Strategic Initiative #5: Prophets in our time. As Christians, boldly and publicly address social and environmental justice and peace issues.

Micah 6:8
And, what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?
A he aha ka mea a ke Akua i kauoha mai ai iā ‘oe, ke ‘ole e hana i ka pono, a e aloha i ka lokomaika‘i, a e ho‘oha‘aha‘a i ka hele ‘ana me ke Akua?

Matthew 22:36-40
“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
E ke Kumu, he aha ke kauoha nui i loko o ke kānāwai? ʻĪ akula ʻo Iesū iā ia, E aloha aku ‘oe iā lēhova i kou Akua me kou na'au a pau, a me kou 'uhane a pau, a me kou mana'o a pau. ‘O ka muʻa kēia a me ke kauoha nui. Ua like hoʻi ka lua me ia, E aloha aku ‘oe i kou hoalauloa me ‘oe iā ‘oe iho. Ma luna o kēia mau kauoha ‘elua, ke kau nei ke kānāwai a pau a me nā kāula.

Guiding Image: Taro Patch Loʻi Kalo
Kalo is more than just food. In Hawaiian tradition, Hāloa was the first-born son of Wākea and Hoʻohōkūkalani, the divine parents of kānaka maoli (or, aboriginal Hawaiians). Stillborn, he was buried in the earth and became kalo. A second son was born and was also named Hāloa. For generations, our hānau mua (“older sibling”) has taken care of his younger siblings by feeding and sustaining us. In turn, it is our kūleana (“responsibility”) to mālama honua—to care for the earth—and, therefore, reverently care for our older brother. Our failure and unwillingness to fulfill our kūleana, results in our brother and all of creation’s inability to sustain us.

Kalo is also tied to many relevant issues of justice here at home. This includes the debate about the genetic modification of kalo; ongoing legal battles related to the access of local mahiʻai (“farmers”) to traditional waterways which have long been diverted for the benefit of the large plantation and business families in Hawaiʻi; and, of course, to the ongoing debate and struggle over Hawaiʻi’s sovereignty.

In the image of the loʻi kalo, we find a variety of themes relevant to us—ʻohana (loving relationship, family) and hanauna (generations, continuity). We are able to recognize the oneness of all creation through the relationship between kānaka (“person”) and ʻāina (“land”). Our kūleana to mālama honua is also made visible in this image. And, a
growing, thriving loʻi can also translate to a thriving lāhui ("nation") or kaiāulu ("community").

As a people of Aloha who recognize God’s breath in all creation, we pursue peace, justice, and renewal for all that share the hā ("breath of life") —the divine imprint that connects us to our Creator, who is Kumuola ("Source of Life"). With the loʻi kalo as both our vision and guiding image, we seek a community and society in which we—regardless of race, nationality, color, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion and affiliations, citizenship, etc.—and all of creation may live, grow, and thrive—together.

Context
Following the prophetic voice of Micah and bearing witness to Christ’s example are central to living our faith. This strategic initiative affirms our mission to visibly, publicly walk in Christ’s footsteps as we work for justice and peace. As a Conference, our collective impact has the potential to effect positive change in the name of Christianity.

We acknowledge that the Bible has a holistic understanding of the concept of justice. It is both the justice, or righteousness, of God and the justice, or righteousness, that God expects of people. The Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, emphasizes the laws of a righteous God. Jesus spoke as a prophet when he proclaimed God’s justice just as the Hebrew prophets did. Christians recognize that Jesus fulfilled and reinterpreted the law as he called for the creation of the kin(g)dom of heaven on earth.

Initial Responsibility
Justice and Witness Missional Team