



**PASTORAL SEARCH:  
INFORMATION SUMMARY**

*REVISION: OCTOBER 2009*

***Persons interested in this opportunity are to submit a Ministerial Data Form (MDF) [.pdf only] via the e-mail address: [pastor.search.cchonolulu@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.search.cchonolulu@gmail.com) before the close of business [5 pm EST] February 12, 2010 (Fri)***

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# INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY CHURCH OF HONOLULU

*We do not abandon our jobs or desert the city that is.... We are to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city” to which God called us in exile (Jeremiah 29:7). And our agenda of concerns in that seeking become as large as the cities where our divine development tracts are found.*

*– Harvie Conn*

As part of the Presbyterian Church in America’s (PCA’s) commitment to put churches back into strategic metropolitan areas, The City Church of Honolulu is but one part of God’s on-going plan to bring the Good News, the “Gospel,” to the world.

Most importantly, we want people – **unbeliever and believer alike** – to work through the Bible’s answer to two basic questions as they spend time with us:

1. Who is Jesus? *and*
2. Why does He matter?

## **Purpose Statement and Brief History**

*To be a church in and for the city of Honolulu, where people:  
clearly hear of,  
increasingly believe in, and  
creatively live out  
the message of God’s love found only in the Bible.*

### **1997-2006**

Aug 1997: The church planter and his family arrive in Honolulu for a “scratch start” plant, i.e., no “core group” from another church.

Jun 1998: First public worship services begin in an elementary school.

Jun 2006: Elementary school has a fire so meeting place moves to a high school

*Throughout this period, attendance grew primarily through conversions and seeing the unchurched find a church home with us. Almost 70% of our regular attenders did not have church home before this church started.*

### **2006-2007**

Jul 2006: After an established church from another denomination moves out of the city, people start visiting as they look for a church home.

Feb 2007: Church changes from mission status to an organized church of the Northern California Presbytery

Dec 2007: Church moves from the high school to its current location – signs a 10-year lease.

*Throughout this period, attendance grew as people found a new church home. These new people brought with them experience in both the Christian- and church-life.*

### **2008-Present**

*A “third-wave” of people is driving the growth in attendance: previously unchurched empty-nesters, young families – a good balance.*



## **Church's "culture"**

"Ohana" – a characteristic often cited by visitors, non-Christians, and Christians alike. Encouraged by schedule/activities: coffee hour; monthly potluck; open prayer time during worship service; church camping (two times/year), etc. Also, there is active care for people through friendships, social networks, etc.

"Gospel-driven": an emphasis on knowing the Bible and loving Jesus; and on knowing people and their understanding of who Jesus is. The congregation is very open and accessible to people at many levels of an understanding the Christian faith. The emphasis for Christians is a challenge to continually be growing in the knowledge of grace – and repenting of self-righteousness and idols.

## **Candidate's Strengths – as prioritized by the church**

Note: these characterizations are taken directly from the PCA's Ministerial Data Form (MDF)

### **Top three "high priorities" in ranked order:**

#### **1. PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

The word of God is preached with urgency and conviction, bringing it to bear on the changing needs of individuals, the community, and the world. High priority of pastor's time placed on sermon preparation.

#### **2. EVANGELISM**

Pastor and congregation share faith in Christ as personal Savior in total lifestyle; seek to lead others within and outside the Church to accept Jesus Christ: congregation is informed, trained, helped to establish effective evangelism programs for the church.

#### **3. WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

Pastor and Session work to develop a rich worship life, educating the congregation for meaningful participation.

### **The following "high priorities" were all equally ranked, but below the top three.**

#### **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS**

Pastor shares members' struggles regarding the Christian faith, with opportunity provided for individuals and groups to reflect on beliefs, concerns, doubts regarding Christian understanding of the spiritual dimensions of life.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL VISITATION**

Church officers and pastor develop and carry out a systematic plan for visitation of the entire congregation with special attention to prospective members and those with special needs.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP**

Emphasis placed in developing fellowship, helping members to know one another; groups encouraged which give members the opportunity to love and support one another.

#### **TEACHING RESPONSIBILITY**

Pastor accepts an active teaching role, interpreting and teaching the Scriptures, theological concepts, history of the Church and current events; provides instruction for Church Officers; educational leaders, confirmands and new members.



## Candidate's Profile – as prioritized by the church

### CREREDENTIALS

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Teaching Elder in good standing with a Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) Presbytery.

### EXPERIENCE

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#### I. Past 5 years (2004-Present) with a ministry associated with the PCA

- A. If this ministry is a pastoral position, then
1. Position currently held: Pastor (solo), Pastor (multi-staff), Assoc. Pastor, Assist. Pastor
  2. Church served:
    - a. Attendance: 101-500 total of all worship service
    - b. Staffing: solo pastorate or multiple staff
    - c. Community: urban (downtown or residential)
    - d. Geography: Prefer candidates with ministry experience in PNW, CA, NYC, and Hawaii; but will consider other geographies.
    - e. Multicultural, multiethnic
- B. If this ministry is not a pastoral position, then
1. Identification and development of leaders for churches
  2. Regular attendance/membership in a PCA church that is:
    - a. Attendance: 101-500 total of all worship service
    - b. Staffing: solo pastorate or multiple staff
    - c. Community: urban (downtown or residential)
    - d. Geography: Prefer candidates with ministry experience in PNW, CA, NYC, and Hawaii; but will consider other geographies.
    - e. Multicultural, multiethnic

#### II. Extensive and demonstrated effectiveness in multicultural, multiethnic ministries.

### PERSONAL QUALITIES

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1. Able to clearly and effectively communicate from the pulpit and on a personal level.
2. Able to socialize with a wide-range of people: age, ethnic, economic, social and educational backgrounds.
3. Able to be flexible in technique without compromising biblical principles.
4. Family demonstrates loving, Christian hospitality – and comfort with a wide-range of people (education, socio-economic, etc.)
5. Committed to evangelism/outreach through loving people, not programs. This should be evident in teaching, evangelism, and discipleship.
6. Good time-management skills.
7. Able to motivate and lead people with a shepherd's heart.
8. Demonstrated effectiveness in growing ministries.
9. Other



## Church's Priorities for the next 3-5 years

### “Foundational” priorities

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1. **Grow Sunday attendance:** 150-250 attendees through engaging the unchurched and the next generation.
2. **Staffing:** Hire other ministers/coordinators to lead church ministries, e.g., worship, youth, etc.
3. **Ministry Training:** Ruling Elder and Mercy Team Training; missionary development and evaluation; pastoral interns, etc.

### “Developmental” priorities

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1. **Focused Ministries:** singles families, youth, small-groups, support groups, etc.
2. **Missions/Outreach:** local and overseas
3. **Physical Facilities:** office, manse, etc.
4. **Church Plant/Start Another Church\*:** metro Honolulu, neighbor Island, etc.
5. **School:** formal, academic education for children outside of Sunday, e.g., a church school such as a pre-school; elementary school, etc.
6. **Other:** develop/formalize committees such as staffing, planning, hospitality, etc.
7. **Media Presence:** web, print, etc.

*\* Have set aside \$100K for church plant(s). Seriously pursued the following to-date: Filipino pastor for a daughter plant (last pursued in 2008); church planter for Maui (2006). Have developed a network/contacts on Maui and the island of Hawaii (“Big Island”)*



## Statistical Snapshot

1. **Average Sunday Worship Attendance** .....150 *April 09 trailing twelve months*
2. **Education Hour Participation (all ages)** .... 50-75
3. **Corporate Prayer (Sun., 8:30)** ..... 6-10
4. **Sunday Schedule**
  - Corporate Prayer Meeting..... 8:30 am
  - Education Hour (all ages) ..... 9 am-10 am
  - Worship..... 10:15-11:15
  - Communion: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. Potluck following worship service: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday:
5. **Small groups:** men, women; young professionals, others. No formal youth group, college, etc, yet.
6. **Membership**
  - Communing Members .....75
  - Families.....43
  - Non-communing Members .....20
7. **Paid Staff**
  - Pastoral Staff .....1
  - Other Paid Staff.....0 *Have had 2 interns under care of Presbytery*
8. **Lay leadership**
  - Ruling Elders .....3
  - Mercy Team.....7
  - Volunteer Coordinators.....3-5
9. **Finances: currently self-supporting**
  - 2008 Actual
    - Income.....\$412,000
    - Expenses .....239,000
  - 2009 Budget
    - Income.....\$287,000 *Anticipated slowing/slow economy*
    - Expenses .....342,000 *Paid intern; rent more space*
  - Reserves as of 4/09
    - Emergency Op. Fund .....\$ 31,000
    - Church Plant(s) .....100,000 *Set-aside from operational surplus for other church plants in Hawaii*
    - Leasehold improvements .....98,000
10. **Real property owned directly or indirectly by the church:** none.
11. **Rental agreements:**
  - Central Seventh-day Adventist Church: Sunday mornings
  - Office space: none
  - Storage space: storage locker



## Values and Vision (2003)

**Gospel-driven** – The Gospel is the only power that can radically transform any person, any place, and any culture.

- For non-Christians: *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (Romans 1:16)*
- For Christians: “All of life is repentance” – Luther. The root of sin is compulsive unbelief. *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. (Titus 2:11-12).*

**Church** – To not be a church for ourselves, but for others. *We who are strong ought ...not to please ourselves...for even Christ did not please himself. (Romans 15:1,3)*

- The covenantal community is representative (“already”) to the watching world of the kingdom of God (“not yet”). *You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5:14)*
- Incarnational ministry. The church is a “go” structure – church is a home, not a prison. *Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21)*
- Renewed and renewing for Christians: *...a congregation of Christians who are insecure in their relationship to Christ can be a thorn bush of criticism, rejection, estrangement and party spirit. Unsure in the depths of their hearts what God thinks of them, church members will fanatically affirm their own gifts and take fierce offense when anyone slights them, or else they will fuss endlessly with a self-centered inventory of their own inferiority in an inverted pride...make real to them the grace of God in accepting them daily, not because of their spirituality or their achievements, but because God has accounted to them the perfect righteousness of Christ (DS 205-6, 11).*

**Prayer** – to be characterized by expectant, and regular, personal and corporate prayer.

*If all regenerate church members in Western Christendom were to intercede daily simply for the most obvious spiritual concerns visible in their homes, their workplaces, their local churches and denominations, their nations and the world and the total mission of the body of Christ within it, the transformation which would result would be incalculable. Not only would God certainly change those situations in response to prayer – we have Christ’s word that if we ask in his name he will do more than we ask or think – but the church’s comprehension of its task would attain an unprecedented sharpness of focus. Perhaps much of our prayer now should simply be for God to pour out such a spirit of prayer and supplication in the hearts of his people. (DS, 160) If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. (Matthew 21:22). They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42).*

**Grace**

- Towards non-Christians: *The style of Evangelical Christianity which is constantly pushing and forcing people toward conversion in order to get them regenerated, manipulating them with music, repeated invitations or a sort of sales routine, is an ugly deformity of Christian practice resulting from bad doctrine. It is uncomfortable both for those who feel responsible to do it and for those who are the objects of concern. This kind of pressure is better than hiding the gospel, and it continues to be blessed by genuine conversions through the grace of God, but we should move away from it without lessening our efforts to proclaim the gospel in a more gracious way to those who do not believe. (DS, 106). cf. Westminster Shorter Catechism, 31.*
- For Christians: To encourage Christians to live out their sanctification based upon their justification not vice versa. *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)*



**City** – its long-term residents are central to strategic change for the city, the state and the world. *For I am with you...because I have many people in this city. (Acts 18:10)*

### **People**

- Help Christians constantly apply the Gospel truths (head) so that spiritual passion (heart) is stirred and applied in daily life in ministry to others (hand). The result will be an awakening from “dead goodness” to “godliness with power” and courage (2 Timothy 3:1-9)
- Evangelize, edify, and equip long-term residents so that they in turn advance the kingdom of grace within their “spheres of influence”. *You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. (Matthew 5:13-15).*
- Be characterized by love, humility and servanthood. *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:35) ...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:26-28)*

### **Families**

- The family is the basic unit of society and God’s means of spiritually nurturing children. *Teach (God’s words) to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deuteronomy 11:19)*

### **Worship**

- Spirit-anointed encounter with God as King and Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- Expository and doctrinal preaching. *“All grace enters by understanding”. Lutheran Formula of Concord: a full explanation of grace precedes the preaching of the law in order to establish enough confidence in the congregation so that it can be led fully into the light.*
- Historical and Contextual. Reformed forms and principles melded with “local style.”
- Accessible and transcendent; edifying and evangelistic. *But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in ... and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)*

### **STRATEGY**

**1997-2002** Lay foundation for a church

**2003-2007** Establish a church

**2008-2012** Establish churches

**2013-2017** Establish a Presbytery

**STRATEGY DRIVERS:** People, Place, Processes

### **For Further Reading**

*Jonathan Edwards on Revival*, J. Edwards

*John Owen on the Christian Life*, S. Ferguson

*Evangelism in the Early Church*, M. Green

*Dynamics of Spiritual Life (DS)*, R. Lovelace

*Powerful Evangelism for the Powerless*, C. J. Miller

*The Quest for Godliness (QG)*, J. I. Packer

