

May 26, 2022

In October 1966 Joyce Kramer began teaching Unity classes at the YMCA on Freemason Street in Norfolk, Virginia. She held the first worship service in January 1967. Lowell Fillmore, son of Unity's cofounders, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, ordained her in 1968.

As Rev. Kramer became known for her inspirational teaching and community service, attendance at Unity of Norfolk steadily increased. In 1970 the church purchased 11.2 acres of property in Virginia Beach which became Unity Church of Tidewater. By 1974 the debt on the property was paid in full and construction began.

Rev. Kramer led the first service in the new facility on December 23, 1979, as the congregation participated in the Annual Christmas Candlelight Service. The church continued to grow, with a new 1000-seat sanctuary opening in May 1991.



The Legacy of Her Ministry

Over the course of 50 years, Rev. Kramer delivered thousands of sermons, conducted weekly classes, taught continuing education courses at five area schools, and spoke for many local organizations. For 27 years, she recorded more than 1,400 weekly radio broadcasts for Radio Africa, reaching listeners in Ghana and Nigeria. Volunteers distributed 40,000 audio recordings of her messages. Her Sunday morning radio programs in the United States were broadcast for 25 years.

In addition, for nearly 50 years she recorded daily inspirational messages for her 24-hour telephone ministry, Dial-A-Blessing. These were later the basis for her devotional book, *Daily Blessings*. At least nine Unity ministers got their start at Unity Church of Tidewater.

Rev. Kramer served as president of the Association of Unity Churches (now called chair of the Board of Trustees of Unity Worldwide Ministries) for the 1976-77 term and was a visiting instructor for the Unity School of Religious Studies. Her writings have appeared in *Daily Word*®, *Unity Magazine*®, and many other publications.

Her international radio programs won her the Voice of Unity Award for Excellence in Broadcast

Outreach. She received the Myrtle Fillmore Award in 2002 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 from Unity Worldwide Ministries. In 2017, Unity World Headquarters recognized Rev. Kramer's half-century of service in a special presentation made by Unity CEO Rev. Jim Blake.

Following her retirement from Unity Church of Tidewater, she launched Joyce Kramer Ministries through which she published an Advent guide, *Celebrate Christmas*, and two books, *The Bible Speaks to You* and *God's Twelve Gifts to You*, a practical application of Charles Fillmore's teaching on the Twelve Powers. Rev. Kramer's voice is still heard online at joycekramerministries.com where her writings are also available.

Rev. Joyce Kramer, 91, passed away peacefully at home on February 22, 2022.