

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF UNITY

Myrtle and Charles dared to dream, and today their dream continues to be an expanding reality. The Unity movement has a wonderful history that begins in the late 1800's. Unity theology was first put forth by Myrtle and Charles Fillmore. Here is their story and a chronology of the Unity movement:

- 1845** Mary Caroline Page (Fillmore) was born in Pagetown, Ohio, August 6. As a small girl, she adopted the name Myrtle. She graduated from Oberlin College and later secured a teaching position in Clinton, Missouri. Not a robust person, she was reared in the belief that she was a semi-invalid because she had inherited tuberculosis.
- 1854** Charles Sherlock Fillmore was born in St. Cloud, Minnesota, August 22. He did not have a formal education.
- 1864** Charles was in a skating accident; his hip was dislocated, and disease of the hip developed, leaving him with a withered leg.
- 1869** Charles went to work as a printer's helper. He was tutored by Mrs. Edgar Taylor and was influenced by the writings of Shakespeare, Tennyson, Emerson, and Lowell. He later worked as a grocery clerk and in a bank.
- 1874** Charles left Minnesota for Caddo, just north of the Texas border in the Indian Territory that is now Oklahoma. Later that year he left Caddo for Dennison, Texas.
- 1876** Charles met Myrtle Page in Texas.
- 1879** Charles became a mule-team driver in Colorado. He later became an assayer and sold real estate. Myrtle left Texas and returned to Clinton, Missouri.
- 1881** Charles and Myrtle Fillmore married and settled in Colorado.
- 1882** Their first son, Lowell Fillmore, was born in Pueblo, Colorado.
- 1884** The Fillmore's' second son, Waldo Rickert Fillmore, was also born in Pueblo. The Fillmore family moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where Charles sold real estate.
- 1886** Charles and Myrtle attended a New Thought lecture by Dr. E. B. Weeks. Myrtle, who was very ill, quickly accepted the ideas presented: *I AM A CHILD OF GOD. THEREFORE I CANNOT INHERIT DISEASE.*
- 1887** Charles' interest in New Thought plunged him into the study of many religions and philosophies. He had a dream that foretold his work in Kansas City.
- 1888** Myrtle was completely healed of a lifelong tubercular condition.
- 1889** Having witnessed Myrtle's healing, Charles Fillmore opened himself to the healing process taking place in him. He gave up his business and devoted all his time to the study and mastery of Truth teachings. The first issue of *Modern Thought* was published. Charles and Myrtle's third son, John Royal Fillmore, was born.

- 1889** Society of Silent Help is founded. 1891 it became known as the Society of Silent Unity.
- 1890** *Modern Thought* became *Thought*. First Unity Ministry is formed at 9th & Tracy in Kansas City
- 1891** Charles named the movement Unity.
The first issue of *Unity* magazine was published, with the winged-globe emblem.
The word *Magazine* was officially incorporated into the title in 1994.
- 1892** Charles and Myrtle Fillmore made their "covenant," which was discovered among Myrtle's papers in 1942.
Dr. H. Emile Cady's first article appeared in *Unity Magazine*.
Unity Book Company was established.
- 1893** The first issue of *Wee Wisdom*, a children's magazine was published. Publication ceased in 1991.
- 1894** The first "Lesson in Truth" appeared in *Unity Magazine*. [Lessons in Truth](#) (H. Emile Cady) became Unity's first published book. Church gatherings were referred to as "Unity Meetings".
- 1895** *Thought* was consolidated with *Unity Magazine*.
The Fillmore's became vegetarians.
- 1896** Fillmore's teach first classes on Practical Christianity.
- 1897** Unity Tract society was founded 1897
Unity was identified as 'The Unity Society of Practical Christianity' for 1st time.
- 1903** Kansas City Unity Society of Practical Christianity was incorporated as a nonprofit church organization that Charles Fillmore led until his retirement.
- 1905** The Fillmore's started Unity Inn (vegetarian) at 913 Tracy Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri.
- 1906** The cornerstone for the Unity Society building was laid at 913 Tracy Avenue. After testing, Charles and Myrtle accepted ordination as Unity ministers. They then ordained seven other ministers.
- 1909** *Weekly Unity* began publication, with Lowell Fillmore as editor.
The Unity Correspondence School was established. It was discontinued in 1973.
- 1910** Construction was started on new Unity School headquarters at 917 Tracy Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri.
Silent-70 was organized to distribute free literature.
The Prosperity Bank plan was begun.
- 1914** Unity School of Christianity was incorporated. (included within its organizational structure: the Unity Tract Society, the Society of Silent Unity, the Unity Correspondence School, the Silent-70, and the Unity Pure Food Company.
- 1915** The new Unity headquarters building at 917 Tracy Avenue was dedicated.

- 1916** Clara May Rowland became director of Silent Unity.
- 1919** Unity School established a Field Department to support study groups and ministries (a precursor to AUC)
- 1919 to 1922** An Intensive Training School was formed for training of study group leaders and field ministers.
- 1920** The first fifty-eight acres of the present Unity Village site were purchased in Jackson County, Missouri. The new Unity Inn opened at Ninth Street and Tracy Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri.
- 1922** The First Unity radio talk was given over station WOQ, Kansas City. A new magazine, *The Christian Business Man*, was launched.
- 1923** Royal Fillmore (Charles and Myrtle's son) made his transition.
- 1924** Radio station WOQ was purchased by Unity and moved to 917 Tracy Avenue. Charles Fillmore devoted much time to radio lecturing. The first issue of *Unity Daily Word* was published.
- 1925** A home, named "The Arches" was built at Unity Farm for Charles and Myrtle.
- 1926** *The Christian Business Man* was changed to *Christian Business*.
- 1927** *Youth* magazine was launched. The Sunday School Department was started.
- 1928** The first meeting of Unity leaders was held at Unity Farm. A lot was purchased in Kansas City's Country Club Plaza district to build Unity Temple on the Plaza. The first Annual Unity Convention was held at Unity Farm.
- 1929** The Tower and the Silent Unity building at Unity Farm were completed and occupied.
- 1931** Myrtle Fillmore made her transition. Unity Training School created a systematic training program for ministers and study group leaders. Sessions were held at Unity Farm. The *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*, compiled by Charles Fillmore, was published.
- 1933** An official Ministerial Training program was established. *Christian Business* was changed to *Good Business*. *Youth* was changed to *Progress*, which was discontinued in 1968. Charles Fillmore retired from the pulpit of Unity Society of Practical Christianity. On December 31, Charles Fillmore and Cora G. Dedrick were married.
- 1934** Unity ministers were organized as the Unity Ministers Association. Radio station WOQ was discontinued.
- 1939** The Unity movement celebrated its golden anniversary. *Unity Daily Word* was changed to *Daily Word*.

- 1940** Construction at Unity Farm (which had been suspended during the great depression) was resumed.
- 1942** The Heritage Room library was established.
- 1945** The first residential ministerial training program was established. Minority students were not allowed to live on campus at Unity Village at that time.
- 1947** The Printing Department moved from Kansas City to Unity Farm.
- 1948** Charles Fillmore made his transition July 5. His son, Lowell Fillmore was named President of Unity School.
- 1949** The new Administration building at Unity Farm was completed.
- 1951** The first spiritual retreat was held at Unity Farm.
- 1952** Wee Wisdom School, a preschool based on Montessori methods, was established. It was discontinued in 1982. Unity Training School began a teacher certification program (Licensed Unity Teachers).
- 1953** Unity Farm was named Unity Village and was incorporated on April 13. Unity's first television program was begun by Rosemary Fillmore Rhea, daughter of W. Rickert Fillmore.
- 1964** The Association of Unity Churches was founded to support all Unity ministries.
- 1965** W. Rickert Fillmore (Charles & Myrtle's son) made his transition. The Field Department was abolished by Unity School.
- 1966** The Department of World Unity , now known as World Outreach, was established. The Association of Unity Churches was incorporated. The School for Ministerial and Religious Studies was established to train Unity ministers. *Good Business* merged into *New Magazine*.
- 1967** The Unity Institute of Continuing Education was established to provide educational programs for Unity students. A carillon was installed in Unity Tower in honor of W. Rickert Fillmore.
- 1969** The Unity radio-television program "The Word" was launched. It ceased airing in 1992. The Association of Unity Churches assumed responsibility for educating and training ministers.
- 1970** The Unity Cassette Department was begun.
- 1971** James Dillet Freeman succeeded May Rowland Bezio as director of Silent Unity.
- 1972** *Weekly Unity* and *New* were incorporated into *Unity Magazine*. Charles Rickert Fillmore was named president of Unity School.

Lowell Fillmore was named president emeritus.

- 1973** The Correspondence Courses study program was discontinued.
- 1974** The fiftieth anniversary of Daily Word Magazine was celebrated.
- 1975** Lowell Fillmore made his transition.
A ceremony was held to dedicate two new buildings: Unity Inn and Unity World Headquarters Activities Center.
- 1977** The Lowell Fillmore Memorial Garden was dedicated.
Dedication of a historical marker honoring the birthplace of Myrtle Page Fillmore was held at Pagetown, Ohio.
- 1978** The Unity Village Community and Visitors Center was completed.
- 1979** Celebration of Unity's ninetieth anniversary.
Unity School for Ministerial and Religious Studies was renamed Unity Ministerial School.
- 1980** Unity School for Religious Studies (USRS) was established by the Education Department. A studies program was established for personal study and Licensed Unity Teacher certification. The program was later named **Continuing Education Program**, then **Spiritual Enrichment & Education**.
- 1983** John A. V. Strickland succeeded James Dillet Freeman as director of Silent Unity.
Unity School of Religious Studies expanded to resume responsibility for the ministerial education program.
- 1984** Connie Fillmore Bazy was appointed executive vice president of Unity School.
- 1987** Connie Fillmore Bazy succeeded Charles R. Fillmore as president of Unity School.
The Unity Development Department was formed.
The Unity Movement Advisory Council was formed.
- 1989** Celebration of Unity's Centennial.
The new Silent Unity building and the Unity School of Christianity Historical District were dedicated.
Chris Jackson was named an executive vice president **OF SILENT UNITY????????????????????**
- 1990** Jim Rosemergy was named an executive vice president **OF WHAT???????**
USRS offered a Continuing Education Program in Spanish.
- 1991** Mary-Alice and Richard Jafolla succeeded John A. V. Strickland as directors of Silent Unity.
- 1994** Silent Unity satellite ministries were established in Germany, New Zealand, Australia, France, Ghana, Great Britain, and Mexico.
The first annual World Day of Prayer was organized.
- 1995** The first Unity World Conference was held in Birmingham, England.
- 1996** Unity World Headquarters established a home page on the computer Internet (<http://www.unityworldhq.org>).
Leadership Development Program was established.

