

Bishop Sabbatical Leave: January 1 thru March 30, 2013

Aloha ke Akua:

As I announced at the annual meeting of Diocesan Convention, I will be on sabbatical leave from January 1st thru March 30th.

Part of my plan is to spend time in the Philippines to make connections with the home communities of many of our parishioners, to learn from the Church in the Philippines, to reinforce the historic ties between my Diocese and both the Philippine Independent Church and the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, and to strengthen my personal ties with the leaders of the Philippine Independent Church and the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

I will then proceed to Taiwan to spend time with Bishop David Lai and to learn from the Church in that Diocese. The Dioceses of Taiwan and Hawai'i have a special historic relationship that I hope can be strengthened.

Below is my travel itinerary outside of the Diocese:

- February 1-8 in Manila. This time will include the *2nd ASIA-AMERICA THEOLOGICAL EXCHANGE FORUM (A-ATEF)* (A Project of the Office of Asiamerica Ministries & Partnership Office for Asia and the Pacific)
- February 9-15 in Ilocos Norte.
- February 16-21 in Baguio.
- February 24 (Sunday) in Manila.
- February 26-March 7 in Taiwan including preaching at the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention.

I also plan on doing some focused study on the Gospel of Luke and in preparing a plan for the next stage of my ministry as Bishop of Hawai'i. I also hope to make it to the beach – something I have not done in some time – with Bea.

While I am away, the Reverend Canon Elizabeth Beasley will have senior administrative and pastoral oversight of the Diocese acting on my behalf (she can be contacted at LBeasley@episcopalhawaii.org). Because of the limited time I will be physically out of the Diocese, I will retain ecclesiastical authority. Should there be an emergency regarding the discipline of clergy (Title IV) or the death of a clergyperson, I have asked Bishop Chang to act on my behalf. He will have no office hours, no episcopal pastoral duties (except when requested by Canon

Beasley) and no other authority. In the event of an emergency, Canon Beasley will contact Bishop Chang.

The Vice President of Diocesan Council, the Reverend Paul Lillie, will preside at Council meetings. The Reverend Elizabeth Zivanov is the President of the Standing Committee. Canon Beasley will coordinate with them regarding the work of the Diocese. Our Diocesan Treasurer, Mr. Peter Pereira, will, of course be here for all matters of finance and property (PCPereira@episcopalhawaii.org). Our Chancellor, Ms. Martha Im, will provide the needed advice and support. I have also made changes to Ms. Irina Martikainen's position description and job title. She is now the Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Administrative Manager of the Bishop's Office. Irina will have functional oversight of the office and operations (whether I am in the office or not). Her e-mail remains BishopSecretary@episcopalhawaii.org.

I have a wonderful and effective staff. We are blessed with gifted Diocesan leaders. I am confident all shall be well while I am away.

As congregations and others plan for 2013, please look at my online calendar (see <http://www.episcopalhawaii.org/Bishop's%20Corner/bishops-travels.html>). If there is an event, program, celebration and liturgy, you want me to attend, please contact the Executive Assistant to the Bishop as soon as possible.

I ask for your prayers for Bea and me while on sabbatical and, especially, while traveling.

Aloha ma o Iesu Kristo, ko mākou Haku,

+Bob

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick
+ Keali'ikoaokeakua