



KONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHURCH AND PASTOR PROFILE

Our church: Kona United Methodist Church was chartered on Easter Sunday of 1989. With the assistance of several sister United Methodist Churches in Hawaii and many dedicated people, it has grown into a vibrant presence in the community providing worship in English, Tongan and Korean languages. We are a warm and caring congregation. Our vision as a multi-cultural church is “We are an inclusive faith community, which promotes and celebrates diversity, life-long learning, and the living of Christ’s teachings, which provides us strength and compassion to reach out to our world in need.” Our church consists of two language congregations, English and Tongan. We also have a Korean United Methodist missionary church that uses the church. Members and leadership are diverse in life and world experience. We encourage new members and associates to participate in our lay leadership. Lay leadership is a vital force in our ministry. KonaUMC is one of three mainline Protestant congregations, the others being Episcopal and ELCA (Lutheran). We have recent new members from both Presbyterian and Disciples of Christ traditions. The location is convenient and scenic looking over the western Pacific coast from about 1,000 ft altitude. The property is on a main road just 3-miles up from the main intersection in town.

Our community: We are located in the fast growing district of Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii. Kona is a desirable retirement area which is reflected in our congregation. As a tourist destination, we attract Associate Members who claim Kona as their second home and many visitors from all over the world. The population represents over a dozen different cultures with English being the primary language and several other languages prominent in daily business. Christianity is infused in most public events. Like all of Hawaii, Kona is highly influenced by tourism. The weather is mild and humid year-round. Several grocery stores, Kmart/Wal-Mart/Costco, wide selection of restaurants. Music and cultural events are mostly Hawaiian/Polynesian. Nearby Waimea Kahilu Theater offers touring art groups and concerts. There are excellent golf, snorkeling, beaches nearby. Development continues at a fast pace. Deep Polynesian cultural history evident in present living. Intergenerational households (4 generations) are common. And, of course, Kona coffee!

Our worship:

8:30am English worship varies from 40 in summer to over 100 in winter
(Snow-birds increase in winter; large % tourists at any given time)

The English service is a blend of traditional U.M. hymns, liturgy and Scriptural teaching with a casual / contemporary feel. Spontaneity and congregation participation are common. The church is an open pavilion and all furniture is set up each Sunday and therefore allows for a highly flexible worship space. The congregation generally faces toward the “living stained-glass window” view, but has the option to face any direction based on need.

11am Korean worship led by Rev. Yong-Whan Chon
varies 15-50 (reliant upon University of Nations enrollment.)

3pm Tongan worship led by Rev. Malakai Tatafu
average 25-30

Property: There have been many recent aesthetic and maintenance upgrades to the church. This year we will be replacing cesspool required by new EPA standards.

Administration: The office is fairly busy with several volunteers and recently added computers. Pastors have produced their own bulletins each week. Administrative Council, SPPRC, Finance and Trustees committees are under capable and proactive leadership. We have yearly retreats for our leadership.

Our four goals for 2007 are:

- 1) To develop a new member orientation program within the next six months.
- 2) To improve communication on our service times, church activities, and advertisement in the newspaper.
- 3) To appoint a church liaison to the Kealakehe Neighborhood Association and design programs for church members and neighbors to interact.
- 4) Implement a Stewardship plan for this fall.

Small Groups:

Men's & Women's groups meet regularly. Seasonal studies offered. Potlucks have been infrequent but increasing. Youth group infrequent. Children's Sunday school is held every Sunday and varies from 2 to 10.

Examples of outside groups using church regularly include: Hula, Western line dancing, senior bridge club, Watercolor club, and Advocats (care for feral cats).

Pastor-in-Charge Profile

- 1) **Lead a small congregation spiritually:**
 - Evidence of Christ's influence in his/her life
 - Open, caring and non-judgmental
 - Effective teacher in small and large group settings
 - Relates equally well to all age groups
 - Uses Scripture as a reference to addressing today's real life situations
 - Encourages others to lead a spiritual life

- 2) **Ability to lead a small church:**
 - Has had experience as a lead pastor and a multi-cultural ministry experience either in or outside the conference
 - Involved but not controlling – encourages members to lead the church rather than the pastor controlling every committee
 - Willing to mentor and supervise Associate Pastor in candidacy
 - Understands varied degrees of pastoral authority expected from different cultures.
 - Ability to empower and mentor volunteer church staff with varying degrees of experience

- 3) **Lead the congregation to new levels of involvement:**
 - Mission oriented (drive to reach out)
 - Passionately live out the church's vision
 - Empower lay leadership within a team environment
 - Ability to lead while working side-by-side with the people
 - Willing to be engaged in the Kona community, i.e. service organizations

- 4) **Ability to lead meaningful worship and attract new members:**
 - Foster an open and welcoming environment for all
 - Communicate the church's vision through worship
 - Connect Biblical references to contemporary life
 - Dynamic, engaging and charismatic preaching style.
 - Clear speaker (many struggle to hear)
 - Enthusiastic, personable, challenging and encouraging

- 5) **Aware of and ministers to members of the congregation in need:**
 - Enjoys visitation and spending unstructured time with people