



N o v e m b e r 2 0 2 3

**“I am grateful for
what I am and have.
My thanksgiving is
perpetual.”**

Henry David Thoreau



He ‘ohu ke aloha; ‘a‘ohe kuahiwi kau ‘ole

Love is like mist; there is no mountaintop that it does not settle upon

With the heartbreaking violence in the Middle East, the seemingly never-ending war with Ukraine and Russia, the chaos that is paralyzing Congress, our struggles with the trauma and destruction caused by the Maui wildfires, and _____ (please add whatever trauma you are dealing with in this blank), I feel like parched soil longing for rain. Indeed, shortly after sunrise, I was looking at the clouds as I hoped for rain.

Our islands are in drought. On Hawai‘i Island where I live, we range from moderate to extreme drought conditions. Nearly every day I walk the ‘āina that it is my kuleana to care for. I check the trees for signs of stress, I dig my hands down into the soil of the garden to feel the soil moisture, I check the water levels of my fishpond, and I worry. I read the forecast, I watch the clouds and feel the direction of the winds, I inhale deeply hoping to smell the possibility of rain, I pray for rain. Life giving, refreshing rain.

The title of this reflection is a powerful, heart healing ‘ōlelo no‘eau from Mary Kawena Pukui’s *Hawaiian Proverbs & Poetical Sayings*, and it resonates with what I need today. I have been reading a lot of poetry, psalms, prayers, proverbs, and sayings recently. I need to hear that love comes to all just as the rains will come again. In addition to Pukui’s brilliant work, I have been deeply moved by the refreshing wonder of Collette Leimomi Akana’s *Hānau ka Ua: Hawaiian Rain Names*. These works have watered my soul so that I can care for others.

How are you watering your soul during this time of drought?

Jonathan Roach, Associate Conference Minister



The new Conference office in Honolulu was blessed by Kahu Kalani Wong on October 27. Visit the office and staff at the Topa Financial Center during the week, Bishop Tower 825.

“We remain committed to a peace with justice that guarantees security and self-determination for both Israelis and Palestinians. We condemn both the culpability of Hamas for its raid on civilians and any military action of Israel which indiscriminately targets civilians along with Hamas members. Most of all we pray for a peaceful and diplomatic solution which removes the sacrifice of civilians from the altar of political agendas.”

David Popham, Conference Minister

Mahalo Nui Loa

With gratitude, the Conference Office announces that as of October 27, contributions to the 2023 Hawai‘i Wildfires Fund have surpassed **\$549,000**.



Prayers of Aloha

*Praying for & with each church
of the Hawai‘i Conference UCC*

We encourage you to pray for any or all of these churches listed for the month of November, in whatever way you are moved.

Kahikolu Cong’l Church ♥ Makiki
Christian Church ♥ Kalihi and
Moanalua Church ♥
Kahikuonalani UCC ♥ Makawao
Union Church ♥ Living Stones
Church ♥ Kalapana Mauna Kea
Cong’l Church ♥ Kailua
Christian Church ♥ Lili‘uokalani
Protestant Church ♥

We also encourage
you to pray for our
Hawai‘i Conference
this month.

“Sent forth by the Spirit, we walk humbly in Christ’s footsteps pursuing peace, justice and the renewal of all creation.”



Website: hcucc.org

Connect with us on Facebook & Instagram: [f](https://www.facebook.com/hcucc) [@ucc.hawaii](https://www.instagram.com/hcucc)

Hawai‘i Conference Office: 700 Bishop Street, Suite 825; Honolulu, HI 96813

[808.537.9516](tel:808.537.9516)



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