

Sharing for the Sake of the Gospel: Reflections from the 2025 UnConference

By The Rev. Cn. Andrew Arakawa



(Photo: Chris Gordon)

Over the last few days, from August 11 to 13, I had the privilege of joining over sixty leaders from across The Episcopal Church and beyond at the 2025 UnConference at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas, hosted by the Iona Collaborative, Episcopal Divinity School, and Trinity Church Wall Street. Because of the five-year grant Waiolaihui'ia received from the Iona Collaborative, I was invited to be one of the voices at this year's UnConference.

This year's theme was "Share & Share Alike? Real Talk About Resources." There were no keynote speeches, no long plenaries. Instead, bishops, funders, educators, lay leaders, clergy, and formation program deans gathered as equals, harnessing the wisdom in the room to explore how we share resources—money, knowledge, leadership, and hope – without depleting ourselves or our communities.

I was honored to serve as a panelist in the opening session, offering my perspective on what it means to share in our communities, both in Hawai'i and across the wider Church. Over three days, we asked tough questions and brought forth winsome visions for what might be possible when we develop relationships with one another, release fear, allow for iteration, and follow the emergent movement of the Holy Spirit.

The conversations were both challenging and energizing. I left with a renewed sense that sharing is not just about giving things away—it's about building relationships of trust, mutual

accountability, and creativity for the sake of God's mission. The value and perspective we hold of being a communal culture, rather than an individualistic one, have a lot to offer the wider Church and the world. I am grateful to have been invited into the conversation.



(Pictured in the above photo at left are the Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers - Church Planter; the Rev. Jo Ann Lagman - Missioner Episcopal Asiamerica Ministries, and the Rev. Canon Andrew Arakawa – Photo credit: Katie Nakamura Rengers. Photos of the panelists and attendees taken by Chris Gordon)

Growing in Grace – Formation Perspectives seeks to cultivate a community of lifelong learners as disciples of Christ within our diocese. The articles offer resources, share formation stories, and give updates on the Waiolaihui‘ia Center for Ministry. Please reach out to the Rev. Canon Andrew Arakawa if you have story ideas or resources that can add to this ongoing conversation: aarakawa@episcopalhawaii.org.