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Special Points of Interest:

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EarthCare Connections

An Offering from Your Unity EarthCare Ministry Team

Summer 2016

Stepping Out in Faith for Our Planet

This is such an important time for me to step out in faith as I can become discouraged by the daily rush of bad news about the state of our environment. As of this writing, forty-nine people are shot dead in a dance club while dozens more are in hospital in my home town of Orlando, Fla. The Seine in Paris is overflowing its banks and the great works of art at the Louvre are being hurriedly transported to safety at the highest floors. In recent years we've witnessed Russia "on fire" for an entire summer, melting ice caps at the poles, Greenland losing land mass, and residents of China's largest cities going to work wearing cotton masks to lessen the effects of air pollution.

Presently, a candidate for President of the United States says he would pull out of the country's commitment to the Paris Climate Accord. He further doesn't believe that human activity is contributing to climate change. He is a champion of unfettered fossil fuel industries and would remove federal restrictions on the carbon emitting mining of coal. In all honesty, he is contemptuous of some of the core values which give my life purpose.

Still, I so trust in faith. The faith which for decades always guides me. I remember an early example of learning to trust in faith from when I was five years old. My mother, a lifeguard, encouraged me to fall backwards into her arms in the community swimming pool. No looking allowed. Just fall and "I will catch you" she promised. I did as I was told and landed in womb-like protection.

Yes, the headlines are often discouraging and can understandably lead some to despair. But as we are Unity students, we are graced with a deeper knowing. As our own life lessons and the lives of our fellow Unity friends have exquisitely demonstrated, ultimately, "God's got it." Ours is to answer our calling to do what we can to nurture our own precious corner of the world. Then, turn it over in peace.

— Dr Ron Habin is Chair of Unity EarthCare Ministry Team

Unity People's Convention, June 2016

Over thirty churches requested more information regarding the EarthCare program at the recently completed 2016 Unity People's Convention in Overland Park, Kansas. Many more picked up material at the EarthCare table shown below. Cindy Evitt and Mike McCord represented EarthCare for the week.



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Unity People's Conference, June 2016 (cont'd)



Among the programs we promoted include *Awakening the Dreamer through Unity*, a symposium originally created by the Pachamama Alliance in 2005. To date, this powerful symposium has been presented in 70 countries. In 2013, EarthCare collaborated with the Pachamama Alliance to adapt the symposium to Unity audiences, including videos by UWM leaders, Unity teachings and a special segment devoted to helping congregations start a Green Team through the EarthCare program. The symposium is a profound inquiry into a bold vision: to bring forth a world in which all humanity lives in a spiritual consciousness that manifests as loving coexistence with all creation and care for our earth home. A world that is environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just.



If you would like more information about how to present the symposium at your church, more information is available on the [EarthCare webpage](#), or you may contact Mike McCord at Michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net or 913.907.4061.

Subtle Activism

Do you sometimes feel, as do I, that the fabric of our society is being stretched to its limits? Every day, it seems, we are barraged by a steady stream of bad news. Sadly, even more acts of violence have been committed since UET Chairman Ron Habin wrote the article that appears in this newsletter. Most alarmingly, much of it is based in hatred, fear and intolerance. This even applies to the issue of climate change which, according to [Carbon Brief](#), 2016 is set to be, once again, the hottest year on record. In fact, the top 10 hottest years have [all happened since 1998](#).

Subtle Activism (cont'd)

All of this leaves one with a sense of helplessness, which is another form of fear. But what can one do? Mr Habin's response to the question is prescient, "Ours is to answer our calling to do what we can to nurture our own precious corner of the world. Then, turn it over in peace." But what are some specific examples of things that can make a difference? Of course, anything that protects and preserves mother earth and the living beings that inhabit it is good.

This includes overt actions such as marches, demonstrations, recycling and even putting one's body in front of bulldozers. However, there is another tool that is oftentimes overlooked. It is, simply put, holding a spirit of consciousness that supports collective healing and social change. The [Gaiafield Project](#) calls this "[Subtle Activism](#)."

The following information is compiled from the Gaiafield Project:

Subtle Activism grows from the idea that there are many effective ways—some newly emerging, many as old as humanity—to positively influence social change other than overt political action. The goal of subtle activism is to encourage us to extend our healing focus beyond our local family to our greater community. I believe there is enormous untapped power in this idea. There are many kinds of practices to support collective healing and social change from a spiritual standpoint. The Gaiafield Project considers a practice to be "spiritual" if it is oriented toward wholeness and healing and motivated by universal values such as love, compassion, and universal justice.



Some examples of practices that inspire awe and reverence for the Earth that are spiritual, even if the word spiritual is not mentioned, might include:

- Focusing on peace on earth,
- Support for communities struck by natural disasters, such as the Myanmar cyclone, the Chinese earthquake, etc.;
- Protection for all those in potential harm's way, such as public figures, emergency workers, etc.; and
- The highest and best outcome for all during an important public event, such as a national election.

Other explicitly spiritual practices intended to support collective healing and social change are:

- Religious or spiritual—e.g., meditation, prayer, chanting, and so on;
- Indigenous ceremonies and ritual;



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Information compiled by Mike McCord



Subtle Activism (cont'd)

- Science-based consciousness programs—e.g., [Heartmath](#)'s heart appreciation exercises;
- Expressive arts—e.g., conscious media, ecstatic dance (like Earthdance), contemplative music, etc; and
- Relational/process-oriented—e.g., healing aspects of our collective shadow, such as gender or racial reconciliation workshops.

The term “Gaiafield” was coined by Peter Russell in his 1983 book [The Global Brain](#). French priest and paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin had earlier introduced the concept of the “noosphere”—a new layer of the Earth emerging from the interaction of human thought and consciousness—and had predicted that the noosphere was in the process of becoming unified as a kind of integrated human consciousness.

Since then, the validity of the idea has been scientifically proven in Roger Nelson's [“Global Consciousness Project”](#) as well as by Dr. Garland Landrith in his study documenting *what we think inside, can have a profound influence on the outer world*. In Dr. Landrith's pioneering peer-reviewed published research studies in 1981, 1982 and 1988, it was found that the inner thoughts of groups of individuals can actually improve the quality of life in the cities they live-by lowering crimes, auto accidents and suicides. In short, [we can create miracles in our outer worlds with our own minds](#).

Since the Gaiafield is emerging through the interaction of all of us, we believe it is our collective wisdom that can best describe or express its multidimensional nature. What does the Gaiafield mean to you? What does it look like? Feel like? Sound like? EarthCare honors subtle activists everywhere, the secret agents of compassion.

For more information regarding the concept of Subtle Activism, go to [“The Gaiafield Project.”](#) For ideas regarding possible activities, go to www.unity.org/EarthCare and download *Suggested Activities*.

Mentoring Program

Join David Cordova for mentoring on the second Saturday of the month, **12 p.m. noon, Eastern**, to learn how to form a Green Team or expand your existing EarthCare Program. What a perfect opportunity to share inspiration and provide an inspiring cross-pollination of ideas and encouragement from across the continent! For more information, contact David Cordova at davecordova@msn.com or by calling 210.825.8422.