

History

The Community Church of Honolulu grew out of the soil of the Beretania Church of Christ, a small mission started in the early 1900's by Mr. and Mrs. Elijah McKenzie. With the help of Leigh Hooley, a former YMCA staffer who arrived in 1925, 500 Chinese youth learned English, engaged in a wide variety of sports and outdoor activities, and were exposed to a whole new world.

In 1934 thirty-one high school and college youth and young adult children of first generation Chinese Immigrants became the founding charter members of Ke'eaumoku Church of Christ, located in an old frame building on Ke'eaumoku and Lunalino Streets. The new church was accepted in the Congregational fellowship of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association, the predecessor to the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Rev. Stephen Mark, the first American-born Chinese in Hawaii to be ordained to ministry, was called in 1936 as the church's first pastor.

The church relocated three times in three years, from School Street, to a storefront on Fort Street, and finally to the Nu'uuanu YMCA. In 1938 the former home of Sanford B. Dole on Queen Emma Street was purchased, and the church was renamed the Community Church of Honolulu.

During the ministry of the Rev. Richard Wong (1954-1968), a city development project at the Queen Emma Street site necessitated finding a new site. In 1962 the home of E. Flaxon Bishop on Nu'uuanu Ave. was purchased. Three years and two building drives later, the current sanctuary, designed by Howard Wong, AIA, was completed. Rev. Richard Wong is also credited with initiating the Watchman, our monthly newsletter.

The Rev. Richard Du Fresne began his ten plus years as minister in 1977, and led the groundbreaking for the new multipurpose building in 1983. CCH burned its final mortgage in 1986!

During the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Wallace Fukunaga in the 1990's, the finances of the church were stabilized, and an Endowment Fund was initiated. The Rev. Mark Lee, who began as an Associate Minister under Rev. Fukunaga in 2000 became the Senior Minister in 2002 with his gifts of Bible Study and faith development.