



## History of EarthCare

The Unity EarthCare program rose up from the grassroots of the Unity movement, coming from the deep desire to express Unity's belief in our oneness with all life in ways that directly impact our planet. EarthCare vision statement is as follows:

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

EarthCare was succinctly expressed by Unity founders Charles and Myrtle Fillmore:

**Charles Fillmore:** *[There is] intelligence inherent in every form, animate or inanimate. It has been discovered that even rocks and all minerals have life.... We should be speaking words of truth to everything, not only to mankind but to the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms.*

—from *Christian Healing*, "The Word," #14, p. 68

**Myrtle Fillmore:** *I was almost accused of being a nature worshiper when I was a little girl. And I have always loved what I see in nature, as well as in all artists who are so close to the beauty side of God. Nature is surely the glorified face of Good. See the beauty about you and you do see the manifestation of the infinite Mind.*

—from *Myrtle Fillmore: Mother of Unity* by Thomas Witherspoon, p. 280

Guided by this vision, EarthCare's mission is: *To foster awareness of our spiritual oneness with the Earth and to promote active care of all creation.*

Assisting church communities in integrating an earth-oriented spirituality into their ministry through the seven-step Path to EarthCare plays a significant part in fulfilling its mission. The *Path to EarthCare* is as follows:

**Prayer Vision Inspiration Education Action Share Reaffirm**

The foundation for EarthCare was laid in 2001, when Unity minister Kathy Harwood Long represented Unity at "Sacred Encounters," an Interfaith conference on the environment in the Pacific Northwest. In 2002, the Northwest (NW) Region an EarthCare agenda was adopted, and in 2003 began developing ideas for the program, which included a seven-step "Path to EarthCare" Model. The Great Lakes Unity Regional Churches (GLURC) was also interested in EarthCare. In 2007, Rev. Kathy Harwood Long and Rev. Jane Simmons spearheaded the creation of the Unity Church's International EarthCare Team under the Unity Spiritual Action ministry team.

In January of 2008, Kym Farmer, Ron Habin and Mike McCord met at the Mid-Year Meetings at Unity Village. From this meeting, the logo of EarthCare was determined along with its organizational framework and goals. (The logo was later updated to align with Unity's branding standards.) EarthCare was also made part of the [Thriving in Unity 1.0](#) program as a benchmark and component. Soon thereafter, a Core Team was established that created its vision and mission statements, wrote the [EarthCare Program](#), and began administering the team activities.

In 2010, the program's name was changed to the Unity EarthCare Team (UET), and in 2012 it became a separate ministry team.

EarthCare is currently administered by a Core Team of seven volunteers. The Team has monthly conference calls to coordinate promotion of the program, educate ministries regarding the EarthCare program and environmental issues, certify ministries that have completed one of the three levels of the EarthCare Program, and administer other issues.

Since the program's inception, EarthCare has been UWM's voice for climate action and facilitated 45 congregations in becoming Certified EarthCare Congregations.

Unity Worldwide Ministries' support of the vision of EarthCare is reflected in the following **Covenant**, adopted by the Board of Trustees in January of 2019:

*The earth does not belong to man—man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.*—attributed to Chief Seattle

The Unity first principle states that there is only one presence and one power pervading the entire Universe. Unity Worldwide Ministries is committed to embodying this principle and honoring our Oneness with the earth. Recognizing that we live in a web of interconnectedness, and our actions affect the whole, we endeavor to touch the earth lightly and with reverence. And we encourage our members to do the same.