Alternative Ministries Fact Sheet

Evolving Ministries are the growing edge of the Unity Worldwide Movement. In alignment with the UWM mission:

*Advancing the movement of spiritual awakening and transformation through Unity, a positive path for spiritual living.*

The Evolving Ministries Team and Coordinator are honored to support individuals and/or groups that want to establish a new Unity ministry – either a Unity Evolving Church/Center Ministry or a Unity Evolving Alternative Ministry.

1. **A Unity Evolving Alternative Ministry**: Formally organized as separate from a more traditional ministry. They are led by credentialed Unity leaders who feel called to serve the spiritual needs of people by conveying our Unity message in unique, creative and powerful ways. They have a Steering Team/Board of Directors but usually not other voting membership. A Unity Alternative Ministry is an organization created to bring Unity teachings and practices to the world through core functions that are distinct from that of Unity Evolving Member Ministries.

2. **Requirements**
   - New ministries must have Unity as the primary designator within their name. A ministry that chooses to be involved with the Unity Identity Program must have Unity as its first and primary designator, followed by the location, or, a geographic designator.
   - Leadership: Unity credentialed leader eligible for employment by Unity Worldwide Ministries and willing to serve the ministry for a minimum of two (2) years.
     - A “Unity credentialed leader” would include the following: Ordained Unity Minister • Licensed Unity Minister • Licensed Unity Teacher
   - Evolving Alternative Ministries must comply with the reporting requirements of the UWM Member Services Office as established by the UWM Board of Trustees.

3. **Additional Requirements**:
   - A physical mailing address for the business office.
   - An internet presence. (i.e. One or more of the following: Website; Social Media Network; Email)
   - Engagement in ongoing activities that provide Unity based services.
   - A FEIN (Federal Employer Identification Number).
   - Proposed Articles of Incorporation (to be completed within 6 months of approval)
   - Proposed By-laws (to be completed within 6 months of approval)
4. To begin the application process contact the UWM Evolving Ministries Coordinator at evolve@unity.org to request an application packet.

5. Review the packet and talk with the coordinator if there are questions about the process or required documentation.

6. The application packet has a checklist. It is often easiest to complete items in the order they are listed.

7. Application Policies:
   - Prior to starting a new Unity ministry, the interested party will submit a written application to the Unity Worldwide Ministries (UWM) Member Services Office.
   - All ministries must obtain written approval through the UWM Member Services Office according to established procedure.
   - Applications will be reviewed by the UWM Member Services Office, and the Evolving Ministry Coordinator for recommendation to the UWM Board of Trustees for approval.
   - Such approval is valid for one (1) year and will automatically continue, provided the ministry complies with the reporting process and continues under the guidance of an approved credentialed Unity leader.
   - If approval is not given, the designated leader has the right to appeal in writing within thirty (30) days to UWM Board of Trustees.
   - The proposed Unity ministry must obtain the full approval of Unity Worldwide Ministries (UWM) before doing any work under the Unity nam