

Special points of interest:

- **First Unity Church Helps Furry Friends**
- **2014 Unity People's Convention**
- **Welcome Barb Buchanan to the EarthCare Team!**
- **Other EarthCare News**

First Unity Church of St Petersburg, Fla., Puts Intention Into Action to Help Our Furry and Feathered Brethren

By Reverend Temple Hays, Minister of First Unity Church @ Unity Campus
www.UnityCampus.org

In the fall of 2013, I spoke at the County Commissioner meetings on behalf of all the animals in our city and our ongoing challenges. As I was leaving one afternoon, I asked myself, "Are we as a community doing enough?" I speak about animals and nature during Sunday services at times and we do a pet blessing once a year, but what else can we do? I contacted the animal rescue teams and invited them to attend one Sunday and bring some pets to be adopted. One of their leaders decided he loved the concept so much that he took over the project and he books the rescue teams each week. We have volunteers who help assist the rescue teams and our chaplains are involved as well. The first and third Sundays of the month are "cat Sunday" and the second and fourth are "dog Sundays."

We have adopted 34 animals to their forever homes since January of 2014. Not only is it living the 5th principle of Unity (Through thoughts, words and actions, we live the Truth we know.), it is a great teaching for our children. They have become involved, and it is modeling to them the value of adults taking responsibility and being action-oriented for the challenges with our animals.

We also have new people coming to our church because they say, "If this is the type of place that values animals, then this is the church for us!"

It has been one of the most fulfilling projects we have done in a long time. We said "what we were willing to do" and the Spirit within us "showed us how."

We also have 15 or more bird houses on our campus. We like to call them our bird condominiums. They are fed once a week by the bird ministry team. We receive so many blessings from them as they are such a strong presence on our grounds. The youth of our church painted the houses and made them special as they knew they were the bird's homes.

Again, not only are we filling a need, we are teaching the youth the value of life and how we as Unity students model what we teach.

Both of these spiritual endeavors have been an amazing opportunity for us to teach the importance of Unity within all living things.

2014 Unity People's Convention

The EarthCare table at last June's Unity People's Convention in Overland Park, Kansas, drew a steady stream of interested people. By week's end, 31 congregations had signed to receive more information regarding EarthCare, including one from Nigeria. In addition, there was great interest in the *Awakening the Dreamer Through Unity* symposium, which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2014. More details will be forthcoming.



www.unity.org/earthcare
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Mentoring Program

Join David Cordova for mentoring on the second Saturday of the month, **12 p.m. noon, Eastern**, to learn how to form a Green Team or expand your existing EarthCare Program. What a perfect opportunity to share inspiration and provide an inspiring cross-pollination of ideas and encouragement from across the continent. For more information, contact David Cordova, at davecordova@msn.com, or by calling 210.825.8422.

All 2013-2014 congregations certified by the Unity EarthCare Team were announced at the business meeting. There are now 29 congregations who are on, or who have completed, the Path to EarthCare. They are:

Track A, EarthCare Covenant

	Congregation	Year Certified	Region
1	Unity Center of Cedar Rapids, Iowa	2010	Great Lakes
2	Unity of the Keys, Key West, Florida	2011	Southeast
3	Unity of Louisville, Kentucky	2011	Southeast
4	Unity of Medina Life Enrichment Center, Medina, OH	2011	Great Lakes
5	Unity of Farmington Hills, Farmington, OH	2011	Great Lakes
6	Unity of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, MI	2011	Great Lakes
7	Unity Church of Christianity, Chesterland, OH	2011	Great Lakes
8	Unity of Appleton, Wisconsin	11/20/2011	Great Lakes
9	Unity Church in Lynwood, WA	4/21/2013	Northwest
10	Unity of Fort Myers Spiritual Center, FL	12/1/2013	Southeast
11	Unity of the Villages, Summerfield, FL	4/11/2014	Southeast
12	Unity of Birmingham, AL	4/11/2014	Southeast

Track B, EarthCare Commitment

	Congregation	Year Certified	Region
1	Unity of Windsor, Ontario, Canada	2010	Canada
2	Unity Way Church, Vista, California	2011	Southwest
3	Unity of Tampa, Florida	2011	Southeast
4	Unity of Buffalo, NY	2/1/2014	East
5	Seattle Unity, WA	2014	Northwest

Track C, EarthCare Congregation

	Congregation	Year Certified	Region
1	Unity Centre of Kitchener, Ontario, Canada	2009	Canada
2	Christ Church Unity, Orlando, Florida	2009	Southeast
3	Unity of Fairfax, Oakton, Virginia	2010	East
4	New Thought Unity Center, Cincinnati, Ohio	2010	Great Lakes
5	Unity Church of Overland Park, Kansas	2010	South Central
6	Unity of Beaverton, Oregon	2010	Northwest
7	Peace Unity Church, Clarkston, Michigan	2011	Great Lakes
8	First Unity Church, St. Petersburg, Florida	2011	Southeast
9	Atlanta Unity Church, Norcross, GA	2013	Southeast

Thus far in 2014, five churches have been certified including two under Track A, two under Track B and one under Track C.



Barb Buchanan accepted the "Certificate of Completion, EarthCare Covenant" on behalf of Unity Center of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for completing Track A.





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Kate Guendling LUT and Annette Olson of Unity of Fayetteville, Center for Conscious Living in Fayetteville, Arkansas, accepted their certificate for completing all seven steps of the Path to EarthCare, thus becoming Unity Worldwide Ministries' twelfth Certified EarthCare Congregation.



Certified by Region	
Great Lakes	8
Southeast	11
Canada	2
Northwest	3
West Central	0
Southwest	2
South Central	1
East	2
Total	29

Currently, the Southeast region has the most EarthCare certified congregations with 11. The complete list of certified congregations by Unity region is as follows:

Congratulations to all EarthCare participants for making awareness of our spiritual oneness with the earth a significant component of their ministry!

Welcome to the UET Core Team, Barb Buchanan LUT

We're extremely pleased to announce that Barb Buchanan of Unity Center of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is the newest member of the EarthCare Core Team. Barb has been involved in Unity since 1992. She has served on and led the Usher & Greeter team, was Volunteer Coordinator and leader of the Building & Grounds Team, completed the Personal Development Program in 2004 and the Leadership Program in 2010, with a focus on pastoral care. This was followed by completion of the Skills Demonstration Seminar and becoming licensed by Unity Worldwide Ministries in May 2011 (e.g., Unity of Cedar Rapids uses the term "licensed" rather than "licensed teacher" because it is more inclusive).

Barb has always had great respect for nature and love for the beauty of the earth. She's always been a camper and has canoed all of her life. Included among the many environmentally friendly practices she's embraced are recycling, using a battery powered mower, CFLs and LEDs, using rechargeable batteries with a solar charger, putting a metal roof on her house, a rain barrel, extra foam insulation in her house and lots of mulch on her gardens. As Barb says, "When walking, I'm always collecting garbage and items to recycle. It's in my blood!"

Other EarthCare News

The UET Core TEAM is in the process of making its website more user-friendly and streamlined. We are also revising the EarthCare Program in order to make it easier to read and understand.

Finally, in accordance with Unity's Fifth Basic Principle, **Through thoughts, words and actions, we live the truth we know**, the EarthCare Team feels it has a responsibility to be more proactive in making affirmative statements, and taking affirmative action, with regard to some of the major environmental issues affecting our planet, starting with climate change. The Core Team hopes to vote on the statement at its September meeting.

