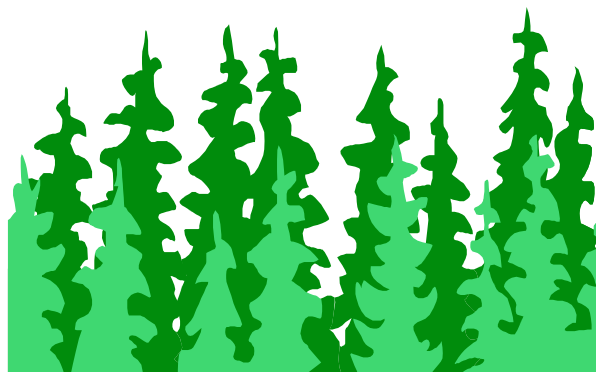


# Good News

from the

## Northwest Region

of the Association of Unity Churches



Summer 2005

**T**his newsletter is published by Unity Church of Olympia. (Rev. Anna Grace Ph.D., Minister; Cathy Weaver, Editor.)

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**T**he purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of clear communication that helps unify the ministries of the Northwest Region.

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### “HEART NOTES”

From Your Northwest Regional Chairperson,  
**BARBARA WILSON**

Greetings!

**W**e had yet another successful gathering at Regional Conference this past May. Every year we improve the way we “do” conference, and this year was no exception. Teri Hawkins and her conference team took to heart our comments from the prior conference and made manifest our desire to “do business in a new way!” There were no lengthy oral reports during the business sessions. Everyone was given written reports in advance so that we could spend the business sessions in productive dialog. It was great! Thank you, Teri!

#### Highlights from Regional Business Meeting

At our annual business meeting, we made several important acknowledgements:

- We honored Max Lafser for his past service as our region’s judicatory representative. Our new representative is Ann Thomas.
- We had the privilege to bless the 2005 “Light of God Expressing” Award which will be presented to Charles King in Olympia later this year.
- We celebrated Jackie Green’s ordination with a lovely quilt that incorporated special photo memories.
- We officially announced Penny Gruver’s acceptance into the Field Licensing Program. This is an historic moment as she is the first person to be sponsored by a region. Victoria Etchemendy will be her mentor during the program.

There were other significant announcements:

- Our regional website is now up and running. During conference, we had an opportunity to learn all the great features that it has. You can see it for yourself at [www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org).
- Treasurer Roy Ayers reported that our Northwest Region ended its 2004-2005 fiscal year in the black!

Georgie Richardson and Philip Zemke were elected to full terms on the regional Board. We are blessed and grateful that they continue to serve the region.

*(Continued next page)*

**Northwest Region of the  
Association of Unity Churches  
Regional Team Members**

**Barbara Wilson, Chairperson**

Unity in the Olympics, Port Angeles WA  
360-457-3981  
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**Philip Zemke, Vice-Chairperson**

Unity Church of Bozeman, Montana  
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**Roy Ayers, Treasurer**

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**Diedre Ashmore, Secretary**

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509-965-1751 home  
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**Georgie Richardson,  
Team Member**

Unity of Salem, Salem OR  
503-364-0156 church  
blessyourheart44@aol.com

**HEART NOTES**

*(continued)*

The conference body discussed the proposal for a paid executive position and we ended our annual meeting with an “appreciative inquiry” (these are covered elsewhere in this newsletter).

**Highlights from Conference Board Meeting**

The Board approved participation in the International Association’s Expansion Grant Program. How to fund our participation remains under consideration.

The structure of the Board for the coming year was decided upon.

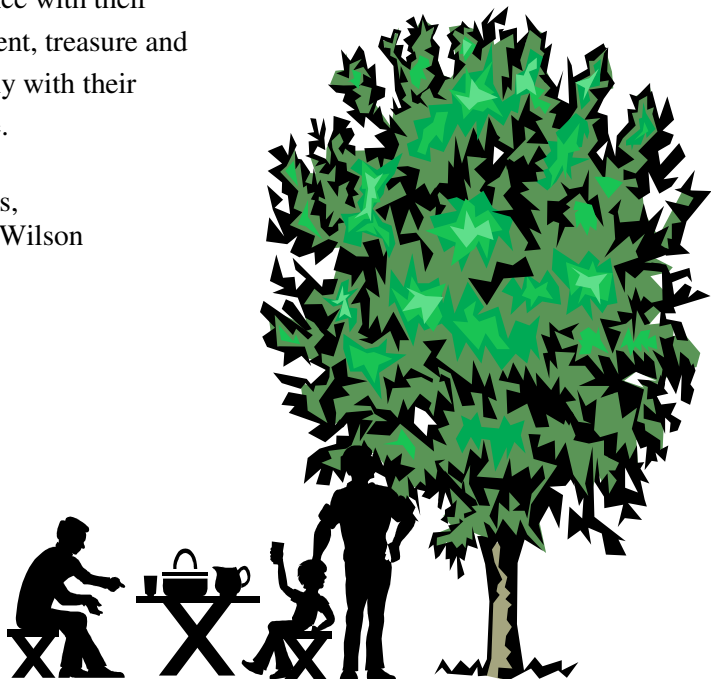
Our team for the coming year is as follows:

Barbara Wilson, Chair  
Philip Zemke, Vice-Chair  
Diedre Ashmore, Sacred Scribe (secretary)  
Roy Ayers, Treasurer  
Lynne Steffens, Chaplain  
Georgie Richardson, Member-at-Large  
Judy Willingham, Licensed Unity Teacher Representative  
Steve Towles, Regional Representative

But conference was not all business! We had two informative, well-presented workshops: Roy Ayers on leadership and Janet Rhodes on healthy decision-making. We laughed, danced and were moved to tears by musicians Juliet Wyers, Alan Peterson and Karl Anthony. We enjoyed great food, beautiful views and the best of company!

Our heart-felt thanks go to all those who generously supported our conference with their time, talent, treasure and especially with their presence.

Blessings,  
Barbara Wilson



# LICENSED UNITY TEACHER NEWS

By Judy Willingham, Licensed Unity Teacher  
Representative

**W**hat a wonder filled Regional Conference we had. The rain didn't dampen spirits in the least. I am grateful for all the Licensed Unity Teachers who made their way to Menucha for all or most of the activities for those five days. You will bring the blessings you received into your Unity service thus spreading the blessings broader. I'd like to acknowledge these participants:

Ann Armstrong (Salem), Sandra Coombs (Gresham), Alice Everts (Portland), Phil Johnson (Seattle), Carrie Kenyon (Lewiston), Diana Moskel (Salem), Kathy O'Connor (Spokane & parts east), Maggie Reed (Beaverton), Janet Rhodes (Olympia) and our TNT, Donna Smith (Roseburg).

Janet Rhodes' workshop on Health Decision Making was expertly done and will be a boon to ourselves, our families, and our churches. We were provided with a map to include others in creating change that will last awhile with little resistance.

I personally liked looking over the handouts for the next day, rather than receiving them during the event. The notebook was very handy and easy to use during the Conference. I found the Focus Group meeting challenging and enlightening. The dialog with both the Association and the School gave me the sense of a two-way street more than ever. We truly are doing business in a new way.

Who is called to contribute at our next Regional Conference? We have much skill and talent to share with our Regional Leadership. Are you thinking about or contributing locally some effort that would be helpful and useful to all the Regional leaders? Please let Teri Hawkins know of your interest in presenting at our next conference.

It is now time to turn our minds to the activities of our International Convention and the recommendations of our LUT Task Team. Thanks to Clare Austen for spending a hurried lunch with us, going over the recommendations and enlisting the participation of our Regional LUTs in the Task Teams that the recommendations may institute at the Convention. For the written LUT Report to the Convention body that was reviewed at our meeting, please visit our new Regional website: [www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org) Please browse around or go directly to Info and LUT.

Please remember to let me know if you change your name, address, e-mail, or church affiliation. I will forward it on to the places which ensure your keeping up on Regional leadership events. Also, let me offer a reminder to contact me with any questions or concerns about your service in the Unity Movement. It is not unusual that LUTs after a conversation tell me that they didn't realize what all I am able to assist them with. I am very comfortable giving you the contact info that will assist you for further assistance.

*Through Spirit we are able to do all that needs to be done and be all that we need to be.*

Judy Willingham

# APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY Conference 2005 at Menucha Oregon Retreat Center

## What's Working Well?

- Youth
- Finances
- Communal meals
- Openness
- Prayer letters for new ministers
- Roy's (treasurer) letter of thank you
- Connection w/Association at yesterday's meeting
- Task teams moving forward
- Willingness to shift our paradigm
- Increased sense of trust & willingness to be vulnerable
- Retreat-like setting creates vulnerability & trust
- Listening to each other
- Training and developing leadership
- Courageous conversations
- Have two meaty training schedules (reasonable)
- Keep current w/Association -- appreciate this
- Regular newsletter
- Questions promptly answered
- Clear network -- LUT
- Youth curriculum working w/Association & Region
- Games, fun
- Keeping confidentiality

## What Do We Want To See More Of?

- Some time in non-business atmosphere more
- See more people we love sitting in this circle (ministers who are not here, etc.)
- More ways of communicating w/churches who don't have ministers & ministers w/o churches
- New addresses -- update info
- Connecting w/retired ministers
- More youth ministries & directors
- Develop youth ministry consciousness
- More money
- Abundance & prosperity

## How Would You Like To Participate?

- More info -- how to call a sub regional meeting
- Get on newsletter mailing list
- Super Saturdays -- SEE (formerly CEP)
- Will organize Regional trainings for youth ministry -- active learning
- Standing for 80% to participate in Crystal Mountain registration = 48 ministries

By Barbara Wilson,  
Chairperson

# PROSPERITY TASK TEAM

By Georgie Richardson

**R**ev. Roy Ayers, Regional Treasurer and Prosperity Task Team member recently said to me: *"When we have a new idea we wonder who will stand (with and beside me) for this idea working in the world? Who will stand together for it? (Who will support the idea). Nothing is really an idea whose time has come until someone stands for it. Then they enroll another in standing for it and then several more people are enrolled in standing for it ... and then one day people say, 'Hey, this works. This is working and I will also be part of it...'"*

This certainly seems to be true of the Keeper of the Light of prosperity idea. The Prosperity Task Team, five in number at the time, "stood" for the idea called "Keeper of the Light of Prosperity" and supported it with their energy. Gradually, Keepers of the Light "stood" for the idea also, and it gained energy. This year at conference four new members joined our task team and now eight task team members are standing for the idea. (Rev. Sandra Soley-Keep previously on the Team left to go to Sedona).

The Keepers themselves have grown in number. There are now 18 Keepers of the Light in three states. Twelve ministries have one Keeper and three ministries now have two Keepers as part of the Keeper of the Light program—they are "double diamond" ministries.

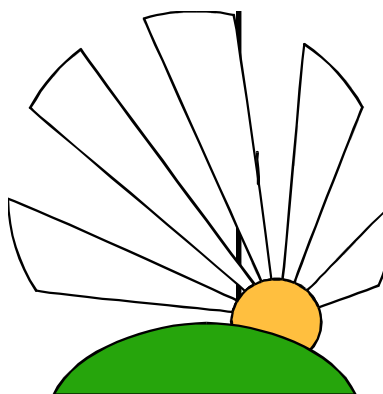
The map on my office wall continues to sparkle with little "diamonds" positioned at the various cities where there are Keepers of the Light, and every time I look at it, I bless the devotion and commitment of these wonderful people who are willing to stand with Myrtle Fillmore and remind us that we don't need more money — we need more faith. They are holding the Light of faith. They are holding the consciousness that when we put God first all things are added unto us. They are holding the high watch of Truth that God is our Source; and, they are standing for the idea of abundance expressing itself throughout our Unity churches and our NW Region.

Thank you, Keepers of the Light of prosperity consciousness.

## KEEPER OF THE LIGHT

These are exciting times here in the NW Region. We now have 19 Keepers of the Light, working individually and collectively, generating positive energy for ourselves, our Spiritual Communities and our NW Region!

For me, being Keeper of the Light has helped raise the bar on my personal consciousness. I feel extremely blessed to be a part of this program. Georgie's weekly messages to all of us serve to not only inspire and instill a higher consciousness, but they also remind me that I am connected to like minded people working toward a common purpose.



What I find most exciting is the unlimited potential of Divine Ideas that are flowing into each of us, into our Spiritual Communities, into our larger Communities, into our NW Region via this program. Everyone has Divine Ideas every day if not every hour and every minute. Being focused in this way creates a greater

space, a greater receptacle, to prosper those Divine Ideas. Energy creates energy. Positive energy creates positive energy. Many minds focused on a common goal create a boundless energy feeding the prosperity consciousness of our NW Region. Thank you for this program; thank you for allowing me to be a part of it; thank you honoring me and allowing me to be a contributor.

Abundant Blessings,  
Debra Kroon Yates,  
*Unity Spiritual Spiritual Life Center,*  
Yakima, Washington

## *From JACKIE GREEN, Regional Youth Consultant for Teens*

**A**t the recent regional conference where I completed my 27<sup>th</sup> year as your regional youth consultant, Judy Willingham and Steve Towles posed two questions reframed as the following: How has youth ministry changed by what we [Penny Gruver and Jackie Green, N.W. Youth Consultants] do? What is the impact of what we do with kids?

Long ago I read in a youth ministry magazine the admonition not to set myself up for disappointment by expecting any feedback from teens on Sunday morning [or weekend retreat] about my impact on their life. Just stick it out for the long haul because in about ten years they return and share their insights and appreciation. I'm here and they do!

Last year at my ordination, Monte, a former regional YOU officer from my church told the same story he shared in his outgoing officer speech at International YOU Conference 15 years ago. He said Jackie never said no to any of our ideas. She would say, "Now that's a possibility." That is the message that impacted him. At regional conference Rev. Clare Austen shared a definition of Unity as spiritual discovery. Hopefully our young people are engaged in continual spiritual discovery by living in the questions and possibilities. As God is infinite, so are discoveries and possibilities.

**I**n March at Kids Camp Counselor Training Weekend, Jono, a counselor, said something like, "We are in charge." Just at that moment he noticed that I had entered the room so he quickly added, "Jackie just thinks she's in charge, but we really are." I smiled while inside I was saying, "YES, YES!!" Those in charge are also responsible. Kids Camp is a laboratory for spiritual discovery. Teens share their discoveries and provide an environment for more exploration. YOU has always been *teen led and adult guided*. Over the years it has become more of what it is. Changes are reflected in regional gatherings. The teens created Kids Camp so those younger would have the opportunity to discover what the teens experienced at rally and retreat. Also regional youth ministry changed at rally and retreat where now teens [rather than adults] are "in charge" small group facilitators, dorm leaders and curriculum creators.

Another huge transformation in youth ministry and in what Penny and I do has been the emergence of the Uniteen group. Defined as emerging adolescents, that is exactly what the group has done in Unity youth ministry over the past 17+ years. In the beginning that age fit under children's ministry. Then slipped under the umbrella edge of the YOU area. Organically leadership emerged and carried the banner of Uniteens into its own unique dynamic place in our region's program of service. Chris Castaldi, NW Region Uniteen Event Coordinator, expanded Unitreat from one in the summer [16<sup>th</sup> year 2005] to include another in the fall [6<sup>th</sup> year 2005], plus this year added a spring Unitreat Staff Weekend. She also continues to provide adult trainings by request of hosting churches.

Youth Ministry in the Northwest Region of Unity Ministries continues to evolve, as do I!

**BONUS:** Nick Muncie-Jarvis holds the light for our young adults as NW Next Generation Unity Consultant!

**Penny Gruver,**  
**Consultant/Children**  
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360) 452 7953

**Jackie Green,**  
**Consultant/Teens**  
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Spokane WA 99206  
jackienwyou@comcast.net  
(509) 928 0896

**Chris Castaldi, Unitreat**  
**Event Coordinator,**  
3114 Cottonwood CT West  
Linn OR 97068  
503 697 0762  
castaldi11@comcast.net

**Nick Muncie-Jarvis,**  
**Next Generation Unity**  
**Consultant**  
9914 SW Conestoga #224  
Beaverton OR 97008  
503 524 4030

as funshop [workshop] presenters,

# From the Treasurer of Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches, Rev. Roy Ayers

Dear Reverend Scott Mc Clintock,

The next milestone in the expansion of the Northwest Region was marked by a stunningly successful four-day conference in Menucha, Oregon. This event involved leaders from every level of Unity leadership in the Northwest Region as well as The Association and Unity Institute. Joann Landreth and Barbara O’Hearne addressed a gathering of over 45 Unity leaders in Wright Hall at the Menucha Retreat & Conference Center. In addition to a question and answer session with Joann and Barbara, Tom Zender President and CEO Unity Lee’s Summit, Missouri spoke passionately about the vision, success and transformation of the Unity Institute. Tom honored the heart of the Northwest Region, The Association and Unity Institute. This was a major opportunity to drive home the central message of the Unity movement which is to prayerfully support establishing a framework for workability over time, so as to unleash the spirit of Unity people and their commitment to the expansion of Truth principles for humanity throughout the world. The Unity Spirit was also expressed in songs and dances throughout the evenings with the incredible star and Northwest Y.O.U. legend Karl Anthony, original performing artist Juliet Wyers, and multi-talented song writer Alan Peterson.

At Conference we set a daring target for the next year, a budget of \$104,150. It calls for a structure that takes action. So, we set our intention to work together affirming the expansion of the Unity movement in our region. We acknowledged that we’ve been blessed by an abundance of financial resources this past fiscal year and see the opportunity of this work expanding and funding our budget together.

As members of the Northwest Region we stand committed to the expansion of our own numbers. We call on all Unity ministry leaders to contribute generously to what has been entrusted to us for the achievement of our Unity region’s shared vision. We call on each and every ministry to demonstrate the integrity, focus, discipline, partnership and interconnectedness, through prayer and actions that expanding truth requires. We call on the ministries within our region with boldness, vision and courage, to join us in standing for this future in the world for 2005. We stand for 85% of the churches in the Region to attend the Regional Conference in 2006. We stand for 500 registrations to the August 2005 Crystal Mountain Retreat 25<sup>th</sup> year reunion. We are an alignment of ministries causing the budget for the Region 2005-06. We are generating prayerful support for greater workability of Unity School, The Association and Global Unity. We have two teams that are meeting to bring the results of our stand into the world for next year’s Regional Conference and the Crystal Mountain Retreat. Our Executive Board is standing in leadership, grounded in the vision of our region. We are all for sustaining our programs and staff, and promise to fulfill our region’s commitments. Through Spirit we will deliver on more than we promise.

Your gift of \$190.00, \$94.60, \$158.50 speaks powerfully to a Unity

way of life in our region and for all people we serve and attract to our movement. We appreciate you, and your ministry. You are Unity. In the words of Karl Anthony, “God belongs to all of us.”

In service to the “Great” Northwest  
Region of Unity Churches,

Roy W. Ayers  
Treasurer – Northwest Region of Unity  
Churches

~ ~ ~

**Dear Regional Ministries and  
Partners in Expanding Unity  
in the World,**

**The most important process under  
way on our planet is the  
empowerment of people to find their  
Christ or (God) self, gain power to  
cause their lives, and build a life of  
reliance on truth principles and  
dignity. Your love, commitment and  
sustained investment allow the  
Northwest Region to work at the  
cutting edge of this process. On  
behalf of the entire Region of  
leaders in our Unity movement,  
thank you.**



# REPORT ON THIS YEAR'S REGIONAL CONFERENCE

By Teri Hawkins

**H**ow Can I help but love you? We share the very breath of God. And so it is. Thank you sweet spirit for that truth as each of us go through the glorious days of our ministry. Our Northwest region is richly blessed with spiritual leaders that understand the prayer of laughter, song, new thoughts, and yes even business. It is a great honor to be a part of a region willing to try new things, and to do so with love and support.

This year at conference we took our first step at doing business in a new way. Last year we identified, in our Friday morning wrap up, some issues the entire group wanted to address this year. What was exciting is that we didn't just listen to the group's desires, we actually acted — blessings to our leadership for that. The group was in consensus that we needed: A) To not go through written reports, Power Point, hand outs on information, to instead read the information ahead of time and use time together for questions and answers. Use our time to connect. We did this. B) Have all written materials present at conference for those who forgot or did not receive them. We did this by having the information handed out at registration and having each of us agree to read it prior to meetings. We did not send the information due to amount and waste of doing so. C) Make it cost less for our LUT's. We did this by offering three to a room options. We did this and are looking at how we can continue this and not have to raise overall fees.

Like most first steps we tottered a bit – yet how thrilling it is to anticipate the moment we run with it. The first attempt was with the Association, and by all accounts on the evaluation forms, it was a success. We were given all the information we needed in writing, prior to the meeting. This allowed us to spend our time asking questions of Barbara, Joanne and Steve. It was a sincere, honest and honoring conversation. The next business meeting was the next day. This was our regional business. In this forum we have many “leaders” at it was much harder to set the form of the meeting. Again we were given all knowledge on paper at registration and each agreed to be “prepared” when we arrived. Then we were to just go through and ask questions as we had the day before. Well, we stumbled and fell a few times, but we kept getting back up. It was hard to break the paradigm, and we found ourselves wanting to stand up and talk, give our report or ask others to. It was our biggest challenge of the week, yet we stuck it out and we will do it again next year. The third business meeting was on Thursday afternoon with Tom Zender and it was as connecting and positive for our relationship with the school as Tuesday had been with the Association.

**O**ur mornings were sessions from our own Roy Ayers and Janet Rhodes. Roy did a session on team leadership and Janet did a session on healthy decision making. The feedback on these was very good. Many liked the information they received. Musically we were truly blessed. Some of us came with a need for rest and rejuvenation and the music truly offered us this opportunity. When we arrived we were given the gift of four CDs from our musical guests. What a blessings.

This conference was one more step in the direction of it's purpose: To celebrate the sacred work we do; to conduct the business of our region; to feed our souls; to receive tools to help us be more effective ministers. Throughout the week we blessed each other with notes of thanks given to whomever moved us, and so we give thanks for each moment, each prayer, each opportunity we have to be a part of this expanding, prospering, dynamic, loving region.

**See ya next year! We will be back at Menucha, May 7-12.**

# Great Discussion with Unity School at Regional Conference

We were pleased to share quality time with Tom Zender, CEO of Unity School of Christianity. Tom was available to us for questions and discussion for one and a half hours which was rich and informative.

Below you will find the items we discussed which were recorded by Anna Joy Grace on a flip chart:

## MEETING WITH UNITY — TOM ZENDER Regional Conference 2005 at Menucha Oregon Retreat Center

Integration/recognition/etc. of FLP re: accredited unity MEP -- 2 tracks????

Put “wi-fi” in motels and new retreat bldg. (for internet access)

Consider putting a virtual café (internet) on grounds (Unity “Starbucks”)

On-going work to bring harmony/integration w/unity & Association - create clear identity as a movement -- we now have a window of opportunity to do this.

Continue to keep our traditional symbols -- like Unity wings -- as part of our identity -- they empower us as a movement -- we like & want them-- do not lose them in our current P.R. process -- conscious decision about creating a standardized symbol -- use some grass roots upward process to create this logo/symbol -- who will initiate this & shepherd this process????

Unity symbol to go on gravestones -- we must send in to National Cemetary Assn. -- Check with Dick Everts (for military people who want religious symbol on their gravestone)

Re: Unity Institute -- as we increase academics, let’s not lose “the heart.”

World Day of Prayer -- info packet comes too late, WDP Website needs to be up during all 12 months

More material available so there is enough for all ministries (not run out)

Re: Marketing -- com up w/a simple, easy to remember tagline like “try unity” -- come from grassroots (ie symbol process -- like Paul Hassleback come up w/SEE

Where is unity re: translating main books into other languages?

Need resources (books, ideas or resource lists, pamphlets, etc. etc.) to do prison ministry

At the end of our time together, Tom expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Northwest Region by presenting us with a tithe check of \$1,000! In deepest gratitude, we say Thank You to Unity School for their continued commitment to communication, education, and its dedication to furthering our Unity message to the world.

Diedre Ashmore,  
Secretary, Northwest Region



# Unity Earth Care Ministry NW

This month we begin a new format for the Earth Care Team's quarterly article. Our plans are to include an earth care prayer, information on the earth care banner, a practical idea for an earth care activity, and something about the fruits of our work.

## An Earth Care Prayer

*Here is a prayer from the Rural Life Conference sponsored by the Montana Association of Churches Partnership for Rural Life and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Great Falls-Billings.*

From the farmers and ranchers who grow our food, to the policies that protect us with clean soil, water, and air, we have much to be thankful for.

Let us be mindful of our place in your created order, O God, and thankful that we can enjoy the blessings of your abundance. Amen

## The Travels of the Earth Care Banner

The Earth Banner graced the sanctuary at *Unity Church of Clearwater Valley* in Lewiston, Idaho, on April 17, 2005.

The banner made the celebration of Earth Day more joyous as the congregation felt a connection with all the names and churches that covered its surface. Together we honored and blessed our wonderful Mother Earth.

## Practical Earth Care - Gardening with Unity Youth

Unity Center of North Idaho's "Green Team" has found a unique way to involve families and Youth Ministry in their earth care program—they have a "pumpkin patch" garden on their church grounds!

Blessed with a large open lot and a Master Gardener as their chair, the team invited the Sunday School and congregation to plant, water, weed, and harvest pumpkins and other vegetables on individual plots. The Green Team also shared gardening tips throughout the summer growing season. The children and parents harvested and shared their pumpkins with the congregation last October. This year they dedicated the garden for the new growing season and invited people to sign up for plots for Earth Day.

See last year's garden in full bloom on the Unity Earth Care Ministry page on the Northwest Region's website.

For more information, contact Unity Center of North Idaho at [unity@unitycenter.org](mailto:unity@unitycenter.org) or (208) 664-1125.

Happy Gardening!

## The Fruits of Our Work

At Regional Conference in May, we saw the Earth Care Team's new web page, which is part of the Region's new web site. Once the Regional site is "official", ministries from throughout the Region and the world will be able view information on the team's work and obtain articles to assist them in beginning or continuing earth care activities.

For example, you will discover an updated booklet on *Resources* -- the people and organizations you can contact to learn more about what you can do to help better take care of the Earth.

Questions? Contact us at [unityearthcare@yahoo.com](mailto:unityearthcare@yahoo.com) or at (360) 457-3981 (c/o Barbara Wilson, Unity of the Olympics).

# An Outbreak of Passion is in Order

By Rev. Stephen Towles  
Regional Representative

**I**t wasn't long ago that I found myself in the grips of angst about the dynamics in the relationship between our Association of Unity Churches leadership and staff, and the new leadership of Unity School of Christianity. It seemed that we were continuing to struggle in finding common ground on many different issues that affect both organizations. My angst came in the feeling that we were drifting further apart instead of coming closer together. There didn't seem to be much unity in Unity.

It is understandable that the change in structure and leadership at Unity School of Christianity would result in dramatic shifts in the dynamics of our relationships. Unity School has been a relatively closed system in a leadership sense with the legal control and decision making primarily in the hands of the Fillmore family, most specifically Charles R. Fillmore and Connie Fillmore Bazy. When Tom Zender was hired as CEO of Unity School and the corporation became a true non-profit with a board that had real power and the executive leadership team in place, there has been a cultural change in style and priority. My experience is clarified by the awareness that any new system is going to push its boundaries in the process of finding its way. The difficulty is being sensitive to that and understanding the dynamics of leadership change. What is clear is that these changes whether perceived as good or not good have not been easy on anyone, and do reflect the messiness of moving from one system and style to another. I admit that part of me knows the importance of getting behind Tom Zender's leadership and another part of me chafes at the effects of the changing relationships and processes.

In the midst of these changes comes a ray of hope and energy that has the potential of doing some great good in changing the dynamics of our relationship. Unity School and the Association are seeking significant input from ministers about how the various decisions and activities of our organizations have affected them. With the enthusiastic support of Rev. Duke Tufty, Board Chair of Unity School and Co-minister of Unity

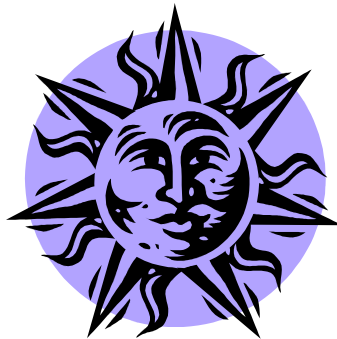
on the Plaza, several groups of ministers have been coming to the Village to share concerns and discuss issues. This is a very positive step that also involves the staff and board of our Association. The result of the first couple of gatherings was to organize a team of qualified people to come together and design a healing process to help in healing past wounds that have surfaced and we feel are holding us back from our "Unity".

On May 16, 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005 I, Rev. Patricia Bass, Rev. Juan Enrique Toro, Rev. Kathy Kellogg, Rev. Sherrie Larkin, Rev. Phillip Pierson, Rev. Susan Burnett-Hampson and Larry Wynn COO of Unity School met as the formally appointed Healing Initiative Design Team. We met in the Club house at Unity Village. The time together was powerful, prayerful and productive as we prayerfully explored a process to begin to bring us together in Unity. Our work involved acknowledging the many changes that have taken place with there being more transparency and process in Unity School, and the need to acknowledge and address openly some of the things which have spawned feelings of distrust from the past. We see that with changes in

our Association leadership and the new leadership at the Village we have a unique opportunity to come together in Unity and develop a sense of shared purpose, and to support each other in our respective areas of focus. In July all the Regional Representatives are gathering at the Village to continue the dialogue with the leadership of Unity School, and in September there will be a congress consisting of the leadership and executive staffs of our Association and Unity School plus the members of the

various affinity groups of ministers that had previously been invited back to the Village. Our hope is for the Healing Initiative to have some significant impact on the Congress in September.

**I** am brimming with optimism and hope for the future of our movement and for the reality of feeling a sense of order and the outbreak of passion for the work we are doing. It feels like we are really walking our talk and doing the heavy lifting in bringing our movement into alignment with itself and its overall mission. We live in fantastic times and we are seeing a new and more transparent way of doing



# NORTHWEST NEXT GENERATION of UNITY

By Jennie Willingham

**A**t this stage of constructing a viable group of young adults within the Northwest Region of Unity, Nick Muncie-Jarvis, Jennifer Landree, and Jennie Willingham are committed to planning regional events and support of individual chapters. Our mission states that the Northwest Next Generation of Unity provides opportunities for spiritual discussion, service, exploration, and growth in a safe and friendly community.

The next event, "Reveal Your True Nature," is a three-day event, focused on growing stronger bonds throughout 18 to 35 year olds from the Region. The retreat, which features workshops by Nick, Jennifer, and Jennie, will be held at Cape Lookout State Park in Tillamook, Oregon the weekend of July 15 to 17.

The event gives former Y.O.U.ers a chance to reconnect with their spiritual side, those new to Unity a chance to see the tenets of the church in action, and all a chance to connect with one another and gain friends throughout the Region. The bonds created through this event, past events, and any future events, will keep our region strong into the next generation of unities.

*"Your body is the soil in which God's life is planted,"* —Charles Fillmore. The Northwest Next Generation of Unity is committed to planting and caring for the life of a spiritual home to those from 18 to 35 years old.

## PROPOSAL FOR CREATING A NEW PAID REGIONAL STAFF POSITION

Last fall, Regional Representative Steve Towles recommended to the Board that the Northwest Region create a paid Regional Executive position. Steve saw the need for a regional leader with dedicated time to support our ministries. This leader would provide leadership in administering the affairs of the region, create programs to bring the Region together, and provide training and retreats.

The Board discussed Steve's proposal. They liked the idea of someone handling the business of the Region, since everyone is already busy with their own jobs. They also realized that creating and supporting a position would require a financial commitment by the ministries of the Region.

Because of the needed commitment, the Board took the proposal to Regional Conference. They wanted to know if the Region's ministries were interested in having such a position and, if they were, what the person's duties should be. The conference body explored these questions:

- What would be helpful for you if we had a full time person in our region?
- What is missing in our organization in supporting its ministries?
- How would you want this position/person to serve you?
- What kind of support do you need?
- What kinds of skills and activities would be required of this person/position?
- Would you be willing to consider funding this position?
- What would it cost?

The conference body deliberation raised these considerations:

- It's important to maintain good financial capability.
- There needs to be connection between the Region and the regional ministries (for example, visits from Regional board to ministries).
- Ministries see and experience the Region as providing service and support, as being valuable to them.
- The Region support ministries, not just ministers.
- Keep the Regional organization non hierarchal. If a position is established, that it not block the organizational flow.
- Have a Task Team work on this (not just talk, but get something done).

In general, there seemed to be interest in learning more about what needs ministries might have and in creating more connection among the churches in the Region and between the Region and the ministries.

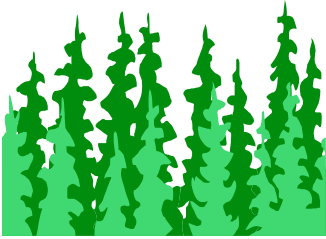
A Task Team was set up at conference. It will look at the suggestions, the needs and desires of our ministries, and what models might be available—or even possible—to meet those needs.

The vote at the June Convention on the proposed structural change for the International Association will impact the need for a paid position. If the Association is changed, then some tasks that had been done by the Association may be carried out by the Region. We will know more after the Convention.

If you want more details, the two-page write-up for our conference discussion is available.

The Board and Task Team will provide updates on this through this newsletter.

By Barbara Wilson, Chairperson



**NORTHWEST REGION  
of the ASSOCIATION  
of UNITY CHURCHES**

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## **Northwest Region of Association of Unity Churches**

### **Statement of Values**

As members of the Northwest Region we commit to:

- Creating spiritual community through education and practice of the Unity teachings and principles
- Experiencing unity in diversity as God in expression
- Practicing innovation and creativity in all that we do
- Healing and transforming through the power of love, prayer and Spirit
- Supporting our children and youth on their spiritual journey.

### **Mission Statement**

We love, respect and support each other as we grow and empower our ministries.

### **Vision Statement**

We are a community of powerful, prosperous and successful people committed to Unity ministry.

As a region we pray together, reach out, and care for each other.

Through the sharing of resources and information, and the education and training of our leadership, we encourage ministries to thrive.

We utilize systems, processes, and technology to enhance our capacity to minister with ease and flexibility.

In God, we enthusiastically do together more than we can do alone.

## **We Offer You:**

- Professional peacemaking training
- Our Spring Regional Conference
- Paid Youth Education Consultant who presents workshops/conferences and trainings within our region
- Paid Youth of Unity (YOU) Consultant who presents rallies, workshops/ conferences and trainings within our region
- Summer Camp for youth and teens
- A Regional Representative
- A Licensed Teacher Representative
- Two CEP scholarships towards becoming a Licensed Unity Teacher
- One regional MEP scholarship awarded to second-year Student
- Regional Trainings for church boards
- Yearly Family Summer Retreat at Crystal Mountain in August