

EarthCare Connections



Fostering awareness of our spiritual oneness with the earth and promoting active care of creation.

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All humanity lives in a spiritual consciousness that manifests as loving co-existence with all creation and care for our Earth home.



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Unity EarthCare Alliance

Unity EarthCare Alliance is here! From its humble beginnings in 2008, EarthCare has evolved an independent ministry. Here are messages from Spiritual Leader/Sr. Minister Kathy Harwood Long and President Eliasa Sabogal:

As a "service" ministry of Unity, our team is expanding the reach of our work for consciousness and action on behalf of the earth. Special services such as the Solstice Evening led by UEA board president Rev. Eliasa Sabogal, and musician Valerie Mackey from Unity of KC North, PLUS the upcoming Spring Equinox Revival March 20th, are live interactive events in which all can participate through fb. Eco-Advent and Eco-Lent inspirations are happening are available through our fb page. Soon, due to the huge generosity of volunteer webmaster Mark Lickteig from Unity Church of Rochester Michigan, our website will be

launched. Until then send your questions and donations re: UEA to me, Kathy Harwood Long: unityearthcarealliance@gmail.com.

Hello Beloveds! We are so very excited to bring our new ministry to you. We have an amazing board of trustees, including an advisory council who bring a call to action in environmental spiritual stewardship. We have many ideas brewing and blessings to share in fostering connections with the natural world as we advocate for systemic change while holding the high watch and practicing spiritual principle. It is when we understand our interconnectedness we deepen our Oneness with the beauty of all life. We are not from the Earth, we are of it. We are not walking alone, we are part of shared story of belonging, relationship, responsibility and reverence for all beings from the single cell organism to the complex. We are all sacred. Blessings, Rev. Eliasa Sabogal, Board President

Solstice Service

Please join us at our first event as Unity EarthCare Alliance:



EarthCare Certified Congregations

As Unity EarthCare Alliance moves into a new world of possibilities, let's pause and take a look back at those Congregations that have been certified under the EarthCare program as well as a summary of the Green Star program:

The EarthCare Certification Program is based upon the seven-step Path to EarthCare, (Pray, Vision, Inspire, Act, Share, and Renew). Each level guides a congregation further along the *Path to EarthCare*.

Canada

Unity Spiritual Centre, Windsor	B
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Unity of Comox Valley, Courtenay, BC (10-23-2015-A)	B
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Unity Kitchener, Ontario, Canada	C
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West Central Region

Unity of Roseville, CA	A
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Unity in Marin, CA	A
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Unity of the Valley Spiritual Center, Vacaville, CA	C
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Unity of Walnut Creek, Walnut Creek, CA	C
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Northwest Region

Unity of Anchorage, AK	A
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Unity of Bandon, OR	A
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Unity of Bellingham, WA	A
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Seattle Unity	B
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Unity of Spokane, WA	B
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Unity of Beaverton, Oregon	C
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Unity in Lynnwood, WA	C
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Unity Community of Central OR, Bend, OR	C
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Unity of Olympia	C
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Southwest Region

Unity Spiritual Center of Sun City, AZ	A
Unity of Las Vegas, NV	A
Unity of Las Cruces, NM	A
Unity Way, Vista, California	B
<u>Unity Spiritual Centre of Albuquerque, NM</u>	<u>B</u>
Unity of Prescott, Arizona	C
Unity Spiritual Center of the Mohave Valley, AZ	C

South Central Region

Unity on the Boulevard, Denver, CO	A
Unity Church of the Hills, Austin, TX	A
Unity of North Kansas City, Kansas City, KS	A
Unity, Bay Area Houston, Houston, TX	A
Unity of Wimberly, TX	A
Unity of Overland Park, Kansas	C
Unity of Fayetteville, AR	C
Unity of New Braunfels, TX,	C
Unity of Joplin, MO	C

Great Lakes Region

Unity of Medina Life Enrichment Center, Medina, OH	A
Unity of Farmington Hills, Farmington, OH	A
Unity Church of Christianity, Chesterland, OH	A
Unity of Appleton, Wisconsin	A
Unity of Louisville, Kentucky	A
Unity of Blue Water, Port Huron, MI	A
Unity Spiritual Center of Woodstock, ILL	A
Unity of Quincy, IL	A
Friends of Unity, Plymouth, MI	A
Unity Center of Cedar Rapids	B
Unity Lansing Spiritual Center	B
Unity Minneapolis, MN	B
New Thought Unity Center, Cincinnati, Ohio	C
Unity of Kalamazoo, MI	C
Unity of Traverse City, MI (A & B)	C

Eastern Region

Unity on Cape Cod, Cape Cod, MA	A
Unity of Buffalo, NY	B
Unity of Fairfax, Virginia	C

Southeast Region

Midtown Unity, St. Petersburg FL A

Unity of the Keys Spiritual Center, Key West, Florida A

Headquarters

Unity World Wide Ministries A

Unity World Headquarters B

Total Certified Congregations

Level A	30
Level B	14
Level C	25
Total	69

These congratulations have demonstrated their commitment to integrating an Earth-oriented spirituality into their ministry.

And I know there are many, many more Unity congratulations that are just as committed to protecting and preserving the environment.

Congratulations to all of you for the work you do!

Green Star Award

The Green Star Award was initiated in 2019 to recognize congregations that completed at least three significant environmental activities in the prior year. In so doing, they fostered awareness of our spiritual oneness with the Earth and promoted active care of creation. Since its inception, the number of awardees has increased nearly every year and is now one of EarthCare's most popular programs. Sixty four (64) awards have been given, sometimes multiple times to the same congregation. Congratulations to all of you!

Unity Spiritual Center Albuquerque

Congratulations to Unity Spiritual Center Albuquerque Senior Ministers Rev's Gordon and Novella Keylor, and everyone who has been involved in their many environmental activities and events. USABC has completed all seven steps of the Path to EarthCare and achieved Level C of the Program! Here is a summary:

1. **Pray--**Prayer creates a consciousness for inspiration, guidance and community.

Prayer will guide your ministry to express its unique vision of caring for the earth and creation. **Ongoing**

2. **Vision**--defines the purpose, critical processes and goals of the **EarthCare Program**. **We have developed a vision statement.**
3. **Inspire**—We have maintained a sacred space for creation through Sunday services and special ceremonies. **5 activities**
4. **Educate**—We have sponsored educational activities within the church and within the community. **6 activities**
5. **Act**-- Right action will follow based upon the needs and vision of the community to care for the earth and creation.

Actions:

Conducted an internal Environmental/Energy Audit in September 2023.

1. Energy/Water Conservation.
2. Recycling.
3. Waste Minimization. Be a mindful consumer of goods purchased, or of food wasted.
4. Conservancy of Natural Resources.
5. Interdependent Web of Creation.
6. Mindful Eating.
6. **Share**--We have shared our ideas and successes within the congregation and the community. **11 activities**
7. **Reaffirm**-- We have periodically renewed and re-assessed our vision. **1 activity**

Please refer to their website at www.uscabq.org for information regarding Unity Spiritual Center Albuquerque and its vibrant EarthCare program.

Mentoring/Collaboration Calls

With Mary Gerken



Mary Gerken hosts these calls a monthly basis. One of the benefits of participating in these calls is that they provide a way for you to connect with other churches, open new avenues to collaborate and share your ideas, successes and challenges. A different topic is selected at each meeting and creative ideas are shared.

For the date and time, please contact Mary at, agreatpickle@gmail.com.

EarthCare Facebook Page

Beth Remmes administers EarthCare's Facebook Page. Over 1700 followers have discovered the timely resources and interchange of ideas it contains. To join them, go to:

www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare



A Final Note

Now, as we close the book on the original EarthCare program, let's take a look back.

Unity's EarthCare program rose up from the grassroots of the Unity movement. It came from the deep desire to express Unity's belief in our oneness with all life in ways that directly impact our planet.

The foundation for EarthCare was laid in 2001, when Unity minister Kathy Harwood Long represented Unity at "Sacred Encounters," an Interfaith conference on the environment in the Pacific Northwest. In 2002, the Northwest (NW) Region an EarthCare agenda was adopted, and in 2003 began developing ideas for the program, which included a seven-step "Path to EarthCare" model. The Great Lakes Unity Regional Churches (GLURC) was also interested in EarthCare. In 2007, Rev. Kathy Harwood Long and Rev. Jane Simmons spearheaded the creation of the Unity Church's International EarthCare Team under the Unity Spiritual Action ministry team.

In January of 2008, Kym Farmer, Ron Habin and Mike McCord met at the Mid-Year Meetings at Unity Village. From this meeting, the logo of EarthCare was determined along with its organizational framework and goals. EarthCare was also made part of the Thriving in Unity 1.0 program as a benchmark and component. Soon thereafter, a Core Team was established that created its vision and mission statements, wrote the EarthCare Program, and began administering the team activities.

In 2010, the program's name was changed to the Unity EarthCare Team (UET), and in 2012 it became a separate ministry team.

Since the program's inception, EarthCare has been UWM's voice for climate action, which expanded over the years to include programs such as Mindful Eating and Ecological Social Justice. And through it all, Unity Worldwide Ministries has supported its vision and mission every step of the way.

Here are some of the major actions taken by UWM and UWH through the years, at EarthCare's recommendation:

Joint Climate Change Resolution by UWM/UWH, 2015:

As humanity has been primarily responsible for climate change, we affirm that it will be humanity which will co-create a vision of the environmentally conscious use of energy and our planet's fragile resources. We joyfully participate in our God-given role as good stewards of the Earth. Through prayer, meditation, church or spiritual center-inspired activism, and the skillful use of media, we affirm that the Unity movement is a world leader in advancing the growth of environmental consciousness and right action

Covenant adopted by the UWM Board of Trustees, January 2019:

The earth does not belong to man—man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.—attributed to Chief Seattle The Unity first principle states that there is only one presence and one power pervading the entire Universe. Unity Worldwide Ministries is committed to embodying this principle and honoring our Oneness with the earth. Recognizing that we live in a web of interconnectedness, and our actions affect the whole, we endeavor to touch the earth lightly and with reverence. And we encourage our members to do the same

Climate Change Reaffirmation adopted by UWM Board of Trustees, 2019

UWM acknowledges that climate change is real and that human activity is a significant cause of climate change. We hereby affirm our power to restore balance to the planet and all life forms and engage this power through our conscious and compassionate choices.

Corporate DEI Resolution adopted by UWM Board of Trustees, 2021

Unity Worldwide Ministries stands for anti-racism, i.e., we are opposed to racial hatred, racial violence, bias, systemic racism, and the oppression of people of color. We stand for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for people who are marginalized because of color. No individual or group should be made to live in fear or excluded from society. Recent events in the United States and the world remind us that violent repression, prejudices, injustices, and inequalities towards people of color are embedded in societies, from social structures to institutions to cultures. Unity chooses to be more aware and take positive action in dismantling systemic racism and the social structures that support injustice and prejudice, and we raise awareness

throughout our membership, churches, and centers.

We would like to give a special thanks to Kym Farmer for leading the team in its early years, followed by Ron Habin who gave many years of dedicated, steady and forward-looking leadership. I led the team from 2018 and am looking forward to my new role as Secretary of **Unity EarthCare Alliance**.

And so we begin the next phase of our journey, one that will as Spiritual Leader Kathy Harwood Long writes, *expand the reach of our work for consciousness and action on behalf of the earth.*

There is so much to do! We are in challenging times, both in reality and politically, and the threat to the environment is as great or greater than ever before. That's why we all must work together to make Unity a powerful force and global leader in addressing the climate change crisis, and move society towards being a more just world that works for all.

Hand in hand, onward and upward!

Mike McCord, Editor

