

**KONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**MINUTES ~ 2023 VISION RETREATS**  
**“BUILDING ON A SHARED VISION”**  
**SESSION 1: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022**  
**SESSION 2: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022**

The 2023 Vision Retreat Session 1 was called to order by Tim Brady, Leadership/Church Council Team Leader at 5:15pm on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and **Session 2 at 6:15pm on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Pastor Lavaka Malakai offered an Opening Prayer for both sessions.

Tim Brady welcomed participants in both sessions and on:

- Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, there were eight (8) participants: Reverend Dr. Sunny Ahn, Pastor Lavaka Malakai, Dennis Bensen, Joyce Brady, Nancy Lowrey, Vernon Lowrey, Neo Mateaki, and Alice Morris.
- **Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, there were fourteen (14) participants: Reverend Dr. Sunny Ahn, Pastor Lavaka Malakai, Joyce Brady, Finau Eteaki, Gloria Juan, Joe Langi, Nancy Lowrey, Vernon Lowrey, Peta Mareko, Neo Mateaki, Jim Monk, Sue Pyun, Tavite Talasinga, Marjorie Winfough.**

We reviewed the Kona United Methodist Church (KUMC) Mission and Vision statements in both sessions:

- **MISSION STATEMENT:** The Mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- **VISION STATEMENT:** The Vision of Kona United Methodist Church is growing disciples through worship, outreach, and living the gospel.

We reviewed the five consistent guiding responses on Visioning Surveys in the past five years in both sessions:

- (1) KUMC is an open and friendly church.
- (2) KUMC has a strong outreach and community presence.
- (3) We need to involve more young people in KUMC activities.
- (4) We lack effective communication among our KUMC cultural ministries.
- (5) We need more active participation by our congregation to fulfill our mission and vision.

Tim Brady shared the theme of the 2023 Vision Retreat in both sessions: “Building on a Shared Vision.” It’s about **U** and **Us**, sharing our hopes and vision for the future of our church. To make a point, he referred to two visual charts on the bulletin boards:

- **CH RCH** – without **U** there is no church.
- **K MC** – without **U** there is no KUMC.

Scripture guidance for the Vision Retreat, both sessions, from 1 Peter 4:9-10 – *“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*

## **PART I: Personal Comment and Reflection**

To share our personal vision for KUMC, the participants in both sessions were randomly paired in teams of two and asked to share their vision by answering these questions:

- (1) Identify three to five things you believe our church really cares about/values.
- (2) Identify one or two examples that prove our congregation really cares about each of those values.
- (3) What might prevent us from doing those things we value most in expressing our faith?
- (4) Are there things you personally value/care about that are not demonstrated by actions at KUMC?
- (5) What can we do as a congregation to help you fulfill your value beliefs?

## **PART II: Group Vision**

Gathering as a whole group, one group in each session, each team presented three to five values they identified. The values mentioned from each team were listed and common findings were identified, as follows:

- Welcoming / Openness / I feel very welcomed
- Multicultural Church / **Multicultural Accommodation**
- Youth and Adults / **Support for our Youth**
- Community
- Music / **Choir**
- Online Worship
- Worship Experience / **Worship Experience / “Filling up an empty tank”**
- Fellowship / **People (Fellowship with each other; recognizing one another)**
- Clean Church
- **Faith Based Programs (Adult Bible Study, Morning Devotional Bible Reading, etc.)**
- **Building Our Membership / More Members**
- **Money for Programs**
- **Faith Life (Between You & God; and Me and You [us])**
- **Evangelism / Connection**
- **Spirituality / Spiritual Growth**
- **Excited to be a member of Kona UMC / I can be my authentic self**
- **Support of each other, the church, our values, and mission.**

**What might prevent us from doing those things we value most in expressing our faith?  
Challenges/Concerns:**

### **Saturday, October 22nd Group:**

- “One” Church
- Communication void impacts cultural ministries.
- Different ways of communicating to get people involved.
- Cultural competencies.
- Lack of individuals to fill the need.

- With regards to seating, our 8:30am hybrid worship service looks “segregated” – one side all English Language congregants; the other side, Tongan and Samoan Language congregants.

**Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> Group:**

- **How much is each of us invested in the church and its ministries?**
- **How do we come together – full time residents and “snowbirds?”**
- **How do we reconcile these common values with Part I – questions #4 and #5?**
  - **Listen to one another**
  - **Participate in ministries**

**PART III: Call to Action (Us building a shared vision)**

Discussion focused on actions - how we, as individuals, and as a congregation, connect to do the things we really care about the most, which leads to creating the vision for the future. Each group focused on the following actions:

**Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> Group:**

**(1) Become a True Multicultural Church with Joint Ministries/Activities**

❖ **ACTIVITY: Feeding the Homeless once a month.**

**ACTION:** The three language ministries – English, Samoan, and Tongan – could participate together to coordinate and feed the homeless once a month. (Currently, this outreach ministry is being solely done by the Tongan Language Ministry.)

❖ **ACTIVITY: Joint Multicultural Men’s Group Regular Activity**

**ACTION:** Develop a multicultural activity on a periodic, regular basis (monthly/quarterly/etc.) for the men from the three language ministries.

**(2) Develop More Actions/Activities/Accountability for Keiki and Youth Programs**

❖ **Start In-Person Keiki and Youth Sunday School** (The Tongan Language Ministry is already doing this for their Tongan youth on Sundays at 2pm before the 3pm Tongan Language Worship Service. This is combined with Tongan Language immersion.)

❖ **Continue and grow the KUMC Mentoring Program**

❖ **Resurrect previous Keiki and Youth activities/Create new activities for Keiki and Youth** (Movie nights, Trunk or Treat, Easter Egg Hunt, etc.)

❖ **More Youth Involvement in the Worship Service** (As Liturgist, Scripture Reader, Messenger, Music, Choir, Greeter, Usher, Fellowship, Special Programs – Hula, Sign Language, etc.)

**(3) Growing the Church – Invite at least one guest to church every year.**

**PLEDGE CHALLENGE:**

**Tim Brady referenced the Pledge Challenge on the last page of the handout. He encouraged the group to make an individual pledge to DO something.**

## **Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> Group:**

Tim Brady posed these questions to the group:

- How can we connect as a congregation?
- How can we deliver on our common values?
- What can individuals do?
- What can we do as a congregation?
- What actions are we going to do/take to build a vision with our congregation?

**(1) Communicate with others. Act by making connections. Act by joining a ministry.**

**(2) Have cross-cultural events where we can learn from each other.**

- ❖ Integrate seating on both sides of the “aisle” on Sundays.
- ❖ Church-wide cleaning day for church property – a “Work Party”
- ❖ Individuals in our church come from different backgrounds and experiences, with different values. We work together to get to values we can all agree on and from those values we build a community of faith.

**(3) Do something with the empty land on the church property.**

- ❖ Something to promote Youth activities – basketball court, tennis court (Our Youth are the future of Kona UMC)
- ❖ Parsonage for Associate Pastor

**(4) Do practical things – need to get back to what we had before the pandemic, such as Fellowship After Church, in-person Sunday School, etc.**

**(5) Feed the Soul with the “Right Bread”**

### **PLEDGE CHALLENGE:**

**Tim Brady referenced the Pledge Challenge on the last page of the handout. He encouraged the group to make an individual pledge to DO something. He stated a summary of these sessions will be part of a Message he will deliver on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, in which the congregation will be asked to make an individual pledge.**

The Saturday Session comments included:

- (1) A pledge to bring one new person to church once a year.
- (2) Integration of seating during the 8:30am Sunday Hybrid Worship Service.
- (3) A church-wide cleaning day for the church property – a “Work Party”

Pastor Sunny closed both sessions with prayer.

Tim Brady thanked those in both sessions who attended for their participation. The Saturday Session 1 was adjourned at 6:30pm. The Tuesday Session 2 was adjourned at 7:30pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Joyce Brady*