



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
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EarthCare Connections Session

The **Connection Space** webpage was created as a place for Unity folk to come together and dialogue about relevant topics. Please join the EarthCare Team on **Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 3 p.m. Central Time**, for a discussion of how EarthCare can better provide ministers access to good content for talks, classes, and programs that also give younger people a chance to participate. Your input is vitally important. In so doing, together we can make Unity Worldwide Ministries a powerful force and global leader in moving society towards environmental sustainability, justice, and restoring the health of our living world. Click on the Connection Space link above for more information.

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EarthCare Refocuses Its Strategy

Since its founding in 2008, the purpose of the EarthCare Ministry Team has been to assist church communities in integrating an earth-oriented spirituality into their ministry. It manifests Unity's Fifth Basic Principle: *Through thoughts, words, and actions we live the truth we know*. Our primary tool for doing this has been the seven-step **Path to EarthCare** and the corresponding **EarthCare Program**. Through a three-level certification process, spiritual centers are guided toward cultivating a comprehensive earth-oriented spirituality that touches the entire ministry, both spiritually and in practical actions.

In the 13 years since its founding, 62 churches/spiritual centers have been certified at one of the three levels of the program. Of these, only 23 completed all seven steps of the program. Participation represents only about 10% of Unity congregations. While there are no doubt many more congregations that are environmentally conscious, something clearly is missing.

As a result, we believe it is time to refocus EarthCare's efforts and resources. Times have changed because of the virus, rise of the social/environmental justice movement, and the trend towards more virtual and evolving ministries.

In addition, the reality and urgency of the climate change crisis has become abundantly clear.

The change actually began last year when we began sponsoring online workshops. And earlier this year, we launched a [YouTube channel](#) upon which there are numerous videos in the areas of social justice, education, spiritual, poems and inspiration, and music.

While we will continue to offer certifications through the EarthCare program, we have decided to expand the use of social media to empower ministers with useful, ready access to compelling, inspirational information and resources. Along with this, concrete actions will be offered that Unity ministers and congregants can take. These will include content for talks, classes, and programs. They also will give younger people a chance to participate. Through this, we believe Unity Worldwide Ministries can become a powerful force and global leader in raising consciousness and taking action toward global care of Creation at this critical point in time.

Stay tuned as more and more of these resources become available in 2022.

Why Did We Do This to Ourselves? By Cylvia Hayes

As published in *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon, 8/18/21.

The devastating findings recently released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change really shouldn't surprise anybody. But it should break our hearts. It does mine. Mountains of real-world scientific evidence already showed we are nowhere near the level of action needed to prevent catastrophic climate change and its consequences.

Look no further than our own home, the Pacific Northwest. An unprecedented heat dome broke temperature records, killed hundreds of people, and even baked mussels and clams alive in their shells. Mount Rainier lost a third of its snowpack in that one heat event. There simply isn't enough water for rivers, fish, and farmers, at least the way irrigation is currently conducted. Forests are stressed by drought and burning at massive rates and intensity. Smoke, haze, and unhealthy air is our new summer norm.

Sadly, these kinds of catastrophes and challenges are happening all across the globe.

We did this to ourselves. We failed to act, at scale, because we are all addicted to fossil fuel and the insane concept of a limitless growth economy on a planet of finite resources. Even those of us who have been trying to get attention and action on this issue for over 30 years are part of the same addicted system. Now, because we didn't act, the scale and scope of action required is staggering.

But action is still possible. There is still a small, small window to slow climate change to a level that we and many other species can adapt to. The science is really clear—every fraction of a degree of additional warming makes the future worse, which means every fraction we avert makes it better.

So, what is needed? At a policy level we must drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions immediately and get on a path toward zero net emissions by 2050. We already have the ability to do this but have lacked the collective and political will, nationally and globally. Steps to take:

Massive investment in clean energy technologies, combined with unprecedented policies such as government buy out of old, inefficient cars so that people can afford to upgrade to electric, low-emission options.

Cap methane leaks at all fossil fuel extraction sites, immediately. Methane is a far more dangerous climate change pollutant than carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Let the so-called free market actually work. Stop keeping gasoline artificially cheap at the pump. Just recently President Biden asked oil producers to increase production to bring down gas prices. That might feel nice to all of us who aren't rich, but it's a bonehead move if we want a livable planet.

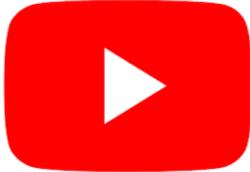
Relocalize the economy. Rebuild local supply chains. Stop burning fossil fuel, and the planet, by shipping stuff across the globe.

At the personal level we all need to reduce our energy consumption, drive less, etc.—the things we already know we should do. More importantly, in my opinion, and I'll probably tick some people off here, we need to stop buying stuff we don't need, stop indulging in retail therapy. Every item that includes plastic, or metal, or glass that is shipped or trucked contributes to climate change. Buying used and buying local is every bit as big a positive action as driving less. Finally, and I'm sure to really tick some folks off here, eat less meat. The meat industry is one of the biggest contributors of climate change pollution in the world.

Lastly, the most important action is to finally start treating this like the urgent crisis it is. We do not have time for the luxury of apathy, denial, or overwhelm. The COVID-19 delta variant may be devastating, but a destabilized planet is far more deadly. My fervent hope and affirmation is that the uncomfortableness of

our new norm will move us to create a saner trajectory going forward—we still have that option, for a very little while at least.

YouTube Channel

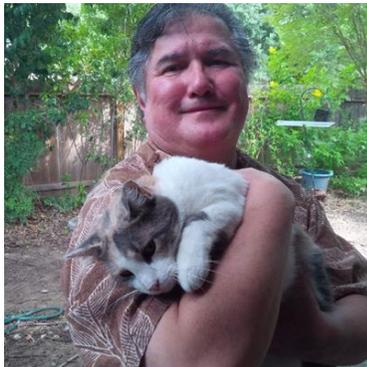


Currently, there are four EarthCare Unity messages, 17 Social Justice, 20 Educational, 4 Spiritual Practices, 7 Over 20 min, 18 Poems & Inspiration, and 7 Music videos on EarthCare’s YouTube channel. A recent addition to Music is “Water” by Daniel Nahmod.

[View the videos](#)

Mentoring Calls

David Cordova from Unity of San Antonio, Texas, facilitates these calls on the third Saturday of each month, at 11 a.m. (CT). For more information, contact David at 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.

For example, in order to cope with the pandemic, one team leader recently walked along a nature path and took video of the walk. Then she shared the video during their Zoom meeting, and they made observations about what was recorded.

Facebook



EarthCare's Facebook page provides timely information and comments regarding our environment! Its usage continues to grow as we currently have 1,497 followers. Please go to:

www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare

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

Our Mother's Prayer By R. Dennis Wiancko (Courtesy of Martha Powers)

**Our Mother, Whose name is Earth,
Hallowed be Your ground
And Your skies**

**And Your rolling seas
Your gardens thrive; Your Spirit alive
Through woodlands, streams,
Mountains and plains
Everywhere**

**Grant us this day our needs for tomorrow
And refresh us with Your living waters**

**Forgive us our mistreatment
As we forgive those who cause You harm**

**Lift us from negligence, and deliver us from greed,
For Yours is the home, and the beauty,
And the life that sustains us,
And we would love, respect, and care for You
Now and ever, ever forward.**

Regional Representatives

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

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