Strategic Initiative #2: Mission-based financial stewardship. Prioritize our Conference funds and other resources to support our collective vision.

Genesis 1:26
Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

Ephesians 4:6
There is one God and Creator of all, who is over all, who works through all, and is within all.

Mark 2:22
And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.

Guiding Image: Taro Plant

The Creation Story for Hawaiians is linked to the moʻolelo or story of the kalo. While very different from the Creation Story in Genesis, it teaches a common truth that human beings are stewards of all the resources of creation.

The story begins with Papa, Earth Mother, and Wākea, Skyfather, who create the islands and give birth to a daughter Hoʻohōkūkalani. Wākea and Hoʻohōkūkalani have a son who is stillborn; he is named Hāloanakalaukapalili (Hāloa means “long breath” or “eternal Life”) and is buried in the eastern corner of the yard, the side receiving the first rays of the sun. The watery tears his mother shed over his grave are soaked up by Earth Mother and out of that very spot springs a fragile but strong and healthy plant - the kalo. From this first kalo plant descended all other kalo plants. When the kalo is harvested the root section as well as the leaves are eaten but the stalk is replanted to grow more kalo.

A second son is born to Wākea and Hoʻohōkūkalani and he is also named Hāloa in honor of his elder brother and he becomes the ancestor of the Hawaiian people. It is this younger son who is destined to take care of his elder brother forever. The elder Hāloa, the root of life, in turn always nourishes and sustains his younger brother and his descendants for life. The Hawaiian word for family, ‘ohana, is derived from kalo, since as family we must work together to be good stewards of all that God provides.

Like the story of Hāloa, as Christians we are nourished by our Heavenly Father whose words of inspiration feed, sustain and nourish us always.
Context
As stewards of the resources of the HCUCC, members of the Conference want to make sure that all resources—financial and human—are used in service to the mission of the UCC. The purpose of this initiative is to align resources with a higher purpose; enhance the collaboration and communication between the Foundation and the Conference; and ensure transparency and understanding of all financial information.

Initial Responsibility
Stewardship Missional Team