

Good News



from the **Northwest Region**
of the Association of Unity Churches

Summer 2009

Heart Notes

**From your Northwest Regional Chairperson,
Philip Arthur Zemke**

Blessings and Greetings to all in Love and Peace,

In one of the Holy Stories of the Origins of life, as passed to us through Genesis, we are given a prompt as to the purpose of our demonstration of the Sacred on Earth. We are to dress and groom the garden of God in all that we do. The task of tending the garden requires that we take ourselves to the garden each day. We need show up and then with deep appreciation notice what is presented to us by the season, the rains, the Sun, the growth, which Spirit is ever and always presenting to us. We are called to cooperate with the Natural Law of Life as it dances and sings. We are also called to set our **intention** by which we actively appreciate and affirm and inquire as to what each of us is to do, that our part of the dressing and grooming may be a harmonious contribution to the success, transformation, and satisfaction of the Creation and the Creator.

Reverend Rosella Turner, our Regional Board Vice-Chairperson, has fulfilled her time of dressing and grooming as the Vice-Chairperson and has turned her position on the board to Reverend Eva Gabrielle of Unity of Salt Lake City, Utah. The Board will sit in consideration and listening as to which of its members will take up the Vice-Chair position. We welcome Reverend Eva as she brings her grace and good to this work. I will be ever grateful for the work and wisdom that Reverend Rosella brought to her work for our Region. Thank you Rosella, and welcome Eva.

Our Administrative Assistant Mary Vail has also claimed a new garden to tend. Mary was asked to step full time into the college educational field and has turned the part-time position of Regional Administrative Assistant back to us. I am delighted to share with you that we have a new Administrative Assistant, Karen Breen-James from Kingston Washington. Karen has been the Administrative gardener for Phil and Dorothy Pierson's Alternative Ministry for years, and now will provide for our region as our new Administrative Assistant as well. We are grateful for the time and effort that Mary gave to our region, and we welcome Karen to continue the dressing and grooming of the Divine Garden of our beloved Unity Northwest Region.

Yet looking forward to the harvest to come. Our Fall Leadership

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If you would like to submit something for the next issue, the due date is October 1, 2009. Email your article to: debcris1952@webband.com

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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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Training will be presented by Reverend Lisa Davis at Unity of Portland on October 23rd and 24th. Lisa is preparing a nuts and bolts training on seeing your church or center working fully and successfully right at the size and configuration that you are now. She will also provide wisdom for those who are at the transition point of moving either up or down to new configurations. I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Training.

As we walk through the garden of the Unity Northwest Region let us give thanks. I give thanks for those who provided for an exhilarating YOU rally that Leila and I attended and relished in. All thanks for a successful Spring Conference at Menucha. All thanks for the successful Unitreat camp, and its counselors and NGU support. All thanks for the Kid's camp and the YOU counselors and support. And thank you Unity of Portland for renewing the opportunities for SEE classes in the field. And I give thanks for all the supporting staff (newsletter, website, Board, Regional and LUT representatives) that give of their good that this region has the fullest success.

I thank each of you who tend the garden of the Divine Good in your Churches, Centers, Chaplainries, classes, Alternative Ministries, and most wonderfully in your daily walk of life wherever that may be. In the Aramaic language, an Angel, is a messenger and minister who provides guidance and guardianship to all of humanity while living in the presence of God. You are all Angels.

In Peace and Love
Philip



Living the Vision October 23 & 24, 2009 Unity Church of Portland Presented by Rev. Lisa Davis

Churches can be vibrant, alive and expressing fully in whatever size they choose to be. My goal is that churches are the size they are, not because they just happen to be that size, but instead by choice. Whatever size we desire to be, we must "do" the size we are currently at well, and know the requirements for moving to a larger size. At each size ministry there is an appropriate organizational infrastructure and way of relating as ministers and board within that community.

Getting very clear on that allows options for churches to listen to Spirit's vision for that ministry and to move fully into that vision, whether that includes growth in numbers, or not.

This workshop will cover these issues:

- Trust between boards and ministers, including clarity on the responsibilities of ministers and boards, and the difference between the two
- Capacity in your church, both seen and unseen
- Moving your organizational infrastructure from good to great, including examples of each organizational infrastructure at the

continued on page 10: Vision

Northwest Region Representative

Rev. Barbara Wilson

New Regional Task Team

One of the areas of concern, discussed by the Association Standards Team (composed of all regional representatives from the US, Canada and Puerto Rico) at our June meeting, was how can we best support ministries without credentialed leadership.

Rev. Lawrence Palmer, regional representative from the South Central Region, volunteered to chair a task team, with a member from each region, to research this situation and make proposals. The Standards Team accepted his offer.

Later Lawrence sent out this request:

For many years Unity has struggled with the issue of Ministries without Leaders. The Standards Ministry Team has now created a Task Team to address this issue. The charge of the team is to:

- *Create a questionnaire for gathering pertinent information*
- *Compile a list of ministries who are currently without leaders*
- *Gather information*
- *Research both low tech and high tech solutions*
- *Formulate a coherent and consistent plan of action*

We are inviting one person – clergy or layperson - from each region to step forward to participate in the work of the team. Lawrence Palmer will chair the team. A preliminary report will be presented to the Standards Team by October 1, 2009.

I sent out a request for a volunteer to serve on this team in June and was thrilled to have 11 individuals express interest. We had a bridgeline call with seven of those individuals. The minutes found on page 10 are a summary of what we discussed.

Because of the significant interest, we agreed to have a regional task team to address what action we can take at a regional level. Rob Wheeler was identified as our representative to the Association task team with Rev. Lawrence Palmer.

Our next bridgeline call will be scheduled when Lawrence returns from his sabbatical. If you have an interest in the work of this team, let me know and I will inform you of our next call.

Your Regional Representative,
Barbara Wilson

Opportunities For Peacemaking

Hello Friends,

Money may not grow on trees but don't tell that to my vegetable garden. I am ecstatic because I see abundance everywhere in my garden; lettuce, broccoli, beans, peas, beets, tomatoes, etc. I see green! At least, that's the situation now. After all, it is summer, the season of growth and fruitfulness. Come autumn my garden will begin to die back until my garden beds are barren.

With every season, I have my tasks, the work I do to collaborate with Life. Sometimes it's planting, watering and weeding. At other times it's harvesting and culling. During the winter, it is visioning, planning and preparing the soil for spring.

But right now, other life forms are interacting with my garden; bugs, mildew, viruses, and the neighbor's cat! Intent on certain results, I often see these creatures as totally against my garden. But I must remember that they are all Divine Life expressing and, when I do, I can creatively cooperate with them, which makes gardening that much more fun!

Ministries, too, are expressions of Life. They go through cycles of growth and decline. Their different seasons require different tasks from us. The transition from one season to the next can be an uncomfortable adjustment.

Ministries are also communities of unique individuals who have particular skills, values, and perspectives that may not always seem in alignment. Here, too, it is sometimes hard to remember that everyone and every situation is Divine Life. We can get caught up in believing that people, things and situations are against us (that cat!). Such thoughts inhibit our capacity for interaction and cooperation.

Since life is always changing and varied, life-long learning is part of the journey. Our openness and willingness to learn is what keeps us most vitally alive throughout the seasons of life.

It is not helpful to feel guilty about having to learn. We all face changes, questions and challenges, often unprepared; these are all part of what makes Life interesting and fun. It is a mark of spiritual maturity to recognize that one does not have all the answers.

From The Desk of the Treasurer — Rev. Inge Tarantola

New Budget 2009-2010

Here is an update for those who were not able to join us at our wonderful Regional Conference at Menucha in April. The budget total was changed to \$139,600 from the original proposal of \$140,600. That reflects changes in the amounts for fall training reduced by \$1,000, Field Licensing is complete so we were able to eliminate \$2,000, and adding \$2000 SLMRT scholarship to help defray the travel cost to meetings of those who serve on that team.

Budget Fiscal Year-to-date

By the end of May we reached the first quarter of the new fiscal year, or 25%. Although the giving was below the anticipated mark, so were our expenses and we were still able to finish the quarter with a surplus of \$4,528, as you can see in the Budget versus Actual as printed.

Comments and questions welcome

We encourage you to review the information and feel free to send your questions and comments to me, Inge Tarantola, see contact information. All input is welcome and will be considered by the board.

By right of consciousness we prosper and that abundance enfolds us, all the churches and our region.

God's richest blessings,
Inge Tarantola, Treasurer

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Our Unity movement is growing and expanding in our ability to address challenges as signs of Life rather than as evidence to the contrary. This is especially true for our peacemaking services. We've come a long way, baby!

In June, the Standards team met with Stephanie Seigh, the director of the Department of Peacemaking and Transitional Services at the Association. (The Standards team is composed of the regional representatives in the US, Canada and Puerto Rico.) Here are some of the expansive changes happening with peacemaking services:

1. The AUCI Peacemaking Skills Institute, that provides training in peacemaking services, is now highly interactive. It is designed to be a real time experience of the "Making Peace with the Past" transformational process.
2. The Institute now includes a full day experience related to board training.
3. The Institute is being offered in the field and at Unity Village.
4. The process to become a certified Peace worker/transition consultant has become more rigorous. It requires the following:
 - Peacemaking Skills Institute training
 - Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Mediation Skills Institute training
 - Teaching "The I of the Storm" in 3 different venues (weekly classes, afternoon workshop, etc.)
 - Intern with a partner on 2 "Making Peace with the Past" processes
 - Be observed during a "Making Peace with the Past" process by Stephanie Seigh
5. The "Making Peace with the Past" process is now part of a broader program called "Creating a Shared Future." The program consists of 4 parts:
 - A board/leadership training on a Friday evening through Saturday
 - A 3-hour "The I of the Storm" workshop on Sunday afternoon, followed by a series of "The I of the Storm" weekly classes.
 - "Making Peace with the Past" weekend process
 - Follow-up by the certified peace worker who is the "consultant of record"
6. The Department of Peacemaking encourages every ministry in transition to engage a peace worker for every transition. (Transitions usually are credentialed leadership changes but can also be other major changes such as in size and location.)
7. The cost of peacemaking services includes
 - Love offering to Association
 - Cost of manuals
 - Peace worker's expenses
 - Guest speaker's fee to peace worker for Sunday morning talk

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Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches
Fiscal Year — 2008 - 2009

	Proposed	Mar-May	25.00%
Income	Budget	Actual	Percent
Offerings from Churches & Others	114,300	29,360	0.26
Sustaining Programs-Summer Retreat	7,000	-1,875	-0.27
Sustaining Programs-Reg. Conf. Menucha	3,000	-4,0762**	-1.36
Youth Ministry	10,000		0
Total Income	\$134,300	\$23,409	0.17
Expenses			
Tithe (a)	13,400	2936	0.22
Salaries (Youth Programs) (b)	40,100	9912	0.25
Contract Bookkeeping (b)	5,400	1330	0.25
Newsletter	800	213	0.27
Regional Team Exp	7,000	5109	0.73
Employee Expenses Payroll Exp.	3,100	750	0.24
Regional Rep Exp	13,700	1527	0.11
Alternate Region Rep	1,000		0
SEE Scholarship	1,800		0
Insurance	2,800		0
Bank Service Charges	200	275	1.38
Equipment Rental Visa CC Machine	200	32	0.16
Office Supplies	100	7	0.07
Postage & Mailings	300	89	0.3
Y.O. U. Exp	6,500	430	0.07
Uniteens	4,500		0
Children's Ministry Exp	7,000	1000	0.14
Next generation Unity	1,600	461	0.29
LUT Rep Exp	5,800	335	0.06
Other Exp (Flowers etc)	800		0
Regional Website	900	100	0.11
Earth Care	1,500		0
Field Licensing Program	3,500	1721	0.49
Contributions Pioneering Church	3,000		0
Fall Training	2,500		0
Cell Phone	600		0
Administrative Support (6 Month Trial)	5,000		0
Judicatory Representative	1,200		
Total Expenses	\$134,300	\$26,227	0.2
Net Income/(Loss)		-2,818	

** Not Final Yet

Our Regional Youth Ministry

Ministry Beyond Measure

by Chris Castaldi

Our June 2009 Unitreat physically ended on June 26th, 2009, however our friendships and experiences will be with us forever. We had a wonderful week at Cispus Learning Center with twenty adults from thirteen different Unity churches mentoring sixty-two Uniteens from fifteen Unity churches throughout our NW Region.

This year, eleven out of twenty counselors were from the NW NGU group. These college students and recent graduates give us a week of service grounded in Truth principles with energy to match. What a gift to our Uniteen ministry and a beautiful service to the NW Region.

Our theme, *We Are The Journey*, was presented through the challenge course, processing, creative expression, service projects, meditation, prayer and play. The youth had many experiences in which to engage the idea that Spirit is the element that spans the Me-to-We space as we connect within ourselves and with friends in a deeper awareness of God. The Cispus challenge course, both the high and low sections asks for collaboration, cooperation and inclusion as each group plans and initiates several approaches to a given challenge at any of thirty-two rope course elements. All camp participants are asked to step into their growth zone during the many activities on and off the challenge course.

As one first-timer (12 y.o.) said at our closing ceremony; "Thank you for being genuine friends that saw the same thing in me like everyone else. I have never had better friends than I have made this week." This comment deepens when knowing that this child has special needs that can lead to separation or exclusion in a public school setting.

Unitreat counselors facilitate and sustain a Trust culture grounded in Truth principles to provide a safe and trustworthy environment in which our Uniteens can experience Spirit Within as well as spiritual friendship with all others at camp. As an adult reading this article you know this is significant work throughout our lives. Counselors lead with genuine respect and listen to all stories as they are shared or created during camp.

Thank you for the opportunity to play and grow with your Uniteens. It is ministry beyond measure to be with the youth and adults who co create the wonder of our Unitreat events at Cispus.

Our next Uniteen Event is November Unitreat, November 6, 7, 8, 2009, at Cispus Learning Center. The Retreat begins at 7pm on Friday and ends at 1pm on Sunday. Every church is encouraged to send an Adult Uniteen or Youth Ministry volunteer with their uniteens as this supports everyone during the event. This weekend is designed to give both the youth and adult a shared experience in which commitment and relationship can be built within the Uniteen group in their home church.

Awesomeness Abounds

May 15th-17th, at Menucha Conference Center, twenty-three NGUers from around the region gathered for *The Inner Adventure* retreat. We challenged ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. All the participants helped to create a wonderfully loving community. For this event we took orders for our retreat shirts online to help feed our scholarship fund. The proceeds from this fundraiser were modest this time around, but I believe that this was the step that set the ball rolling, and soon people will be looking forward to purchasing the latest NW NGU retreat shirt.

June 19th-26th eleven NGUers went to Cispus Learning Center in Randle, WA to be counselors for Unitreat. This is the service project for NW NGU and this year NGUers made up over half of the twenty-one person staff. Everyone had a great time at camp this year. The Uniteens were excited to have the high-ropes course back, and I was excited to see the influx of new energy meeting with the Unitreat traditions and merging ever so beautifully.

July 17th-19th NW NGU returned for the third time to Cape Lookout State Park in Tillamook, OR for a gathering at the coast. This is a social gathering of an intentional, spiritual community. Because storing and preparing food for thirty-three people on camping equipment was such a hassle two years ago, the NW NGU Planning team decided this time to host a campout without providing programming or food. This gathering was a great success full of fun and connection.

November 20th-22nd is our fall retreat themed *Oneness*. We will be returning this year to the Lewis & Clark State Park Environmental Learning Center near Chehalis, WA. More information will be available towards the end of August from our web page: unitynwregion.org/ngu.aspx

Blessings,
Nick Muncie-Jarvis



The Reverend Penny Gruver On Her Ordination!

I can tell you that my ordination experience was a total delight and my heart just swells with the out pouring of love and the show of generosity from the region and everyone else who contributed to make it such an incredible day. I think I may be the first person ever to be ordained at a regional conference. Special thanks go out to Everett Unity who so graciously paid for the lunches of all of my family and friends, and to the regional team who said YES to my being sponsored by the region in the first place.

Peace and kindest regards,

Rev. Penny Gruver, CSE, LUT
NW Regional Youth Ministry Consultant



NW Region Youth Ministry Calendar 2009

August 9-13 **YOU Rendezvous** at Vernonia OR \$250
includes Leadership Training

September 25-27 **Fall Youth Ed Directors
Leadership** - Seabeck WA **\$185**

Oct 16-18 **YOU Retreat** at Camp Waskowitz near
North Bend WA **\$180**
(\$160 if postmark by 10/1/2009)

Nov 6-8 **Fall Unitreat (Uniteens)** at Cispus
Center near Randle WA **\$140**



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I am really excited about the changes happening. With increased training and supervised practicum experience, our Peace workers will be even more effective in helping our ministries through transitions.

My dream is that every ministry in our region benefit from peacemaking.

I realize that all our ministries may not be able to afford this. Because there are no certified peace workers (under the new system) in our region, there could be significant travel expenses.

Here are a few possible ideas on how to increase access to these services for all our ministries.

1. The region could create a fund to provide financial assistance to ministries who wish to engage a peace worker.
2. A longer term solution would be to have 3-4 certified peace workers in our region. That could be accomplished in two ways:
 - The region could provide scholarship funds to attend Peacemaking Skills Institute.
 - The region could host a Peacemaking Skills Institute. To host the Institute, we would need 12-16 people and a space to hold it.

I would really like to hear from those of you who are interested in peacemaking and welcome your ideas.

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Unity Earth Care Northwest

We declare our covenant with God to walk upon Earth for the greatest good of all creation.

Fruits of the Work – “Green Festival”

The ‘Going Green Group’ at Unity of Bellevue put on a mini-green festival Sunday, April 19th. Four booths provided information and fun. They were: E-waste recycling, rain gardens, native plant landscaping, and the Un-driver’s license.

The biggest hit was the Un-driver’s license booth, which had come to Unity of Bellevue from the recent Green Festival at the Washington Convention Center. Each participant committed to regularly using an alternative form of transportation of their choice by signing an agreement. Then, the participant stood in an “Un-driver’s License” frame and held a toy that represented the alternative transportation choice near their face.



Paul R in the Un-Driver’s license frame

Finally, a photo of the person in the Un-driver’s License frame went into a plastic form. They took the license home as a reminder of the commitment they had made to reduce their car trips.

As you might suspect, the most energetic participants were the youth. They swarmed over the displays, asking questions and picking up literature.

As you might suspect, the most energetic participants were the youth. They swarmed over the displays, asking questions and picking up literature. Approximately 200 people from both services checked out the booths and the information. Brochures were gone in short order. Each provider of a booth also learned from the participants. Most importantly, information was shared.



Richard M’s Un-Driver’s License 1

Also the “Going Green Group’s” new web site is up and is still being developed. Check it out at:

<http://earthcare-unityofbellevue.org/default.aspx>

- Judy Willingham

Thriving In Unity and EarthCare Churches are probably receiving the new Thriving in Unity 2.0 program information, which differs from the 2008 version, TiU, as they call it, also includes an EarthCare component: the Congregational Earth Care Program developed by the Unity Earth Care International Team. This is a great program. You can use the material whether you are planning to use the entire TiU 2.0 program or not! Contact unityearthcare@unity.org to get the program booklet. It is on the Unity website, but the site is being continually updated right now and things tend to shift around as Unity School and the Association get the combined site working to its best efficiency.

Prayer: All that is sweet, delightful, and amiable in this world, in the serenity of the air, the fineness of seasons, the joy of light, the melody of sounds, the beauty of colors, the fragrantcy of smells, the splendor of precious stones, is nothing else but Heaven breaking through the veil of this world, manifesting itself in such a degree and darting forth in such variety so much of its own nature.

– William Law

Contact Unity Earth Care Northwest at unityearthcare@yahoo.com

Visit our webpage at www.unitynwregion.org

go to /Programs/EarthCare

Licensed Unity Teacher News - July 2009

by Janet Rhodes, Licensed Unity Teacher Representative
and Diana Moskal, Licensed Unity Teacher Rep Alternate

Since last I wrote this article, Diana and I have been to the Northwest Region's conference (April) and to the People's Convention in Kansas City (June). Conference was great! Nineteen licensed teachers, teacher candidates, and people interested in being teachers attended the Licensed teacher meeting!

The People's Convention was wonderful. The keynote speakers were great. There were a wonderful array of workshops.

Diana and Janet attended the meeting of LUT Representatives and Alternates on Monday morning. Read on for an article about our meeting with Paul Hasselbeck, the Dean of SEE. In the afternoon, Janet gave her workshop on HealthyTalk Decision-making for Licensed teachers. The participants seemed eager for the information. And they responded actively to the exercises and discussion. (I had a great time! ...Janet)

Licensed Teacher Reps Meet with Dean of SEE One of the highlights of Convention was attending the meeting of the Licensed Unity Teacher

Representatives and Alternate Reps on Monday morning. This was led by Shirley Kennedy, licensed teacher coordinator for the Association. She invited Paul Hasselbeck, Dean of Spiritual Education and Enrichment Program. He shared valuable information regarding the changes in the Spiritual Education and Enrichment program.

Some of Paul's thoughts were:

1. On Standardizing the Curriculum: the curriculum has learning objectives and hour-by-hour subjects along with key concepts. Teachers do need to develop lesson plans. No more lengthy notebooks with too much detail.
2. On the testing process for credit classes: A person has 3 opportunities to pass the test. There are additional opportunities if needed (with an additional cost, about \$25...).

The end goal [of the SEE studies] is that the student be a Christian heart-centered metaphysician... I believe that they will be more active in the churches and more prepared to be leaders.

Paul Hasselbeck

The tests are for self assessment and learning. The questions are **not** meant to be tricky. Questions are true/false, multiple choice and multiple answer. Paul suggests taking the test "cold" right after the class is finished. When you retake the test (if you need to), only the parts that you missed will be re-tested. If someone has a documented Learning Disability, they will be supported in taking the test.

The SEE test only tests for facts. *Teachers in the field are expected to check for how students apply of the material in their lives; assignments such as practicing for 21 days and reporting back. The tests are Open-Book!*

3. On changes – or not – to classes:
 - a. None of the Fillmore classes have been dropped. They have been rearranged. One has been added "Myrtle Fillmore's Healing Letters."
 - b. Metaphysics I and II are being re-vamped.
 - c. A new Twelve Powers book will be out in January (written by Paul) based on the twelve abilities (rather than powers).
4. When you finish teaching a class, send the names and emails of credit students to ese@unityonline.org, Lisa Hurst. This way students will be able to take their tests sooner.
3. Get syllabi by emailing xsee@unityonlyine.org, Lisa Earl. She will also send out powerpoints for classes!!!

Paul encouraged LUTs and ministers to sign up on the internet to receive the newsletters from Shirley Kennedy. They are Great!

Spring SDS and the 2010 Schedule: IMPORTANT

If you are planning to schedule for Spring SDS 2010 note that it is **NOT** scheduled for the week immediately after Leadership week (i.e., Session "C"), due to Easter Sunday and the desire to avoid requiring participants to travel on Easter. It will start a week later.

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SEE Classes and a 12 Powers Update

At April conference someone mentioned that they had heard that *12 Powers* now needed to be taught over a 6-month period. Diana checked with the SEE office and learned that it can still be taught like any other class – with a minimum of 10 class room hours.

Please continue to bring these kinds of questions to Janet and Diana. We are glad to get clarification or find an answer for you. Or help you make the right connections.

I am very grateful to Paul and Shirley for the time and energy they have put into the SEE program for the benefit and well being of everyone. Their care and concern from the heart is certainly evident.

Diana Moskal

Happy 80th (and 30th) Joy Wilson!

In May, Joy celebrated both her 80th birthday and 30 years of service as a Licensed Unity teacher at a special ceremony and party organized by her daughter Sharlee, son David and granddaughters, Amy and Jamie. Many Unity ministers in the area were on hand to present a proclamation written by Rev. Marilyn Muehlbach, chair of the Association of Unity Churches, International, and former senior minister at Unity of North Idaho. The Reverends Rich & Kris Broderhausen, Deidre Ashmore, Weaver Hess, and Clare Austen were on hand for the presentation.



Questions? Comments? Ideas? Contact Us!

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- various sizes
- Understanding clearly the size you are, and celebrating it; this is also known as “healthy ministry”
- An overview of the requirements from both ministers and boards to revitalize a vision, create a new vision for a community, or to begin a new life cycle in your church
- An overview of what is required to move from one size to another and support the sustained growth

Rev. Lisa Davis has spent many hours studying the “science” of doing vibrant church, much of it through courses and material from the Alban Institute. Lisa has been a part of vitalizing two churches, moving one from family to program size and another from pastoral to the edge of corporate size. She feels ministry is an honor, and that it becomes much easier when there is understanding of the requirements of each stage. Her goal is to help ministers enjoy ministry right where they are as well as helping ministers and boards in creating a space for healthy growth in their ministries.

Join us for a powerful training... for boards and ministers. For more information contact Diane at 503-234-7441.

Be not the slave of your own past. Plunge into the sublime seas, dive deep and swim far, so you shall come back with self-respect, with new power, with an advanced experience that shall explain and overlook the old.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ministries Without Leaders

Unity NW Regional Meeting - Conference Call Minutes — June 29, 2009

We had a conference call at 9 am, chaired by Barbara Wilson. Barbara summarized the issues, and we asked our questions about the functioning of this team.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE

- Issue has come up repeatedly on the Standards Team Looking for way to help the Field operate with the greatest integrity and interact most successfully with the National headquarters
- **KEY QUESTION:** How do we best support ministries without leadership?
- We need to recognize that there might be a whole range of options for solutions.
- We wanted to help out with a team that was looking at this issue at a national level, but Barbara received a much better response from the NW Region than she had anticipated.

ON THE CALL

- Sandra Blanchard from Newport, Oregon
- Inga Tarantola Eugene, OR
- Eleanor Kurtus, West Linn, OR
- Dennis Ashley, Spokane, WA
- Karen Breen-James from Kingston, WA
- Rob Wheeler, Medford, OR
- Roy Ayers was on call and then left call

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Get acquainted with each other
- Answer questions as best as she can but things are still at a formulation stage
- See who is the best person to represent us on the national stage and see who would be best on the Regional Team (and see if we want to continue as a regional team)

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ISSUES

- 51 or 52 churches in our region, but 17 churches in our region have no credentialed leader
- **Is this the same percentage as in other regions?** Don't know.
- **What qualifies as a credentialed leader?** Not positive, but Barbara thinks that it means Ordained Minister or Licensed Unity Teacher
- **What's the goal of this team?** Identify the issues or most pressing needs for these ministries without leaders; and create a set of recommendations. How do we create structures that help support these ministries? We need to establish better

communication relationships and better tools for these ministries.

- Sandra commented that when she called for help she immediately got it from a number of sources.
- We have good support from this group right here
- **Have we ever asked the question of ministries without leaders:** What do you need? Barbara doesn't think we have.
- There are some ministries who don't want ministers but there still may be some resources they might need or that might already exist
- The National Team is looking for a report to the Board in October
- Not sure about the time commitment for the person who helps with the National Team
- Barbara doesn't think that it will require much travel, but rather just conference calls and emails.
- **If a ministry doesn't have a leader does it create problems for the Region or the National Association?** They are not in compliance with national by-laws; they aren't supposed to exist; the situation can become unhealthy; we have churches out there that may not be representing our teachings accurately. It doesn't actually cost the Region anything, but there is a loss of opportunity to have a stronger Region.
- **How could we reimburse for any expenses?** Perhaps some of the funds we have allocated for pioneering churches could be used to reimburse for expenses for this team

NEXT STEPS

- We can contact John Butler to have these minutes posted on Google.
- peacemakerheart@gmail.com
- We identified who wanted to work on the National Team and who preferred to be on the Regional only team
- Barbara asked that Rob be the liaison to the national team
- Barbara will find out when we can involve Lawrence Palmer with this team
- When Barbara gets into contact with Lawrence to gather some additional information, she will then contact us as to the next Regional-Only meeting. We are waiting to hear from Barbara as to when that next meeting is.



Northwest Region
of the Association of Unity Churches

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The Transformation Experience Enlightened Leaders Program

If you were able to attend the 2009 People's Convention in Kansas City you heard about the Transformation Experience and its two major components: the Thriving Ministry Pilot Groups (selected at Convention) and the Enlightened Leaders Program. You may even have felt the nudge to participate in the Enlightened Leaders Program, but wanted more information before jumping in and "transforming."

The Enlightened Leaders Program is a transformational leadership development program for leadership teams (ministers, board members, staff, LUTs & key leaders) in any Unity ministry. The Enlightened Leaders Program will enhance key leadership skills through: deepening spiritual practice, developing undiscovered leaders, building teams, leading from the heart, refining organizational integrity, leading constructive change, and much more. All leadership teams (that are willing to meet the transfor-

ative commitments and readiness indicators will be accepted into the program!

Now is the time to apply for the Enlightened Leaders Program! The application deadline is August 31, 2009. However, if you apply by July 31, 2009 you will be entered into a drawing to receive one of three scholarships to the 2010 Unity People's Convention in beautiful San Diego, CA. So don't wait!

For all the information you need, go to www.thetransformationexperience.org. You may also contact Rev. Deborah Frownfelter, Director of Ministry & Leadership Development (leadership@unity.org) at the Association of Unity Churches International. Now is the time and we are the ones. Join us!

