

## Why Care for the Earth?

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“And God saw everything that he had made and behold, it was very good.”—Genesis 1:31

*As I sit by the river, I feel the warm sun on my face and smell the fragrance of the pine trees. A gentle breeze caresses my skin as I gaze at the blue sky above. An osprey cries as it flies overhead...*

Something is growing within the Unity movement: *Earth Care Ministry*. “Why?” you might ask. Why do we need another ministry, in addition to what is already happening? Does it fit into what Unity teaches? Aren’t our plates full enough?

Let us answer these questions and maybe raise some new ones.

### **God is Everywhere**

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The first principle that Unity teaches is, “God is all good and everywhere present.” Or as I have heard in various songs and as a Unitreat motto, “There is no spot where God is not.” Wouldn’t that mean that all ground is sacred ground, the very essence of God? And we care for and honor all things as sacred?

### **Not More Work -- More *Intentional* Work**

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What about our full plates? Unity churches that adopt this ministry find it isn’t so much adding something new, but being more intentional about what we already do.

Many Unity churches and centers include a blessing for Mother Earth in the Sunday Service prayer. Others have special services to celebrate Earth Day and the turning of the seasons.

The Unity Center in Coeur d’Alene grows a pumpkin patch as an intergenerational activity. Another church plants flowers as a beautification

project in their community. The Bozeman, Montana, church holds special services at a sacred site nearby.

### **Earth Care Saves Money**

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Caring for the earth saves our churches (and each of us) money!

Unity at Beaverton, Oregon, refitted their church building with energy saving light fixtures, tuned up their furnace, and replaced their lawn sprinkler with drip tubes. They’re now saving \$35 to \$40 a month on utilities; good for the budget, good for the Earth.

Unity Church of Portland, Oregon, conducted an energy audit and participated in a Lighting Efficiency Retrofit Project. As a result, the church’s annual electric bills decreased \$1000 the first year and \$1600/year over the next two years. They realized a 3-year return on their investment. And they continue to reap the savings of the retrofit project.

### **Prayerful Actions**

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Earth Care Ministry brings prayerful, intentional thought to our actions. It is remembering the essence of God everywhere—celebrating the Oneness of all life, honoring the divinity in all Creation.

The question we should ask is, “Why not?”

*...I look at the trees and smile. The branches move gently, the way Youth of Unity move their hands when they want to bless someone without breaking the mood with applause. Yes, Mother Nature is blessing me and I say Thank You in gratitude. And so it is. Amen.*

For more ideas, see our webpage at [www.unitynwregion](http://www.unitynwregion) under Programs/Earth Care, or contact us at [unityearthcare@yahoo.com](mailto:unityearthcare@yahoo.com).