



# EarthCare Connections



unity<sup>®</sup>  
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)  
[earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org)

## EarthCare Connection Space Conversation

Approximately 15 people attended EarthCare's [Connection Space](#) session on November 10, 2021. The major takeaway was that ministers have a real desire for ideas and activities that can be used in Sunday morning sermons and by their green teams. In response, we shared the many tools and resources available through EarthCare to educate, inspire, and empower your congregants on Sunday morning and beyond. These include numerous documents, films, books, and programs on our website, Facebook page, and new YouTube channel, including many films, spiritual activism, sacred economics, and ways to partner with other faith partners.

You can access this material in several ways:

Webpage: [www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare](http://www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare)

To view the videos:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC4iYARFqsqLhuodoDC52R5Q/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4iYARFqsqLhuodoDC52R5Q/playlists)

EarthCare Facebook Page:

[www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare](https://www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare) Go to "About" and click on "additional information."

Google Drive documents:

[drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ROtJOLKVGiUfSDDagX27jcSHom0F-qjs?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ROtJOLKVGiUfSDDagX27jcSHom0F-qjs?usp=sharing)

Finally, in case you missed the Connections Space conversation, you can see it here! Subscribe to our YouTube Channel while you are there!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mn4-yXJikd8&t=8sl>

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## The Power of Taking a Stand

Every day it seems we are reminded of how much the climate is changing. Tornadoes in December, 70 degrees in the Midwest, 70 below in Siberia, and 100 degrees in the Arctic. Meanwhile, rising sea levels are washing on the feet of Islanders in the Pacific. Perhaps more than ever, we ask ourselves, “I’m just one person, how can I make a difference?”

According to Lynne Twist, co-founder of the Pachamama Alliance, *The answer starts by first asking, ‘Who do we need to be?’ And I think who we need to be are people who know that the decisions and choices we make now impact the future of life for the next hundred years. Everybody alive today has a role to play.*

Each of us has an opportunity to say what our lives are committed to, who we long to be—what we *stand* for. A stand is different than a position. A stand comes from the heart, from the soul, and from vision. It is life-affirming whereas a position is usually against something. When you’re living from a stand, your life can—and does—make a difference and you experience a kind of spiritual fulfillment in the process.

There is tremendous power in turning a stand into a commitment. An unshakable commitment can be a source of great energy and, in some ways, of freedom. As environmental activist Van Jones says, *The important things you do in life come from your heart. And when we act from our hearts something happens in us to make a miracle.*

So, what do you stand for? What do you care deeply about in the world?

- Create a list of what brings you the greatest joy... what you love... what makes you most come alive... what wakes you up as an individual, in your community and for institutions/systems in order to promote active care of creation.
- Next, for each category consider what is needed.
- Wherever you find a connection or overlap between the two lists, think if there is an action that could fulfill that connection, an action that could unite what you love to do with what you see as needed in the world. Finally, write down three to five actions you can take in each area in order to create a world that is environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just.

Your unique gifts and talents are needed in the world today. You don’t have a big role and you don’t have a small role. You just have your role. By becoming engaged, you invoke the power of one. The result will be a better world.

## European Unity Proposes Deforestation-Free Products

Thanks to the Parliament of the World's Religions, a founding Partner in the [Interfaith Rainforest Initiative \(IRI\)](#), for this article.

The European Union has proposed requiring imports of goods and materials to be “deforestation-free.” Implementation of the European Union proposal will be a major step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss globally, as well as in protecting the rights and welfare of the 25% of the world's population who live in and depend on the world's forests, including the Indigenous peoples for whom their forests are their ancestral lands.

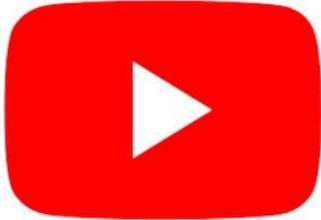
Worldwide deforestation is a substantial cause of both climate change and loss of biodiversity. Forests produce much of the oxygen we breathe and are home to 80% of Earth's terrestrial biodiversity. Closed canopy forests alone are home to more than 400 million people, many of whom are indigenous to those lands.

One of the most effective actions individuals can take to reduce climate change is to think of each expenditure we make as a vote for or against a healthy planet. Policies which leverage consumer spending in favor of climate action and sustainability are among the most effective and cost-effective actions governments can take. As Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal Frans Timmermans said of the proposal, “To succeed in the global fight against the climate and biodiversity crises, we must take the responsibility to act at home as well as abroad.”

Please encourage your legislators to support the EU proposal and make every effort to enact similar regulations in the United States.



## YouTube Channel



Currently, there are four EarthCare Unity Messages, 17 Social Justice, 20 Educational, four Spiritual Practices, seven Over 20 min, 18 Poems & Inspiration and seven Music videos on EarthCare’s YouTube channel. A recent addition to Music is “Water” by Daniel Nahmod.

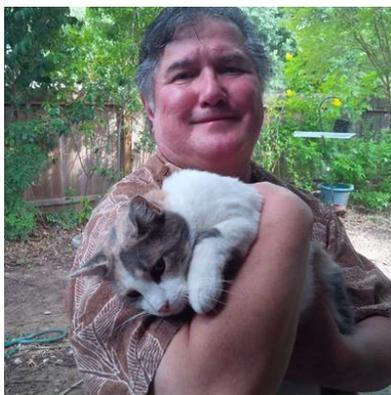
To view the videos, please go to:

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Many thanks to UET member Mary Geken for creating the YouTube channel.

## Mentoring



David Cordova from Unity of San Antonio facilitates these calls on the third Saturday of each month, at 11 a.m. (CT). For more information, contact David at [davecordova@msn.com](mailto:davecordova@msn.com), or call 210-825-8422.

A different topic is highlighted at each call followed by a discussion that can go many directions. One of the benefits of participating in these calls is that they provide a way for you to connect with

other churches in your respective region and open new avenues to collaborate.

## Facebook



EarthCare’s Facebook page provides timely information and comments regarding our environment! Its usage continues to grow as we currently have 1,516 followers. Please go to:

[www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare](http://www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare)

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

## Regional Representatives

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

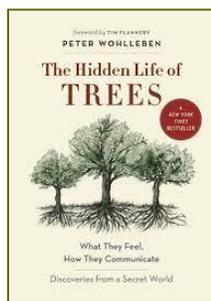
Region	Contact	Email Address
Canada	Mike McCord	<a href="mailto:michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net">michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net</a>
Eastern	Martha Powers	<a href="mailto:mpowers7@gmail.com">mpowers7@gmail.com</a>
or	Mary Gerken	<a href="mailto:agreatpickle@gmail.com">agreatpickle@gmail.com</a>
Great Lakes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

## Musings of a Tree Hugger By Mike McCord

Ever since I was a little boy, I had a special love of trees. I grew up in the small town of Nelson in south central Nebraska. Often, I would slip away to a “secret forest,” near our home. There I would lie on my back gazing up into the canopy of leaves and the azure sky beyond. To this day I can feel the warmth of the sun on my face, the smell of the earth below me, hear the

lazy buzz of a nearby bee, and the occasional melody of a lark in the meadow. After a while it was almost as though I was one with everything. On more than one occasion, the leaves would “explode” into a sea of gold that completely encompassed me. I was one with them, and they were one with me.

After we moved to a house in town with a larger yard, I would dig up small volunteer silver maple, cottonwood and Chinese elm, carry them across town and plant them in the yard. One day as I was finishing planting yet another, the sixth I think, dad came up behind me and said, “We don’t need any more damn trees around here!” I’m sure he was right, but I continued the habit wherever I lived far into my adulthood.



Recently, I was reminded of my connection with these gentle giants after reading Peter Wohlleben’s book, *The Hidden Life of Trees* (Greystone Books, 2016). In it, I learned about their miraculous abilities. Trees truly are conscious beings, but on a much slower time-scale unseen by humans. Did you know that trees in a forest communicate and care for each other in what Wohlleben calls, “the wood wide web”? They do so through an intimate connection of soil fungi that allows the sharing of an enormous amount of information. Through this system, they can warn others of disease and insect infestations. A healthy tree will even nourish the stump of a felled tree of the same kind to keep it alive. There are many more examples, but the point is that a forest is a community that works together for common benefit. In a sense, they are one.

The implications for humanity are obvious. We too are one, a reflection of the Christ consciousness within each of us. But even more than that, it reminds us that all of God’s creatures are part of the web of life, and whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.



Earth’s climate is in crisis, and it is time for us to put aside our differences and work together to create a world that is better for all. It starts with you and me. But together, there is nothing we can’t accomplish.

Mike McCord, Editor, Chair of the Unity EarthCare Team, with Rev. Sharon Ketchum, Board Member, at the 2019 Unity Convention