

EarthCare Connections



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

www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare earthcare@unity.org

*The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth. This we know.
All things are connected like the blood that unites one family.
Chief Seattle*

Federal Funding Available for Church Upgrades



The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) that was signed into law in August 2022 included the greatest investment in climate care provisions in history.

Did you know that there is Federal Funding for Energy Upgrades for Churches?

The investment in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is historic and imperative in addressing the urgent moral issue of climate justice.

Churches are able to access clean energy funds and tax credits through a program called "direct pay." Even though churches do not pay taxes, under this program, they are still eligible for rebates on energy efficiency upgrades, wind, solar, and other improvements.

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Interfaith Power & Light affirms that "As people of faith and conscience, this is our opportunity to help bring about a just transition to a clean energy economy based on the values we all share: caring for one another and for our Sacred Earth."

To learn more about how faith communities can take advantage of these federal programs, please visit Interfaith Power and Light by going to <https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/federal-funding/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=6a3cca13-b864-4d86-8091-8996181130a8>. Additional details can be found at <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1533>.

More Climate Actions

1. Have your church governing body adopt an EarthCare Plan. The plan establishes the policy for areas, in which your environmental leaders will initiate specific actions. You can find an excellent sample EarthCare Plan on the EarthCare webpage (www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare). The document is called, "UCOP Earth Care

Plan, 6.13.12.”

2. Encourage your local government to adopt a sustainability plan. The plan should include:
 - i. Initiate a Greenhouse Gas Inventory.
 - ii. Develop an urban forest master plan that allows the planting of native plants.
 - iii. Update city codes to require environmentally responsible building practices.

Kansas City has adopted an excellent model Climate Coalition Action Plan for your elected officials to follow. Its VISION is for Kansas City to be carbon-neutral, equity-focused, and resilient by 2040. A copy of the Action Plan can be downloaded at:

<https://www.kcmo.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8191/637834529092870000>

3. Become a member of your local planning commission or environmental committee. This is the best way to make your voice heard and implement environmentally sustainable policies.

The Powers of Love, Life and Power are Online

Each Power module includes an affirmation, prayer, article, Sunday talk, self-directed micro-learning, sample youth lesson, an Eco-Celebration and additional resources.

LIFE



The Unity spiritual power of Life is about vitality, regeneration, creation, and it is magnificently displayed in Nature and the totality of Creation. In this module we focus on the spiritual POWER OF LIFE and how it relates to and is enhanced by nature and EarthCare.

By the end of this module learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of life as a spiritual principle.
- Identify links between life as spiritual principle and the life force in **nature in ways** that can benefit Unity teachings.
- Integrate the spiritual principle of life into Unity services and teachings.

LOVE



The Unity spiritual power of Love is the idea of universal unity. In expression, it is the power that joins and binds together the universe and everything in it. Many of us feel love for the magnificence of nature and Creation. This module focuses on the spiritual POWER OF LOVE and how it relates to and is enhanced by nature and Earthcare.

By the end of this module learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of love as a spiritual principle.
- Identify links between love as spiritual principle and the awe, connection to, and concern for nature in ways that can benefit Unity teachings.
- Integrate the spiritual principle of love and Earth care into Unity services and teachings.

POWER



The Unity spiritual power of Power is all about achieving mastery of ourselves to transform our lives and our world. We are at a point in human evolution in which we need to tap into the power to do what is necessary to restore the Earth and create a sustainable living for generations to come. In this module we focus on the spiritual POWER OF POWER and how it relates to and is enhanced by nature and EarthCare. Our magnificent planet is a wonderful demonstration of, and classroom for experiencing Divine Power.

By the end of this module learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of POWER as a spiritual principle.
- Identify links between POWER as spiritual principle and the human interaction with nature and the whole of creation.
- Integrate the spiritual principle of POWER as related to Earth/Creation care into Unity services and teachings.
- Use the wisdom expressed by nature to reveal lessons that will enrich our lives.

Collaborative Call Innovative Actions



Mary Gerken hosts these calls monthly. A different topic is highlighted each time. One of the benefits of participating in these calls is that they provide a way for you to connect with other churches in your respective region and open new avenues to collaborate. For the date and time, please email Mary, at agreatpickle@gmail.com.

Here is a summary of activities being undertaken by recent participants:

1. Sante Fe, NM– Raising awareness of the many actions including suggestions in newsletter, composing, recycling for others congregants.
2. Vero Beach, FL- Freecycle table at their church’s EarthCare table/area.
3. Vacaville, CA – Saw *The Last Seed* movie about South Africans understanding the importance of insects & not accepting GMO seeds and ongoing recycling & cleanup projects. AND--Recycling at the church, Sunday. The minister also reads the EarthCare covenant during the service and shares a list of “What I can do.”
3. Walnut Creek, CA– Learned to partner with other organize or use the events of the church to lead

EarthCare events – Ex: Participated in county-wide cleanup, hosted Vegan dessert at their summer picnic, read their EarthCare covenant at the 75 yr. anniversary.

4. Tampa, FL – Participated in the Keep TB Beautiful cleanup and Bee city event.
5. Santa Fe, NM – Working with a wonderful resource book: *How to go (almost) Zero Waste*.
7. Denver, CO – Presented the EarthCare A certification documents to the church Board for approval
8. St Pete, FL- Eat the Rainbow luncheon & website to eat beautiful & nutritious fruits & veggies
9. Traverse City, Michigan - Our spiritual center has been working with our local conservancy in taking care of our 22 acres of land. We will be working to remove and replace some invasive species as a fall project.

EarthCare Team News



David Cordova, UWM EarthCare team member since 2007, and earth care advocate in his home church of Unity of San Antonio Texas and our Unity movement since 2004, made his transition on Sept 7, 2023. For years David hosted the Mentoring/Collaboration monthly calls, serving many Unity ministries in their efforts to foster care for creation. He was known by EC Team members as always centered in prayer and one to bring everyone to love and kindness as the answer in all situations followed by actions. His contributions bring everyone

to love and kindness as the answer in all situations, followed by action. His contributions to our Unity movement on the EC team, as a prayer chaplain and more recently as a board member at UCSA, were generous and sincere. David was a dear friend and we will greatly miss him.



The EarthCare Core Team was honored in May of 2023 when Helen Wright joined the Team. Helen is the Senior Minister at Unity of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

As Helen says, “My greatest passion within the umbrella of EarthCare is the area of animal and all sentient being communication, prayers and action. This includes habit preservation, being a voice for the animals, all creatures and the Earth herself.

This leads into plant based diets, veganism, and addressing the farming and agricultural practices.

As the movie "Ant and the Grasshopper" revealed, it includes climate change and the role of humans in this, social justice, Earth justice, and Sacred Activism. “

EarthCare Facebook Page

Beth Remmes administers EarthCare’s Facebook Page. Over 1500 followers have discovered the timely resources and interchange of ideas that it contains. To join them, please go to:
www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare



YouTube Channel

Hosted by Mary Gerken, numerous videos are available on [EarthCare’s YouTube channel](#) to provide a wealth of information in the areas of Social Justice, Educational, Spiritual, Poems and Inspiration, and Music.

Questions? Here’s Where to Go.

For general questions, please email earthcare@unity.org or call Mike McCord at 913.907.4061
For all others, contact the representative in your region:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Canada	Mike McCord	michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net
Eastern	Martha Powers	mpowers7@gmail.com
Eastern	Mary Gerken	agreatpickle@gmail.com
Great Lakes	Kathy Harwood Long	kathyharwoodlong@gmail.com
Northwest	Cylvia Hayes	cylvia@3estrategies.org
West Central	Mary Gerken	agreatpickle@gmail.com
Pacific Rim	Cylvia Hayes	cylvia@3estrategies.org
South Central	Mike McCord	michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net
South East	Beth Remmes	bremmes@hotmail.com
South West	Helen Wright	wrighthf@gmail.com

A Closing Prayer

Eternal Creator God,

So now we know. We know that our current worldview, and the industrial system it gave rise to, have run up against the limits of a finite planet.

We know that the vitality of the Earth is declining every day. That the chasm between the few of us who have more than we need and the many of us who have not nearly enough gets wider every day. And we know that it is hurting all of us inside.

At the same time, we know that we are part of a worldwide awakening – a grassroots movement for change that is unprecedented in human history.

Through our Christ consciousness within, guide us to making wise decisions to do our part in guiding humanity through this great unfolding story.

Amen