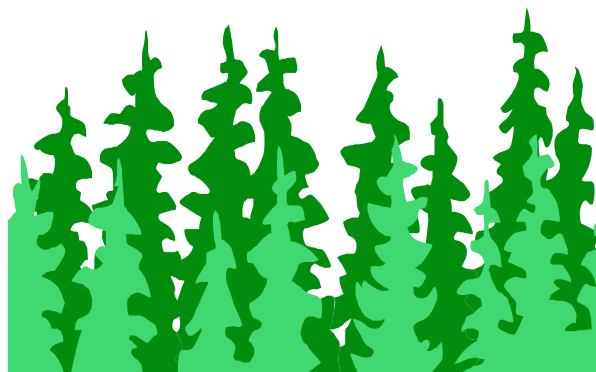


Good News

from the

Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches



Winter 2005-06

This newsletter is published by Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches.

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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.

CONTENTS

Earth Care Ministry.....	8
Licensed Teacher News.....	3
Prosperity Task Team.....	6
Regional Representative.....	9
Regional Conference '06.....	7
Treasurer Report.....	2
Youth.....	5

“HEART NOTES”

From Your Northwest Regional Chairperson,
BARBARA WILSON

Hello Friends!

May this newsletter find you joyful, serene and confident!

As with the change to the new year, this is also a time of change for our region.

This fall Cathy Weaver, our dependable newsletter editor for the past several years, chose to relinquish her position so that she could invest her talents in other projects. We are grateful for the wonderful job that she so faithfully performed. Thank you, Cathy!

The newsletter editor for this issue was Judy Willingham, our licensed teacher representative. With all the hats she currently wears, Judy generously took on the job of editor during this interim period. Thanks, Judy!

Another change is with regards to our annual family retreat which we fondly call our Crystal Mountain retreat. Well, we cannot call it that anymore because it's moving to a new location! The Crystal Mountain retreat is now the Fort Worden retreat. Fort Worden is a former military installation near Port Townsend, Washington. It has been a popular retreat/conference center for many years now. If you have seen the movie “An Officer and A Gentleman” then you have seen Fort Worden because the movie was filmed there. We look forward to the exciting new possibilities that this move affords us. Registration information, as always, will be available at our Regional Conference in May.

After fourteen years of extraordinary leadership, Jai Tomlin is stepping down as coordinator for our family retreat. She has agreed to work closely with the new coordinator, if desired, to assure a smooth transition. There are no words that adequately express how Jai and her centering team have blessed our region year after year with powerfully transformative retreats. Thank you, Jai, for an awesome 14 years! One definite gift from this change: Jai has other talents and interests which she now has more time to share with our region!

Our new editor and retreat coordinator are in the works and will be introduced in the next issue of this newsletter.

Some of you may be wondering what happened to this fall's church growth and leadership trainings. The Board realized there was not enough time to process the available material. Our intention is to offer a carefully prepared curriculum on Gary Simmons' Integral Leadership workshop that does fair justice to the scope of the material. Look for it in the fall of 2006.

One final note: In the last newsletter issue I welcomed the new leadership in our region. However, I failed to properly acknowledge Rev. Cheryl Rohert (an ordained Presbyterian minister) serving Unity Spiritual Life Center, Yakima, Washington.

May your ministries experience the infinite possibilities for Good in 2006!

Blessings, Barbara Wilson

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Rev. Roy Ayers

Dear Northwest Regional Leaders,

You are each to be acknowledged for your financial support of this great Northwest Region. I want you to know that we are honoring our promises to support our region with our monthly contributions and our continual prosperity consciousness and prayer. Our Region is abundant and it is because of your generous support as a member ministry in our great Region.

Have a blessed glorious holiday with your families. You make a difference in our Unity movement! You are appreciated and loved for who you are! I love you!

In our "royal beauty" bright Christ light, Roy Ayers



LICENSED UNITY TEACHER NEWS

By Judy Willingham, Licensed Unity Teacher Representative

Licensed Unity Teachers plan for their abundance at this May's Regional Conference, Menuche, 8th – 12th.

We will be meeting in our own room this coming Conference! The luncheon meetings just weren't working for us. Because of this change you will lose some free time. Our business this year includes voting for your new Licensed Teacher Representative and Alternate. Also annually we update our contact list information, learn of any changes from the School or Association, learn how we can support our Region through the various activities offered.

Andrew Ashmore has volunteered to bring together a Nominating Committee, himself plus two other LUTs or TNTs. The three will develop a slate of candidates for the positions. The slate will be voted on at the LUT meeting at Menuche, May 8-12th. The LUTs who are elected, must be present at the meeting.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee OR are interested in serving as a LUT Rep candidate, please contact Andrew Ashmore (aashmore@mgear.com or 509-534-2344) It is expected that the Nominating Committee will meet via conference telephone calls and that the slate will be in place by February 1, 2006. Andrew thought you would want to review the basic information on the LUT Rep position so the Guidelines and Qualifications follow.

Guidelines for LUT Representative to the Regional Board/Team are:

The Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative and the Alternate Representative serve as an Ex Officio member of the Northwest Region's Board. They exemplify and unitize the highest Unity principles, in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the Association of Unity Churches. The Alternate Representative is available to take on the responsibilities (as below) when requested by the LUT Representative.

The primary purpose of the Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative is to nurture, educate, and support all Licensed Unity Teachers (LUTs) and Teachers in Training (TNT) (Teacher Candidates) within the Northwest Region.

Nurture:

- Serve as a prayer partner/counselor/mediator/resource person for teachers, teacher candidates and ministers.
- Provide and maintain a LUT prayer ministry from and for LUTs, ministers and centers.
- Guide teacher candidates through the requirements to obtain their license.

Educate:

- Publish entirely or contribute LUT information pertaining to LT and TNT needs and news in each Regional Newsletter. A copy of each newsletter is sent to the entire Region's LUTs and TNTs, the LUT coordinator at the Association office, and all other LUT Regional Representatives including P.R. and Canada.
 - Develop, schedule and coordinate subregional LUT meetings in various locations when requested by the Regional Board, the Association, or as determined by the LUT Representative.
 - Develop, schedule, and coordinate LUT post-graduate education events at the annual Regional Conference or assist in the combined Postgraduate education efforts.
 - Serve as a resource person in LUT areas of ministry and service regarding tools, materials, products and services available through the Association and Unity School.
- Promote attendance and participation of LUTs and TNTs at Association, Regional, and subregional events using the contact tools available; snail mail, Email, Region's web page and personal telephone.

Support:

- Assist LUTs and TNTs to define and cultivate their own gifts and talents while developing their own areas of ministry.
 - Encourage LUTs, TNTs, and ministers to collaboratively develop ways to enhance the services provided by their Unity Centers.
- Promote professionalism, integrity, and a life centered in the highest Unity Principles as written in the Code of Ethics of the Association.

Region's Board/Team Membership

- Represent all LUTs and TNTs in the Region.
- Attend all Regional Team meetings and make a report to



the annual Regional Conference body.

- Chair Region's LUT meetings and share action taken by Region's Team and the Association.
- Submit an annual budget. Keep an accurate record of expenses, and submit an itemized reimbursement request with applicable receipts to the Region's Treasurer.
- Abide by the Bylaws, policies, and procedures of the Northwest Region.
Maintain confidentiality.

Association:

- Represent the Region to the Association by attending Regional Team meetings, Regional Conference, and the annual June International Association Convention. The Region will reimburse for the expenses directly attributed to these meetings.
- Develop and maintain a constructive and cooperative relationship with the Association LUT Coordinator. Consult with the Coordinator as needed.
Serve in additional capacities where guided or asked by the Association.



Election and Term of Office:

- Election is held at the annual LUT business meeting at the Regional Conference. Those LUTs present constitute a quorum. Any LUT nominated and elected as the Representative or Alternate must be present at the meeting.
- Three (3) months prior to the annual Northwest Region's Conference, the outgoing LUT Rep will appoint a LUT to enjoin a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will consist of no more than three (3) people from divergent areas of the Region. The Nominating Committee will produce a slate of LUTs ready to take on the responsibilities of Representative. The LUT with the greatest number of votes will become the Representative and the second highest number of votes will become the Alternate.
- Term of office for the LUT Representative is three (3) years. The LUT Representative may serve up to two consecutive terms (6 years) without one (1) year off. The Alternate LUT Rep will serve the same term as the Representative does and will be available to complete the Representative's term, if the Representative is unable to complete the elected term of office.

- In the case of a vacancy by the Alternate, with the Regional Team approval, the LUT Representative may appoint a replacement to complete the term.
- The LUT Representative and the Alternate work together sharing information and duties as needed honoring their personal talents and skills. The Alternate will undertake activities upon the request or affirmation of the LUT Representative.
The term of office begins at the end of the annual Regional Conference. The immediate past LUT Representative will remain available for consultation, information, and support until the annual International Convention in June.

Qualifications for LUT and Alternate Representative:

- A Licensed Unity Teacher in good standing with the Association.
- Is up to date with Postgraduate credits.
- Licensed for a minimum of three (3) years and active within the Region for two (2) years, and has attended at least two (2) Regional Conferences.
- Be able to attend most Regional and subregional activities and events, also the Association's Annual Convention; specifically the

LUT Representative meetings and LUT Conference events.

- Is committed to living the Truth, to the Unity Movement and its teachings, to the effort needed in fulfilling the responsibilities as LUT Representative or Alternate.
- Maintains professionalism and integrity, does not get caught up in emotions and remains centered in Christ.

Recommended that the LUT Rep and the Alternate have completed Peacemaking Training (all sections) before entering office.

We are in the midst of great change in the Unity Movement. The Association has a new CEO and Tom Zender has given his notice to the School. We are all asked to enter into the creative zeal that our Divine Ideas unfold for us. I sincerely request your active participation in the future of our Unity Movement by planning now to join me at Menuche.

Judy

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

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Nick Muncie-Jarvis,
**Next Generation Unity
Consultant**
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503 524 4030

NGU Spring Event:
March 17-19 Seattle
Contact: north-west.ngu@gmail.com



How Do I Fit In?

Connecting in the Unity Community

Northwest Regional Youth Team Conference
January 27th-29th, 2006
Camp Huston Center, Goldbar, WA.

Those of you who have attended this event in the past know what an incredible time it is! The weekend will include time for renewal, special interest groups, leadership skills enhancement, singing, laughter, prayer and fellowship. Once again, our special friend, **Mark Welch** will be joining us to share his original songs which fill our hearts and spirits. **Rev. Jackie Green** and **Penny Gruver**, your NW Regional Youth Ministry Consultants, will be there to greet you, along with your *NW Youth Services Team* members: **Rev. Philip Zemke**, Bozeman, MT., **Wally Vlasak**, Tacoma, WA., **Sharon Viehdorfer**, Salem, OR., **Marelu Marson**, Seattle, WA., and **Chris Castaldi**, Lake Oswego, OR. You will have an opportunity to get to know this years dynamic *NW Regional Youth Of Unity Officers*; **Mr. Darrell Schubert**, Mountain Top Unity, Port Moody, British Columbia and, **Ms. Krista Harper**, from Spokane, UCT, now attending University in Eugene, OR.

Plan on participating in our famous Saturday Night Live Spirit Share (and if you have any "costume-type" things you might like to share for this...bring them along) This weekend is for Ministers, Y.O.U. Sponsors, Uniteen Leaders, Youth Ed. Directors and *SEASONED* teachers...*this is **NOT** a training weekend for new teachers. Please bring any ideas that have worked for you, or other things you would like to share in your special interest group. This is one of the highlights of the weekend. Copies of things to take home and handouts are always appreciated...

* We will be having an "earth blessing" during this conference. If you would like to participate, please bring a small container of soil (no larger than a film canister) from an area near you. This event fills up quickly, so don't miss out. *Registration will close one week before the event.*

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

\$200

**\$185 if postmarked by 1/6/06
(increase via facility)**

PROSPERITY TASK TEAM

Rev. Georgie Richardson

One of the components in Rev. Diane Harmony's 5GIFTS for an Abundant life material is Intention. GIFTS is an acronym for Gratitude, Intention, Forgiveness, Tithing and Surrender. Recently your Prosperity Task Team had a wonderful demonstration of the power of Intention.

In October of 2004 the five members of the Prosperity Task Team met at Menucha to brain storm ideas for increasing the prosperity consciousness of our churches and our NW Region as a whole. From that meeting came the Keeper Of The Light program. Part of the visioning we did in 2004 was that, at some time, the Keepers would come together in Retreat.

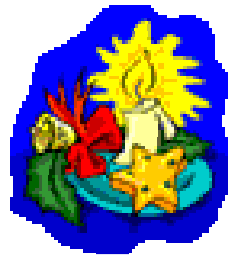
This past October 28/29 that Intention which we placed into the Field of All Potentiality in 2004 came into manifestation. Members of the Task Team came together once again at Menucha for a gathering and seven Keepers gathered with us. Spirit took our Intention and enlarged it to encompass the Task Team and the Keepers in one body. Songs were sung, candles were lit, new friends were made and old friends reconnected.

Rev. Teri Hawkins led the group in a Visioning exercise on Saturday. We envisioned where our Region and church would be in five years and then spent time creating a dream map and mandala. We finished the day by brain storming various ways to expand the Keepers of the Light and each of us committed to one or two of the ideas with which we resonated.

The energy of expansion was so powerful that the two Keepers of the

Light from Bend, Or went back to their church and invited others in the congregation join the Keeper program and 25 folks stepped up to be part of the Keeper program, another four stepped forth at Roseberg, and seven more became a Keeper "team" at Portland Unity. There are now 58 Keepers of the Light in four out of the six states in the Region: Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. We would LOVE to have Keepers of the Light in Alaska and Utah to round out our Region; and, then to expand this Keeper energy further into the Unity movement around the world.

So the 2005 Intention put forth in the Field of All Potentiality by the Task Team and the Keepers: to have Keepers throughout the United States by the time we meet again in 2006.



Do YOU have a Keeper of the Light of Prosperity in your church? It is easy: one or more people simply volunteer to hold the High Watch for the prosperity of your church, the NW Region and the world at large. Keepers need to be members of the church, practice tithing, and be connected to the internet. Once every week they will receive an e-mail from me with the monthly Affirmation and a short prosperity message.

As I look at the US map on my office wall and see all of the "diamonds" shining from each of the cities who currently have Keepers and see how we are connected through Spirit (and the green connecting lines on my map) and know that we are all holding the same Affirmation for prosperity, I know that Spirit is doing a mighty work through the NW Region's Keepers of the Light!

God Belongs to All of Us!

...and so does the NW Region of Unity Churches. Once a year we come together and reconnect, rejuvenate, reconnoiter and re-play our relationships to our NW regional family and we miss you when you aren't there. We want to know what is happening in Alaska. We want to hear the stories of hilarity during the holidays or the struggles with weariness during changes. We want to dine with you and feed each other's souls. We want each of us to return to our centers feeling a deeper sense of support amongst our peers.

Each of us has a church that we individually lead. Too often the "I-ness" in ministry forgets the "We-ness". Your NW region is the "We" of your "I"; and the "We" wants You! We want to get to know one another better so that we may each expand our "We" in healthy vibrant ways. We want you to know that we feel you belong to our spiritual family. Please come join us this year. If you are in Alaska, call Rev. Teri Hawkins at 541.388.1569 and ask about the financial assistance we are offering to bring our Alaskan leaders to conference to join us.

So Please...

Consider this your own personal invitation:

Your are enthusiastically invited to join us in all your wondrous self.

At the NW Regional Conference - 2006

Begins: May 8th, Monday at 6pm

Concludes: May 12th, Friday at noon.

Menucha Retreat Center (25 minutes East of Portland Airport)

Joining us will be:

Cherie Larkin: **Growing Your Church.**

Bringing Breath to Life: Margaret Townsend

Karl Anthony: Brings his music for the week!

Business Meeting: We will continue developing our new way of doing business.

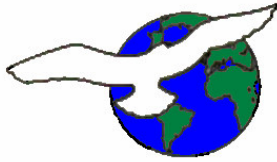
A.U.C. : We have invited our New President to join us - looking good.

The Village: Tom Zender and company.

And of course, time to **play** and enjoy one another with outings, games and music.

Please see the flyer in this newsletter for details and registration.





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

Like last time, this month's prayer is adapted from a Thanksgiving Taize Service for Earth by Marilyn Muehlbach, who is letting us share the entire service. Email us to receive a copy (see below).

"Let us celebrate and honor the miracle of the earth, our mother. It is God in expression. The elements of fire, water, earth and air gather together, meet and join; life takes form and substance and begins to grow. This is a place of abundant life. The trees, rivers, mountains, grass and soil nourish us.

Today, we offer our blessings and thanksgiving to the expression of God in all aspects of Earth, to life itself and to the Oneness with all that is. We open ourselves to guidance and the prospect of action. We let God stir our awareness, awaken our gratitude and compassion, and move us to do our part. And so it is. Amen and amen."

Travels of the Earth Care Banner

November 12th was an historic day for the Team. Team members Janet Rhodes, Kathy O'Connor, Carrie Kenyon, Barbara Wilson and Phillip Zemke presented our first workshop on the "Path" process at Unity in Lewiston, Idaho. The Path is a seven-part process for creating an Earth Care Ministry. Visit the regional website to learn more about it.

Our presentation wove the seven steps of the Path together with the seven directions of the Na-

tive American medicine wheel. We prayed, sang and drummed. Our Earth Care banner presided over the entire affair. We blessed the site of their future meditation garden.

The helpful feedback we received from workshop attendees, coupled with our observations, honed and shaped new possibilities. We are grateful to Unity in Lewiston, who agreed to be our test group and provided team members with lovely lodging and delicious meals. We also thank Leila Zemke for videotaping the workshop.

Practical Earth Care - Creation Festival

On May 19-21, 2006, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle, Earth Ministry, an interfaith earth care organization, will hold the first annual *Creation Festival*. It will be an interfaith gathering to explore and celebrate a vision for a just and sustainable world and to affirm our interconnectedness in the web of life.

The festival offers workshops on sacred space, worship, youth ministry, the arts, and ways to take action. Keynote speakers include Bishop Steven Charleston, president, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA; Dr. Karen Baker-Fletcher, professor of theology, Perkins School of Theology, Austin, TX; and Rabbi Daniel Schwartz, coordinator, Interfaith Power and Light, Washington, D.C. Children's activities are included.

For more information, contact Earth Ministry at (206) 632-2426 or emoffice@earthministry.org.

The Fruits of Our Work - Earth Care ministry is expanding!

Kathy Long received approval in Great Lakes Region to formally begin an Earth Care Ministry. Also, she and members of our Team began quarterly conference calls to coordinate the work. *Contact* wants to publish an article about Earth Care Ministry and Barbara O'Hearn wants a second *Just-in-Time* article.

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

Reflections

By Rev. Stephen Towles

Regional Representative

2005 was a watershed year,
From this vantage point things are very clear.
Some highlights do come to mind,
Events and decisions that are easy to find.

Our Standards committee was light on decisions,
With so many changes we didn't need divisions.
The Regional Reps are no longer on the Board,
Of the International Association, we just follow the Lord.

There was tension between the
Association and the School,
What else is new, no one was a fool.
Our CEO was moving into the
setting sun,
We know 20 years was quite a run.

Fundraising became a big topic
for us,
Unity School was already on the bus.
When the tension was high an
idea appeared,
Let's bring people together to discuss what they
feared.

Duke Tufty said come to the Village and meet,
We'll pay the bill, this is our big treat.
A healing team was formed to provide structure at
last,
And finally get to the bottom of our checkered past.

In the meantime James Trapp is our new CEO,
Can you imagine how hard it would be to just go
with the flow?
Tom and Glenn met and worked many things out,
Giving James the opportunity to just take his own
route.

In September a Congress was held on the
grounds,
There were no topics that were out of bounds.
Some 100 they came to the dawn of new day,
A new paradigm of healing to show us the way.

A compelling Vision for the entire movement is
desired,
Before anyone else in quicksand gets mired.
There was more than just vision that was clearly
expressed,
A desire for social activism would put us to the
test.

Effective communication was also a major goal,
Without it we would continue to pay a high toll.

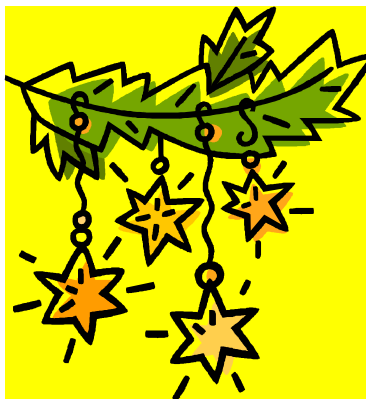
In all of these things we must
think international,
After all that is one thing that is
rational.

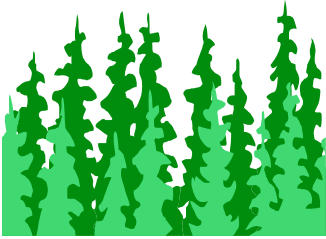
Intergeneration and prosperity
make it three,
These are applied like the leaves
on a tree.
The very next step is with UMAC
you'll find,
Which gives us some sound
peace of mind.

Will there be another congress,
it is hard to know?
But God only knows and that is how we flow.
James Trapp has now taken the rudder in his
hands,
To lead us to what he discerns are the promised
lands.

But it is not just about him, or any one of us now,
It is about working together and learning how.
There is much on the plate for the coming year,
No time to relax, we must move without fear.

There is something for every one of us to do,
Get involved, on a team, just do something new.
The vision will come in a divine sort of way,
And peace is here now, not left to another day.





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

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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 Fort Worden in August