

Ronald Fujiyoshi
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Saturday, May 4, 2019

Dear Ron,

My father was the conference minister and General Secretary of the Hawaii Conference, United Church of Christ, HCUCC, between 1969 and 1978. During the transition from a US Trust Territory, my father was involved in advancing the Micronesian protestant church. After leaving the mission field in January of 1961, he continued to assist and advise Micronesian church leaders and educators. It was during his tenure as conference minister that the indigenous church in Micronesia formed a collaborative church council to continue the interaction between the newly formed Micronesian island nations and the UCC. On Pohnpei the first General Secretary/conference minister (Soun Laweid) was Shem Jimmy. He served from 1974 to 1994. Shem's personality was characterized by control. Shem was a graduate of the Pastor, Teachers, Training School (PTTS) started by my parents in 1953. My father admired and encouraged strong church leadership especially during the formative year of the independent church. Another graduate of PTTS, Jude, became the leader of the first Marshallese protestant independent church, another strong and controlling leader.

I think it is a great opportunity for you to attend the MCUCC executive meeting. I have a long acquaintance with the Neth family. The family's land is just south of the Ohwa mission land. The Neth brother's father was a teacher during the Japanese

occupation, then, when the school was closed at the start of the war with Japan, he was selected to be the caretaker of the mission property. Two of the three Neth sons, Mideon and Shelten, have been very proprietary about Ohwa. Mideon is the senior pastor for the Ohwa Church and Shelten's involvement is with the Ohwa schools. You should be alert to the fact that the Neth's have their own agenda and in my experience have been manipulative.

Best Wishes,

Mike

Michael G Terpstra, PhD