

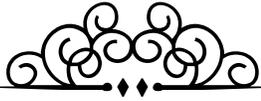


# Nu 'Oli

# GLAD TIDINGS WAIOLA CHURCH'S Pastoral Letter

Nowemapa 2016

November 2016



**WAIOLA CHURCH**  
(United Church of Christ)

535 Wainee Street  
Lahaina, HI 96761

Phone/ Fax: 808.661.4349  
waiolaucc@waiolachurch.com

**Interim Minister:**  
**Kahu Dennis Alger**

**Lay Minister:**  
**Kahu Anela Rosa**

**Moderator:**  
**Grale Lorenzo-Chong**

**Weekly Worship:**  
**Sundays @ 9am**

**Sunday School:**  
**Sundays @ 9:15am**

**Office Hours:**  
**M, W-F 8am - 2pm**



## Nu 'Oli / Glad Tidings *FROM* Kahu Dennis

*In this issue of your favorite free periodical: calendar; updates on Na Kia'i o Wainee, the interim process; a reflection on current events; the concept of boundaries; an invitation to Things Advent; and other tidbits.*

While it is attributed to Martin Luther, no one was there with a tape recorder in 1521 at the Diet of Worms to know if he actually said, "Here I stand; I can do no other." However, that sentiment summed his position over against a corrupt system. Thoughtful faith leaders inherited the mandate to stand for something, such as the common good, decency, honesty, and inclusion BECAUSE the church is contextual, it exists in society. As Jesus, Paul, Amos, and many others whose names we'll never know taught us, we must speak truth to power and to those who seek power. To ignore the context is to offer a nebulous, disconnected faith. We must be current, realistic, and address sociopolitical issues "from the pulpit."

Here I stand; I can do no other as pastor. The truth must be spoken and the wounds tended. We must articulate the "shark in the pond" which causes anxiety, fear, and alienation in our own society. Wise persons pointed out that, no matter the declared president-elect, much damage has been done. The rhetoric of bigotry, misogyny, xenophobia, homophobia, and general nastiness which our parents would have condemned, has unleashed and empowered hate. So, what is our witness over against that evil? Can we be honest enough to see that we've made bigotry acceptable, even normal? What is the Word of God in this context? What is the Spirit enticing us to consider, to become? We must walk beside those most at risk, to live the gospel over against convenience. The answers will come.....

We resist the forces of evil; we embrace the movement of goodness; we advocate for kindness, generosity, peace, freedom for all, justice, transparency. As Abraham Lincoln said, "Let us not ask God to be on our side; let us endeavor to be on God's side." The country is divided over race; someone said it is 1860 again....

In faithfulness to the gospel.

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Yes, there is happy news... Can anyone picture Tamalani Kaleleiki speechless? We managed to keep secret the award Ron Hilina'iokalani Williams was planning to bestow upon Tama during worship on October 30. Ron had contacted me some weeks earlier, swearing me to secrecy, to ask about doing this and to explain what was "up." Ron is vice-president of the Hawai'i Historical Society; the group has chosen twelve recipients of honorary membership and special recognition for work adding to the body of historical knowledge. Tama was one of the 12 (sounds biblical)! He will be honored at a banquet in Honolulu next spring.

Ron provided information about the HHS, talked about the latest venture, then announced Tama's selection. Priceless was the look on his face. Tama was given the appropriate lei treatment with much applause. He did manage to offer a brief statement in response. Photos were soon on the church's Facebook page.

Congratulations on this recognition! Mahalo for all your efforts with Na Kia'i!

Some words from Tama about the committee's progress:

Aloha Kahu,

Na Kia'i o Waine'e Komite .. a committee of Waiola church: I can see where the individuals of the committee are much more comfortable in their sharing of the history of our church and waine'e grave yard. Our work with Cultural Survey Hawai'i with Tanya L. Greig and Trevor in locating unmarked graves are coming along, as well with the graves in the church yard. Our 2nd Fridays are still NKOW focus in outreach to visitors and kama'aina, community on waiola church .. as the first church on Maui, and the first stone church made by High Chief Hoapili (his baptized name is William Hoapili) and our history, sewing lei making / xmas gifts and other special events etc to generate money for restoration work of waine'e grave yard, for education, needed tools & ncessary that waine'e grave yard needs for its up keep. Logging in the journal is on going in the work on the individuals buried in Waine'e etc.

Iesu pu,  
Tama.

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Dr. Ron Williams honoring Tama on October 30 on behalf of the Hawai'i Historical Society.

PC: MaryAnn Alger



Na Kia'i o Waine'e committee member and Secretary, Rita Lei Medina, embraces and congratulates Tama.

PC: MaryAnn Alger

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A couple decades ago the mainline churches developed mandatory continuing education regarding “boundaries.” This emphasis resulted from waking up to the emerging scandals in some areas of Christendom regarding sexual misconduct. But it became more than that; boundary training has evolved into a generalized understanding of how one is faithful to one’s tasks—not just staying out of trouble

Separation Ethics comes under this umbrella. How many times have you witnessed a former pastor interfering with ongoing programs or maintaining relationships with members of the parish to the detriment of those the current kahu needs to develop? How many times has a lay person been unable to step aside and allow a newly-elected leader take on those tasks? This happens everywhere, to a degree, and often is presented as “helping out” all the while undermining someone. A common predicament, which I’ve been in, among clergy, is the wedding or funeral of a church member. “Oh, our new pastor will understand; you have a good relationship with so & so,” never mind this is no longer one’s kuleana AND it can serve to stifle the new kahu’s ability to form appropriate connections.

Meanwhile, we are four months into our relationship of interim ministry. I have: sought opportunities for group and 1-1 conversations; engaged in surveys of views regarding the church (assets and mission); participated in the clergy retreat, AHEC and Tri-Isle gatherings, Jump Start seminars; have joined in with church activities; and most recently have been conducting 1-1 interviews in order to form a composite of Waiola’s recent history and current health. All congregations have their own complexities which take time and conversation to discern. AND all of this matters to the task at hand: to help you prepare for calling your next kahu.

I’m encouraging leadership to consider a Board retreat in January; based upon that and other areas of input, I anticipate encouraging development of the congregational profile in March; by May the search committee might be ready to receive candidate profiles. Of course, this is speculation on my part. This endeavor is a partnership. Thanks for participating with me in the process.

### **Not Pau Yet**

Membership indicates “ownership,” or taking responsibility for something—in this case, the church. Full members have both voice and vote in meetings, and are eligible for elected office. Associate members have voice but no vote and are not eligible for elected positions—although they may participate on task forces. “AMs” often are members of other faith communities, are involved in a part-time capacity, or simply want to enter gradually.

Deacons keep the membership role updated and are in charge of interviewing persons interested in membership. Often, the kahu leads classes for those folks and, once the deacons have determined eligibility, they are welcomed into membership during a worship service.

Here is the most important part: IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP WITH WAIOLA UCC, speak with me, Anela, or Caroline. I’ll be happy to schedule the appropriate classes (very conversational) with you (‘oe/‘olua/‘oukou).

# Waiola Church SPOTLIGHTS

## Defining the Mission of Waiola Church: A Survey

You'll remember that Kahu Dennis asked the congregation to look at, and list, assets, as distinguished by those in attendance at the Quarterly October Membership meeting. In our last edition he asked us to keep reading as he began to compile responses to the list of five words which Waiola members defined as the mission of Waiola Church.

These are his findings:

### FIVE WORDS DESCRIBING WAIOLA'S MISSION

Worship/ Faith/Christian Education/Break Kapu (8)

Place to Belong (2)

Hawaiian Culture & History (10)

Food (2)

Share & Be Community (10)

Caring/Loving/Aloha/Hospitality/Compassion (11)

Serve Together/Outreach/Share Joy (9)

Be Inclusive (3)

Support/Sanctuary

Covenant & Foundation (2)

Kahu's Summary: [Waiola UCC seeks to be partners with Jesus through] *A sense of loving and inclusive community rooted in faith-based service anchored by worship, with cultural affinity and expression through which persons find belonging.* 2016

Existing Mission Statement: *Waiola Church affirms as its mission to establish a foundation for shaping and enriching the spiritual experiences of its members/people and the community of faith committed to Jesus Christ and his work in the world, a faith that is expressed through the host culture, the Hawaiian culture. It seeks a dynamic partnership in the diversity of age, traditions, beliefs, and cultures in creating an environment that preserves the traditions of the church while accepting a path that is open to change, that nurtures the young to the mission of this church, that embraces all into the 'ohana of aloha and Christian spirituality.* Adopted in 2001

# The HAPS at WAIOLA

## A FIRST TIME 'AHA HALAWAI EXPERIENCE

Submitted by Jeannie Brew

Meeting and having to interact with new people has always been a bit intimidating for me ...business meetings not my favorite venue. Having said that, I found the people attending very engaging. Their passion in sharing their praise for God in word and music was contagious. I just listened, not participating unless we were asked to vote on something.

Lewella, who is on the bylaws committee, was explaining what they were doing. I could relate to the challenges she was facing, as they are very relevant to me being on Waiola's by-laws and policy committee. Learning about the business of our Hawaiian Evangelical churches is very educational and interesting for someone like me who was not raised in the islands. I would like to invite at some point in time any member of Waiola to become a board member and volunteer to be a delegate to experience the wonderful diversity of the many churches and people who comprise our Hawaiian churches. It's fantastic.

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Dear Waiola Church,

We so enjoyed our visit to your church last Sunday, Oct 23, while vacationing in Maui. We love to visit historical churches as we travel and yours was the best! We felt so welcomed and loved, and so full, not only of the very yummy lunch, but of the Holy Spirit, poured out so beautifully in the bowl of water and especially from your family of believers. We slipped out as you began your congregational meeting, but wished afterwards that we had shared some of your impact on us as one of those valuable "assets" of your church family that you were discussing. Even as we were greeted with hugs before the service, we felt the contagious joy that fills your congregation. We saw it in the peaceful pouring of the water, the smiles of the music team, who were truly enjoying themselves sharing the love of God, and the timely sermon about change as our churches go forward to meet the needs of our people today and tomorrow. We felt it too, in the many invitations to stay for lunch and fellowship – such a gift of hospitality you have! We saw it in the simple décor of your church, the beautiful flowers, and the meaning-filled quilt banners on the wall (I'm a quilter!) Thank you so much for the "lasting peace" (Jer 14:13) that you blessed us with as weary travelers heading home that day. We will be praying for you all as we remember our morning with you with great joy!

In His Love,  
Lynne and Dick Jones  
Aurora, CO



# THANKSGIVING/GRATITUDE SUNDAY

Sunday, November 20, 2016

Kahu Dennis invited our community first responders to join us on Thanksgiving Sunday to honor their self-sacrifice and willingness to service Maui even though they may be taken for granted and underpaid. The congregation shared in a litany to thank the firefighters from Lahaina Fire Station who blessed us with their presence. They were the proxies for their fellow first responders who were unable to attend. Nearly a dozen firefighters joined us and were able to stay for fellowship with us where the spread of Thanksgiving fare was overloading the buffet tables.

For a video of the litany, visit our facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/WaiolaChurch>



Our Maui Fire Fighters and our talented member, Pastor Jack Belsom.

PC: Jen Mather

# Waiala History

From The Maui News, January 9, 1909

## Lahaina News Items

### Wedding Bells and Sunday School Conferences.

Mr. Furtado, manager of the Decoto's meat market, and Miss Lucy Kaukau, a popular teacher of the Lahaina school, were married at the Wainee church by the Rev. Mr. White on Dec. the 29th.

On Dec. the 31st the C. E. Society of Wainee church gave a grand concert at Halealoha hall and raised about \$70 which will be used to send the delegate to the mainland. The Molokai club rendered excellent music at this concert.

On New Year's day the Maui semi-annual conference of Sunday schools had a well attended meeting at Halealoha hall. In the evening an excellent concert was given in aid of the Wainee church. The collection amounted to \$50.

The Rev. R. B. Dodge was in town on Dec. 31st to attend the Sunday school conference.

Miss Bessie Mattison and Miss Haywood of Maunaloa Seminary came to town last week on horseback on their way around the island. They remained a day with Mrs. Simpson and attended the Sunday school convention and concert.

Is Santa Claus a Catholic? He presented Father Maurus with a carriage on Xmas eve.

Brothers Eugene and Louis of St. Louis college visited the Catholic mission on Thursday of last week.



**Waiola Church**  
**PO Box 455**  
**Lahaina, HI 96767**

# Nu 'Oli *FROM* Waiola

<b>CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS</b>	
December 4	Second Week of Advent: <b>Peace</b>
December 11	Third Week of Advent: <b>Joy</b>
December 18	Fourth Week of Advent: <b>Love</b>
December 24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
December 25	Christmas Day Service

**Want to see the newsletter in full color?**

Visit: <http://www.waiolachurch.org/newsletters/nuoli1016.pdf>