



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

April is the month of Earth Day, which began in 1970. Next year will be the 40th anniversary of the day that helped catalyze the environmental movement of the 1970s.

EarthCare Prayer

This quarter we have a Prayer-Poem by Meister Eckhart, Catholic Dominican monk and scholar (1260-1328).

When I Was the Forest

When I was the stream, when I was the forest,
when I was still the field,
when I was every hoof, foot
fin and wing, when I
was the sky
itself,

no one ever asked me did I have a purpose, no one
ever wondered was there anything I might need,
for there was nothing
I could not
love.

It was when I left all we once were that
the agony began, the fear and questions came,
and I wept, I wept. And tears
I had never known
before.

So I returned to the river, I returned to the mountains.

I asked for their hand in marriage again,
I begged—I begged to wed every object
and creature,

and when they accepted
God was ever present in my arms.
And He did not say,
“Where have you
been?”

For then I knew my soul—every soul—
has always held
Him.

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Contact Unity Earth Care Northwest at
unityearthcare@yahoo.com

Visit our webpage at www.unitynwregion.org
go to /Programs/EarthCare

Yearning to green your congregation?

There are many ways to be good stewards of the earth to maintain your ministry and carry out your church activities. Here are two good programs developed by the Association that you can try.

EarthCare Congregation Program

Designed by Unity EarthCare International, a ministry team of the Association of Unity Churches International, the *EarthCare Congregation Program* assists congregations in integrating an earth-oriented spirituality into their ministry.

The program has three components with increasing levels of commitment and activities. Pick the level that meets your needs! You can start out at a lower level and gradually move up to a higher level. Or you can jump right in at the highest level of commitment and activities.

EarthCare Covenant. Set an intention by committing to and signing the provided Covenant.

EarthCare Commitment Program. Accomplish some meaningful actions that move you into an active EarthCare program as described in the booklet.

EarthCare Congregation Certification. Express EarthCare in all aspects of your ministry.

Thriving In Unity Program - Benchmark 11

Here is an update about Benchmark 11 for those working on the Benchmarks of the middle level program. Benchmark 11 requires a *green audit*.

1. In Version 2 of Thriving In Unity, expected in June, Benchmark 11 will likely be revised.
2. **Be aware** that the goal of the benchmark is to use the audit list to check your church. If you plan to make changes, check with your local city or county planning or permitting offices. Permits or other approvals may be needed. Sometimes actions that seem to provide good stewardship may actually be prohibited. For example, some items on the checklist are prohibited in some or most areas of Washington state (examples include rain barrels, composting toilets, using gray water to irrigate).