Strategic Initiative #1: Training and spiritual formation. Provide paths for leadership development, theological education and spiritual growth that include all cultures and generations.

Ephesians 4:11–16
The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

Guiding Image: Banyan Tree
The banyan tree (though an invasive species), is now part of the Hawaiian landscape. From a small seedling, the trees grow to have massive trunks. Aerial roots firmly establish themselves in the earth. Then a new trunk grows from those roots while it is still connected to the original. The tree does require care. Some branches need to be supported to keep them healthy and to allow access. The tree provides shelter for birds, small creatures and people. Under their canopy, banyan trees offer shade, beauty and the opportunity for community.

Context
This initiative addresses both spiritual and administrative dimensions of leadership formation. Healthy organizations develop people from within, building on their strengths and providing training in skills they will need for the future. All ages and ethnicities within the Conference hunger for spiritual formation and deeper theological conversations. Leaders, lay and clergy, also need development. This is particularly true for the Hawaiian churches. Paths toward this unique calling can be laid down through work on this initiative.

Initial Responsibility
Formation Missional Team