



# 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](http://www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org/earthcare)

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## EarthCare Chairman Ron Habin Resigns



Chairman and co-founder Ron Habin has resigned as chairman of the EarthCare Program. Ron was one of three people who met at the 2009 Unity leadership conference at Unity Village to build upon the groundwork laid by others to create an environmental program. Originally called Unity Churches International EarthCare, the effort began as a subcommittee of Social Action. With Ron's gentle but astute and unwavering leadership, the program evolved and expanded greatly over the years. In 2013, the name was changed to the Unity EarthCare Team (UET) and elevated it to a ministry team of Unity Worldwide Ministry (UWM). As a result, UWM joined other religious denominations committed to taking action to improve our lives and achieve sustainable ecosystems around the world.

While it has been a long, and at times frustrating, process, Ron never wavered in his commitment to realizing EarthCare's vision that all humanity lives in a spiritual consciousness that manifests as loving co-existence with all of creation and care for our Earth home.

While it is impossible to replace the irreplaceable, the EarthCare Team will do its best as there is much left to do. God bless Ron for all he has done to make for a better world!

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## Earth Day Is Fast Approaching. What Are You Going to Do?

Earth Day 2020, April 22, marks 50 years since the first celebration in 1970. This year's annual theme is Climate Action. While an enormous challenge, it also is one filled with vast opportunities. Nothing could be more important because climate change is the biggest challenge facing humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.

As the Earth Day Network says, "[Earth Day 2020](#) will be far more than a day. It must be a historic moment when citizens of the world rise up in a united call for the creativity, innovation, ambition, and bravery that we need to meet our climate crisis and seize the enormous opportunities of a zero-carbon future."

**So what can your spiritual center do to participate in this important event?** There are many options but one of the easiest, and perhaps most significant, is to adopt an [EarthCare Covenant](#). Doing so not only fulfills the Pray and Vision steps of the [EarthCare Program](#), more importantly, it represents a sacred trust between the church community and Spirit that sets the ministry's intention to make care for the Earth a significant portion of its spiritual message. You also will help fulfill Rev. Sharon Ketchum's call that 90% of Unity congregations complete at least Level A of the EarthCare Program. Please go to the EarthCare website ([unity.org/earthcare](http://unity.org/earthcare)) for more information.

There also are a number of organizations on the internet that provide a wealth of opportunities to get involved, from joining national initiatives such as the climate strike, to creating your own activities. For example, the [Earth Day Network](#) offers toolkits in a number of areas that provide all the resources you need to create a successful activity or campaign.

Another terrific resource is [Interfaith Power & Light](#), which provides materials to participate in *Climate Action Week*, April 17-26, a campaign for climate healing and action with a whole week of activities in celebration around Earth Day.

There also are some good movies you can show, a few of which are listed on the EarthCare webpage. Finally, UET recently added *MOVING FORWARD: A Guide to Climate Action for Your Community and Congregation*, to its [books and films resource list](#) on its webpage, which provides a terrific ways to get into action.

But whatever you decide, please don't forget to simply get outside and enjoy the lovely smell of fresh air in companionship with nature!

## Climate Strike, April 22-24

The EarthCare Team voted to add the Unity Worldwide Ministries EarthCare Team to this year's Climate Strike. At the December 2019 United Nations COP25 climate conference, most world leaders refused to take meaningful climate action. So environmentalists, youth climate strikers, and coalition allies are going to use Earth Day 2020 as a platform to call attention to the urgency of protection of our Mother Earth. Between April 22 and April 24, there will be a series of global climate strikes, rallies, and marches around the world to send a clear message to our leaders that we need climate action now. For more information, go to [Earth Day 2020 Climate Strike](#).

## Inclusivity in Beloved Community

At Unity's [Annual Summit](#) at Unity Atlanta, Georgia, February 10-12, Beth Remmes, a member of that church and the Unity Worldwide Ministry EarthCare Team will present two breakout sessions on "EarthCare and Our Beloved Environment."

The presentation will include a brief overview of the EarthCare Program in the context of Unity Principles. With multiple opportunities for deep sharing in pairs and within the larger group, we will have a chance to explore the practical steps our ministries can take to establish an EarthCare ministry and to work with other organizations in their own areas to protect our

environment, natural resources, and lower our carbon footprint. We will also have a chance to discuss possible challenges and creative solutions.

## Unity Center of Peace Completes *Path to EarthCare*

**Unity Center of Peace, North Carolina**, in Chapel Hill, Co-Ministers Rev. Victoria Loveland-Coen and Rev. Rosemary Hyde, has completed *Path to EarthCare*, thereby becoming the eighteenth fully-certified EarthCare Congregation. **Congratulations, Unity Center of Peace, North Carolina**, for making care for the Earth and integral part of your spiritual message!

## Congregational Feedback. What's Happening?

The answer is, *plenty!* In response to a call to Certified EarthCare Congregations to give a quick overview of their most significant accomplishment in the past, many responses were received. Here is summary:

- **Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, Michigan**, by Rev. Sharon Ketchum. Due to a devastating fire, we created a lot of trash in our world. Basically the full contents of the church went to a landfill as smoke and fire damage meant that most of the items could not be saved. The lathe and plaster walls, electrical wiring, light fixtures, and ancient insulation also ended up there.

Putting our best foot forward, we have refurbished our offices with used furniture and equipment wherever possible. We are also exploring a new type of construction going forward that plans for the eventual de-mantling of a building while it is being built so that the material can be saved and re-purposed in the future.

We did discover that our 95-year-old building must have re-purposed some building supplies when we discovered a 4 x 8 piece of plywood that was used for the underfloor in the sanctuary must have come from another building. The side of the board we could see in the lower level revealed a lovely painting!

- **Unity in Lynnwood, Washington**, by Dr. Richard Loren Held: Unity in Lynnwood continues its careful restoration of 5.5 acres of adjacent, preserved wetlands, forest, and salmon stream from 20 years of abuse, thereby assuring a vibrant green space within a quickly-developing corridor for our spiritual community and greater community alike.
- **Unity of the Blue Ridge, Mills River, North Carolina**, by Rev. Judy McKown: The Unity Sustainability Team (US Team) ran an electronic waste (E-Waste) recycling drive this past year. So far we have collected five big boxes of E-Waste such as old cell phones, ink cartridges, and lithium batteries, and shipped them off to [Planet Green Recycle](#). We are actually earning money doing this which we will use to further our sustainability efforts.

- **Friends of Unity, Plymouth, Michigan, by Rev. Kathy Harwood Long:** Our region (Great Lakes) continues to rise in support of our collective Unity Earth care efforts. Southeast sub-region ministers in the Great Lakes region are poised to collectively begin the EarthCare program with the consciousness step: Level A.
- **Unity In Marin, Novato, California, by Donn Davey:** Unity In Marin is forming an EarthCare team and will begin to pursue the EarthCare program in the upcoming year.
- **Unity of Kalamazoo, Michigan, by Kassie Mauer, Rev. Joslyn Mason.** Held a Styrofoam drive in January. The Styrofoam will be taken to a local recycling center. They also have adopted a mile of highway to keep clean of litter.
- **Seattle Unity Church, Washington, by Susan Godfrey, Rev. Karen Lindvig:** Our congregational Green Team is deciding whether to endorse interfaith Green New Deal or get solar panels on our new building, and how to celebrate the anniversary of Earth Day. Unity in Seattle is currently certified at Level B.
- **Unity Church of Overland Park (UCOP), Kansas, by Mike McCord:** In 2019, Greater Kansas City was awarded a grant to develop a regional Climate Action Plan to inventory greenhouse gas emissions and help coalition members formulate a regional Climate Action Plan. The plan will serve as a model to municipalities throughout the United States.

The coalition has developed a Climate Action Playbook that includes 100 actions communities can take to address the climate crisis. UCOP has accepted the Coalition's invitation to become a "Partner" in this innovative project, the only church in the entire Kansas City metro area to do so.

## "Notices of Initiation" to Participate in EarthCare

The following spiritual centers have notified us they intend to complete the following levels of the EarthCare Program:

- ▶ **Unity Spiritual Center of Anchorage, Alaska, Level A**
- ▶ **Unity of Bandon, Oregon, Level A**
- ▶ **Unity of the Valley Spiritual Center, Vacaville, California, Level C**



## 2019 Green Star Award Applications

Applications are being accepted until **April 15, 2020**, for the Congregational Green Star Award. Successful applicants must have completed at least three (3) significant environmental activities in calendar year 2019 that meet EarthCare's mission: *To foster awareness of our spiritual oneness with the Earth and to promote active care of all creation.* An [application form](#) can be found on the EarthCare webpage.

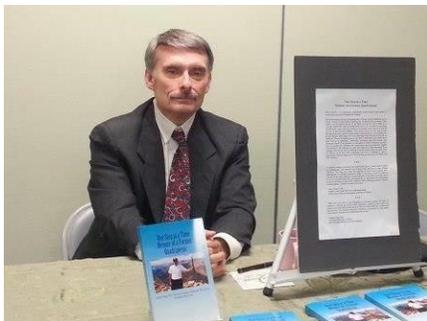


## Mentoring Calls

Facilitated by David Cordova on the **third Saturday** of each month, at 11 a.m. (CT). For more information, please contact David at [davecordova@msn.com](mailto:davecordova@msn.com), or by calling 210-825-8422.

## Facebook

Please check out the [Unity EarthCare Facebook page](#) maintained by UET member Beth Remmes for timely information and comments by fellow “Unitics” regarding our environment!



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