

# EarthCare Connections

Unity EarthCare Team, a Ministry of Unity Worldwide Ministries

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## Special Points of Interest:

- We are to “live the truth we know.” Each life, each soul, makes a difference in their interdependence with the whole.
- EarthCare is part of a global movement in consciousness that recognizes our oneness with the environment and the need to protect it.
- What we do to the environment we do to ourselves.
- One of our earliest visions of the Earth Care Core Team was to learn and teach in an ecumenical environment of love and respect.

## Interdependence With Our Earth Home

We are informed by news reports and United Nation’s Commissions that the resources of our planet are under stress. In the intuitive wisdom offered in prayer and meditation, we are led to a way of being which is interdependent with all of God’s creation. Many now are called to “do and give their best” to walk in harmony with the earth. We are to “live the truth we know.” Each life, each soul, makes a difference in their interdependence with the whole.

In that spirit, our Unity EarthCare Team deeply appreciates the opportunities afforded us to encourage Unity Congregations to become “EarthCare Certified.” Said designation becomes a profound marker within our movement that the Unity cosmological understanding profoundly includes an awakened relationship with all of God’s green earth.

Ron Habin, Chair  
 Unity EarthCare Team



The idea for an environmental committee at Unity Church of Overland Park, Kansas (UCOP) came out of a church-wide visioning weekend in the fall of 2003. A month later, four people signed up to become members of a Green Team and the first meeting was held in December of 2003. We were off and running!

Over the next several months, the team adopted a vision statement, mission statement, specific areas of interest, established the positions of facilitator, vice facilitator and secretary/treasurer, and had a staff member of the church designated a liaison between the team, senior

ministry and board of directors.

Our Vision Statement is: *To promote stewardship of the environment and an awareness of our oneness with the earth*, and our mission is: *“To envelope and sustain participants for the rest of their lives with a spiritual awareness of our oneness with our Earth home and to promote active care of creation.”*

Since its inception, we’ve sponsored or participated in over 100 activities or events in the areas of Sustainable Living, Recycling, Energy Conservation, Waste Minimization, Natural Resources, Respect for the Interdependence of the Universe, and EarthCare in Action.



## UET Mentoring Program

David Cordova, EarthCare Mentoring facilitator (davecordova@msn.com). Calls are the third Saturday of the month, 11 a.m.

Meet others who are interested in protecting & preserving the environment, share experiences and ways to enhance your Green Team

We're on the web!  
[www.unity.org/earthcare](http://www.unity.org/earthcare).

Questions? Contact us at:  
[earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org)

*Taken in part from, "I dream," by Lisa Firestone:*

*I dream of a world where wild tigers are more than memories and shadows in the tall grass....where the elephant's ivory is prized on him more than behind glass....where the arctic is so cold narwhales and belugas smile, even grow old...where a gun is just a game at the fair to win an imitation of a leopard or a bear; I dream monkeys and apes speak to us in ways we never imagined and the only value of fur is where God placed it not fashion; I dream grizzlies and wolves roam free of danger from above or in the snow; I dream we live side by side and pups and cubs are safe no matter where they go across untouched land And in oceans deep and purest blue; I dream every living creature has the home and space it needs to live and is entitled to; I dream respect and compassion are one day a unanimous expression of our race And I dream every corner of the planet looks and feels as safe here as it does from space . . . I dream. . .*

In 2010, Unity Church of Overland Park became the fourth congregation in Unity Worldwide Ministries to be designated an EarthCare Congregation by the EarthCare Team. Although we've had our ups and downs, we remain committed to our vision and, through it, the team's future is bright.

## EarthCare, A Growing Movement in Consciousness

The recent actions of two of our EarthCare Congregations illustrate the ability of the movement to transcend barriers. This is because EarthCare is part of a global movement in consciousness that recognizes our oneness with the environment and the need to protect it. The world is waking up to the fact that what we do to the environment we do to ourselves.

## An Ecumenical Outreach, Orlando, Florida

Christ Church Unity attended an ecumenical Eco-Fair sponsored by a very large Evangelical church in their area. The afternoon which featured a nature inspired nondenominational video; a God-centered walk through an environmentally themed exhibit, and many "green" oriented food and business vendors was a huge success.

The welcoming minister (gave the invocation at President Obama's first inaugural), spent time with us, happily took our literature and looked forward to many future events together. Also in attendance was the Catholic Archdiocese, the Sikh community, representatives from a conservative synagogue, and many traditional Protestant denominations.

One of our earliest visions of the EarthCare Core Team was to learn and teach in an ecumenical environment of love and respect. For one glorious afternoon in October, we witnessed what a loving human family might feel like.

## Working Together through EarthCare

Unity of Tampa Earth Care has partnered with several other local environmental organizations to show important documentaries to the public. We are using our combined mailing lists, Facebook, community radio, and other sources to publicize our events. Our church Fellowship Hall is utilized for the screenings, and this also serves to introduce Unity to those who attend. We showed "Gasland" on Sept. 18, which was a very successful event, so much that we are now coming together again on Nov. 14 to show the sequel, "Gasland 2". We hope to continue more movies, as well as guest speaker events, to establish Unity of Tampa as an environmental leader in our area.

