



## ***EarthCare Program (The Path to EarthCare)***

Unity EarthCare Ministry Team  
[www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare](http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare)  
earthcare@unity.org

### **Overview:**

The purpose of the program is to assist church communities in integrating an earth-oriented spirituality into their ministry. EarthCare helps each congregation discover what Spirit calls them to do to care for our Earth home. It guides the ways by which the **Path** is achieved. The **EarthCare Program**, is a seven-step **Path to EarthCare**:

**Pray Vision Inspire Educate Act Share Reaffirm**

### **Vision:**

All humanity lives in a spiritual consciousness that manifests as loving co-existence with all creation and care for our Earth home.

### **Mission:**

To foster awareness of our spiritual oneness with the Earth and to promote active care of all creation.

### **Purpose:**

To assist ministries in integrating an earth-oriented spirituality into their faith community. EarthCare helps each congregation discover what Spirit calls them to do to care for our Earth home.

### **Unity's Basic Principles:**

EarthCare implements Unity's Fifth Basic Principle: *Through thoughts, words, and actions we live the truth we know* is manifested through the EarthCare Program.

# EarthCare Program

## Three (3) Levels of Achievement

The program consists of three levels of achievement on the *Path to EarthCare*. In each progressive level of achievement there is a greater commitment to and consciousness of EarthCare. A ministry's involvement will be tailored to each particular community and resources available. It is not necessary to complete the levels in sequence.

### Level A: EarthCare Covenant

Completing this level fulfills the **Pray and Vision steps**. Creating a covenant provides a statement of commitment to the **EarthCare Program** by the leadership of the ministry. It is a sacred trust between the church community and spirit and should be adopted by the board of directors as well as the senior spiritual leader. Although samples are provided in *Suggestions/Opportunities*, congregations are invited to be creative and discern their own individual statements.

### Level B: EarthCare Commitment

Completing this level requires **four (4) steps** and **three (3) actions** from the *Actions List*, with documentation. If Level A has not already been achieved, the **Pray** and **Act** steps are required. Also describe the history, current status and future EarthCare plans of your ministry.

### Level C: EarthCare Fulfillment

Complete all **seven (7) steps** of the *Path to EarthCare* and **six (6)** of the eight actions from the *Actions list*, with documentation. Also describe the history, current status and future EarthCare Plans of your ministry. By completing the *Path to EarthCare*, the congregation will have cultivated a comprehensive earth oriented spirituality that touches the entire ministry both spiritually and in practical actions.

### Program Flexibility

If a step or action is not appropriate for your ministry, contact the Unity EarthCare Team (UET) to discuss other alternatives. A UET member is available to assist you in any way possible by writing [earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org) or through mentoring calls the third Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. c.s.t. Call 1.641.715.3680 Code: 1043504. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!

### Recognition

Upon completion of any level, a *Certificate of Achievement* will be awarded to the congregation for the level applied. In addition, the ministry will be recognized on both the UWM and UET websites, at the annual Unity People's Conference, and in other publications.

# *The Path to EarthCare*

Link: [www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare](http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare)

## **1. Pray**

Prayer creates a consciousness for inspiration, guidance and community. Prayer will guide your ministry to express its unique vision of caring for the earth and creation.

## **2. Vision**

Vision defines the purpose, critical processes and goals of the **EarthCare Program**. This will result in an EarthCare Covenant. It may also include a vision statement and mission statement to guide your ministry.

## **3. Inspire**

Through prayers, songs and special ceremonies, divine ideas will blossom into creative and meaningful expressions of caring for the earth and creation. This will be expressed as an Action Plan.

## **4. Educate**

Education is a key component to fully comprehend and understand the complexities of environmental and social justice issues, as related to the earth and creation.

## **5. Act**

Right action will follow based upon the needs and vision of the community to care for the earth and creation. The activities may be simple or complex, contained solely within the ministry or reach out into the broader community. Refer to *Actions List* and *Suggestions/Opportunities*, at [www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare](http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare)

## **6. Share**

As ministries share their achievements, within the ministry and to the community at-large, the EarthCare goals and accomplishments expand outward exponentially through connection and networking.

## **7. Re-Affirm**

Through sacred ceremony/ritual, a ministry is able to re-affirm its EarthCare covenant on an annual basis, thereby kindling enthusiasm and zeal for this most sacred work. It also provides an opportunity to reassess where the program has been and where it may lead in the future.

# Actions List

Link: [www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare](http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare)

Some of these activities are primarily applicable to congregations that own their own building and grounds. However, the list may be modified to meet the needs of all congregations regardless of whether they own, rent or use their facility.

1. **Environmental/Energy Audit.** Assess all aspects of a congregation's environmental practices. A substantial number of the recommends in the audit must be implemented. While the scope of work differs for each audit, an audit typically encompasses the following categories:
  - I. Building
  - II. Grounds
  - III. Lighting
  - IV. Water Use and Water Heating
  - V. Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC)
  - VI. Operations and Maintenance
  - VII. Business Operations
2. **Energy/Water Conservation.** Reducing carbon dioxide will help preserve ecological systems and by practicing water conservation the supply and the cleanliness of water will be sustained.
3. **Recycling.** Perhaps the easiest way to be earth-friendly!
4. **Waste Minimization.** Be a mindful consumer of goods purchased, or of food wasted.

## "Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle"

5. **Conservancy of Natural Resources.** Care for the earth through ministry involvement or community partnerships.
6. **Interdependent Web of Creation.** Undertake actions that call a renewed reverence and respect for all forms of life as well as the interdependent web of creation. As our consciousness comes into deeper alignment with divine mind we more fully express the Vision of EarthCare.
7. **Ecological Social Justice.** Promote an environmentally socially just world that is free from oppression and discrimination against people, and the inhumane treatment of animals.
8. **Mindful Eating.** Help restore our sacred relationships with the earth, animals, and all

creation by raising consciousness that our food choices are a spiritual practice that promotes care for both ourselves and the earth.

## Forms to Be Completed

**Notice of Initiation:** each Level of Achievement will require a *Notice of Initiation* to be filled in and sent to the Unity EarthCare Team (UET).

**Notice of Achievement:** once the requirements of a Level have been achieved, a **Notice of Achievement** will be filled out that describes the steps and/or actions completed (with documentation), and sent to UET.

Send to:

[Michael\\_mccord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net)

or

Michael McCord - EarthCare Coordinator

1209 N. Leevue Dr.

Olathe, KS 66061

Phone: 913-907-4061



## Notice of Initiation

This Notice signifies that on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Board / Governing body

Spiritual Center / Church

Address

City

State

Zip

Website: \_\_\_\_\_, Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Will begin their **Level of Achievement** with:

- Level A: EarthCare Covenant**
- Level B: EarthCare Commitment (List the Steps and Actions to be completed.)**
- Level C: EarthCare Fulfillment. (List the six Actions to be completed.)**

Senior Minister / Spiritual Leader  
Email address:

President / Chair of Governing Body  
Email address:

**EarthCare** contact for the Ministry:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Phone & email \_\_\_\_\_



## Notice of Achievement

This Notice signifies that on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Board / Governing body Spiritual Center / Church

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip

Website: \_\_\_\_\_, Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Has achieved the following **Level of Achievement:**

- \_\_\_ **Level A: EarthCare Covenant - Attach copy of covenant.**
- \_\_\_ **Level B: EarthCare Commitment – Attach \*Actions List & Steps completed, with documentation.**
- \_\_\_ **Level C: Earthcare Fulfillment – Attach \*Actions List & Steps completed, with documentation.**

**\*For Levels B and C also describe the history, current status and future goals/plans of your environmental program.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Minister / Spiritual Leader

\_\_\_\_\_ President / Chair of Governing Body

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**EarthCare** contact for the Ministry:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Phone & email \_\_\_\_\_