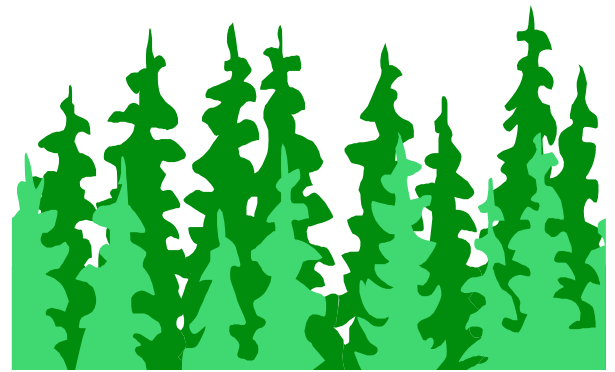


Good News

from the
Northwest Region
of the Association of Unity Churches



Autumn 2005

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

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The 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

Hello Friends!

It has been a sweet summer since we've been in communication. Your regional leadership team has met on two teleconference calls and had a face-to-face meeting at Crystal Mountain in August, just prior to our regional Crystal Mountain retreat. And, although it rained during the team meeting, the retreatants enjoyed awesome weather on the mountain!

First, let me share a few words about the retreat. As our Unity minister presenter, Rev. Richard Levy of Seattle Unity was amazing as usual in his ability to bring us closer together through prayer, laughter and tears. Our other presenters, Gary Zukav and Linda Francis, inspired us to evolve our authentic power and explore what spiritual leadership can be. Throughout the general sessions, Karl Anthony weaved his lovely, powerful music and his wife Jeanne added sign language to Karl's words for visual beauty. And the Geoffrey Castle band was a tremendous hit with the Saturday night dance crowd!

(A personal note: Your regional representative, Steve Towles, and I took a hike on Crystal Mountain. Now some people might say that we were lost, but, in truth, we simply were not where we thought we would be. Anyway, I can now say, from personal experience, that your regional representative can indeed help guide you safely out of the woods!)

Now let me summarize the significant actions approved by your regional leadership team this summer. Keep in mind that throughout our meetings we held our colleagues and ministries in prayer. We never lost sight of our primary purpose: to provide support to the field.

(Continued next page)

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

Barbara Wilson, Chairperson

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**Steve Towles,
Regional Representative**

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**Judy Willingham,
LUT Regional Representative**

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Yakima WA 98908
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509-575-5551 church
jwilling@nwinfo.net

**Georgie Richardson,
Team Member**

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

HEART NOTES

(continued)

Here are the specific actions taken:

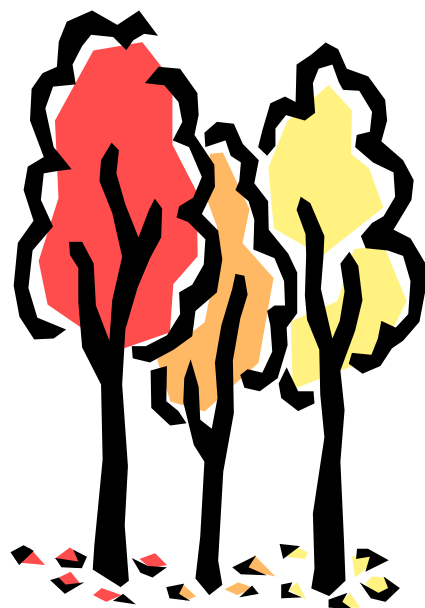
- Approved the dates and site of our 2006 regional conference: May 7-12, 2006 at Menucha, Oregon.
- Approved Paypal as our regional website's funds transfer agent. This step paves the way for online registrations for conference, family retreat, youth trainings, etc. It will also be possible to submit tithes and love offerings through the website. Watch for website updates in future newsletters.
- Approved Unity in Livingston, Montana as the first recipient of our region's new expansion grant. Alvena Hiatt is its pioneering minister.
- Approved Gary Simmons' **Integral Leadership** workshop as the topic for this fall's church growth and leadership training to be held sub-regionally. Look for additional information in this newsletter.

With regards to the proposed paid staff position, a task team is in the "forming" stage. We will keep you updated as the work progresses.

We welcome to the Northwest Region Rev. David Elliot, new minister at Unity Center of Tacoma, Washington, and Cheryl Rohert, new spiritual leader at Unity Spiritual Life Center, Yakima, Washington. We also welcome Rev. Barry Venard as the interim minister serving Unity Church of North Idaho, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. If I have missed anyone, I deeply apologize.

I look forward to seeing you at a sub-regional meeting this fall!

Abundant Blessings,
Barbara Wilson



LICENSED UNITY TEACHER NEWS

By Judy Willingham, Licensed Unity Teacher Representative

Licensed Unity Teacher Notes

We did the LUT meeting by joining in Tuesday and Wednesday's luncheon time on the dining porch. On Wednesday Clare Austin led us in a quick run through of the results of the LUT Task Team. We had little time for Q & A. (See page 6 for the LUT/Minister Agreement.) Follow up to the LUT Team results were that the Association has created a Licensed Teacher Ministry Team. There are two agendas for the Licensed Teacher Ministry Team coming from the LUT Task Team results, review of the LUT Code of Ethics and LUT Peer Review process development. You may volunteer yourself for the Licensed Teacher Ministry Team by contacting Joann Landreth's office either for this year or if it is all filled, volunteer for next year.

On a personal note during our Conference Barbara O'Hearne led a focus group regarding Unity's identity as a movement. All attending agreed that a consistent identity for Unity was critical. There were seven questions that kept us focused on the issue and kept our thoughts centered on Unity. I found the time very stimulating and rewarding. The responses and ideas I heard were well worth the effort. I even spoke out once or twice, would you believe? We were the final region to focus on this topic. The results will be published in *Contact* after Barbara O'Hearne gets it all together. The results are important information for our new Association Chief Executive and Board as well as all of us in the Unity movement. I would encourage you to read the results (#1) and to join a focus group when one becomes available to you (#2) for personal growth and inspiration.

At our conference meeting Tuesday I announced that a Nominating Team for our new Regional LUT Representative would be formed as I have completed my term of office by this next NW Regional Conference, '06. Andrew Ashmore has agreed to chair the Nominating Team. Andrew would like to have two more volunteers from other than his subregional area (Spokane) on the Nominating Team. If you have a broad knowledge of the LUTs in the Region or your subregion and/or are interested in serving on the LUT Rep Nominating Team, please contact Andrew Ashmore [ashmoandr@cs.com, 509-534-2344] or myself [see below]. If you would like to self nominate, please contact Andrew also. Minimum qualifications for the volunteer position as LUT Regional Rep. - NW Regional Board are on page 3, *2005 Association Yearbook*. The Team's slate is due to the Regional Board Feb. 1, 2006.

In July I was able to visit Portland Unity. All the LUTs were able to get together over coffee after Sunday's service and chat about what is going on with all the changes at the School and at the Association and guessing about its implications on the service of Licensed Teachers. I also paid a visit to Christ Light Unity and chatted with several of the folks attending there. Sandra Coombs, LUT/Spiritual Leader, led a spirit filled service. Sandra serves there on a part time basis.

As always, if I can serve you, please contact me for just a check-in or a conference.

Bountiful Blessings to all,

Judy Willingham
509-965-1751
jwilling@nwinfo.net

From the 2003-2005 Licensed Teacher Task Team of the Association of Unity Churches

Dear Ministers and Licensed Teachers,

We invite you to be a part of the ongoing effort of our Association of Unity Churches to create healthy Unity ministries through a new understanding of the relationships between Ministers, Licensed Teachers, and Lay Leaders. You can do this by reading the information in this newsletter and taking the initiative, where applicable, to incorporate the ideas into your model of ministry.

The work of our LT Task Team has identified several key ingredients in creating better Minister/Licensed Teacher relationships. One is the healing of our previously held assumptions, judgments and resentments towards each other. Another is what we feel is the trend of the future: team leadership. By using the sample document included here, *Licensed Teacher/Minister Agreements*, you will be demonstrating a willingness to see each other as an important part of your overall ministry team.

The Agreements document addresses the idea that harmonious working relationships exist where individuals have shared values, clear communication, and defined roles and responsibilities. We believe wise ministers will train, empower, and utilize the LT's individual gifts, and wise LTs will work to clearly define their role in the ministry they serve in light of its current needs.

However, teachers always serve at the discretion, and under the direction, of the minister. When discussing roles and responsibilities, the ministry's corporate bylaws will be the final authority on the responsibilities of the minister. The Association's recommended bylaws for a Unity ministry state: "As the Spiritual Leader(s) the minister(s) will be responsible for scheduling, conduct, and content of services, classes, and all other activities that further the purpose of this ministry.... As the Administrative Director(s), the minister(s) will be: Responsible for the complete functioning of the ministry, including the hiring and firing of all employees."

As you work with the Agreements document it should be customized for each ministry and each teacher in that ministry, and should not be construed as an employment contract. However, it should outline compensation due to the teacher for defined services.

Our Association cannot create an agreement that will address all of the issues faced by ministers and LTs. However, it is our intent that through prayerful discussion clear, open and honest communication, and the clarification of expectations, both ministers and LTs can find their areas of passion and giftedness that best serve the ministry.

Finally, this Agreements form is a work in progress. Let us know how it could work better for you and your ministry.

Blessings,

Your Licensed Teacher Task Team

(Continued page 6)

PROSPERITY TASK TEAM

By Georgie Richardson

The N.W. Regional Prosperity Task Team, together with a number of Keepers of the Light of Prosperity, will be meeting for a mini-retreat at Menucha on Oct. 28 and 29th. We will be visioning ways in which we can spread the light of prosperity throughout the N.W. Region.

With nineteen Keepers of the Light holding the same affirmation in their daily prayer and meditation time, we have a powerful prosperity beacon contributing to the collective Unity consciousness throughout the N.W. Region.

Although abundance touches every aspect of our lives, so often when we hear the word "prosperity" our thoughts go to the monetary aspect of abundance.

When fears arise around money issues, whether they are personal issues or money issues at our churches, we sometimes forget how easy it is to prove God's laws of prosperity. Jesus reminds us in Luke 6:38 to *"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."*

When we enter a place of fear, everything clutches up tightly: the muscles and organs of our bodies, our thinking and emotions, and even our consciousness closes down like a clogged up drain -- we literally stop the flow -- we can't give because we are clutching onto instead of letting go of. Rather than responding from a place of Authentic Power, as Gary Zukov teaches, we end up reacting from a place of fear looking to "external power" to move us through the tight place.

External power calls us to force issues and events through manipulation and control. Authentic power calls us to respond from the Divine essence within us that instructs us to loosen up, to let go, to give so that it may be given back to us.

How wonderful it is that we have nineteen dedicated people in our Region who are continually holding a consciousness of Authentic Power and through their commitment they water down the energy of fear by contributing the energy of their faith in the prospering power of Spirit into the Regional collective consciousness. Thank you, Keepers of the Light of Prosperity.

If your church is interested in installing a Keeper of the Light, e-mail Georgie Richardson at

blessyourheart44@aol.com

FINANCIAL EXPANSION GRANT

Unity Center of Livingston Montana has been selected to receive our region's Financial Expansion Grant. Reverend Alvina Hiatt and the Livingston Center will receive \$250.00 per month from the Association of Unity Churches, \$250.00 per month from their sponsoring church, and \$ 250.00 per month from our Northwest Region. The grant extends for one year. We are grateful for Unity Center of Livingston's renewal (it was first established in 1923 by Reverend Mary Wessel) in our family of Unity ministries. And we give thanks for the generosity of all who are flowing forth in abundance to see the Livingston Center thrive. Congratulations one and all.
—Phil Zemke



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE — ACT NOW !!

Each year our region presents three scholarships to those Unity Truth students that are participating within the boundaries of our Northwest

Region. Two are for SEE and one to Ministers in Training (MIT). The Ministerial Scholarship for \$1000 automatically goes to a second-year student from this region. If there is more than one student eligible, the money is split among those who are qualified.

There are two scholarships of \$600 each for SEE classes, one of which may be applied to SDS, to cover costs of one week with meals at Unity Village. Transportation and books must be paid by the student. Interested Truth students may apply by writing a letter stating their interest and purpose in attending, as well as previous classes attended, to Regional Treasurer Rev. Roy Ayers, Unity Church of Today, 704 West Division St., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273 no later than February 1st, 2006; phone no. 360-419-7409. A letter of support and recommendation must also come from the applicant's Minister, Spiritual Leader or Steering Committee of their church. After consideration by Rev. Ayers and the Northwest Board, the scholarships will be awarded by February 28th, 2006.

—Lynne Steffen

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

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

UNITREAT

**NOVEMBER
11-13**

Cispus Center

**Watch for details
coming to your
center and/or
contact Chris
Castaldi, Unitreat
Event Coordinator,
at the above**

NORTHWEST YOUTH OF UNITY RETREAT

October 14 - 16 2005

"Concentrating on the Core" Packing with Power

Y.O.U. Retreat is a 3-day communion with Spirit. Daily activities include large group workshops, small group discussions, singing, meditation, dancing, prayer and vespers.

HOSTED BY the Northwest Regional Youth of Unity Leadership Team: **Krista Harper, Darrell Schubert, & Jackie Green**

OUR MISSION: Freeing our dreams, we, the Youth Of Unity NW Regional Leadership/Team focus our spirits on enlightening and empowering those we have the privilege to impact. Releasing our inhibitions we commit ourselves to creating an inspirational atmosphere of light, love and clarity.

ELIGIBILITY: A Y.O.U.er* must be at least 14 and no more than 18 years. [There are exceptions only in the case of regional and international officers and high school seniors]

*Send people who have demonstrated maturity, self-discipline and self-responsibility.

Retreat is for people who have a sincere desire to learn more about Truth and are willing and able to contribute by actively participating in Retreat activities. It is recommended that those attending have attended at least four chapter meetings.

MEDICAL/LIABILITY RELEASE FORMS: All attendees make three copies of signed forms. All YOUers have parent signatures. Keep one copy at your church. Carry one copy to and from Retreat. Send one copy with registration. Registration without these forms will not be accepted.

BRING:

1. Medical Release Form (your copy)
2. Sleeping bag
3. Towel/wash cloth
4. Personal care items
5. Clothing for warmth and dryness
6. Shoes for the dance
7. Props for "Spirit Sharing"
8. Love offering [Sunday morning will be an opportunity to share our love offerings]

SEND TO REGISTER:

- (1) List of attendees from your chapter
- (2) Medical/Liability Release Form for each attendee
- (3) Heart Agreements & Photo Recording Release Form for each attendee
- (4) 1 check or money order for chapter payable to Northwest Youth of Unity @ \$160 each person (\$120 if postmarked by 9/30/2005) [If cancelled, \$20 will be retained] **Send To Jackie Green, 11115 E 29th, Spokane, WA 99206**



LICENSED UNITY TEACHER / MINISTER AGREEMENTS

_____ and _____
Licensed Teacher Minister
serving together at _____
Church

1. Prayer

We agree to enter into this discussion prayerfully, and with love and acceptance of each other as Unity leaders.

2. Heart Agreements

(LUT and Minister should each initial each line.)

A. We affirm we are a team working together for the highest good of our ministry.

_____ We agree to pray for one another and support each other's personal and professional growth.

B. We affirm that our differing abilities and opinions are divine opportunities to experience more God, more good in our lives.

When there is conflict or unmet needs in our relationship we agree to: _____ Speak directly to the other about the concern or need.

_____ Use compassionate communication with each other
Suggestion: become familiar with these principles in Marshall Rosenberg's book Nonviolent Communication:

1. express our own needs clearly with no judgment of others
2. open-heartedly seek to understand the other's needs regardless of how unskillfully they are being expressed.
3. check to see if we are accurately perceiving the other's needs.
4. provide the empathy and heart connection that invites the other to hear our needs.
5. ask for what we want to happen in clear, specific and positive ways, and not be attached to the outcome. Attachment to outcome turns a request into a demand.



_____ Bring in a mutually agreed upon mediator/facilitator to help if needed.

C. We affirm that the well-being of the ministry and its stated mission comes first before personal issues.

_____ If either of us feels the need to dissolve this working relationship we will do so in a healthy, respectful manner, with as minimal effect on the ministry as possible.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Classes:

Yes No The LT desires to teach classes.

Yes No The Minister desires the LT to teach classes.

Yes No The Minister would like to see the LT's class outlines or curriculum.

Yes No The scheduling of classes must be approved by or coordinated with the Minister.

_____ It is agreed that the LT may teach these specific classes or types of classes

_____ To teach in this church the LT must maintain required post graduate credits.

Compensation for classes shall be as follows

B. Workshops

_____ Should the LT develop special workshops, the LT may present a proposal to conduct the workshop at the church. Fees and offering sharing will be negotiated at the time of the presentation of the proposal.

C. Special Services

The LT may conduct

Yes No Weddings (This may require state registration and any fees will be paid by _____.)

Yes No Memorials

Yes No Christenings

Others _____

Compensation for special services shall be handled as follows

D. Sunday services

If the LT is called upon to participate in the worship service compensation shall be

If the LT is called upon to conduct the worship service in the minister's absence the compensation shall be

E. Counseling (See attached information on spiritual counseling.)

_____ Our agreement on spiritual counseling states

F. Other roles and responsibilities

4. Administration

_____ The Minister will assure that all compensation due to the LT is paid in a timely manner. Timely is defined as

_____ The Minister will assure that the LT receives any relevant tax information as prescribed by law.

5. Our Working Relationship

_____ The Minister agrees to meet with the LT on a **weekly, monthly, quarterly** (choose one) basis to discuss issues relevant to their working relationship.

_____ We both agree to take responsibility in scheduling this meeting.

_____ The Minister agrees to an ongoing sharing of his or her vision for the ministry with the LT so that both may prayerfully consider where and how each of them are best utilized.

_____ This Agreement is effective for a period of _____ months from the date this agreement is signed by both parties. It will not automatically be extended, but will be thoroughly reviewed and recreated when needed.

_____ We both agree to take responsibility in scheduling this review.

Licensed Unity Teacher Date

Minister Date

(Continued page 11)

2006 NW Regional Conference - Peace, Prayer, Prosperity Menucha Retreat Center May 8th - 12th

If I could in this moment find the perfect words so that you would know how much you are cherished - I would write them. If I could hum the perfect tune to soothe your doubts of how valuable you are to the world - I would hum away. If in this moment as you read this article I could somehow, some way gift you with the feeling that you are connected to a deliciously warm, generously sincere, and delightfully alive group of fellow Unity leaders, well, I do believe I would do it without question. Alas, the only way I know for you to discover and experience the truth of what I say is for you to come to your NW Regional Conference.

Five years ago I attended the Conference for the first time and by end of day two was convinced I would never return. My self-talk line was something like, "I have been here for two days and I have not been made to feel welcome or a part of this region at all. Why should I waste my time coming next year?" Of course we all know I was only getting what I was putting out. I decided to stop my excuses and began to give. If I wanted the Conference to be different I needed to give of myself to make it what I desired - or shut up and give gratitude to those who gave their time to make it happen. I did the latter first and then acted on the former. It is easy to point fingers at how things are done poorly, or how others are behaving in a less-than-acceptable way. It is a divine excuse to remember an old wound and use it as a weapon against today. It is also far too easy for too many of us to give away the very time that would rejuvenate us for our calling. Whatever has kept you from this conference please do not let it get in the way of you joining us this year. We are One, that is what we teach, when we are at conference we get to remember that.

In the past four years as the Regional Conference Chair I have been blessed with connections of warm respect, sweet friendships, and gentle healings. The texture of my life would be so much less without the people from this region I get to spend four days with each Spring. There is always at least one time when we laugh so hard we cry, and another when the tears fill our eyes with that feeling of Oneness we all have dedicated our lives to. If you will come to your regional conference next year with the idea that you will be filled up, supported, loved; if you will own that you are worth the kind of connections, laughter and breath that you desire, then I will guarantee that you will find it amongst your profoundly warm peers of the NW Region.

Please put it in your calendars for next Spring, not as a "conference" to attend, rather as a time for you to experience Peace, Prayer and Prosperity with peers on the same path, a time for you to be in the flow of love and companionship that will nourish your desires and rest with you exactly as you are - that perfect child of God.

—Teri Hawkins



Jan 27-29 2006

**Youth Team Conference
Huston Center - Gold Bar WA**

**Y.O.U. Sponsors, Uniteen
Advisors, YE Directors, &
Ministers**

\$180

\$155 if postmarked by 1/9/06

**More information will be out later.
The theme will be determined Oct 2.**

THIS IS WHAT WE KNOW AT THIS TIME ABOUT THE 2006 CONFERENCE:

- Both Charley Thweatt and Karl Anthony will be returning—as requested.
- There will probably be a session on a newly designed Unity capital campaign program.
- We will have a session of sharing information and ideas as we did last year—a highly praised time from 2005 conference.
- We will continue to fine tune and develop our understanding with the new way of doing business for our region—greatly supported by attendees in 2005, with recognition that the rough spots were part of the learning curve.
- We will do the same format of dialoging with the Association and the School.
- We will share meals together.
- This year we WILL have Hatha Yoga time.
- We will have times of silence together in the schedule.

—Teri Hawkins

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CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE !!

Churches may now tithe to the NW Region by going to our site (www.unitynwregion.org) then click on the “Donate” word. Completing the donation card and then clicking on the link, takes one to a credit card payment through Paypal. We are able to receive your tithes to the NW Region without the expense of writing checks, envelopes or paying postal costs.

Want to know when one of our annual Events is going to happen? Simple, just go to our website and click on “Calendar” then “Events” to find out what you wanted to know.

“Contact Us” is where you can e-mail the Board Team and ask your questions, give us information, and offer suggestions about our services.

Soon we are going to have all our events’ registrations available through the website, Fall Training, Regional Conference, Crystal Mountain, Youth Education. Next time you are on the Internet, check us out!

Thanks to those of you who have sent us a correction or suggestion to our website. It helps us serve you more effectively.

—Judy Willingham





Unity Earth Care Ministry NW

The Earth Care Team envisions all Unity ministries, collectively and individually, responsibly caring for God's Creation through cooperative prayer, thought, and action.

An Earth Care Prayer

This month's prayer is from a Thanksgiving Taize Service for Earth by Marilyn Muehlbach. She is generously letting us share the entire service with anyone who would like it. Please contact us at unityearthcare@yahoo.com to receive a copy.

Loving God, Eternal Presence, hear our prayer of praise at the wonderment of the wholeness of your creation, of which we are part. We give thanks for being united with you, with each other, and with our world. All is in accord with your perfect will.

Express that will through us, Lord, that we may nurture this world and each other, and in so doing, ourselves.
Amen."

The Travels of the Earth Care Banner

The Earth Care banner spent Sunday, June 5, 2005, at Unity in the Olympics in Port Angeles, WA, in celebration of both World Environment Day (WED) and Environmental Sabbath.

Following the ceremony, people added their handprints to the Earth Care Banner. It was a powerfully moving experience!

Contact the Earth Care Team -- see contact information below -- if you would like to host the Earth Care Banner at your center or church.

Practical Earth Care - Nikhimo

Charles Fillmore spent his first decade of childhood in the environment of a Chippawa First American village. This ten years was assuredly formative for his enduring spiritual life.

During the Harvest Moon of November, Charles would have experienced the law of circulation in the shared thanksgiving and gratitude ceremonies prevalent in the Chippawa culture. He would have witnessed the exchange ceremony of the *Nikhimo*.

Nikhimo exchange is where someone with a need lets the need be known, and someone with something to give away lets that desire be known. Putting up a shared *abundance message board* in your church or center provides a means to circulate the good of the Creator with one another.

We can Nikhimo throughout the year.

Megwich (our thanks).

The Fruits of Our Work

Sunday, June 5, 2005, was both World Environment Day (WED) and Environmental Sabbath. WED was established by the United Nations in 1972 to reaffirm worldwide need for care for the environment.

Unity in the Olympics in Port Angeles, WA, recognized the day with the "Love is the Healer" ceremony, created by the Earth Care Ministry team and available on the regional website.

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

A New Day Dawning

By Rev. Stephen Towles
Regional Representative

There is a feeling that a new day is dawning within the Unity movement. Spirit has been doing its work over the past year, and six affinity groups were formed and have convened with leaders at Unity School to discuss the present situation and our future possibilities. On a different plane there is a renewed vigor of collaborative planning and work between Unity and our Association of Unity Churches leaders. Duke Tufty, Chair of Unity's Board of Directors, formed the idea of a Congress to convene all six of the affinity groups along with the two management teams and Boards of Unity and our Association, and UMAC II. Tom Zender, President and CEO of Unity, and Glenn Mosley, President and CEO of our Association have embraced the idea of such a Congress.

This Congress is to convene at Unity Village September 26 – 28. The Congress will begin at 5:00 PM on Monday, September 26 and end 4:00 PM Wednesday, September 28.

The purpose of the Congress will be to:

- Allow each Affinity Group to report and present their views
- Initiate component pieces of the Healing Initiative
- Set stage for development of a Compelling Vision

For the past couple of months a subgroup of the "Spirit-Based Fundraising" Affinity Group has been meeting to design a healing

initiative, which was perceived the highest priority from its original meeting. Members of the Healing Initiative Design Team are Rev. Phil Pierson, Larry Wynn, Rev. Susan Burnet-Hampson, Rev. Patricia Bass, Rev. Cherie Larkin, Rev. Kathy Kellogg, Rev. Juan Enrique Toro, and myself Rev. Stephen Towles. Through a process of dedicated prayer, contemplation and conscious conversation, the answer we discerned was:

God is calling Unity to more fully express the following qualities of Wholeness in a bold, skillful, mature and practical manner.

We are resolved to be

- ***Centered in Spiritual Principle***
- ***Deeply Loving***
- ***Passionately Steadfast***
- ***Trusting***



Most of the Affinity Groups who have been meeting over the past year have talked of the

importance of the Unity movement developing a Compelling Vision shared by both organizations and our ministries. We believe that our coming together for dialogue at the Congress will get us started on the right path toward such a Compelling Vision. Please hold us all in your highest prayers regarding this important work. Also kudo's to Unity School who has financed a big part of this process and the Association who is sharing in much of the expense for the congress.

SPIRITUAL COUNSELING IN UNITY MINISTRIES

New Directions: Unity Institute is no longer including counseling classes in the LT training program. Spiritual counseling may be governed by state and local law. Please check the law in your community before including counseling in your agreement. Additionally, actions taken in a counseling session may create cause for legal action. Please check with your insurance carrier to determine the limits of your professional liability coverage before including counseling in your agreement. Should spiritual counseling be a part of your agreement, consider a signed policy statement similar to the sample that follows.

Background Material: The Association of Unity Churches publishes a code of Ethics for Unity Ministers and as such relevant portions should be included in any policy statement approved by the board of trustees of (Name of Church or Center). These portions are as follows:

E. I am honor bound to hold sacred all confidences reposed in me. Confession of error or seeming misconduct made in conferences or consultation and any defects of character or misbehavior revealed to me while engaged as counselor shall be kept secret and held inviolate and never divulged to another person regardless of that other person's status or relation, except as I may choose to do so as required by state or federal law.

F. I will never mention, without permission, either privately or publicly, the name, residence or locality of any person under treatment in the past or present in illustration or verification of the principles of healing. The ministry of healing or counseling is held to be sacred and, therefore, is to be conducted with reverence and with the strictest regard for the sensibilities and individual rights of students and counselee who in good faith and confidence have committed themselves to the consideration and guidance of the minister.

The Counseling Services provided by this ministry are clearly outlined in the brochure titled A Unity Consultation. Relevant portions follow:

Your Counselor

Your counselor is professionally qualified and trained to deal with the practical challenges of everyday living. He has psychological and counseling training, but is not a psychiatrist. By the same token, although he has had training in marriage and family counseling he is not a social worker. The greatest value of your counselor is to help you discover the inner resources that are available to you and to help you see your challenge clearly so that you may take appropriate action to solve your need by prayerful decision.

Referrals

If your particular need requires other professional assistance, your counselor will recommend an appropriate individual or agency, or will make an appointment on your behalf. Such referrals are frequently a part of local community services, and are recommended so that you might have the best possible aid. On some occasions, your counselor may recommend private, professionally-qualified individuals of whom he has first-hand knowledge. Such referrals will be made only if, in the

light of his personal experience, this procedure will be helpful to you.

Confidentiality of Information Revealed in Counseling at (Name of Church or Center)

Ministers, licensed or approved teachers, representing (Name of Church or Center) by engaging in counseling whether formal or informal shall be honor bound to hold sacred all confidences reposed in them. Confession of error or seeming misconduct made in conferences or consultation and any defects of character or misbehavior revealed to them while engaged as counselor shall be kept secret and held inviolate and never divulged to another person regardless of that other person's status or relation, except as required by ministry policy, state or federal law and shall never mention, without permission, either privately or publicly, the name, residence or locality of any person under treatment in the past or present in illustration or verification of the principles of healing. The ministry of healing or counseling is held to be sacred and, therefore, is to be conducted with reverence and with the strictest regard for the sensibilities and individual rights of students and counselee who in good faith and confidence have committed themselves to the consideration and guidance of the minister, licensed or approved teacher.

Given the nature of a Unity Consultation, that of assisting the student/ counselee in clearly seeing the nature of their challenge and discovering their inner resources so that they may make their own decision after prayerful consideration, no session notes are to be taken. Information revealed to an associate or assistant minister, licensed or approved teacher that reveals child or elder abuse shall be reported at once to the senior minister for appropriate action. Failure to report such abuse **will** result in the removal of the minister or teacher from any or all position(s) of trust that they may hold.

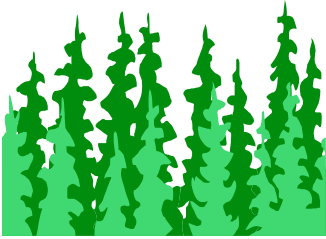
When an associate or assistant minister, licensed or approved teacher, feels that the individual with whom they are working should be referred to an appropriate outside individual or agency, the counselor will consult with the senior minister before making a referral. The purpose of this consultation is to determine what if any information shall be revealed to the outside individual or agency and this only after permission is granted in writing by the counselee. Failure to consult the senior minister **may** result in the removal of the minister or teacher from any or all position(s) of trust that they may hold.

Individuals revealing confidential information to anyone other than the senior minister and for specific purpose **will** result in the removal of the minister or teacher from any or all position(s) of trust that they may hold.

Individuals representing (Name of Church or Center) in positions of trust that may lead to formal or informal counseling will be required to sign a statement that demonstrates their understanding of the policy and the consequences of failure to uphold the policy.

Name _____ Date _____





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

**PO Box 6185
Lynnwood WA 98036**

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Sent with love and blessings to:

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 SEE 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