

# OBSA 2023 (1<sup>ST</sup> OF 2)

## FIRST OF TWO CONFERENCES

**Theme:** Bible, Crises, and Healing

**Dates:** Apr 05–07, 2023

**Host:** Kanana Fou Theological Seminary

**Venue:** Kanana Fou, Tafuna, Tutuila (American Samoa)

**Contact:** Rev. Dr. Elekosi F. Lafitaga

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OBSA 2023 will be in  
blended mode (face-to-  
face & zoom); instructions  
will follow later

### Call for proposals

Kanana Fou Theological Seminary (KFTS) and OBSA invite you — faifeau, talatala, lay leaders, students, public servants, people of faith, and people of goodwill — to come and participate in celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KFTS, the theological training institute of the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (CCCAS).

KFTS embodies an old Pacific practice, of centralizing public learning and training. There were designated areas within a community for learning various trades and knowledge for survival, including at women's arts and crafts, fisherman's home, elder's abode, carpenter's boat house, and so forth. KFTS, like other College's across the Pacific, became a central learning place of sacred texts and traditions for the CCCAS community in Tutuila, Manu'a, and beyond. One of the significant purposes of sacred texts and traditions is to provide healing for our bodies, minds, and souls.

For the significant milestone of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KFTS, we will focus on ways that sacred texts and traditions may help us deal with the crises that arise due to the disease of our bodies (illnesses) as well as of our minds (stress), spirits (burnout), and faith (despair). At the same time, we are mindful that sacred texts and traditions may have contributed to the introduction and spread of our dis-eases.

What sacred texts or traditions can help us find healing for our bodies, our aiga, our churches, and our sea of islands? What are healthy ways to reengage texts and traditions that have been unhealthy, toxic, and traumatic for our Moana world(views)?

Moreover, what Moana wisdoms and rituals provide healing but may have been ostracized by our church and cultural protocols and customs?

We welcome presentations that engage with healing events in three general areas

- *Biblical texts*, such as the stories in Exod 15:22–27, 2 Kings 5, Matt 9:2–6, John 4:47–53, John 11, etc.
- *Pasifika wisdom*, legends (e.g., Kapaemahu at Waikiki; Vaiola at Puloa, etc.) and proverbial sayings

*Kindly share this call for papers through your networks*

- *Local rituals* and healing practices (e.g., the rituals performed by the Bete, Taula, and other wholistic healers across our sea of islands)

### To propose a presentation

Fill in as much of the requested information in the table below and send the file as attachment to [elafitaga@kftseminary.org](mailto:elafitaga@kftseminary.org) cc: [admin@kftseminary.org](mailto:admin@kftseminary.org) AND [obsamail@gmail.com](mailto:obsamail@gmail.com) by 28 Feb 2023

Full names	
<i>E-mail contact</i>	
Title of presentation	
Sacred text	
Abstract (150–250 words)	
Keywords (5–7 terms)	
Biographical information	
preferred language(s)	
preferred format	<u>In person</u>  zoom

- Deadline for proposals: 28 Feb 2023
- First draft of program: Mar 2023

### OBSA

OBSA will meet twice in 2023

- Kanana Fou Theological Seminary (Tutuila): Apr 05–07
- Malua Theological College (Upolu): Aug 30–Sept 01

OBSA is intentional about fostering the creative and critical study of sacred texts in our sea of islands, and providing platforms for engaging, sharing, talanoa, and mentoring. OBSA is a safe and welcoming toba/tauraga for all learners at all edges of our Moana world(views).

Welkam. Mauri. Lako mai ...

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