



## Green Star Award 2023 Application

### Introduction

The purpose of the Green Star Award is to recognize any Unity congregation that has completed at least **three** significant environmental activities in calendar year **2022** that fosters awareness of our spiritual oneness with the Earth and promotes active care of creation. Although the minimum is three, you can submit as many as you like.

The accomplishments must correlate to one of the seven steps and/or eight actions of the *Path to EarthCare*. The applications must be supported by appropriate documentation. Examples include videos, pictures, newspaper articles, announcements, brochures, etc.

All applications are due by **Monday, May 15, 2023**. Following review by the EarthCare Core Team, awardees will be individually notified.

Awardees will be recognized at this year's Unity People's Conference, June 26-30, at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel Convention Center in Overland Park, Kansas. They also will be featured on the UWM website, the EarthCare Facebook page, and in the *EarthCare Connections* newsletter. Finally, you also will receive a certificate suitable for framing.

Applications may be submitted electronically mailed as follow:

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

USPO Delivery: Mike McCord, 1209 N. Leevue Drive, Olathe, KS 66061

For questions, call Mike at 913.907.4061.

**2023 Green Star application for activities in calendar year 2022  
(please type or print):**

Name of Congregation:

Street/P.O. Box:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone:

Fax No:

Website:

Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader:

Email Address:

Phone No.:

President/Chair of Governing Body:

Email:

Contact Person:

Address:

Phone No.:

Email Address:

**For each activity, please provide the following:**

**No. 1**

Name/Title:

Description:

Purpose:

Step or action in the Path to EarthCare and/or EarthCare Program:

Date(s):

Number of participants:

Results:

Support material:

**No. 2**

Name/Title:

Description:

Purpose:

Step or action in the EarthCare Program:

Date(s):

Number of participants:

Results:

Support material:

**No. 3**

Name/Title:

Description:

Purpose:

Step or action in the EarthCare Program:

Date(s):

Number of participants:

Results:

Support material:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Signee \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_



## ***The Path to EarthCare & EarthCare Program***

Unity EarthCare Ministry Team

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare>

Contact: [earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org)

### **Overview:**

The purpose of the Path to EarthCare and EarthCare Program is to assist church communities in integrating an earth-oriented spirituality into their ministry. They manifest Unity's Fifth Basic Principle: *Through thoughts, words, and actions we live the truth we know*. As a result, they will discover what Spirit calls them to do to care for our Earth home and its inhabitants.

### ***The Path to 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. Examples are on the EarthCare website.
- 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 actions may be simple or complex, contained solely within

the ministry or in conjunction with other community activities. The actions are as follows:

1. **Energy/Environmental Audit.** An **energy audit** assesses all aspects of energy usage, while an **environmental audit** is a comprehensive analysis of the building, grounds, lighting, water use, HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) and business operations. Either is acceptable. Many local energy suppliers provide energy only audits for free. In addition, there are formats on the EarthCare webpage that you can use to conduct either an abbreviated or comprehensive in-house environmental audit.

This action is mandatory unless it is not feasible for your congregation. If it is not feasible, please contact your regional representative or the EarthCare Program Coordinator to discuss alternatives.

2. **Energy/Water Conservation.** Reducing carbon dioxide will help preserve ecological Systems. By practicing water conservation the supply and the cleanliness of water will be sustained.
3. **Waste Minimization.** Be a mindful consumer of goods purchased, or of food wasted. Reduce, reuse and repurpose!
4. **Recycling.** Perhaps the easiest way to be earth-friendly.
5. **Conservation of Natural Resources.** Adopt, maintain, promote or protect one of our Earth's ecosystems and resources. Examples include parks, trails, streams, neighborhoods, streets/ highway, cemetery, beach, or conservation areas either directly or in partnership with other organizations.
6. **Interdependent Web of Creation.** Undertake actions that represent a renewed reverence and respect for all forms of life as well as the interdependent web of creation. By replacing policies and practices that are detrimental to the environment with behaviors that demonstrate respect for the interconnectedness of creation, our consciousness comes into deeper alignment with divine mind and more fully expresses the Vision of EarthCare. Some examples include sacred rituals and periodically hosting movies, symposiums, workshops and presentations that promote a better understanding of our interconnectedness with one another, all living things and the web of creation.
7. **Environmental and Social Justice.** Climate change is an issue resulting in both environmental degradation and social injustice. As such, EarthCare's vision is of an environmentally just world that is free from oppression and discrimination. It is one that provides worthy and fair treatment of all humanity irrespective of race color, creed, income, place of origin, or gender identity. Social Justice also applies to all non-human sentient beings, who not only have a right to freedom from ecological destruction but a moral entitlement to just treatment.

As stated in *Jesus Christ Heals*, by Charles Fillmore: *We all intuitively know there is something wrong in a world where poverty, suffering, and sorrow prevail. We would not, any of us, create such a world. We all want to see these things blotted out in this world.*

For more information see "Environmental and Social Justice" on the EarthCare Website.

**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. Mindful Eating goes beyond that which we put in our mouths. It involves expanding our understanding of, connection with and reverence for every thing associated with the food chain and its interrelationship with all of creation. A complete description of Mindful Eating, with examples, can be found on the EarthCare website.

**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. Celebrate annually EarthCare's accomplishment in a ceremony to help vision your future objectives, goals & activities.

## *EarthCare Program*

There are three levels of achievement on *The Path to EarthCare*. Each level requires a greater commitment to, and consciousness of, the Vision of EarthCare. A Notice of Achievement is required to be submitted for each level completed.

### **Level A: EarthCare Covenant**

Completing this level fulfills the **Pray and Vision steps** by creating a covenant to the care of the earth. Through prayer & meditation, the leadership and congregation will create a covenant, which must be adopted by the board of directors. Share your sacred Covenant with the entire congregation. It also is recommended that a Green Team be formed to develop an action plan that implements the vision of your covenant.

Please send a copy of the covenant with your Notice of Achievement.

### **Level B: EarthCare Commitment**

Level B provides guidance for church communities to further their commitment to EarthCare. It requires completion of **four steps and three actions of the Act Step**. If Level A has already been achieved, the **Pray and Vision** steps are fulfilled. If not, Level A is required at this time. Please describe each Step and Action that was completed along with appropriate documentation as applicable. Provide a copy of your covenant along with the Notice of Achievement.

### **Level C: EarthCare Fulfillment**

Completion of Level C means the congregation has cultivated a comprehensive earth oriented spirituality that touches the entire ministry, both spiritually and in practical actions. This level requires completion of all **seven Steps of the Path** and **six of eight actions of the Act Step**. If Level A has already been achieved by adopting a covenant, the **Pray and Vision** steps are fulfilled. If not, Level A is required at this time. Please describe and each Step and Action that was completed along with documentation as appropriate Please note, Action No. 1, Energy/Environmental Audit, is mandatory if practicable. Finally, discuss the status and future plans of your Green Team.

### **Program Flexibility**

All churches, including virtual & alternative ministries can participate in the EarthCare certification process whether or not they own their facility or have a from-the-pulpit ministry. In addition, we recognize that not every action may be appropriate for your ministry. Please contact your regional coordinator or the program coordinator prior to submission if you would like to discuss alternatives to any of the actions.

### **Certificate of Achievement**

Upon completion of each level, the congregation will receive a *Certificate of Achievement*. In addition, the ministry will be recognized on both the UWM and EarthCare websites, at the annual Unity People's Conference and in other publications.

### Ongoing Support

The EarthCare Team offers a number of services and resources to assist you, all of which are summarized on our website:

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

Among our many resources are the following:

#### Monthly Collaborative calls

Facilitated by Mary Gerken the third Saturday of every month, at 11 a.m. (CT). Contact Mary at [agreatpickle@hotmail.com](mailto:agreatpickle@hotmail.com).

#### Facebook Page

To date, 1500 followers have discovered the timely resources and interchange of ideas that it contains. Please check it out by going to:

[www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare](http://www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare)

#### YouTube Channel

Contains numerous links to videos in Unity Messages, Social Justice, Education, -Spiritual Practices, Poems & Inspiration & Music. Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4iYARFqsqLhuodoDC52R5Q/playlists>.

#### EarthCare Connections Newsletter

Get the latest EarthCare news and timely features regarding the environment movement. Go to the EarthCare webpage.

To become a certified EarthCare Congregation, submit the following form:

## 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

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

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

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

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

**EarthCare** contact for the Ministry:

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_