

EarthCare Connections

Fostering awareness of our spiritual oneness with the Earth and promoting active care of creation.

Winter 2017

Special Points of Interest:

- New EarthCare Program Board Liaison
- EarthCare Program Changes & Additions
- Certified EarthCare Congregations
- Expanded Mentoring Call Program
- Looking Ahead

Snowy Owl Spotted on the Coast of Cape Cod

Many thanks to EarthCare Core Team Member, Martha Powers with Unity of Cape Cod, MA, for taking these gorgeous pictures of a Snowy Owl that she that saw on a nearby beach:



New UWM Board Liaison

The UET Core Team is pleased to announce that Dr. Elizabeth “Beth” English is our new Liaison with Unity Worldwide Ministries Board of Trustees. Dr. Beth is first chair of Unity of Fairfax, Oakton, Va., where she has been a member the last 13 years, where she also has served as chaplain, worship, music, social action, and board of trustees.

Professionally, Beth has been an educator for 40+ years in various positions as a teacher, elementary principal, district coordinator, and Title I Director in four school divisions in Virginia. She has taught graduate courses as adjunct professor for Virginia Tech, GMU, U.VA., and Shenandoah University (1981-2012). Beth has experience in educational planning and assessment, has demonstrated instructional leadership through numerous ways such as initiating planning teams and creating a professional learning community of Collaborative Learning Teams.

Currently, she serves as an education consultant for the Center for the Collaborative Classroom, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the social and academic development of children. Welcome aboard, Beth!





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Earthcare@unity.org

EarthCare Program Changes and Additions

In 2017, the EarthCare Program was modified and streamlined. In addition, we have added a number of resources to assist your congregation in starting a Green Team and keeping it going. Check it out at the EarthCare website: www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare.

Certified EarthCare Congregations

Six New EarthCare Congregations joined the EarthCare family in 2017. They are as follows:

Great Lakes Region

Unity of Traverse City, Michigan, Levels A and B. Rev. Eileen M. Stulak, Senior Minister

Unity of Lansing, Michigan, Levels A & B. Rev. Sharon Ketchum, Senior Minister

Northwest Region

Unity Community of Central Oregon, Bend, OR, Level A. Rev. Janey Hitatt, Senior Minister.

South Central Region

Unity Bay Area Houston, League City, TX, Level A. Rev. Rev. Kyra Baer, Senior Minister.

Southwest Region

Unity of Las Vegas, NV, Level A. Rev. Shad Groverland, Senior Minister

Unity of Albuquerque, NM, Level B. Rev. Judith Marshall

In addition, a Village Green Team at Unity Village in Lee's Summit is morphing from an informal group of employees to a formal team. Debbie Cammisano is championing this team and they have already accomplished an energy audit and created a recycling program complete with a provider contract. Next contract is waste disposal. Debbie feels they could already apply for Level A certification with the creation of a covenant. Her bold vision is to name a captain for every building on campus. She presently supervises over 400 employees.



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With these additions, forty one Unity congregations are on or have completed the *Path to EarthCare* since its inception in 2009. Fifteen (15) congregations have completed Level A by adopting a covenant, fourteen (14) have achieved Level B by completing four steps and three actions, and twelve (12) congregations have achieved Level C, by completing all seven steps and action requirements of the program.

On a regional basis, Great Lakes leads the way with thirteen (13), followed by Southeast at ten (10), Southwest & Northwest at four (4), Eastern and South Central at three (3) each, while the West Central Region has two (2) certified EarthCare Congregations.

By way of review, the seven steps on the *Path to EarthCare* are as follows:

Prayer Vision Inspiration Education Action Share Reaffirm

In addition, the eight action activities are:

- Complete an environmental/energy audit.
- Conserve energy and water.
- Institute a recycling program.
- Practice waste minimization.
- Adopt and/or conserve an area with natural resources.
- Promote awareness and appreciation of the interdependent web of creation.
- Social Justice. Promote a world that is free from environmental discrimination/ oppression based on race, religion, class, gender, age, physical ability, or sexual orientation.
- 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.

Note: The list may be modified to meet the needs of all congregations regardless of whether they own, rent or use their facility.

Mindful Eating Mentoring Calls

The Rev. W. Grace Nicodemus, C.H.C., CMH, Advance Health Care Professional and author of “Eating with Grace” (Amazon), has started a “Mindful Eating” Mentoring Phone Group. Mindful eating” teaches how to nourish only your body but also your mind and spirit. Please join Rev. Grace on the first Saturday of each month. The call-in number is 641.715.3680 and the access code is 1043504#. The next call is January 6, 2018, 11 a.m. Central.



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MIKE MCCORD, EDITOR

International Mentoring Calls

Due to requests from several Unity ministers in foreign countries, mentoring facilitator David Cordova is planning to offer monthly mentoring calls on an international basis. Due to time zone differences, these joint calls will be scheduled separately from our traditional mentoring calls. More details will be forthcoming.

Looking Ahead

These are critical times for everyone concerned about protecting and preserving our Earth home and its living environment. Much of the progress made in recent years to slow climate change and protect natural resources is being halted or reversed. Because of this, it is incumbent upon each of us both as individuals and in conjunction with our Unity church family to educate others regarding the importance of protecting the environment. But more so, to teach how to do so in a positive way that is in coming with Unity principles.

To facilitate this effort, the EarthCare Team has enacted some aggressive goals in 2018. First of all, we want to double the number of Certified EarthCare Congregations. To do this, we feel growth through regional presences is essential. We will begin personal relationships with our regional leaders and communicators. Along with this, we want to have a higher presence at regional meetings. Finally, it is necessary to expand use of both social media and UWM publications. Secondly, we are in discussions with the UWM Association regarding the possibility of creating a salaried or contract position dedicated to EarthCare. Since the ministry's creation in 2009, a small group of dedicated volunteers have answered a higher calling to assist Unity church communities in integrating an earth-oriented spirituality into their ministry. However, limitations in both time and financial resources have inhibited the Team's capability to offer the resources necessary to fulfill the Ministry's mission. Thirdly, as previously discussed, the mentoring program is being expanded to help more people who are interested in becoming better stewards of the Earth. Finally, we will continue incentive programs such as the Congregational Green Star Award.

It promises to be an exciting and important year for EarthCare. I hope you will join us!

Mentoring Call Schedule

National: Facilitated by David Cordova on the second Saturday of the month, at 12 noon, Eastern Time. For more information, please contact David at davecordova@msn.com, or by calling 210.825.8422.

International: More information will be coming soon.

Mindful Eating: Facilitated by Rev. Grace on the first Saturday of each month. The call-in number is 641.715.3680 and the access code is 1043504#, 11 a.m. Central.