



EarthCare Connections



unity[®]
Worldwide Ministries
EarthCare

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

www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare
earthcare@unity.org

Earth Month 2021

This year's Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) Faith Climate Action Week, April 16-25, 2021, focuses on how we can all take action to protect our climate. The 2021 theme is **Sacred Ground: Cultivating Connections Between Our Faith, Our Food, and the Climate.**

IPL's website, www.faithclimateactionweek.org, enables congregations to list an activity, order an organizer's kit from which you can order supplies for Faith Climate Action Week, and find an event in your area.

The organizer's kit includes a Sacred Ground Guide, with information regarding ways in which the food we grow be part of the climate solution and also bring about a more just community. The kit also includes faith-based discussion materials; suggested short films; a Garden Blessing ceremony; and suggestions and resources for how to get engaged in supporting food justice and healthy soil. Also included are advocacy postcards addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture that you can print and including in your congregation's mailings.

The IPL movement was started by the Episcopal priest Rev. Sally Bingham through the Regeneration Project. Each IPL group (sometimes a region or state) differs in its membership and focus, but they can be a great resource for EarthCare.

EarthCare's Mindful Eating module demonstrates how healthy plants, food, and soil are important to all Creation. When you combine mindfulness with eating, you realize it is not only what you eat, but also includes what you watch, listen to, read, and the discussions you have with the people you associate with. Also included are action Ideas for churches and individuals interested in Mindful Eating.

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For more information regarding Mindful Eating, please go to EarthCare's webpage, www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare, or our [Facebook page](#).

Green Star Applications

Applications for this year's Green Star Award are being accepted until **April 15, 2021**. The program recognizes congregations that have completed *at least three* activities completed in calendar year 2020 that foster awareness of our spiritual oneness with the Earth and promote active care of creation for the environment.

Support documentation is required. Examples include videos, pictures, newspaper articles, announcements, brochures, etc. Videos and pictures are particularly encouraged as the EarthCare Team plans to create a visual gallery of activities by award winners on the EarthCare Facebook page as well as in other venues.

Applications are available on both EarthCare's webpage (www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare) and Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare).

Awardees will be announced at this year's [Unity Convention](#).

Please submit your application to earthcare@unity.org. You also can mail them to Mike McCord at 1209 N. Leevue Drive, Olathe, KS 66061-5026.

Rights of Nature by Martha Powers

The idea of "rights of nature" is not new, but there is a new and growing interest in the topic as so much of the earth is being devastated and extinction of animals is increasingly alarming. There also is an increasing interest in this topic among faith communities, as there is much we can do in our own communities and regions.

The basic truth being promoted is that the planet has a right to be a healthy ecosystem, and all sentient beings have a right to live in a healthy ecosystem. The exploitation of Nature is no longer an option.

We've been engaged in "the othering" of nature, rather than seeing ourselves as of nature, which is the indigenous view. This work is about making a fundamental shift in how we relate to nature. There is much wisdom among indigenous cultures to draw from and assist us going forward.

On April 8, 2021, *The Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights* is sponsoring a workshop on the rights of nature. This free, one-hour training will focus on the concept of legally enforceable Rights of Nature, and will trace the development of Rights of Nature laws and court decisions around the world. This will include efforts currently underway across the United States and around the globe to enact and enforce local and national laws recognizing rights of ecosystems and nature. To sign up, go to:

www.centerforenvironmentalrights.org/events

Other sources of information can be found at:

- The **Pachamama Alliance**: connect.pachamama.org/node/4280
- Another website, more international, is here: therightsofnature.org
They will be holding an International Tribunal in 2021 on oceans and other bodies of water.

Books

Boyd, David R. *Rights of Nature; a Legal Revolution That Could Save the World*. ECW Press, 2017.

Cullinan, Cormac. *Wild Law: a Manifesto for Earth Justice*. Green Books, 2011. 2d Ed. Foreword by Thomas Berry.

EarthCare News

As much of this work is done on a local or regional level, faith communities can pick projects in their communities that need legal protection, and pursue it with other organizations working on environmental issues.

YouTube Channel

Unity EarthCare has created a YouTube channel! It has around 30 videos on the playlist so far. Currently we have folders entitled Social Justice, Educational, Spiritual Practice, Poems & Inspiration, Music, and Videos—Over 20 minutes.

www.youtube.com/channel/UC4iYARFqsqLhuodoDC52R5Q/playlists

We hope to record and post YouTube videos of Green Star Awardees as well as EarthCare’s workshop at the June Unity Convention.

EarthCare Workshop at Unity Convention

On Thursday, June 17, 2021, 3:30-5:00 p.m. CDT, EarthCare will present *Reimagining Community Engagement: Stories of Sacred Service*.

A distinguished panel of speakers will discuss what it means to do the work of caring for the earth. Topics will include:

- The earth is here to evoke awe in us. It is what inspires us back to God consciousness.
- Weaving in lessons from nature - e.g. Adaption, Reciprocity, Resilience, Regeneration, Systems, Emergence.
- Going out of the building - structure of the known - how to engage community.
- How to re-engage the youth.

Stay tuned for more information as the date draws nearer. Find out more information about the virtual annual Unity convention at unity.org/convention.

Regional Representatives

If you have a question regarding EarthCare, please contact your regional representative as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Canada	Mike McCord	michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net
Eastern	Martha Powers	mpowers7@gmail.com
	or	agreatpickle@gmail.com
Great Lakes	Kathy Harwood Long	kathyharwoodlong@gmail.com
Northwest	Cylvia Hayes	cylvia@3estrategies.org
West Central	Mary Gerken	agreatpickle@gmail.com
Pacific Rim	Cylvia Hayes	cylvia@3estrategies.org
South Central	Mike McCord	michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net
South East	Beth Remmes	bremmes@hotmail.com
South West	David Cordova	davecordova@msn.com

Mentoring Calls



Facilitated by David Cordova, Unity of San Antonio, Texas, on the second Saturday of each month, at 11 a.m. (CT). For more information, please contact David at davecordova@msn.com, or by calling 210-825-8422.

Telephone Dial in number for **AUDIO ONLY: 571-392-7650**

PIN: 779 087 6107

Unless you have a high bandwidth internet connection it is better to call in using the above audio dial in. Of course it is a joy to see each other's faces in real time. I usually record the calls which include video. For Audio using a computer microphone and Video (optional)

Cut and paste this link into Google Chrome URL (top line):

<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/d72429ecf4714e00988087381f84d51f>

We have an EarthCare resource web page located at

www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare.

Facebook



Please check out our Facebook page for timely information and comments by fellow "Unitics" regarding our environment! This includes new information that will eventually be put on a renovated EarthCare website. Please go to:

www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare

The page is maintained by UET member Beth Remmes of Unity Atlanta, Peachtree Corners, Georgia.



Mike McCord, Editor
Unity Church of Overland Park, Kansas