 23, 2024	94 years old
13977	Wollstein, Dorry	May 26, 2024	100 years old
13584	Keomal, Marilyn	July 4, 2024	85 years old
13125	Tom, Mildred	July 5, 2024	90 years old
15536	Jackson, William Donald	August 9, 2024	84 years old
12412	Koegler, Arlene	October 13, 2024	84 years old
11536	Smith, Christopher "Kit"	December 27, 2024	90 years old

**TOTAL = 13**

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## Total "local" Weddings in 2024

**10**

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# NOTES:

## **Sunday Worship Services**

**7:00 AM** – Atherton Memorial Chapel - Traditional

**9:00 AM** – Sanctuary – Traditional (livestreamed to YouTube)

**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.

1660 South Beretania Street – Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96826 • Phone (808) 941-0957

38 Kaneohe Bay Drive – Kailua, Hawai‘i 96734 • Phone (808) 254-3802

email: [cuc@centralunionchurch.org](mailto:cuc@centralunionchurch.org)

[www.centralunionchurch.org](http://www.centralunionchurch.org)

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