

# Project Ideas for Strengthening Our 'Ohana

Compiled by the 'Ohana Design Team, October 2018  
50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i

## Strengthening 'Ohana Amongst Clergy and Lay Leaders

### 1. All Island Clergy roundtable

- Brings the clergy from regional parishes together for day of socialization and sharing
- Opportunity to learn from each other's experiences
- Held annually or more often if desired
- New-ish clergy can share stories and concerns, usually over a meal.
- Retired clergy can also meet regularly, and spouses can meet socially. A member of retired clergy can serve as chaplain and minister to special needs of this group.

### 2. All Island Clergy Retreat

- Similar to Diocesan Clergy Retreat, but for clergy within your own region
- Offer clergy time to unwind, meet and greet, share meals and stories
- Group training, community worship, group or solo recreational activities

### 3. Vestry Exchange

- Vestries plan visits to each other's churches on "Vestry Sundays"
- Host church would prepare coffee hour presentation regarding church's history.
- Could invite interested parishioners as well.
- Regularly schedule meetings once a quarter at a different church.
- See attached list of Church Wardens as points of contact

### 4. Annual Vestry Retreat

- Held once a year at an offsite location (e.g. Camp Mokulē'ia or Camp Slogett, Kōke'e)
- Invite vestry, lay leaders and clergy from all regional churches
- Facilitator to lead pre-planned agenda
- Opportunity to socialize, learn about other church issues, discuss solutions, and share in resources.

## Strengthening 'Ohana Between Parishes in Your Region

### 5. Habitat for Humanity

- Regional churches dedicate one day a month to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity
- Sustained, year long effort (house builds typically take 12 months)
- Each parishioner can contribute: manual labor, vanpool driving, lunch preparation and/or monetary donations.
- Have potluck luncheon at closest parish
- Local Habitat Organization websites:
  - Kaua'i: [kauaihabitat.org](http://kauaihabitat.org)
  - O'ahu: [honoluluhabitat.org](http://honoluluhabitat.org)
  - Maui: [habitat-maui.org](http://habitat-maui.org)
  - Hawai'i Island: [habitathawaiiisland.org](http://habitathawaiiisland.org)
- Kaua'i churches currently have monthly Habitat workdays as the "Episcopal One 'Ohana" Team. Contact Ron for more info: [ronald.y.morinishi@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.y.morinishi@gmail.com)

## **6. Relay for Life Cancer Fundraising Event**

- Regional churches dedicate one weekend a year in a joint effort supporting this event
- Preparation for this event can include: booth building, selling food, organizing fundraising, family camping, etc.
- This can be a fun event for families and children
- All Saints Kauaʻi Youth Group has previously participated in this event; contact Sybil for more information: [sybil.nishioka@gmail.com](mailto:sybil.nishioka@gmail.com)

## **7. Youth Event with community service**

- Joint service event coordinated with established youth groups and youth leaders
- Beach cleanup, feeding homeless, helping at convalescent homes
- Include potluck luncheon and social activities

## **8. All-Island or Regional Church Summer Picnic**

- Include activities to encourage socialization, story sharing, etc.
- Tour of church and grounds
- Activities and programs can be shared and ideas exchanged
- May include entertainment and music performed by church members
- Potluck and sharing of recipes

## **9. A Cup of Cold Water (ACCW)**

- A care-van outreach program distributing food, clothing, hygiene and other supplies, caring for homeless, houseless community on Maui Island
- Founded by four Episcopal Churches on Maui, now a collaboration of other denominations, groups and organizations, who all help with various jobs.
- ACCW has brought together the four Episcopal Churches on Maui, and gives the Episcopal Church on Maui a presence in the wider faith community, social service agencies and government.
- <http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/a-cup-of-cold-water.htm>

## **10. Laundry Love**

- Laundry Love is a nationwide Episcopal program which partners with a Laundromat and a team of volunteers to help provide laundry service to needy & homeless individuals.
- Regional churches can come together regularly to support this ministry
- All Saints' (Kapaʻa, Kauaʻi) has successfully run this program for three years.  
<https://laundrylove.org/> or <http://www.allsaintskauai.org/laundry-love.html>

## **11. Annual "Service Sunday"**

- All churches dedicate one Sunday a year to perform a joint community service
- Close the churches on that Sunday
- Hold a common spiritual service on-site before starting work.
- Have potluck luncheon after community service is completed

## **12. Music Festivals and Worship Services**

- Some churches currently sponsor their own music-related events: St. Michael's Jazz Festival (Līhuʻe, Kauaʻi), Westside Music Festival (St. John's/St. Paul's, West Kauaʻi)
- Some churches hold Jazz Vespers worship services: St. Michael's (Līhuʻe, Kauaʻi) and St. Peter's (Honolulu, with food sharing)
- Encourage other churches to attend each others events and volunteer to help
- Encourage attendance from all congregations and local communities

## **Strengthening ‘Ohana Within Your Congregation**

### **13. Family Game night**

- Each parish sponsors its own “Family Game” night to encourage families and kids to attend church
- Bingo games with donated prizes, age-appropriate games for kids, youth, young adults, adults and seniors.
- Food can be served as an additional fundraiser.

### **14. Ice Cream Sundays**

- Meeting of church members at a local ice creamery or restaurant, organized by the vestry
- Clergy may or may not attend, depending upon the vestry guidance
- Intended to foster socialization and to encourage frank discussion of church issues between parishioners and the vestry (and possibly clergy)

### **15. Interdenominational Partnerships**

- On certain Sundays, congregation to visit a different denomination church within the community and bring ho‘okupu (offering of gratitude). Encourage post-discussion about parishioner experiences and discoveries.
- Partner with other faith entities to support local non-profits. Examples are: pancake breakfast, kalua pig sale, dog wash in conjunction with the annual blessing of the animals, etc. Profits can be donated to a different agency each month.
- Celebrate with other faith entities to co-sponsor a World Peace Day celebration.
- Co-create an Interdenominational float for the holiday parade with clergy riding on it along side other clergy.
- Participate in inter-faith events, for example: the island-wide church rally held quarterly on Molokai where one church each quarter hosts a dinner and invites other congregations to come and eat, share a song, or something inspirational.