

Contact

Unity Worldwide Ministries
(aka Association of Unity Churches International)

Vol. 43, Issue 4

December 2011/January/February 2012

Our Unity Movement Past, Present and Future

A large, ornate fountain with a central American flag is set against a backdrop of classical-style buildings with red-tiled roofs. The scene is bathed in warm sunlight.

A Reflection on Unity's
"Golden Era" PAGE 6

The Development of Unity
Worldwide Ministries

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Unity Expansion in the
Pacific Rim PAGE 22

Keep Our Unity
Movement Strong PAGE 24

PLUS: Regional Focus
and Communication
Survey Results

Contact

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To support thriving ministries by providing timely, practical information for ministries and individuals.

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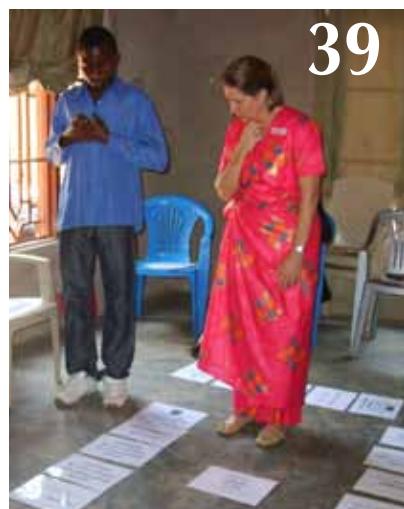
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Letter From the Editor

Kristen Preud'homme, Kris@unity.org

I believe, in the purity of our hearts, we all aspire to make a positive difference in our world. At times it may seem easier conceived than achieved, especially when we get distracted by the appearances of difficulty and lack. I was reminded of the power of understanding and compassion when I clicked to re-hear the story of [Teddy Stallard](#), a troubled child whose mother had passed. Teddy eventually found the joy of learning—and himself—through his teacher's ability to look beyond appearances and find deeper understanding and compassion. There is power in compassion. There is power in understanding. And there is power in sharing our story.

Sometimes it helps to take a moment to step back and take a broader look at where we've come from, why we're here, and intentionally look at where we want to go.

In this issue, we have focused on "Our Unity Movement: Past, Present and Future." We've been blessed with a look at our Unity history from amazing individuals like Phil Pierson, Rosemary Fillmore Rhea, Richard Billings and Tom Thorpe. Jim Lee, Donna Johnson and Julie Armour share with us perspectives of where we are, why we're here, and visions of what possibilities lie ahead. Our regions share what's working in supporting their leaders with ministry consultant positions. And we take a look at developments that are taking place to grow our Unity movement in the Pacific Rim and worldwide, along with a host of other heart-centered works from our Unity friends.

Pause and take a moment to read about our Unity community. Hear the voices of your colleagues. Find your connection to, and compassion for, the ever-unfolding Unity story.

We at your Unity Worldwide Ministries home office wish each of you a blessed holiday season. May your Christmas be filled with lasting love and compassion. May this New Year reveal to each of us new understanding in how we can be a positive difference in our world—individually and collectively.



Unity's Core Teachings Hold Their Value

by Rev. Richard Billings

I remain deeply grateful for the work and teachings of the Fillmores. They have facilitated transformation by enabling me, through spiritual understanding, to build a stable life and a stable work through following leadership concepts of affirmations and righteous thoughts. Results tell a story in the demonstration of God-Power. The following affirmation has been powerful in difficult times: **"This spiritual center of truth is a channel of love and a manifestation of prosperity."** This works on both a personal and collective basis.

I value deeply conversations with Lowell Fillmore when he engaged me in stories of his mother, Myrtle Fillmore, and her vision for Unity. Our core values definitely relate to prayer and healing. Let us not overlook the importance of silence. I appreciated the idea that there is not one ideology for the world to which all humanity is called to conform. Unity sees the necessity for differences in culture, and the contribution of each enriches the whole.

Survival is based on the wisdom of the past and becomes the power of the moment, here and now. Our teachings are an ethical formula for spiritual advancement and experience. The Fillmores saw conversion as the transformation of our whole being as we immerse ourselves in the living Truth. We learn to recognize our Divinity and the connection with our spiritual center. The result is awakening to the new creation, the new being, the self, and the I AM.

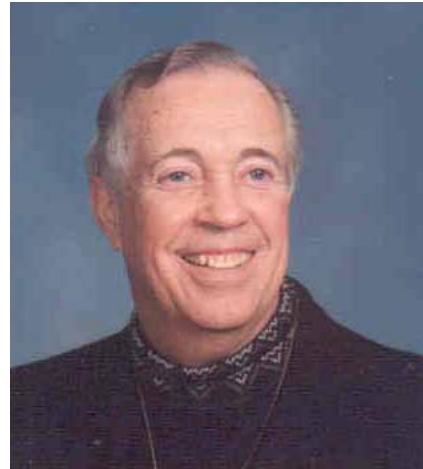
Unity has a core teaching of the Power of the Word, and how the right use of Words unlocks the way inward to both intuition and revelation. Self-knowledge will lead us to freedom and peace.

Within us is the key to the kingdom, a secret hidden for generations and ages, "Christ in you, your hope of glory." The Bible becomes a fount of wisdom as its stories unfold inner meanings. Charles Fillmore saw the Bible as a history of the evolution of consciousness, a metaphysical way of discerning current meaning, and a mystical path to the inner kingdom.

With all the changes the years bring, there remains a constant: Unity's core teachings. They are the rock, the foundation, which is simple, yet profound. Blessed are those who live them. Prosperity comes through giving ourselves in service and in joyful expressions of what we have received by application of practical Truth principles.

Rev. Billings is a long-time Unity minister and co-minister at Unity of Oak Park, Illinois.

Self-knowledge
will lead us to
freedom
and peace.



A Reflection on Unity's "Golden Era"



**Phillip Pierson
celebrating his birthday
in July 2011.**

by Rev. Phillip M. Pierson

When I think of Unity's history, I find myself looking at the whole picture—that is, seeing it as an evolutionary process. As Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said, the only way to understand life is through the concept of evolution. Unity's history, or evolution, has paralleled the history of all spiritual or religious movements and indeed of most corporations. It has gone from Myrtle and Charles Fillmore, to family, to a corporate structure. With this evolution, there follows a diminishing return in terms of total commitment to the originating ideas.

My wife Dorothy came to Unity School in 1938 at a time when Unity was evolving into a worldwide movement through literature and prayer work. Unity teachers and ministers were beginning to make themselves known in some communities around the world. Dorothy was hired by Charles Fillmore and she, in her vivacious and outgoing way, claimed him as her mentor and friend. She was at home in the energy shared by Charles, his two sons, and leaders such as May Rowland, the head of Silent Unity. It was a feeling of spiritual family, with a mission to transform the world with the Truth that had been so clearly demonstrated in their lives.

Dorothy says there was a spirit of joy that everyone felt who touched Unity School in some manner. The driving force was the desire to share, with only little energy given to paying for their activities. It was a core belief that as long as they joyfully affirmed their Truth and shared it with the world, their prosperity would come. It was a golden era that saw Unity grow from its downtown facilities to the beautiful setting of Unity Village. The unfoldment of Rick Fillmore's dreams for this country campus was just another demonstration of prosperity that comes as you claim it in the spirit of service.

I arrived at Unity Village in 1956 and entered into almost the same Unity culture that Dorothy found in 1938. Almost everyone working there was a dedicated student of the Unity philosophy and there was a powerful feeling of mission. Two of the Fillmore sons, Lowell and Rick, led the school's activities, assisted again by people who worked with Charles Fillmore or who were working to make his teachings clearer and more available for others to learn. By then Dorothy was the co-director of the Unity Training School and teaching students like Catherine Ponder, Johnnie Colemon, and Sig Paulson, who all went on to become great Unity leaders. This was a continuation of the golden era.

Those of us who went into the field ministry at that time went out in the spirit of the Fillmores. That is, we ministered on a love-offering basis. The spirit was epitomized by one minister who, when told the group she was called to serve was comprised of only

about “20 old ladies,” replied, “Hell, I don’t care. I only want a place to minister the Truth.” She went on to build that work into a tremendous ministry. The field ministers were generally asked to serve in locations by the Field Department of Unity School. They were quite successful in matching ministers with developing centers of students.

As the years passed, we witnessed an evolution from the “family consciousness” to that of a “corporate consciousness.” Successful ministers like Eric Butterworth spearheaded a movement to make the field movement a corporate body of their own, and independent of Unity School. As the work at Unity School became more “high tech,” they began to hire more employees who were not Unity students. The work of

sharing the Unity message went on, but not with quite the same passion generated by the lingering shadow of the early followers of the founders.

This follows the pattern of other evolving movements. The newly formed

It was a golden era that saw Unity grow from its downtown facilities to the beautiful setting of Unity Village.

association of Unity ministers became very businesslike in seeing that ministers were protected by having contracts and retirement plans with those they served. Gone was the need to rely on the minister’s personal prosperity demonstration. Again, this is the normal pattern of evolution that tends to dilute the founder’s absolutes to more popular positions in the world.

So, what is Unity evolving to now? The Piersons believe that because Unity’s basic message is the Truth, it will not evolve to irrelevance as other movements have. There is still a powerful need for the world to recognize that Jesus’ teachings are relevant to our everyday lives and that, when properly understood, they can turn any life into a series of joyful events and happy discoveries. There is a call to live the Unity principles to the absolute and demonstrate what we believe. It can be done! The best is yet to be!

Growing Your Ministry

by Mark Hicks, mark@truthunity.net

This Sunday, ask yourself these questions:

- Do our church leaders support trying new things?
- Are leaders willing to evaluate and use what works, and put aside what doesn’t?
- Is there joy and laughter in this church?
- Does this church really show people how to pray through sermons and classes?
- Are we continually reminded of God’s love for us?
- Are the sermons almost always inspiring and interesting to me?
- Does this church community help me identify and use my spiritual gifts?
- Are congregational songs here uplifting, inspiring and easy to sing?
- Is the special music excellent and soul satisfying?

Why Ask?

- Because churches grow when congregations answer these questions positively.

These findings come from a Church Growth 101 document that you can receive by emailing Robert and Janet Ellsworth of Thriving Churches Ministry, revsrobjan@bendtel.net.

Unity's Use of Media: Reminiscing With Rev. Rosemary Fillmore Rhea

by Bernadette Swanson, LUT, Bernadette@unity.org

"Back in those days, television was so new that people would watch anything that moved on the screen." I was sitting with Rev. Rosemary Fillmore Rhea in her home at Unity Village. I wanted to know more about Unity's broadcasting days on radio and television.

In the 1950s, *The Daily Word* was broadcast live on television from a studio in Kansas City, Monday through Friday, at 10:55 a.m. Rosemary was the face in front of the camera. This five-minute segment aired between Romper Room and Whizzo the Clown.

The program went to syndication in November 1957, and eventually was broadcast in all major markets, with the stations giving Unity free air time. As television became more sophisticated, it became harder to find a home for free, religious, five-minute segments. As 30- and 60-second slots became the norm, the program was discontinued. Unity's five-minute radio segment, *Unity Viewpoint*, suffered the same fate as the television program due to the changes in FCC (Federal Communications Commission) rules in the 1970s.

Rosemary eventually became the director of both the radio and television departments at Unity. She came up with the idea of putting the Unity message, which so appealed to people, into secular language within a 60-second timeframe. To make it irresistible to broadcasters, she wanted celebrities as the spokespeople. *The Word From Unity* was born in 1969. It aired first on radio and later also on television, ending up on over a thousand stations. It ended its original run in 1986.

The radio and television departments were located in the Tower at Unity Village. Rosemary would love to see the media department back there. In her mind, the Tower would be a Peace Tower, and would broadcast messages of peace to the world.

According to Rosemary, it's important to get our message to new people. Sir John Templeton, Sr., heard Rev. Charles Neal on the radio and thus started his relationship with Unity. The Templeton Foundation has supported many projects for Unity Worldwide Ministries, especially in the areas of education, including the Transformation Experience and music.

Like her grandfather Charles, Rosemary has focused on using the media to get the Unity message out. She loves the creation of Unity Online Radio and sees it as a wonderful vehicle for spreading our teachings. She would love to see 30- and 60-second radio spots return to advertise our message and our presence.

For downloadable radio and print ads, visit www.unity.org/marketing.



Rev. Rosemary Fillmore Rhea
is the granddaughter of Unity
cofounders Charles and Myrtle
Fillmore. Her memoir *That's Just
How My Spirit Travels* is available
from Unity Books.



Bernadette Swanson, LUT,
is education editor at the
home office.

Did You Know?

The Development of Unity Worldwide Ministries

by Rev. Tom Thorpe, thorpetf@unityworldhq.org

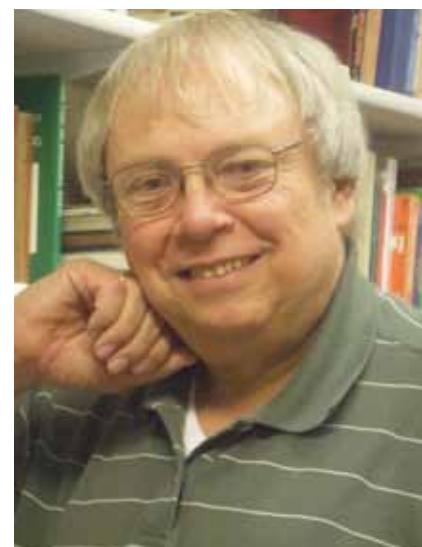
Development of a worldwide network of ministries was not part of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore's initial vision for Unity. The Fillmores believed that mainstream churches would provide space where Unity teachings could be presented and discussed. This, of course, did not happen. Almost from the earliest days of our Unity movement, students of Unity began forming groups that eventually became known as "Unity centers." Eight years before Unity School of Christianity was incorporated, the first Unity ordinations were conferred by the Unity Society of Practical Christianity on August 31, 1906.

Those first ordinations were in fulfillment of the Society's mission to "send forth representatives trained in the work." (Vahle, 297) The Society's president explained a vision of not only providing education for Unity leaders at its Kansas City headquarters, but also of providing lecturers and teachers to help emerging centers become more firmly established. By 1909, the Unity Society for Practical Christianity was actively soliciting funds to endow the education of teachers in Kansas City.

By 1919, Unity School of Christianity (incorporated in 1914) had organized the Field Department to support the growing number of Unity centers and leaders. The Field Department's stated purpose was to "encourage cooperation, harmony, and constructive methods in the advancement of Truth." (Vahle, 315) Historian and biographer Neal Vahle explains that the Field Department provided guidelines for centers and churches, facilitated the development of "study classes" in local communities, published a newsletter and a directory of centers, provided lecturers and consultant services to centers, organized an annual conference each summer at Unity headquarters, and later participated with the Unity Training School in licensing and ordaining teachers and ministers.

In 1925, the Field Department established the Unity Annual Conference, an organization of Unity center leaders. By 1934, the Unity Annual Conference had established a code of ethics, and was working to raise the standards of performance for both centers and leaders. In 1946, the Annual Conference became the Unity Ministers Association and continued its work of maintaining and raising standards of practice among Unity ministers and teachers. Unity School endorsed and supported the work of the Unity centers and invited readers of *Unity Magazine* to participate in the centers' activities.

Late in 1965, when the number of Unity centers had grown beyond 200 and the task of supporting the centers was increasing in complexity, Charles R. Fillmore, grandson



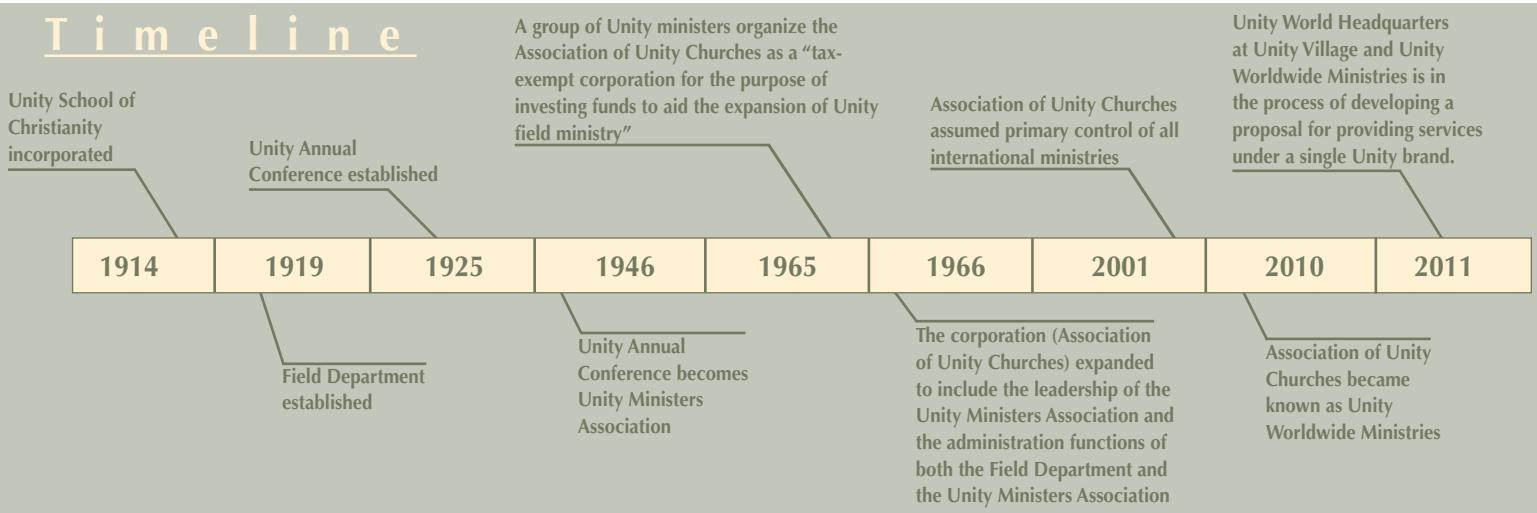
of Unity's founders and then executive vice-president, issued Unity School Bulletin #4. Bulletin #4 outlined a plan for transferring authority and responsibility for overseeing the functions of field ministries, including the licensing of ministers and teachers and the ordination and placement of ministers. According to Vahle, Charles R. Fillmore explained, "Unity School as a 'non-sectarian-based spiritual education institute' was not the appropriate institution for administering an organization of local churches." (Vahle, 348) Many today agree that Unity Worldwide Ministries and Unity School (now known as Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village) serve two different constituencies with differing and not always compatible needs.

In 1964, a group of Unity ministers had organized a "tax-exempt corporation for the purpose of investing funds to aid the expansion of Unity field ministry." (Vahle, 350) That corporation, named the Association of Unity Churches, was expanded by a vote of its board to include the leadership of the Unity Ministers Association as well as the administrative functions of both the Unity School Field Department and the Unity Ministers Association. The reorganized Association of Unity Churches began operating on July 22, 1966.

Not all Unity leaders welcomed the Association of Unity Churches at first. Association former President and CEO Glenn Mosley observed that "the School's decision created a lot of shock and controversy, and not all of the responses were of a positive nature." (Mosley and Dunlap, 20) Although most centers did join the association when it began operating, it was not until the 1990s that the last holdout ministry became affiliated. By the end of the 1990s, our Association of Unity Churches included more than 1,000 ministries, several hundred of them outside North America. It was estimated that Unity ministries served about 170,000 congregants at that time.

Ongoing issues facing the association (now known as Unity Worldwide Ministries) have included the fact that too few of the people served by Unity Worldwide Ministries are aware that it exists as an entity separate from Unity School. This lack of name recognition has made attracting sufficient funds to carry on its work somewhat challenging. In the twenty-first century, support from several major funding sources has been reduced, and efforts to broaden the base of donors have not yet compensated for

Timeline



the reduction. Efforts of an Association of Unity Churches Development Department, first organized in 1990, were met with ambivalence from the organization's leadership.

Establishing and maintaining a positive, productive relationship with Unity School has not always been easy. In 1979, a major controversy developed when Unity School proposed raising the rent paid by the association to more nearly reflect the cost of providing office and storage space. The association's board, in response, "recommended that the activities of Unity School and the association be brought together under the umbrella of an organization to be called 'Unity International.'" (Mosley and Dunlap, 87) The difference in size and assets between the two organizations, as well as the manner in which the proposal was presented to Unity School's leadership, did not draw a positive response to the proposal from Unity School's leadership. Former CEO Glenn Mosley observed, "Thank God, through the sincere and dedicated efforts of several of our Unity movement's advocates, a conflict that could have resulted in a split in the Unity movement was resolved." (Mosley and Dunlap, 88).

In June 1996, Systems Analyst Dr. David Renz reviewed the association's programs and procedures, and presented a report to the association's board of trustees. The Renz report expressed the view that the association was "on the threshold of the next generation of development," and recommended the development of a new strategic plan. Following the Renz report, a transition team developed a Future Search project that provided a vision for our association's continued growth in the twenty-first century.

Although ministers from outside North America were permitted to vote at annual conferences since at least 1978, it was not until January 9, 2001, that the association assumed primary responsibility for all international ministries through what was to become its Worldwide Services Department. Providing effective guidelines for international ministerial education and credentialing presents an ongoing challenge. Developing a worldwide organization of ministries, ministers, and other leaders that is enthusiastically supported by and truly responsive to the needs of its constituents has been compared with attempting to herd cats!

When member ministries were first asked, at the 2005 Unity People's Convention, to approve discussions about a possible merger of Unity School and the Association of Unity Churches, the vote was overwhelmingly negative. Six years later, a similar proposal received an overwhelmingly positive response. The boards of both organizations have asked their executive teams to develop a proposal for providing services under a single Unity brand.

The Unity website includes this inspiring statement: "In Unity, we feel a sacred responsibility, individually and collectively, to make a positive difference through personal example and active service in our churches, our communities and our world." This is an exciting time for all of us in Unity as each of us determines and acts on our commitment to this vision.

Tom Thorpe, an ordained Unity minister, is now serving as faculty member, with a primary emphasis on Unity Institute's Continuing Education Program.

Resources

Vahle, Neal. *The Unity Movement: Its Evolution and Spiritual Teaching*. Templeton Foundation Press, Radnor, PA 2002

Mosley, Glenn R. and Dunlap, Rebekah A. *Association of Unity Churches International: Its Beginning, Its Evolution, Its Vision for Worldwide Service*. Association of Unity Churches, 2006

Editor's Note:

See page 35 for updated information on integration.

Unity Today: From Receivership to Ownership

by Rev. Jim Lee, jlee@renaissanceunity.org

The Unity movement in every way is poised for this very moment. Through the strength of our foundation which is our grounding in our spiritual principles, we are now in a position to have a healing impact on the planet like never before. Our New Thought, ancient wisdom and metaphysical teachings have spread throughout the religious communities and have become a part of the mainstream Christian vernacular. Now is the time for us to push the envelope even more and become once again a leading-edge spiritual movement supporting the emerging consciousness of the planet.

The formula for evolution that I am recommending is: Integration—Inclusion—Transcendence. The classic teachings of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore are well-integrated in the churches, and now is the time to transcend them and give birth to what is now arising on the spiritual frontier. In this model, all that has gone before is embraced and utilized for the emergence of what is next. The past is not negated but enhanced, becoming a part of the larger evolutionary context.

The 2012 Unity People's Convention will be a melting pot of innovative ideas and an influx of consciousness from many sectors of the New Thought movement, including leading thinkers such as Jean Houston and Barbara Marx Hubbard. This is all divinely designed to support us in taking this courageous next step. Spirit always leads us into the mystery of our becoming, and I feel that Spirit is moving strongly in and through us now.



In our quest to be a Divine instrument for this new emergence, we as a board are leaning on Spirit to support us in each and every decision we make. One of our main focuses at this time is securing a sound financial base. We are putting more emphasis on finances, with more board members taking an active part in analyzing every aspect of our business. We are securing more advice from financial experts to support our decision making. In addition, we are re-aligning the Unity Worldwide Ministries' home office to insure that we are optimally managing our core responsibilities, such as credentialing, licensing and ordination, placement and ethics review.

In every way, we are choosing to perceive our financial challenges as a manifestation of our prosperity and as a teacher leading us into a better way of being. In this light, we will be looking over the next year to empower our field ministries and ministers to take on more of the Unity Worldwide Ministries functions beyond our core responsibilities. We are looking to support a shift in consciousness from receivership to ownership. Simply put, the future demands that we move away from attempting to be all things to all people and begin to create a vision that allows people to buy into a purpose greater than themselves to be fulfilled on the planet.

This is culture shift for us as the typical church will look at Unity Worldwide Ministries and ask the question, "What have you done for me lately?" In the new model, the question will become, "How can I support Unity Worldwide Ministries to make a difference on the planet and create a world that works for all?"

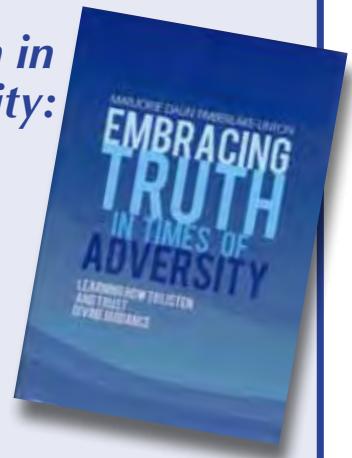
As I have traveled now to some of the regional conferences, and have had telephone conference calls, I am encouraged by the optimism and the hope that is prevalent in Unity. We are already coming up with new ways of doing things. The Great Lakes Region is an excellent model for this empowerment shift. Its youth education department is undergoing a magnificent transformation in the creation of a team approach to the allocation of responsibilities managed previously solely by the region. Two full-time education specialists are building an organization of key volunteers in their field ministries who will be sharing training and development of volunteers, media production, curriculum writing, as well as other tasks. The atmosphere in the region around this shift is positive and exciting. Untapped resources in the region are being utilized and developed and a greater sense of community and joy is being built.

As a movement, we know who we are. We see that we are a Divine Idea whose time has come. It appears that it may take a little work to get there, but together I know we will succeed. The board and I are committed to work with you so that as we individually have success, collectively we will make a profound difference. We are being called to do a great work and I know we are ready.

Jim Lee is the current board chair for Unity Worldwide Ministries and senior minister at Renaissance Unity in Warren, Michigan.

Embracing Truth in Times of Adversity: Learning How to Listen and Trust Divine Guidance

by Marjorie Daun Timberlake-Linton



The way out of any dilemma is to embrace "Truth" and surrender to the will of God. Using examples found in the Bible as well as her personal experiences, Unity minister Marjorie Daun Timberlake-Linton shows you how to claim your divine inheritance. Order this title through your local bookseller or preferred on-line retailer

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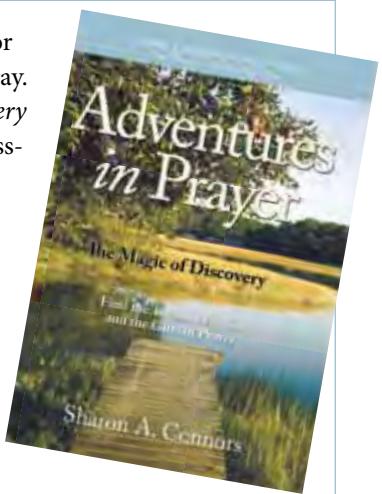
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Moving Into the Future

by Rev. Donna Johnson, donnajohnson@unityoffairfax.org

As 2012 dawns, I know many of you have questions about the specifics of where we are headed. I offer a few Q and A's that may help.

What is Spirit calling us to become?

As individuals, we have always been called by Spirit to embody our Unity principles and to live by the teachings of Jesus and the Holy Spirit within us. Now we, as spiritual communities, are being called to become more engaged with the world, Unity and non-Unity. This means we must come together collectively, work together collectively and demonstrate collectively what it means to be Spirit-led, twenty-first century people.

What potential lies ahead for us as a movement?

We have unlimited potential to accomplish what Spirit calls us to do and be. Whatever form that takes, we must be aligned in, and committed to, our shared vision. We must also be able to relate to the generations of young people whose lives have been shaped by a different cultural and social context than that of most of us reading this article. We must also begin to think of ourselves in global terms, for our whole world now lives at our doorstep.

What must we overcome to become this?

We must overcome our financial deficits and align our resources with our priorities. We must also overcome any unwillingness to face our shadow and learn from it. We must authentically walk our talk, and we must do it with great courage, conviction and enthusiasm.

What results could we see if we became this?

Unity like never before—or maybe Unity like before, except exponentially expanded in its influence and ability to change lives. We would be alive, growing, prosperous, and compelling for countless souls seeking the same connection with Spirit.

How am I planning for the future as a Unity leader?

I am praying deeply for myself, Unity Worldwide Ministries staff and the field as a whole. I'm envisioning an infrastructure of timely communication and progressive actions that have their origin in the experience and inspiration from credentialed leaders and lay people all over the world. I am also living in the reality of our integrated oneness.

What considerations/preparations can you take to plan for the future?

Get involved and stay involved, especially as we work through our past, reorganize our present and simultaneously give birth to our future. Give financially to our shared vision. Each one of us is here by divine appointment. There is much to do. Let's get on with it.



Donna Johnson is the first vice chair of Unity Worldwide Ministries' board and will become the chair after June convention 2012. She also serves as the senior minister for Unity of Fairfax in Oakton, Virginia.

Meet Your Ministry Teams

Future Trends Ministry Team

Unity Worldwide Ministries is guided by the generous volunteers who serve on our ministry teams. We focus on the Future Trends team in this issue.

I love being the chair of Future Trends. It keeps me on the cutting edge of what is going on in the world. Technology, societal trends, fundraising, education and governance are all sub-topics that our team works with from a spiritual perspective. It is my joy to serve on this team with other amazing team members! (Find me at about.me/revsandy.)

—Rev. Sandy Diamond, revsandychicago@aol.com



I am a Next Generation member of Unity in Chicago. I like being a part of Future Trends because it allows me to help brainstorm ideas that will affect the future of Unity Worldwide Ministries. I plan to become a Unity minister. —Jennifer Smith



We are living in exciting and challenging times. To keep up with the changing environment in today's world, the leaders in our movement must have all the information and help we can provide regarding these changes and their possible ramifications, so as to best meet the needs of their congregants and communities.

—Rev. Dan Holloway



I think the world is ready for the message Unity offers, and by being a member of the Future Trends team, I hope to do what I can to define ways Unity can best serve the world in the future. —Peter Jarosewycz, retired attorney



There is only now, and yet we're going somewhere. I joined the Future Trends team to be part of the dialog about how we consciously create our future in a rapidly evolving technological world. Connect with me at www.ogunholder.com.

—Rev. Ogun Holder



The Future Trends team is a clearinghouse for creative spiritual ideas. Currently, we are looking at the impact of how social media can effectively benefit leaders and ministers in the areas of economics, technology, social issues, etc.

—Linda N. Lowery, LUT, Founding Minister, Phoenix Rising Ministries



For me, service on the Future Trends team is sacred service to further spread the Unity message. Whether it is technological or social trends that are changing, we must be open and willing to adapt. This team supports our ministries and leaders by keeping them apprised of new and innovative ways to conduct their ministry.

—John Zenkewich, LUT, Spiritual Leader, Unity Church of Long Island



I am passionate about exploring and implementing innovative and bold ways to use modern technology to connect with those who wish to experience meaningful living. A few of my strengths include building team collaboration and thinking outside the box.

—Tamie Rising, Director of Communications, Unity Church of Overland Park, KS



I'm sure that Myrtle and Charles Fillmore would be on this ministry team. They were always on the cutting edge. It's cool to be on the lookout for innovative, creative, outrageous ideas that will help people to connect with Unity Worldwide Ministries in so many new and exciting ways. Social media enhances our ministries. It does not replace them. —Donna Corbet, Administrative Assistant, Unity Renaissance, Detroit

Other team members include Barbara O'Hearne and Marilyn Muehlbach.

Team Purpose:

To research and identify the innovative, creative and outrageous ideas that have relevance to the strategic plan and future direction of Unity Worldwide Ministries that, when applied, will create the fastest-growing spiritual educational movement in the world.

Sub-Teams

Technology: We presented at the annual convention in 2011. Lynn O'Dell, Donna Corbet and Peter Jarosewycz were all part of that presentation. Technology allows our U.S. regions as well as our worldwide regions to communicate with one another. It assists in creating global community and connection.

Societal Trends: What spiritual direction is the country and the world going in? The U.S. is a big topic given the political climate right now.

Fundraising: Ever an ongoing topic and issue. Barbara O'Hearne brings us interesting tidbits to share on this front—very interesting things!

Education: What role might we play in identifying educational themes, moves that affect our Unity movement?

Governance: Governance is huge and includes ethics, as they are tied so closely within organizations.

OneEach Technologies Selected as the Web Service Provider for the Unity Identity Program (Branding)

DAILY WORDS
But on the lampstand, it gives light to all in the house - Matthew 5:15

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The global nature of the Internet makes branding increasingly important especially as more and more people first learn about a spiritual community through its website.

According to *Christian Computing Magazine*, over 30 percent of respondents said the website was where they first learned about a spiritual community. What's more, over 36 percent said the website played an important role in their decision to attend the community.

Unity Worldwide Ministries is embracing these findings by instituting a new essential component to its branding initiative. Unity has partnered with OneEach Technologies of Mesa, Arizona, to provide full-featured websites for ministries implementing the program. Although each site will reflect the new unified identity, each individual ministry will have the flexibility to localize and individualize its site for its respective congregation and community.

"We're thrilled to partner with OneEach Technologies, a company that cares about Unity ministries and is focused on helping nonprofit organizations. One exciting feature of the website is that fresh content will be provided from *Daily Word*, articles from Unity.org and messages from Unity Online Radio," said Rev. Kristen Preud'homme, director of communications at Unity Worldwide Ministries. "With OneEach as our web service provider, our Unity Identity Program is now complete."

"We are committed to using the new website being developed as part of the branding program," shares Rev. Darby Neptune, senior minister of Unity of Panama City.

"The member of our congregation who was going to create a website for us was very impressed with the platform being proposed and said it would offer more than what he would be able to do. He further said this was a good deal for us financially and he would personally underwrite our costs to make sure we acted on this as soon as possible."

"Although we have been providing high-quality websites to nonprofit organizations around the world for over a decade, we are especially honored to be partnering with Unity," said Tony Finneman, OneEach founder. "Capabilities such as RSS syndication, online donations, event management, social networking and online shopping give our customers the perfect vehicle to extend brand consistency throughout their organization."

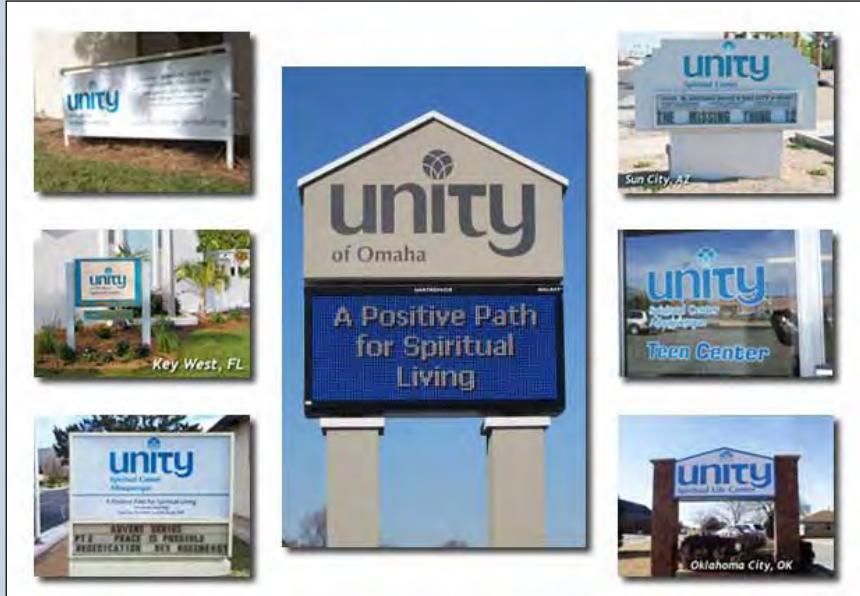
The web service bureau is available to ministries who are a part of the Unity Identity Program. The next group will launch on February 23, 2012, with all paperwork due to Unity Worldwide Ministries by February 9. For more information go to: unity.org/branding, or contact Debbie Allen at Debbie@unity.org or 816.434.6831.

"Although we have been providing high-quality websites to nonprofit organizations around the world for over a decade, we are especially honored to be partnering with Unity."

**—Tony Finneman,
OneEach founder**

The Unity Identity Project Celebrates Its First Year

Currently 110 ministries—or over 16 percent of the movement—have embraced the new Unity identity within the first year. Unity Worldwide Ministries and Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village are working together to create a unified identity and have been joined by Unity Canada (the Canadian association), Unity Worldwide Ministries Eastern Region, and Unity Worldwide Ministries South Central Region, along with 107 ministries. It is an exciting time for our ministries and for our Unity movement.



"We have worked diligently during the past year to create a system that would help support ministry leaders and spiritual communities embracing our new identity," shared Debbie Allen, branding coordinator. "We continue to refine the project to make it stronger each time we launch a new group."

The next group will be launching on February 23, 2012, with all paperwork due to Unity Worldwide Ministries by February 9.

If you are interested in joining the Unity Identity Project, call Debbie at 816.434.6831, email Debbie@unity.org or check out www.unity.org/branding and look for the sign-up link.

Ministry Consultant Equals Less Conflict

by Rev. Susan EngPoole, susane@unityoflouisville.org

According to Bowen family systems theory, churches are chronically anxious systems where some level of anxiety is inevitable. Ministers need to be prepared to manage the storms of anxiety when—not if—they occur. Like their natural counterparts, storms of anxiety are sensitive to a change in atmosphere. Positive change can calm a situation that might otherwise build to hurricane force.

Having served in our Unity Worldwide Ministries church conflict resolution processes myself since 1984, I have seen several iterations of peacemaking. Understanding the need for quality peacemaking skills, Great Lakes' regional leadership invested financial resources to create a ministry consultant position, currently held by Martha Creek. The need for peacemaking hit close to home on 9/11/2001, when Unity of Louisville, Kentucky—the church I love—was experiencing its own kind of “ground zero.” Martha, who is a certified Healthy Congregations Facilitator, and I combined our peacemaking skills from various sources to help Unity of Louisville heal and thrive again. We've been honored to have the opportunity to share what we learned from this experience with other churches in the Great Lakes region.

Martha Creek has facilitated 20 Healthy Congregations workshops this year, with strategically planned subregional events that could accommodate the most ministries and ministers with little or no cost. She's offered trainings, consulting, counseling and resources, which have resulted in a 75 percent decrease in the number of conflicts experienced in our region!

Healthy Congregations training and application reduces or sometimes prevents the escalation of anxiety that often leads to the need for mediation or peacemaking processes. The top reasons we've seen for support calls have been with leadership control issues, limited people skills, resistance to change, a minister's leadership style, decline in attendance and finances or issues of sexual misconduct. We've noticed that the congregations experiencing the highest levels of conflict are congregations whose ministers have not attended Healthy Congregations training opportunities.

I hope more Unity regions will consider adding a ministry consultant to their regional staff, and encourage their leadership staff to participate in Healthy Congregations training and/or the facilitators training. Martha has been the keynote presenter at the Great Lakes, the Southwest and Northwest Conferences. She has a full 2012 schedule of trainings, including a presentation at the Unity People's Convention in June. For more details, call Martha Creek at 502.905.0783 or visit www.marthacreek.net.

Susan EngPoole is senior minister at Unity of Louisville, Kentucky.

Martha Creek's work has resulted in a 75 percent decrease in the number of conflicts experienced in our region!



Martha Creek

New Church Consultant Position

by Rev. Pat Bessey, revpatbessey@gmail.com

In January 2010, Unity Worldwide Ministries' Eastern Region created a church consultant position and folded in the regional representative role. I was hired to fill that position. The purpose of the church consultant is: to be available to our member ministries and ministers to communicate information from the region and from Unity Worldwide Ministries' home office; to support, educate, and bring people together to share their gifts and ideas with each other; and to be the first responder in times of need in the ministry.

In almost two years in this position, I have visited many of our member ministries, bringing much sought-after board training. Some of the comments from board members participating in the training have been: *I wish I had this training when I first joined the board. The best board retreat I have attended. The training session is not only useful to me as a board member, but also personally and in business.*

As a ministry, when would it benefit you to contact me?

- When you have a question regarding policy, either at the region level or the international association level.
- When your ministry is making a change in its spiritual leadership.
- At the first sign of "dis-ease" in the ministry.
- When you have questions regarding ministry that your bylaws and/or policies do not address.

In essence, the church consultant is the front line "go-to person" representing the ministry in the region. I am the resource person. If I don't have the answer, I will get it for them or direct them to where it might be found.

Other services offered are peacemaking, strategic planning, and one-on-one meetings with ministry leadership on any questions regarding ministry. I regularly connect with the spiritual leaders in the region on a conference call. This is to support networking, sharing of ideas, and to pass along updates from Unity Worldwide Ministries nationally and regionally. These calls have also been used as an education tool by inviting guests who have certain areas of expertise. An example is having Rev. Paul Hasselbeck on a call to let folks know what is available to them as resources and what is upcoming with Spiritual Education and Enrichment (SEE).

As I reflect on the benefits provided to our ministries as a result of having a church consultant, I believe you would hear from a large number of folks that they feel supported and know who to call if they have a need.

Myths I wanted to dispel coming into this were: "Nobody from Unity Worldwide Ministries contacted us when we needed help," or "We weren't aware you were out there." I no longer hear this from folks. Colleagues, board members and congregants in many of our member ministries know me personally because I have been to their church or they have connected with me at our regional conference or at Unity Peoples' Convention.



If I don't have
the answer, I will
get it for them or
direct them to
where it might be
found.

Pat Bessey is an ordained Unity minister, can be contacted at revpatbessey@gmail.com.

Growing Unity Outside the United States

by Rev. Xiomara Malagon, Xiomara@unity.org

The love, dedication, commitment and support of our Unity leaders worldwide have made possible that our Unity teachings continue to expand in countries around the world.

Associations of Unity Leaders (AUL) and Unity National Schools (UNS) play an essential role regarding the training of our leadership and the development of our Unity movement.

Associations of Unity Leaders (AUL) were created in 2001. The purpose of the AUL is to represent the leadership of Unity in a country. The AUL pursues union among Unity leaders to unite efforts and talents that will result in support and service to each other and also to the growth of the Unity movement. Several AULs have also received training to support credentialed leaders starting new ministries (groups/centers) in their countries. More than fifteen new Unity ministries have been established over the last four years.



In 2002 over ten new Unity National Schools (UNS) were created in different countries. The purpose of a National School is to provide our Unity students residing outside of the continental US with the same educational opportunities without requiring travel to the United States. Our educational programs support our candidates/students pursuing Unity credentialing. Since 2006, thirty-eight candidates have been ordained and eighteen have been licensed as Unity ministers. These leaders received credentialing through the International Ministerial Program.

Most of our Unity leaders outside of the United States have regular jobs and work in their ministries part-time; they receive a love offering for their services. They, like Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, believe these teachings can change the lives of many people and make a difference in our world. It is because of their love, commitment and dedication that our Unity teachings continue to expand worldwide.

We are proud to serve them from our home office as we support them with our love, prayers, guidelines, policies and procedures to work with the different programs, as we continue to hold the vision to create a world that works for all.

Xiomara Malagon, ordained Unity minister, is the worldwide support consultant to Unity Worldwide Ministries.

Unity Expansion in the Pacific Rim

by Rev. Sky St. John, revsky@unityhawaii.org



When I first came to the Hawaiian Islands in 2005, every church was being led by a licensed and ordained Unity minister. In just a few years, I was the only one left. Fueled by a church-wide survey that indicated a passion for outreach, we funded and began a program that helped spiritual leaders from the neighboring islands to come to Honolulu and get the SEE courses they needed to enter the licensed Unity teacher (LUT) program. We had a mandate to spread the gospel of Unity, and we were beginning.

Internationally, this began with the formation of a “sister church” relationship with Unity of Melbourne, Australia. We offered live-streaming classes and made several trips to provide Spiritual Education and Enrichment (SEE) intensives. While there, we connected with a couple of ushers, who had—under the guidance of Spirit—initiated the building of two nursery schools and a secondary school in a small village near Zomba, in Malawi, Africa. Of course they needed support.

We invited them to speak at our church in Honolulu, and in one day raised over \$18,000.00—enough to buy a grain mill for them and to erect a building to house it in. Many in our church family “sponsored” their young people, providing education, meals and books for only \$120 a year.

Along the way, we also began a beautiful relationship with Unity of Auckland, New Zealand. A group of 14 from our church went to Auckland to join them in the celebration of their 40th anniversary of Unity in New Zealand.

Meanwhile, at home we had begun serving the homeless on the beach, preparing a meal for an average of 150 every week, and giving them a short Unity message. We also connected with a local AIDS/HIV residential treatment facility, and began providing a meal-a-week for all their residents. Another group began going to local nursing and retirement homes, taking music and message to them once a month. Another group goes to the local men’s shelter and serves meals there twice a month. There are so many ways to serve.

To strengthen the message among our own members, we began offering an SEE intensive every month! We now have a ministerial intern program that helps people from across the world get the SEE courses they need and the training necessary to lead a church.

(continued on page 22)

New Worldwide Support Coordinator

We joyously announce that Sky St. John has been appointed to the position of worldwide support coordinator, effective immediately. Sky's appointment supports the desire of Unity Worldwide Ministries to grow and nurture leaders and ministries worldwide. In this position, Sky will have full authority to act officially on behalf of Unity Worldwide Ministries in our work worldwide.

The Worldwide Support Coordinator position is currently unpaid, but Sky has generously volunteered to gift his time and service as a statement of support for the importance of Unity Worldwide Ministries' work in the development of leaders and ministries worldwide. Sky will continue to serve as senior minister at Unity of Hawaii.

Xiomara Malagon, who has been serving as part-time worldwide support consultant, will continue her work. Sky will be working closely with her to build upon the work that has already been done and that is in progress. One of his first priorities is to meet with leaders in our National Schools and Associations of Unity Leaders to learn of their needs and dreams.

Sky can be contacted at Worldwide@unity.org.

(continued from page 21)

One of our former congregants, who wanted to become a Unity minister, returned to his home in Santiago, Chile. After some coaching and conversation, he and a group of supporters organized a visit for me and the planning of an informational meeting, anticipating 120 people. Over 200 attended! It was standing room only for Chileans who wanted to know about this thing called "Unity."

I stayed for a brief while and helped this young man, Christian Christi, make plans for his first true Unity gathering. On September 15 of this year they held their first meeting and over 40 people attended. All reports show it was a huge success. Christian is now taking online classes and will soon be in Honolulu for some intensive SEE courses and, of course, more training!

We have connected with Florence Monzon, a LUT from Las Vegas, who is originally from Manila—and who wanted to return to the Philippines and start a Unity ministry. We took Florence as a ministerial intern, and in November, she took up residence in Manila and is planning for the first Unity service in the Philippines on January 4, 2012. I and others from our church will be there to love and support her as she steps into her own and begins to spread a message of Truth and transformation.

These ventures come with an investment of time, energy and money; and yet I feel that our primary responsibility is to answer the call and trust. For many years now, our guiding mantra has been: impact generates income. At challenging financial moments we did not ask, "How can we get more money?" Instead, we asked, "How can we give more?" The law of giving and receiving works. Period.

In *The Revealing Word*, Charles Fillmore wrote about the way we can jump into "the river of life." Though he was addressing these words to individuals, I believe they apply to spiritual communities as well. He said: "[We] can be truly quickened with new life and vitalized in mind and body only by consciously contacting Spirit. This contact is made through prayer, meditation, and good works."

I always want our spiritual community to be vitalized in corporate mind and body. I know that this happens when we devote time to prayer, meditation ... and good works. For us, those "good works" mean reaching out—and in—to the world around us.

Sky St John is senior minister at Unity Church of Hawaii, in Honolulu.

Financial Statement

FOR THE PERIOD OF
10/1/2010 TO 9/30/2011

Revenue

	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)
Love Offerings (Undesignated)	\$ 2,083,302	\$ 2,855,305
Love Offerings (Designated)	152,656	92,413
Grant Incomes	383,250	383,250
Program Incomes	447,113	579,561
Total Revenues	\$ 3,066,321	\$ 3,910,529

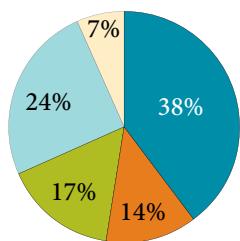
Expenses

Less: Tithe Paid (on undesignated donations)	208,330	285,531
Program Expenses	1,899,214	2,567,524
Support Expenses	455,599	1,100,368
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,921,493	\$ 3,953,423
Increase from Operation	\$ 144,828	\$ (42,894)
Adj Balance Sheet Items	(24,531)	38,835
Net Cash Flow	120,297	(4,059)

Our cash flow status for 12 months of this fiscal year ending September 30, 2011 is \$120,297. We were able to achieve this positive cash flow through our spending cut of \$1,031,930 to offset the over budgeted income of \$844,208. Unity Worldwide Ministries' total cash balance (cash equivalent) as of September 30, 2011 is as follows: Unrestricted fund of \$328,890 and restricted fund of \$472,877, a total of \$801,767. Our net fund balance of the unrestricted funds, after our line of credit balance of \$211,828 is \$62,835. This is much less than our targeted amount of unrestricted fund reserve of \$500,00, which is the three month's minimum basic operating cost needed for sound, healthy operation.

Tithe support from our member ministries, ministers and teachers is significantly important for us to continue the ministry services we provide. We appreciate your ongoing financial support. Regular monthly contributions can be made by calling Myra Moore at 816.434.6813 or email Myra@unity.org.

Allocation of Our Revenue Toward Spirit's Work



38% Education, Leadership and Ministry Development (1,068,002)
14% Minister & Ministry Services (412,879)
17% Communications (528,701)
24% Administration/Building (703,581)
7% Tithe (208,330)

Total: \$2,921,493

We Are a Tithing Organization

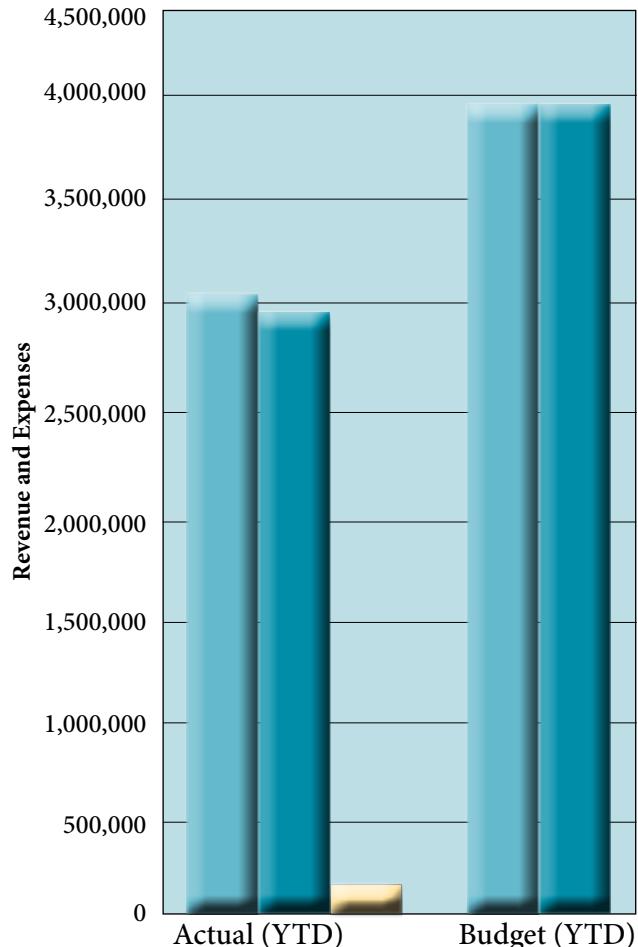
We bless these organizations for the work they do.

10/1/2010 — 9/30/2011

Unity World Headquarters	\$137,497
Urban Ministerial School	20,833
International New Thought Alliance	6,250
Association for Global New Thought	10,417
Academy for Peace of Costa Rica	12,500
Unity of Montego Bay	20,833
Total	\$208,330

For more information on our tithing policy, visit:
<http://unity.org/TithingPolicy>

Cash Flow Statement 10/2010 to 9/2011



Actual vs. Budget

 Total Revenues
 Total Expenditures and Adjustment
 Net Cash Flow

We acknowledge God as our source and see abundance flowing forth blessing all that we have and all that we give. We gratefully bless those who share their prosperity that we may serve Spirit's work as our Unity community.

Keep Our Unity Movement Strong: Give to the Core

by Rev. Jim Lee, jlee@renaissanceunity.org

Reflect for a moment on the difference Unity has made in your life. Think about the passion, excitement and inspiration you receive through our teachings and through your spiritual community. Consider the people navigating life during these difficult times of economic, social, political and personal struggles and unrest. They are knowingly or unknowingly longing for the comfort of a spiritual path and for spiritual communities to support them. Consider the difference Unity teachings and thriving Unity spiritual communities can make for those who are seeking. Does it inspire you to support our Unity movement?



Regular, monthly contributions can be made to Unity Worldwide Ministries (aka the Association of Unity Churches International) by calling Myra Moore at 816.434.6831. Or mail to Unity Worldwide Ministries, PO Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.

Mail contributions to Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village (aka Unity School of Christianity), 1901 NW Blue Parkway, Unity Village, Missouri 64065. (Please note that Silent Unity, *Daily Word* and Unity Institute are all a part of this one organization.)

Regional information can be accessed at: <http://unity.org/association/aboutUs/ourOrganization/regionalResources.html>

The Multiple Layers of Unity

The core of the Unity movement consists of two partner organizations providing services that can't be done at a local level, such as: create a unified identity, provide leading-edge leadership training and international convention, support international growth and expansion, provide an international 24-7 prayer line (Silent Unity) and publications such as *Daily Word*. These foundational services are created by Unity Worldwide Ministries, which supports Unity leaders and spiritual communities, and Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village.

The next layer of our movement is our regional leadership. Regional boards create services and support for Unity ministries and leaders in nine geographical areas: Eastern, Southeast, Great Lakes, South Central, Northwest, West Central, Southwest, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Spiritual communities are the next layer of Unity, and these create sacred communities for the final layer of our movement.

Engaged participants in our Unity congregations are the encompassing circumference of our Unity movement.

Support the Core

There are current ongoing financial realities that are affecting our Unity movement right now. They are affecting the future ability of Unity Worldwide Ministries and Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village to continue to support you and your spiritual communities as in the past. Now is the time to give to Unity's core—to give from the consciousness of love in order to support and sustain the strength of our movement. This kind of giving fulfills the law of giving and receiving and results in the all-sufficiency of God moving on our behalf.

(continued)

From this perspective, we thank every ministry who has contributed to our movement and we encourage all communities to consider giving all of your financial gifts to our Unity movement for the next year and beyond. We suggest dividing your tithe among:

- Unity Worldwide Ministries
- Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village
- Your local region

Take a moment and envision all of the amazing possibilities that lie ahead for Unity and all of those who can be blessed by Unity! Your intentional, focused giving of your entire financial gifts channeled into our Unity movement's core will allow us to continue to provide Unity's unique global services. This will not only support you and your spiritual community, but also allow Unity to expand and reach those desiring to tap into their unlimited potential.

Talk with other leaders in your spiritual community. Go into the silence. Are you called to give more to our Unity core?

UWM Tithing Policy

Tithing is the giving of 10 percent of all unrestricted donations received by Unity Worldwide Ministries to organizations or individuals who provide inspiration or support to Unity Worldwide Ministries, the Unity movement or leadership of the association. That giving is not a substitute for purchase of goods or services. Tithes do not go to social service organizations or operational expenses.

(For the full policy see www.unity.org/TithingPolicy)

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"One of our customers called me on a Saturday needing original proof of insurance cards for their vehicle—just one hour before a youth trip to Canada was scheduled for departure. I was able to print the cards, but there was no way I could get them there in time. I asked about their travel route and was able to find a Church Mutual representative who was right on the way. So I sent the cards to him overnight, and the group picked them up the next morning before reaching Canada."

Tracey Jaeger, Church Mutual Customer Service Representative

We have a passion for solving problems. Call (800) 554-2642 or visit www.churchmutual.com/analysis to schedule a detailed, on-site risk and insurance needs analysis. It's a value-added service we offer at no extra charge.

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Listening. Learning. Leading®

Quantum Strangeness Goes Macro

by Rod Dreher, Director of Publications, Templeton Report

Though he loves to play his electric guitar at top volume, Vlatko Vedral is really making his rock-star reputation in quantum physics.



Vlatko Vedral

The universe
really ought
to be thought
of...as a
quantum
computer—
that is, one
in which
consciousness
plays a role in
determining
results.

Vedral, a 39-year-old professor of quantum information theory at both Oxford University and the National University of Singapore, is emerging as a leading voice among physicists who contend that information, not matter and energy, is the most fundamental building block of reality. It's a radical idea that blurs the line between physics and metaphysics.

"I think we are really beginning to understand that we should not think of atoms, of matter and energy, as the fundamental units, but we should really think of bits of information as being the most fundamental entities out of which we can construct everything we observe," the Belgrade-born Vedral says.

The concept was famously captured in the great 20th-century physicist John Archibald Wheeler's phrase, "It from bit." A bit—or binary digit—is the smallest possible fragment of information. A bit is nothing more than the answer to a "yes-no" question. It has no substance, and yet, taught Wheeler, all physical reality ultimately results from the answers to those questions—meaning, in Wheeler's words, that all physical reality has "an immaterial source and explanation." The universe, therefore, can be thought of as a vast information-processing machine—a computer the size of the cosmos.

In his 2010 book *Decoding Reality*, Vedral takes that concept one step further, arguing that the universe really ought to be thought of not as a classical computer, but as a quantum computer—that is, one in which consciousness plays a role in determining results. In other words, each of us participates in the construction of physical reality. This sort of claim sounds bizarre, and shows why quantum mechanics has about it an air of religion. The mystical gloss is the logic-defying incomprehensibility of quantum results. Despite having been confirmed numerous times through experimentation, quantum effects not only defy common sense at the conceptual level but they can only be observed at the atomic and sub-atomic levels.

Or can they? In the June 2011 cover story in *Scientific American*, Vedral contends that the unbridgeable gap between quantum physics and classical physics is a “myth.” “Until the past decade, experimentalists had not confirmed that quantum behavior persists on a macroscopic scale. Today, however, they routinely do,” he writes. “These effects are more pervasive than anyone ever suspected. They may operate in the cells of our body.”

Vedral cites research indicating the quantum process of entanglement may be at work in the navigation systems of robins, and in the process of photosynthesis. “The implications of macroscopic objects such as us being in quantum limbo is mind-blowing enough that we physicists are still in an entangled state of confusion and wonderment,” Vedral concludes in his essay. Earlier, in *Decoding Reality*, Vedral speculated that detecting quantum effects in macroscopic systems provide “hope that one day we may find that Nature has already provided us with a quantum computer and all that is left for us to do is to program it.”

If the dividing line between classical and quantum physics is an illusion, then theoretical physicists have to explain how fundamental classical concepts like space and time emerge from quantum processes. The Templeton Foundation has seeded this quest by awarding a \$246,000 grant to Vedral to support research toward developing a theory unifying quantum and classical physics. With complementary funding from the National University of Singapore, the project’s budget will be \$500,000.

According to Dr. Hyung Choi, who directs JTF’s mathematical and physical sciences programs, the Foundation is currently funding more than 20 scientific research programs like Vedral’s, in which scientists investigate the quantum world from many different perspectives. The Foundation hopes that these programs will advance Sir John Templeton’s vision for discovering the nature of the deepest level of reality, and its implications for humanity.

As a London undergraduate in the early 1990s, Vedral found his calling when he encountered an astonishing claim in an obscure book: Information is physical. Those three words gave him a mission: to devote his scientific career to exploring the implications of that insight for our understanding of ultimate reality. Technology-driven cultural advances over the past two decades have made concepts that were once obscure far more accessible to curious minds. This, Vedral predicts, will benefit coming generations of explorers probing the mysteries of the quantum realm.

“We now live in the Information Age,” he tells the Templeton Report in a video interview. Convincing young people today that information is “extremely fundamental and important,” he says, is a fairly easy task.

Article reprinted with permission from the Templeton Report, a publication of the John Templeton Foundation. www.templeton.org.

Information is
physical.

Garden Angel Project at Unity Northwest Church

by Rev. Greg Barrette, gbarrette@unitynorthwest.org

Last summer, the congregation of Unity Northwest Church, Des Plaines, Illinois, invited everyone in the northwest suburbs of Chicago to participate in a project to feed the hungry and the homeless. We sent out press releases that told the people, "Just drop off a few of your spare fresh vegetables at the church, and representatives from WINGS (Women In Need Growing Stronger) of Palatine and the Self-Help Food Pantry and Closet of Des Plaines will pick them up and distribute them to the needy in our community."



Greg Barrette is senior minister at Unity Northwest Church, Des Plaines, Illinois. He was the first recipient of the Distinguished Youth Services Award from Unity Worldwide Ministries, and has served as president of four Unity regions. He is currently on the board of trustees of the International New Thought Alliance.

In May, we distributed plants (donated by a local garden center) to our congregation. At the end of summer, we harvested a bumper crop! Our children, led by Rev. Diane Venzera, planted a huge garden behind the church that they had been tending and harvesting each week in anticipation of this project. Their Sunday lessons were about being good stewards of the earth, and taking responsibility for feeding those in need.

We wanted to share the wealth of this experience with our community and invited everyone to participate. Any Unity church or center can do this so easily. It will warm your heart and lift up your mind. It is so easy to feed the hungry! So much of the food collected by our wonderful local social service agencies is canned or processed, by necessity. We thought that we could each dedicate at least one vegetable plant and donate this healthier food to the hungry. We grew a container plant if we lived in an apartment, or at least one garden plant, if we had some land to do so.

Project Planning

The first thing to do is to contact garden centers and get donated plants. Pass these out in the spring. If you can have your kids grow a garden behind the church building, so much the better. Diane Venzera has a wonderful EarthCare curriculum that fits right in with this project. Then send out press releases and invite the greater community to participate. Finally, put out the marked baskets in the lobby and contact area shelters and food pantries to pick it up twice a week.

For more information, please call 847.297.0997, visit Unity Northwest's website at www.unitynorthwest.org, or contact Diane at dvenzera@gmail.com.

News from Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village

Daily Word Launches Mobile App

Before TV and radio, let alone the Internet and smartphones, *DailyWord* magazine has offered words of comfort, joy and inspiration to readers.

As *DailyWord* begins serving a new generation of readers, the magazine is launching its own mobile app as part of a new *DailyWord* Digital Subscription Package.

"We're always looking for ways to serve our loyal readers, as well as how we can reach out and share positive messages with more people," said *DailyWord* Editor Laura Harvey. "Many readers have been asking when we'll have a mobile app, and it's exciting to say that it's here!"

The *DailyWord* mobile app, which launched last fall, is compatible with iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, Android and Blackberry devices. The app makes it more convenient to read and share *DailyWord*, wherever you are.

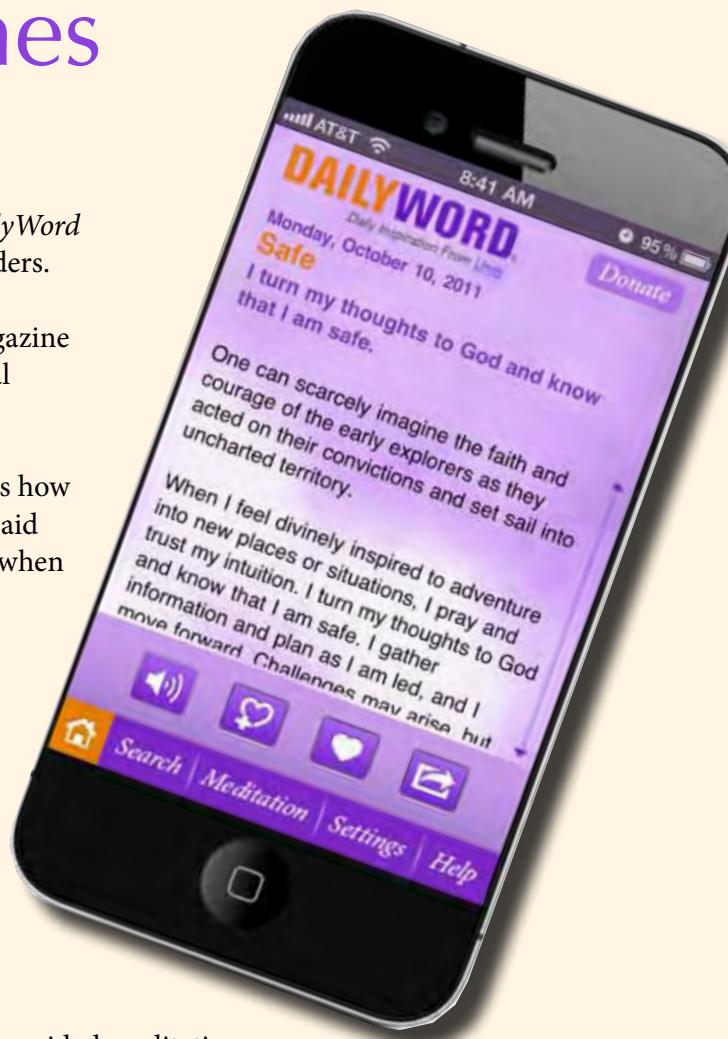
"One of my favorite features is being able to save a list of your favorite messages, and when a certain message touches your heart, to easily share it through email, Facebook or Twitter," Laura said.

Additional features include audio recordings of the daily messages, guided meditations, meditation music, and a searchable archive of messages from the past 85 years.

The *DailyWord* Digital Subscription Package is \$9.95 a year. In addition to the mobile app, it includes daily email delivery of each day's message and unlimited access to the *DailyWord* online magazine. Current print subscribers can upgrade their subscription to include the digital package for just \$5. A free 30-day trial of the *DailyWord* mobile app is also available.

"I hope readers will delight in always having past and present *DailyWord* messages at their fingertips—for those moments when they're waiting in line at the grocery store, needing a pep talk, or searching for the right words to comfort a friend," Laura said.

For more information, to subscribe, or to sign up for the 30-day free trial, visit dailyword.com/mobile.



Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village is a partner organization to the Unity Worldwide Ministries. It provides education, prayer through Silent Unity and publishing of *Daily Word*, *Unity Magazine* and other materials.

An Open Door Approach to Spiritual Community

by Rev. Erin McCabe, RevEunity@gmail.com

I loved going into Unity centers throughout the country and seeing the myriad ways Unity expresses as community and through Sunday services. I learned that each center and every minister has a unique expression. I also became keenly aware of how my mind processed elements of the Sunday morning experience as “me” and “not me.”

As I enter a sanctuary, there is a part of me that is on auto-pilot listening and looking for what fits and what doesn’t fit for me. The next automatic mind game is imagining how friends might respond to the experience. Would they be comfortable right now? Would this or that turn them off? What parts will resonate? Noticing those voices in myself, I strive to see the Sunday experience through various lenses and expand the compatibility factor to make room for diversity.

I want my language, the music, and the service experience to invite in everyone who would love the depth of Unity. I think sometimes that expression that is too specific or particular limits this invitation to a certain population or personality. That in no way implies a watered-down Unity message. On the contrary, I think it is a strong Unity message that invigorates people.

My theory: Open the door as wide as possible so folks can get that message. In fact, when feasible, take it off the hinges and leave it outside of the sanctuary. Language and image deeply impact initial impressions. I like to think of the open-door approach as spiritual multilingualism. Honoring diversity may mean that no one gets what they want all of the time, but everyone has the opportunity to get what they need. (Thank you, Rev. Jagger.) I think that adds to the strength of a spiritual community and a sacred service.

Over time, my vision for Sunday service has also evolved to include elements of workshop style communication. Realizing that not everyone makes the time to attend workshops and classes, it occurred to me to bring the workshop to the Sunday service. I like to provide opportunities to take the lesson deeper by creating space for reflection and personal processing. I think this shift, though simple and even subtle, assists the Sunday message in becoming a customized experience.

Then there is the one thing that is exactly the same in every Unity service. It is assuredly the most powerful, timeless and transformative aspect of any Unity service. The Silence. Everywhere I went, the Silence held the promise of perfection and universal language. I think that many are craving more time in the Silence. I never underestimate the effect that the harmonizing, healing, magnetizing power of substantial time together in the Silence has on ... well, everything.



Erin McCabe is the senior minister of Unity Village Chapel, Unity Village, Missouri. Prior to this, she served Unity of Montclair in New Jersey. She also spent two years on the road visiting Unity centers throughout the United States sharing her message, music and social action ministry of Campaign for Consciousness.

Keeping Close in Prayer

Reviewed by Rev. Bob Brach

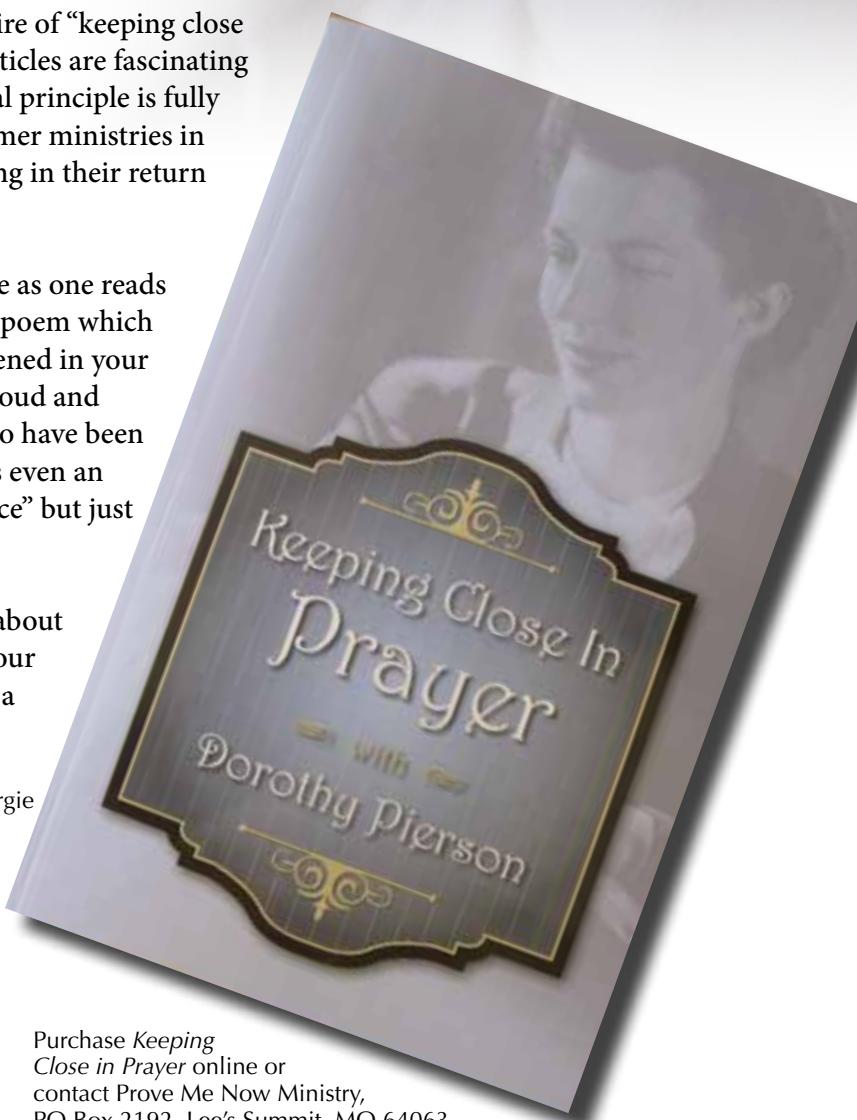
Looking for a book to lift your soul and your spirit? Reverend Dorothy Pierson has compiled such a work. Dorothy's self-published book, *Keeping Close in Prayer*, is a compilation of her articles which have appeared in her and her husband's Prove Me Now ministry newsletters over the past few years. The Piersons began their Prove Me Now ministry after leaving their ministry in Sacramento, California, and relocating to Bremerton, Washington.

They were seeking a way to keep in touch with the many dear ones to whom they had ministered in their Sacramento TV show ministry—dear ones that Dorothy often refers to as her and Phil's "family." Through a Spirit-orchestrated connection, the newsletter ministry came into being and Dorothy's desire of "keeping close in prayer" with the "family" was a reality. Dorothy's articles are fascinating vignettes of events in her and Phil's life where a spiritual principle is fully manifest. These little stories span events from their former ministries in Hawaii through Sacramento and Seattle and culminating in their return home to Unity Village.

Those who know Dorothy personally can hear her voice as one reads each article. Most of the articles are accompanied by a poem which relates to the spiritual principle that Dorothy has awakened in your heart. Yes, there is a poet in Dorothy and it comes out loud and clear. The book has several pages of photos of those who have been connected to the Piersons and their ministries. There is even an index of "who's who" for those of us who "know that face" but just can't quite recall the name.

Ahhh ... sweet memories. That is what this book is all about and it is about connection—connection to all those in our lives who have made a difference. After all, we are only a prayer away to keep close.

Bob Brach lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri, with his wife, Rev. Margie Brach, and their golden retriever, Duchess. Bob hosts the Unity Online radio show, *Unity Classic Radio: Words From Our Past*. Dorothy Pierson was a guest on this show and shared her direct connection with Unity's cofounder Charles Fillmore.



Purchase *Keeping Close in Prayer* online or contact Prove Me Now Ministry, PO Box 2192, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. (2011, 199 pages)

The Emerging Church: Thinking Evolutionally and Acting Demographically

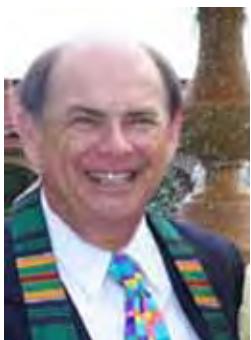
by Rev. Steve Maynard, steve@tlc4all.com

I'm a field minister pioneering a new community (The Transformative Living Center, a.k.a. TLC), so contemplating the emerging church is a very practical exercise in thinking globally and acting locally. While preparing to launch TLC, I identified two major topics that I feel TLC, as well as all twenty-first century churches, must address. Handling these two issues—evolution spirituality and the demographics of aging—are essential to serving our constituents and society in ways that are relevant and meaningful to the trajectory of contemporary life.

In a series of lectures in 1981-1984, mythologist Joseph Campbell (*The Inner Reaches of Outer Space*) observed, "All the gods are dead and the new ones are yet to be born." Campbell spoke this as a way of saying that the increase in humankind's knowledge since the Enlightenment has made obsolete the underlying mythological stories of the world's religious traditions. We need a new story that provides deeper meaning and greater relevance in light of the advances of scientific revelation and today's realities.

There is movement toward a new mythology within the emerging field of Evolution Spirituality. During his series on "The Advent of Evolutionary Christianity," author Michael Dowd (*Thank God for Evolution*) maintains that the direction is toward an evidentiary-based spirituality. Dowd calls this the most significant shift in religious formation since Martin Luther tacked his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Wittenberg church in 1517.

Indeed, there is significant activity in Evolutionary Spirituality throughout contemporary Christendom as well as in secular movements such as Integral Spirituality. Leading these changes takes vision and courage.



One person who is truly pioneering in this field is Barbara Marx Hubbard. With the support of The Shift Network, Barbara is sponsoring an initiative called Birth 2012 leading up to a Planetary Birth Day on December 22, 2012. This is a call for a shift to Conscious Evolution—of seeing ourselves with deep-time spiritual eyes in the context of 13.7 billion years of evolution and committing to the idea of "evolution by choice, not chance." Participation in Birth 2012 will be a significant spiritual commitment for the TLC community during the next two years.

Serving an Aging Demographic

TLC's second area of focus will address issues related to the demographics of aging. In 2011, the first of 78 million baby boomers celebrated their 65th birthdays. Today, the population of people aged 65 and older already greatly exceeds that of any time in human history. By 2050, people in that demographic will constitute over 40 percent of populations of the United States and other developed countries.

The sheer force of numbers will lead to changes in social and economic areas. But for the emerging church, there is also the fact that the spiritual imperatives for those in the second half of life differ significantly from those of life's first half. The first half is about "making a living" and the second half is about "making a life."

In the past, the demographic balance tilted so heavily toward the first-half population that society in general, and the church in particular, had been very first-half oriented. Religious institutions have not truly supported the transition into, and experience of, the second half of life in terms of age-appropriate spiritual growth.

As an emerging church, our goal at TLC will be to provide a balanced approach to both halves, including supporting the transition into the second half of life and promoting a meaningful dialogue between people in both phases. Specifically, we will soon launch an initiative called "Thrive After 45!" and a course (under the working title of) "Spirituality for Grown Ups." Our intention is to help each other live more fully every day, in every way, in a rapidly evolving environment.

Evolution Spirituality and the demographics of aging actually come together in a powerfully synergistic way. One view is that the increase in our species' life span has resulted in a newly evolved model of homo sapiens: a species with 30+ more years inserted into the middle of life, not added to the end. This is evolution in action! These added years afford us the opportunity to look anew at the human life cycle and the spirituality related to it.

Our quest for meaning may most likely call for us to move from a metaphysical to a meta-evolutionary viewpoint. To do this, we need to co-create the new mythology that Joseph Campbell was calling for —one that integrates new theology, new cosmology, new physics, and new biology. As we work on this new world view as "Agents of Conscious Evolution" (to use Barbara Marx Hubbard's term), we will truly be capable of thinking evolutionally and acting demographically!

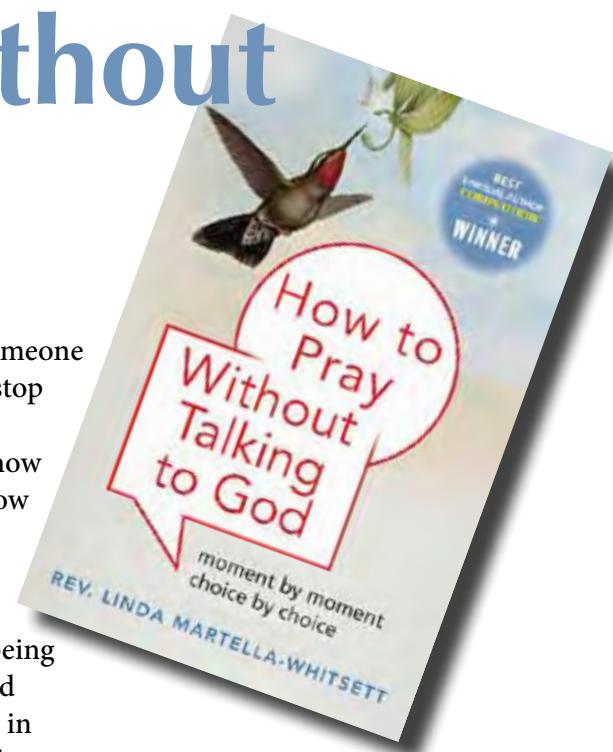
As we work on this new world view as "Agents of Conscious Evolution" (to use Barbara Marx Hubbard's term), we will truly be capable of thinking evolutionally and acting demographically!

Steve Maynard is founding minister of The Transformative Living Center (San Diego, CA) and co-founder, with his wife Olivia, of Thrive After 45!, an initiative serving people in the second half of life.

How to Pray Without Talking to God

Reviewed by Richard Mekdeci, LUT, music@unity.org

At some point in our movement's evolution, someone said, "We know that God is not a man, so let's stop referring to God as 'he.'" With that simple and obvious revision, a quantum leap occurred in how we express and verbalize our unique beliefs. Now Rev. Linda Martella-Whitsett, in her new book *How to Pray Without Talking to God: Moment by Moment, Choice by Choice*, has said in essence, "We know that God is not a separate being apart from us, so let's stop praying to God." And with this book, I believe another quantum leap in how we express and verbalize our theology will occur.



In very easy-to-discern language, Linda gives us the understanding and tools to change the way we pray by first changing the way we see ourselves. We teach and know that we are made in the image and likeness of the divine, yet so much of our prayer language is still steeped in a victim consciousness of helplessness, pleading and separation. This book will help the reader move from, as Charles Fillmore said, "a race of praying beggars" to fully expressed beings who realize that we ourselves are the answer to our prayers.

Order *How to Pray Without Talking to God* at www.ur-divine.com or at Amazon.com. For study group leaders: A downloadable seven-week guide is available for a fee.

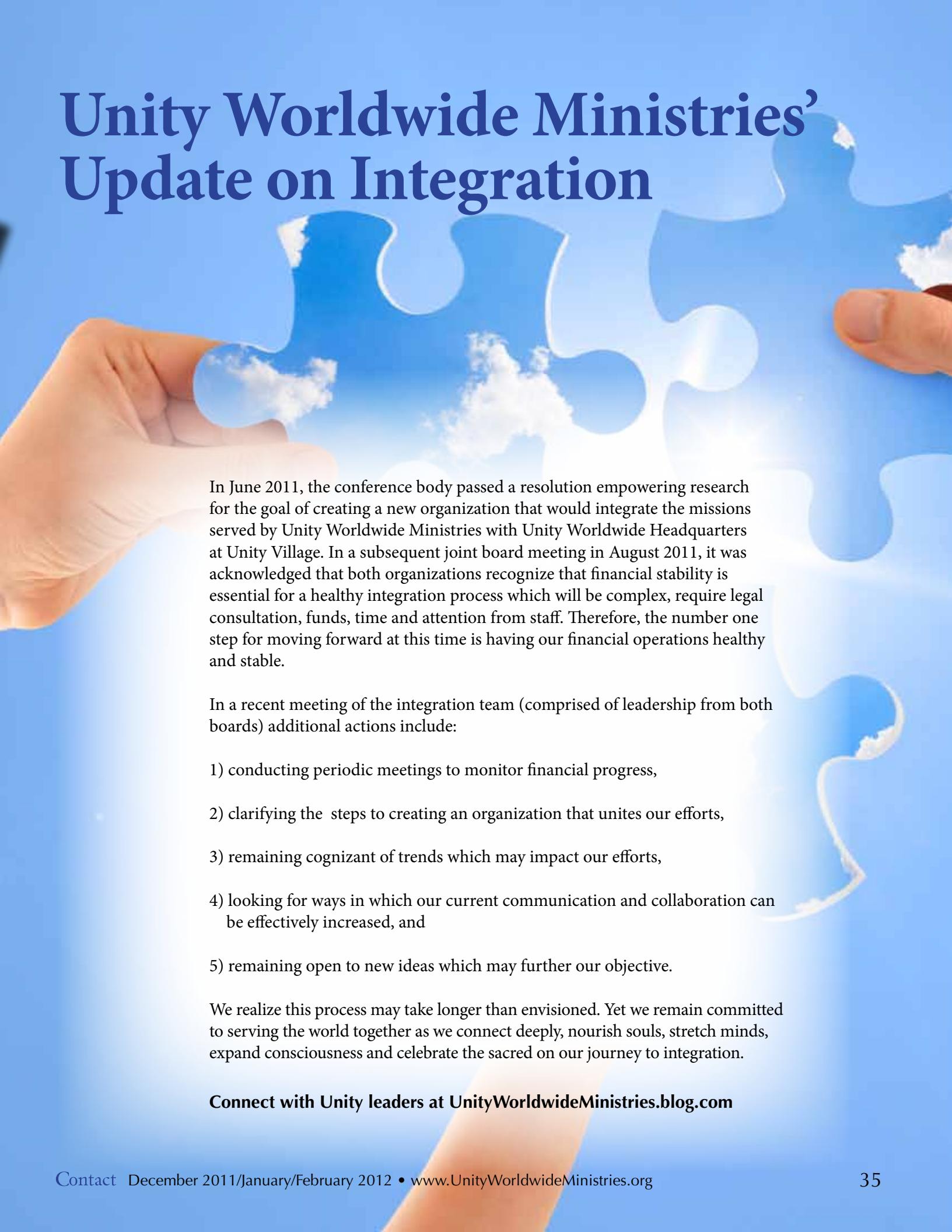
In making erroneous such terms as "divine potential" and "God is in charge," as well as language that personifies the divine, Linda gives us the gift of affirmative prayer, not as a way of getting stuff in our lives but as a way to realize and express our divine nature. In so doing, we will naturally manifest divinely. By first identifying with our divine nature and fully embodying the qualities we attribute to God (Fillmore's 12 Powers), we begin to view prayer not as a way of asking an external power to fulfill our needs, but as a way to express that divine nature so that our needs are met and our situations resolved from a higher, more empowered consciousness.

After establishing the why, Linda proceeds to give us the how in chapters that explain denials, affirmations, prayer and meditation in clear and inspiring ways, ending with beautiful suggestions of how to pray affirmatively with others.

This is a book that helps us more accurately align our verbiage with our beliefs. At a time in our history when we are striving to more clearly identify who we are and what we believe to the world, this is a book that needed to be written ... and needs to be read.

Richard Mekdeci is a licensed Unity teacher, cofounder of emPower Music & Arts, and the music ministry consultant at our home office.

Unity Worldwide Ministries' Update on Integration



In June 2011, the conference body passed a resolution empowering research for the goal of creating a new organization that would integrate the missions served by Unity Worldwide Ministries with Unity Worldwide Headquarters at Unity Village. In a subsequent joint board meeting in August 2011, it was acknowledged that both organizations recognize that financial stability is essential for a healthy integration process which will be complex, require legal consultation, funds, time and attention from staff. Therefore, the number one step for moving forward at this time is having our financial operations healthy and stable.

In a recent meeting of the integration team (comprised of leadership from both boards) additional actions include:

- 1) conducting periodic meetings to monitor financial progress,
- 2) clarifying the steps to creating an organization that unites our efforts,
- 3) remaining cognizant of trends which may impact our efforts,
- 4) looking for ways in which our current communication and collaboration can be effectively increased, and
- 5) remaining open to new ideas which may further our objective.

We realize this process may take longer than envisioned. Yet we remain committed to serving the world together as we connect deeply, nourish souls, stretch minds, expand consciousness and celebrate the sacred on our journey to integration.

Connect with Unity leaders at UnityWorldwideMinistries.blog.com

Creating Intentional Prosperity (Part II)

If you judge by appearance, and see there is great need or lack... do not allow yourself to be connected with the lack concept... connect with prosperity.... Some will say we are hard hearted, that we do not believe in helping others. That does not follow. The law operates for all. What are you connected with in thought?

—Charles Fillmore on the principle of the Law of Mind Action

by Rev. Toni G. Boehm, revtboehm@aol.com

In our first article, “Creating Intentional Prosperity, Part I,” we started with the premise that “the times they are a-changing and people are changing with them.” In this article we will share statistics from research gleaned from Giving USA, one of the premier e-zines devoted to fundraising, plus fundraising research of Clif Christopher. These statistics indicate what people gave to in the past, how much they gave, why they gave, and why that consciousness no longer holds true today. Remember, as consciousness evolves, why people give evolves.

Giving USA estimates that in 2009 giving reached \$303 billion, 2.1 percent of gross domestic product. The average household giving was \$1940. Additionally, 50% of all women are now in the work force and are in charge of the disposable household income.

What impact does this have for Unity? Our centers usually have 7 women to 3 men. So if women are in charge of household giving and Unity is predominantly women, then women and the programs that are of interest to them are a place that we need to be focusing our energies on as a potential channel of our good.

Twenty years ago, per Christopher, nearly 60% of all charitable giving went to religious organizations. In 2006, this percentage had dropped to 33% of \$295 billion donated to all charities. In 2009, although giving dropped overall by 3.2% to charitable organizations, religious organizations did not have a statistically significant drop noted.

How can we continue to speak in terms of negativity around giving, when people are still giving to religious organizations? So if your spiritual community felt an impact, what happened? Perhaps it is not because people aren’t giving, perhaps it is because there are changes occurring in giving that the leaders in your spiritual community have not picked up on yet.

In 1995, there were 600,000 501(c)(3)s (i.e., not-for-profits) and 370,000 churches; in 2009 the number of 501(c)(3)s grew to 1.2 million and we still have 370,000 churches. What

has shifted is the number and types of not-for-profits, and within this shift, nonprofit managers have become savvy fundraisers.

Donors want to give to a purpose that will transform lives, not to a new furnace. They will give to a new furnace, but greater giving occurs when the people know how the furnace will change the lives of the people within the spiritual community. For example, this furnace warms our children's education center where our children, who will become leaders, learn who they are as an expression of the One. Did you notice that furnace got lost and the reason why the furnace is important started popping through as a passion and enthusiasm for the children's program that is changing their lives?

Today, donors want to know that their gift will count, not towards a building, but towards changing lives. So we as ministers must learn why people give, what they give to, and how the current level of consciousness affects their giving. This calls for a shift in conscious awareness of us as ministers.

Although statistics are important, they are not what we stand on, for we only stand on principle. Statistics are not cause, they are effects. However, the effects are important to who we are and how we work with our financial base within the context of our spiritual community.

Giving Is a Science

Believe it or not, giving is a science. Organizations like Lilly, in tandem with Indiana University, are doing great research on giving. Their research includes data on why people give, what motivates them to give, how age or gender shifts the dynamics of giving, and much more.

Another great researcher on giving is Wal-Mart. Regardless of your feelings about Wal-Mart, they spend millions on research around giving. Yes, buying is giving money to something. Wal-Mart wants to know how and why people are willing to share their money. Giving is a phenomenon that can be researched.

In 1984, Jerold Panas wrote *Mega Giving* (what he discovered remains valid around reasons people give to charities). People in 1984 gave to charitable organizations because they wanted to:

- Make the world a better place
- Make a difference
- Be a part of something that changes lives
- Leave a legacy for themselves or someone they love

Today, per Christopher, people give for three basic reasons. These do not preclude the above reasons, but transcend and include:

- Belief in the mission
- Regard for the leadership staff
- Fiscal responsibility of the institution

Mr. Fillmore shared a story of a Scotsman, a gold farthing and a penny: A man had a gold sovereign and a penny in his pocket. When it was time to put his offering in the plate, he put the gold sovereign in the offering plate by mistake. When he realized what he did, he then wanted it back. He asked the deacon and the deacon said no. The man said, "Oh well I will get credit in heaven." The deacon replied, "No sir, you will get credit only for the penny, for that is what you meant to give." So, whatever you give, give with large ideas.

To know and understand information does not mean that you are not being spiritual or not being a good spiritual leader. If you know why people give, then you, as minister, can support them in their desire to give, and structure a strategic/spiritual plan that allows for giving that meets their individual needs. The people in front of you on Sunday mornings are indeed givers and they are your potential donors.

Abundance is a spiritual concept. Giving feeds the soul. Whether our giving is titheing of money or for-giving of love, it is all about giving of and from ourselves first. "Where our treasure is, so is our heart." And isn't our work about awakening people to all aspects of themselves?



Toni G. Boehm is an ordained Unity minister, certified organizational coach, and a workshop facilitator. Her latest workshop, Creating Intentional Prosperity, was co-created with Pat Bessey, ordained Unity minister. It is specifically for ministers, boards, and key leaders, for it is consciously and intentionally designed to create a shift in awareness within the spiritual community through the consciousness of the leaders. Contact Boehm at 816.304.3044 or via email for further information on this workshop or for a Fillmore-based teachings workshop.

After the offering plate was passed, Mr. Fillmore gave everyone a piece of paper and pen and said, "I know you just gave, so now, please put on this slip of paper the amount you desired to give. Write it out in your own handwriting in ink, the thing you wanted to give, and put it away somewhere.

"We make affirmations and put them in writing. [Myrtle and I] used to write out our desires, and they would come to pass in the most remarkable ways. A long time afterward, we would be looking over our papers and we would come across these ... and there had been fulfillment.

"So let us put them in writing and give them to God.... Jesus told the story of the woman who put her mite in the offering and she gave more than all the others. Why? It was what she gave in her mind and her heart that she got credit for."



BePeace Schools and Coaching to the U.S., Africa and Beyond

by Rev. Rita Marie Johnson, ritamarie@rasurfoundation.org

After 18 years in Costa Rica, I have relocated to Texas and established headquarters for Rasur Foundation International (RFI) there so we can continue to spread the BePeace Practice. Now over 500 U.S. participants have graduated from BePeace Foundations Courses, which I also teach at the UN University for Peace in Costa Rica for graduate credit. I am offering the same course there for noncredit, along with a tour, in January 2012. Our 45 associates are currently offering BePeace in the United States and Africa.

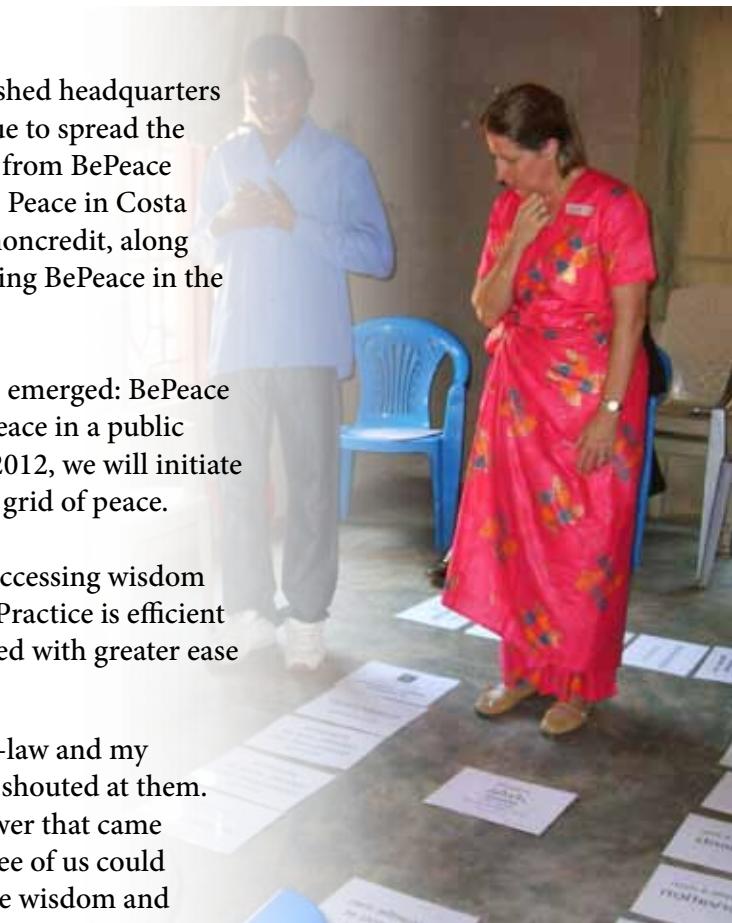
At our U.S. BePeace Trainers Launch in September, two priorities emerged: BePeace in schools and BePeace coaching. Now we are implementing BePeace in a public school, located in Houston, and are measuring the outcomes. In 2012, we will initiate an extensive network of BePeace coaches to establish a new earth grid of peace.

The emphasis in both the school program and in coaching is on accessing wisdom and compassion at will. After years of development, the BePeace Practice is efficient and consistent in achieving that aim, so daily issues can be resolved with greater ease and joy. Recently a BePeace graduate shared:

For some time, I observed many conflicts between my son-in-law and my grandchildren. I have cringed at the harsh, demeaning words shouted at them. So I used my BePeace Practice in processing this and the answer that came was to talk with my daughter. I called her and asked if the three of us could talk about guiding the children's development by accessing the wisdom and compassion of the heart. She agreed and the first step was for me to meet with my son-in-law. We began with the Feelings and Needs Cards and soon realized we had the same individual needs, as well as needs for the children's well-being, just different strategies. Then when I pointed out that the children had the same needs that he and I did for respect and consideration, he got "it" and he got "me." On my next visit to their home, the environment was much lighter. We are meeting soon to talk about positive strategies with the children that we can all support. I feel such deep appreciation for this outcome of my BePeace practice.

Imagine people all over the world, just like this grandmother, eliminating generational violence through peace practice. The human race has enough "know how" to establish world peace right now. Let's go for it!

Rita Marie Johnson is the founding director of Rasur Foundation International and creator of the BePeace Practice. She was instrumental in establishing a Ministry for Peace in Costa Rica and is working to create peace practice and infrastructure worldwide.



Diane Blomgren
teaching BePeace in
Africa.



For information on courses, tours and coaching, visit www.rasurinternational.org

The Power of Testimony

by Rev. Julie Armour

As spiritual leaders we know people want to make the world a better place to live. They want to be part of something that changes lives. When a Unity spiritual center shows its members how lives are being improved through its ministry, then the center gets support of many. We live our vision.

J. Clif Christopher writes in *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship* that he gets frustrated reading newsletters (and bulletins) of church after church that talk about the men's group breakfast on Saturday, the women's bazaar next Thursday, and the youth dance next Friday after the ball game. Then over in the corner, usually separated by a bold line so that it stands out, there are the financial statistics, which usually indicate that a certain amount was needed and a lesser amount was received, and that there is a deficit of something, with a quote underneath, "God loves a cheerful giver."

He writes, "When I see that I want to say, 'What have I got to be cheerful about? Did you show me one life story in this newsletter about how the church has been making our world better? Is there one life-changing story in the entire document? Do you really just exist so that men can have breakfast, women a bazaar, and youth can dance? What is it exactly that you want me to support?'"



Churches are not in business to balance budgets or manage money. They are in the business to change lives. They have no other reason to exist. As a pastor for 24 years, Christopher knows that the church changes the lives of many people, but we are doing a really good job of keeping it a secret for some reason.

After reading J. Clif Christopher's book, I decided to include five-minute testimonials in my Sunday service answering the question, "How has Unity of Evergreen made a difference in your life?" They are presented right before the offering. When members speak their Truth from their hearts, there is not a dry eye in the house. Last Sunday one member of my congregation remarked, "This was the best Sunday yet!"

With this in mind, we decided to run an advertising campaign in our local magazine, Colorado Serenity. The testimonials are interchanged with a short message from me. We end each article with a sentence describing Unity from our branding material. This is what's going on at Unity of Evergreen:

I am Rosalind Rogers and I am Unity of Evergreen.

"Last year, numerous life-changing events launched me into a journey of self-discovery. With my life crumbling around me, I hit the lowest point of my entire life. Not knowing how to "fix" my situation, I turned to God and stumbled upon Unity of Evergreen. Within this community of people, I discovered an amazing support group of friends, healing,

Unity offers practical spiritual teachings.

energy and strength. God replaced my void with a foundation from which to build a new life. People and circumstances appeared and moved me in directions I would never have thought to go. I am grateful for the opportunity to live my dreams and passion in this wondrous mountain community.”

Unity offers practical spiritual teachings that empower abundant and meaningful living, a message that deeply resonates in our unique mountain community. Join me at The Barn at EvergreenMemorial Park, Sundays at 9:30 a.m. —Rev. Julie Armour, Unity of Evergreen

When we use the words “I am” we are claiming from the great Creative Intelligence of the universe an identity for ourselves. Here are a few positive statements: I am love. I am abundance. I am peace. I am the Light of the World. So it is.

I am Jack Byrnes and I am Unity of Evergreen.

“My wife was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer on Easter, 2003. My family and I were devastated. Two years later, after a courageous battle, she died. My life then collapsed. I lost my business and home and I went bankrupt. I asked God, “What do I do now?!” Unity teaches Let go and Let God. Despondent and dejected, I told God, “I don’t care anymore; I give up; it’s all yours.” Incredibly, I felt instant relief and peace. From then on, a stream of miraculous events unfolded, putting my life back together, without my help, in ways I could never have imagined. Now I live a wonderful life, knowing I am never alone and every day is a gift.”

Now I live a wonderful life, knowing I am never alone and every day is a gift.

Unity offers practical spiritual teachings that empower abundant and meaningful living, a message that deeply resonates in our unique mountain community. Join me at The Barn at EvergreenMemorial Park, Sundays at 9:30 a.m. —Rev. Julie Armour, Unity of Evergreen

These testimonials have changed my life. We all remember going to our first church thinking we will preach the word of God and love the people into wholeness. Then business takes over and we spend more and more time balancing the budget and attending to administrative work. The testimonials given at my spiritual center truly remind me why I am a Unity minister. I am here to change lives for the better and to create a world that works for all! I love what I do.

Mark Your Calendar

J. Clif Christopher has written two books: *Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship* and *Whose Offering Plate Is It?: New Strategies for Financial Stewardship*. We are proud to announce Clif will be conducting a presentation on “New Strategies for Financial Stewardship” on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., at Unity Village during our January meetings. Clif has also done extensive judicatory work with churches. He will be working with our judicatory process on Monday night, January 23, 2012. We look forward to welcoming all of our Unity leaders to our meetings.

Getting Started With Social Media in 3 Easy Steps

by Ogun Holder, ogunholder@gmail.com and Jessica Best, jess@bestofjess.com

Social media can be overwhelming. There are so many options and concerns that it's understandable why many ministers and spiritual leaders have not yet taken the plunge. However, creating an online presence is as simple as 1-2-3: blog, Facebook, and Twitter.

A blog is a landing place to keep congregants connected during the week. You can share additional ideas that didn't make it into your talk, or engage your community with thought-provoking questions. Share transformative events in your own spiritual journey. No matter your level of web savvy, there's a free blog platform out there for you.

The dead-simple Posterous.com lets you post by emailing a post to your blog. If you want more options for personalizing your design and layout, try Wordpress.com or Blogger.com. Blogs work best when they are updated regularly; just 400-600 words at least once a week. If you're not sure what to talk about, start by reading what other bloggers have created. Figure out what you like and don't like. Check out the Featured Blogs on the www.unity.org homepage for a few good ones. (Check out the Unity Worldwide Ministries' blog at UnityWorldwideMinistries.blog.com)



Connect with Ogun Holder at www.unityforall.org.

Unsurprisingly, Facebook is the most popular social medium today. Often, ministers who are not using Facebook are concerned about privacy, or lack thereof. Try creating a purely professional Facebook profile as the leader of your spiritual community. Share specific spiritual and church endeavors and gauge how much personal information you want to share here.

Whereas blogs should be updated once a week, try to check in on your Facebook page every day or two. Frequent updates will keep you engaged with your community. Warning: Resist the temptation to over-share. It's a good place to place pictures of community activities and celebrations, and invite people to upcoming events. Connect to other churches and ministers to learn from what they do well.



Jessica Best, www.bestofjess.com, is marketing manager at Emfluence Interactive Marketing.

Twitter, despite its rapid adoption as a social medium, is rarely used by many ministries. Adding Twitter to your marketing plan can connect you to an entirely different audience than Facebook. Twitter is a better platform for reaching people interested in a topic, not just interested in your church, and it's much easier for your followers to share your messages. If your ministry has a propensity for healing, focus your posts on healing affirmations, prayers, and quotes. Use Twitter's search feature to find other accounts to follow by topic. Try to follow five new accounts every week; chances are they will follow you back and you'll start to grow your audience quickly.

Get Looped: An Invitation for Congregations to Support Adults with Hearing Loss

by Rev. Mary Heron Dyer, mary@journeyroad.org

I awoke on May 22, 2008, ready to leave the hospital after knee surgery. But something was wrong. I couldn't hear. Panicked, I rang a nurse to call my spouse Sheryl to come ASAP! As the day wore on, doctors trooped through, offering guarded opinions about my inexplicable deafness.

Home a week later, I hoped the steroids and antivirals might cure me. It soon became clear, however, I would be deaf for the rest of my life. I struggled with depression, fear, and by far the worst, isolation. Neither did I know sign language, nor could I—overnight—read lips. I grew up hearing, but suddenly I was stuck between the worlds of the hearing and the deaf. For seven months, everyone had to write out everything they said to me. A true test of friendship!

I now have a cochlear implant, giving me some hearing: mostly face-to-face, without background noise. Every time I go out, I have to “come out” as deaf, asking people to repeat. I cannot go to non-captioned movies. I struggle with telephones. I miss nuances in conversations.

Ironically, what is hardest is that most churches are inaccessible to me. They have neither thought about hearing loss (affecting some 40,000,000 people in the U.S.), nor have knowledge of hearing-assistive systems, other than a few having outdated FM systems with pocket receivers.

There is good news. Induction loops can be installed economically in churches. (The one Sheryl, a former electrical engineer, installed in her church sanctuary and fellowship hall cost around \$1,000 for the hardware.) An induction, or audio, loop is a wire setting up an electromagnetic field so someone with a telecoil (in most hearing aids) inside the “looped” area gets a direct “feed,” without the ambient noise that makes it nearly impossible for those with hearing loss to comprehend amplified speech. People without telecoils use a pocket receiver for direct feed.

Like Jacob wrestling with his angel to receive his blessing, I have to struggle over my deafness, but I will not let go without it becoming a blessing for others. If you can “hear” me, think about those who will not come to your church or who have perhaps already left because they cannot hear well enough, then do something about it.

If I come to your church next year, will I, a person with hearing loss, be truly welcomed?

Mary Heron Dyer, ordained Unity minister and her spouse, Rev. Sheryl Butler (Disciples of Christ), created a shared ministry, Ephphatha Ministry, to inform and consult with congregations about hearing-assistive technologies.

If I come
to your
church next
year, will
I, a person
with hearing
loss, be truly
welcomed?



Communications Survey Results

The Communications Task Team at Unity Worldwide Ministries wants to take this opportunity to thank the Unity Worldwide Ministries Communications Circle (see list of names for both groups at end of article) for their help in creating the 2011 communications survey. We are especially grateful to Marti Hayes for her assistance using Survey Monkey, and to the 335 individuals who took the time to respond to this survey, making it a great success. The results will assist us in serving all of our constituents efficiently and effectively.

The Communications Task Team at Unity Worldwide Ministries wants to take this opportunity to thank the 335 individuals who took the time to respond to this survey, making it a great success.

Here are some of the results that we thought might interest you.

What is the approximate size of your spiritual community?

	Response Percent	Response Count
1,000 +	4.0%	13
500-1,000	4.0%	13
300-500	3.1%	10
150-300	13.5%	44
50-150	41.3%	135
0-50	26.0%	85
Not applicable	8.3%	2

Of the 335 individuals responding, 327 answered this question; 8 skipped this question.

Do you have a computer with internet access at your ministry?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	92.5%	273
No	7.5%	22

Of the 335 individuals responding, 295 answered this question; 40 skipped this question.

How often do you use the internet to research topics that relate to running your ministry?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily	49.3%	144
Weekly	37.0%	108
Monthly	5.1%	15
Less than once a month	8.6%	25

Of the 335 individuals responding, 292 answered this question; 43 skipped this question.

**If your ministry sends out a newsletter to congregants, how is it distributed?
(Select all that apply.)**

	Response Percent	Response Count
Hard copy (paper) via USPS	12.9%	38
Electronically via email	52.4%	154
Both	30.3%	89
N/A	8.5%	25
Other (please specify)*	14.3%	42

Of the 335 individuals responding, 294 answered this question; 41 skipped this question.

*(Other methods of distribution include: posted on website with email notification of post; hard copies distributed at church; blog; YouTube.)

What are your PREFERRED ways to communicate with congregants?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Hard copy via USPS	15.0%	44
Electronically via email	88.1%	259
Telephone/conference call	27.9%	82
Website	55.8%	164
Facebook	37.8%	111
Video	4.4%	13
Events	17.7%	52
Weekly Sunday bulletins	60.2%	177
Bulletin boards	27.9%	82
Newsletter	36.7%	108
Other (please specify)*	21.4%	63

Of the 335 individuals responding, 294 answered this question; 41 skipped this question.

*(Other methods of communication with congregants include: verbal announcements during Sunday worship service or during fellowship after service; PowerPoint slides before, during and/or after service; blogs; Facebook; Twitter; Meetup.com; flyers; personal notes; personal visits to groups; “Save the date” postcards listing all events every two months; video updates (YouTube); Skype; town hall meetings; prayer support programs such Chaplain and Befriender; monitor in foyer with PowerPoint slides of events and announcements and flyers with more info, to take on the post below the monitor.)

Some methods ministries use to distribute newsletter to congregants include:

- posted on website with email notification of post
- hard copies distributed at church
- blog
- YouTube

What feedback loops does your ministry use to receive feedback from your congregants? (Select all that apply.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Hard copy via USPS	17.5%	51
Electronically via email	77.0%	224
Telephone / conference call	48.5%	141
Website	29.9%	87
In-house surveys	43.0%	125
Town hall meetings	59.5%	173
Other (please specify)*	23.0%	67

Of the 335 individuals responding, 291 answered this question; 44 skipped this question.

*(Other methods used for feedback include: periodic informal meetings called Minister's Fireside Chat, organized around specific topics; ministry teams; individual telephone calls; quarterly meetings following the morning service; weekly "Connection Cards" that are inserted into the bulletin and are collected at the end of the service; face to face; in-house surveys; suggestion box; idea/feedback box; handwritten notes; Facebook Church Group Page; community gatherings; congregational meetings; fellowship; monthly "Helping Unity Grow" HUG meetings; blogs; Appreciative Inquiry; asking for feedback through announcements; Constant Contact survey; communication card in bulletin; planning day at beginning of year for board, minister(s) and congregation; team reports; ambassadors, prayer chaplain and minister private lines and voice mails.)

How do you receive feedback from your congregants?

- Emails
- Town Hall Meetings
- Phone calls
- Surveys
- Website

Which of the following electronic methods or devices does your ministry use? (Select all that apply.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
PowerPoint presentations	61.8%	181
Live-streaming	11.9%	35
CDs of Sunday services	68.9%	202
DVDs of Sunday services	12.3%	36
MP3	19.8%	58
Podcasting	18.4%	54
None of the above	11.6%	34
Other (please specify)*	14.7%	43

Of the 335 individuals responding, 293 answered this question; 42 skipped this question.

*(Other methods used include: YouTube; TV ministry on our city's cable access channel; "We are an all-Mac church, so we use Keynote instead of PowerPoint;" Sunday Plus for computer/projector presentations; teleconferencing and video conferencing; Unity.fm; Easy Worship YouTube videos shown during service; VHS tapes and DVDs of Unity Village and AUCI presentations for new member classes.)

**What type of presence does your spiritual community have on the internet?
(Select all that apply.)**

	Response Percent	Response Count
Website	94.5%	273
Facebook page	65.4%	189
Twitter account	11.1%	32
You Tube account	9.3%	27
Blog	13.1%	38
Other (please specify)*	10.7%	31

Of the 335 individuals responding, 289 answered this question; 46 skipped this question.

(Other methods used include: weekly inspirational message via email (Constant Contact or other email list servers); a social media page that links all of these together; Meetup.com; Four Square; The Upper Colfax Business District Website advertises for us for free.)

Spiritual Community
online presence:

- Website
- Facebook page
- Blog
- Twitter

What non-Unity Worldwide Ministries newsletters and publications do you subscribe to that provide you with the most helpful information on running your ministry?

Responses to this question are varied and include a number of political and/or local, national and international newspapers or websites. These have not been listed. The others have been divided into seven broad categories. Their content has not been evaluated, but many of them are quite interesting. Some of those included on the list are Unity. They have been included due to their popularity. All sources are listed in alphabetical order, with the most popular ones in bold. Explore them at your leisure.

Inspirational Messages or People

Many respondents receive daily or weekly inspirational messages. Many also follow spiritual leaders via facebook, twitter, individual blogs, or simply by visiting their websites. These include:

Abraham–Hicks: Esther and Jerry Hicks

AMORC—the Ancient Mystical order Rosae Crucis AKA the Rosicrucians

Andrew Harvey

Barbara Marx Hubbard

Bishop John Shelby Spong

Bruce Sanguin

Daily Focus: (Spirit Expressing: Rev. Ed Townley)

Daily Om

Dennis Merritt Jones

Ian Lawton

Inspirations of Daily Living: Rev. Johnny Coleman

Ken Wilber
Mary Manin Morrissey
Mood Raiser.com
Neale Donald Walsch
Notes from the Universe: Mike Dooley
Positive Christianity: Rev. Christopher Ian Chenoweth
Rick Warren
Speaking Circles: Lee Glickstein
Spiritual Directors International
Temple Hayes
TGIM (Thank God It's Monday) available at Vision Builders
Institute: Rev. Margaret Shepherd
Tom Atlee
The Gentle Way newsletter
Wendy Craig-Purcell

Religious, Mystical or Metaphysical Magazines or Websites

Favorite religious,
mystic or metaphysical
magazines or websites:

- AGNT
- The Alban Institute
- The Fourth R
- INTA Magazine

A.R.E. Newsletter (Association for Research and Enlightenment-Edgar Cayce Foundation)
AGNT (Association for Global New Thought), which includes
A Season for Nonviolence
The Alban Institute
Anthroposophy.org (Anthroposophical Society of America)
Association of Professional Chaplains
Beliefnet.com
Christianity Today
Church Volunteer Central.com
CNVC.org (Center for Nonviolent Communication-Compassion Weekly)
Congregations Magazine (from the Alban Institute)
Creative Thought (International Centers for Spiritual Living)
Daily Good.org
Daily Lift (Pod casts from Christian Science.com)
Elighthen Next
Evolutionary Christianity (Michael Dowd)
The Fourth R (The Westar Institute)
Friends of Ministry.com
Foundation for Contemporary Theology

Guideposts
Holacracy One
Hundred Fold Ministries International
INTA Magazine (International New Thought Alliance)
Integral Life.com
The Kabbalah Center
The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center
National Campus Ministries Association
Nipun Metha
Ode Magazine
Progressive Christianity
Pulpit Resource from Logos Productions
Rev. Magazine
Science and Health
Science of Mind Magazine
Sojourners
Storytelling Magazine (The National Storytelling Network)
The Shift Network
Truth Unity.net
Veritas Press and Veritas Publishing (David R. Hawkins)
Worship Leader (a resource for pastors, musicians, sound and visual technicians)

Favorite church administration resources and/or websites

- Alban Institute
- Church Law and Tax
- Edutopia
- Nacba.net
- Outreach
- PEW Forum Weekly

Church Administration Resources and/or Websites

Alban Institute
Church Law and Tax
Church Development
Church Marketing University
Church Mutual.com
Church Safety.com
Edutopia (Education for Children)
Free Church Accounting.com
Nacba.net (National Association of Church Business Administration)
Outreach
PEW Forum Weekly
Power Church
UUA.org (Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations)

Leadership

BARNA Group.org

BePeace

Board Source.org

Leadership Freak (leadershipfreak blog @ wordpress.com)

Leadership Weekly

Moonlady news

Volunteer Central

Various unspecified web sites for fundraising and youth education

Bible and Scripture Resources or Metaphysical Literature

Bible Gateway

Internet Sacred Text Archives (free archive of books about religion, mythology, folklore and the esoteric)

Journey with Jesus

New Thought Library.com (provides free access to metaphysical books online)

Other Resources

Many respondents belong to **local Interfaith groups**.

They read and/or write articles for the **Religions section of their local newspapers**.

They listen to **NPR** (National Public Radio) and use the NPR website as a resource – specifically Speaking Faith and The Writers Almanac by Garrison Keilor.

They also use internet websites such as **Jokes.com** for adding humor to their Sunday lessons.

Q Process – an internet resource for IT people

Other non-religious magazines listed included *O Magazine*, *Reader's Digest*, *Yes! Magazine* and *Psychology Today*.

The Unity Worldwide Ministries Communications Ministry Task Team consists of the following members:

Rev. Shirley Bowman, Chair

Rev. Jamie Sanders, liaison UWM Board of Trustees

Rev. Kristen Preud'homme

Rev. Kelly Isola

Rev. Carla McClellan

Angela Denton

Sally Falk

Rev. Ross Campbell

Paula Coppel

Continued on page 51

Are you aware that the web has moved to 3.0 now? It's called "recommender" technology. Amazon tells you: If you like this book, you will probably like this other book. What should we do at Unity Worldwide Ministries with "recommender" technology, if anything? Contact Kris@unity.org with your suggestions.

Rev. Mark Fuss
Cheryl Vestal
Joanna Carrell
Past member: Angie Olsen

Unity Worldwide Ministries Communication Circle

Team members:

Debbie Allen
Joanna Carrell
Cheryl Vestal
John Lombardo
Debbie Ball
Kim Shawd
Kristen Preud'homme

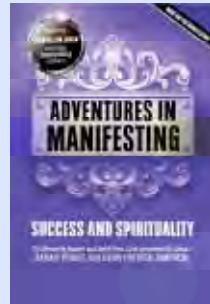
What Are You And Your Members Manifesting?

The **Adventures In Manifesting** series was created to empower inner transformation through the embodiment of metaphysical teachings. Presently there are 2 books in the series (**Adventures in Manifesting Success and Spirituality** and **Adventures in Manifesting Health and Happiness**), with plans to create more in the near future. The series features many of the experts who were interviewed in "The Secret" along with other bestselling international writers and speakers such as; Joe Vitale, Fred Alan Wolf, Loral Langemeier, Marilyn Joyce, Brian Tracy... and more.

As you know, the collective power of intent is unstoppable. Order now and empower yourself and others to become more abundant and able to step into your power more fully in every area of your life! The books retail at \$27 yet if you place an order for 5 or more you'll receive your copies for just \$22! With Christmas just around the corner this is a perfect time for providing a meaningful gift that keeps on giving all year long.

MaryEllen Jirak, MA.ED. Author: The Gift of ADD: Secrets for Transforming Liabilities into Possibilities & Quantum Blessing

orders to: mejirak@earthlink.net



Fish Tales

Public Speaking Coaching for Ministers

- Looking to have more fun preparing your Sunday talks?
- Have they become too routine?
- Want to spend less time preparing your talks and still be inspirational?

Get one-on-one public speaking coaching with a communications expert!

Robert Fish, Ph.D. in Speech Communications, has been teaching and coaching public speaking for 45 years. Most recently, he was the communications instructor at Unity Institute and Seminary at Unity Village. He now offers one-on-one coaching services for ministers and spiritual leaders worldwide. As a proven expert and master storyteller, he can coach you via Skype no matter where you live.

Practice storytelling with a master storyteller!

- Connect more deeply with your congregation.
- Learn practical suggestions to use right away.
- Make ideas come to life through storytelling.
- Have fun writing and delivering your talks.
- Prepare your talks in less time.
- Receive positive and constructive feedback.
- Play to your strengths.
- Re-discover your natural speaking style.
- Energize your delivery.
- Gain confidence using new techniques.

Call for a FREE one-hour consultation



Robert Fish, Ph.D.
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Join us at the 2012 Unity People's Convention

P U L L E D B Y A
VISION

June 11-15, 2012

Detroit Marriott at
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Detroit, MI



For more information, call Debbie Ball at 816.434.6836