

Unity in Action

Special points of interest:

- Unity in Action
- Unity Church of Overland Park, Kansas, Board also Passes Climate Change Resolution
- Unity Temple on the Plaza Goes Solar!
- EarthCare Supports International Summit for Climate Change
- Pursuing the Path to EarthCare
- Awakening the Dreamer through Unity—Finally!
- EarthCare Mentoring Call

Unity Worldwide Ministries has taken a seat at the table of religious denomination that support the care and preservation of our earth home. On September 29, 2015, the following resolution was adopted:

We, the leadership of Unity Worldwide Ministries, hear the urgent call to co-create a world that nourishes all life forms. We positively declare our love for and spiritual interconnectedness with all beings and our responsibility to protect the sustainability of the environment.

Aligned with the empowering spiritual teachings of Unity co-founders Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, Jesus and other inspired spiritual teachers, we advocate our worldwide prayer partners to take into affirmative prayer and meditation the personal inquiry of “what is mine to do” to improve the quality of life of all beings and our planet. UWM affirms that climate change is real and that human activity is a significant cause of climate change. UWM also acknowledges that climate change is an issue resulting in both environmental degradation and social injustice. As such, we commit to serve, as our faith leads us, to take steps in healing the planet.

Unity Worldwide Ministries, in accordance with its God-centered five basic principles, commits to advancing the Unity movement by:

Promoting active stewardship of the environment and an awareness of our oneness with the earth.

Cultivating a consciousness of EarthCare that includes both spiritual and practical actions that support and balance the environment and our human needs, in accordance with Unity’s Fifth Basic Principle, “Through thoughts, words and actions, we live the Truth we know.”

Promoting sustainable living practices that honor the earth’s ecosystems and resources in a responsible manner.

Transforming attitudes and commitments by embracing concrete actions that reduce human ecological impact and promote social justice for all.

Educating, supporting and encouraging individuals to align their (individual) lifestyle choices with values that promote environmental sustainability and recognition of their moral imperative to care for creation.

In addition, Unity Church of Overland Park also adopted a climate change resolution on October 28, 2015.



Unity Temple on the Plaza Goes Solar!

Unity Temple on the Plaza, Kansas City, Mo., the flagship church of Unity Worldwide Ministries, is going “green” in a major way and at a very big cost savings!

In July of 2015, Unity Temple began harvesting the sun’s rays with the installation of an extremely high end, high efficiency solar roofing system. Through the miraculous intervention of incentives, rebates and leasebacks, and a glorious collaborate effort among several parties, this system has a life span of 25 years.

The system’s energy capture capability translates into a \$700 monthly savings on electrical bills and \$400,000 over the life of the system including projected costs of traditional roof maintenance, continued utility rate increases and inflation.

In addition to the price savings, it’s a big step in reducing Unity’s carbon footprint. According to the system’s installer, Solar Rich Power, the solar system will offset:

- 9,000 pounds of CO₂
- 639 pounds of sulfur dioxide
- Nearly 900 pounds of nitrogen oxides

And that doesn’t even include all the trainloads of coal that won’t have to hauled here.

“When the idea of becoming more environmentally friendly first came up, the focus was on the financial end of it: how much money could we save,” says senior minister Duke Tufty. “Once the research began, we also discovered the difference Unity Temple could make that would benefit everybody. The financial benefits of putting in a solar system are wonderful, but the true blessing comes from knowing we are increasing the quality of life for people and the planet.” That’s very much in line with the Unity philosophy of being a beneficial presence to oneself and to the world.

Being environmentally-friendly is a return to the building’s very foundations 67 years ago. “Plaza development had been going on for a while but this land was considered worthless since it was too soft to build on so Charles Fillmore [Unity’s co-founder] got it for a song,” says Duke. “The other developers were excavating some of the limestone from under their properties so they could build their basements, and were paying to have the limestone hauled out to Lee’s Summit. Charles told them that they could dump it on his land for free. So we ended up with this incredibly solid, basically unshakable foundation. Charles used to say that whether it was your life or your building, the foundation was the most important thing.”

While the building’s foundations are rock solid, the roof was another matter. It had been leaking in various areas at various times for years, but bids for solar and traditional roofing remained in the six-figure range, aka, out-of-reach. Duke credits Unity member Vincent “Ace” Wagner, who served as volunteer coordinator of the building committee, with bringing the project forward and to fruition at a critical time.

“Unity has this system today because of the convergence of lower solar prices along with KCPL rebates and federal tax credit,” says Vincent “Ace” Wagner, who served as volunteer coordinator of the building committee. “Together this made for an incredible business opportunity, cost reductions and the simultaneous greening of Unity, which is the overall objective of theirs.”

(cont.)





Unity Temple on the Plaza Goes Solar (cont.)

The greening of Unity began more than a year ago with the installation of LED lighting in one section of the building. This past March, more LED went into the main sanctuary, reducing energy consumption there by 75 percent and virtually eliminating maintenance costs for the next 5 years. Where the sanctuary once operated at full capacity using 50 circuits, it now uses 13 with plenty of additional amps for future capacity. That's an important consideration for a room that hosts musical performances, graduations, weddings, book signings and national speakers including U.S. presidents in addition to Unity's own services on Sundays.

The next step in going green, says Duke, is a new HVAC system that will allow for better and more regulated climate control throughout the building and lead to greater energy efficiency. Work is under way on that project.

This article excerpt was published in *The Kansas City Star* on August 4, 2015.

EarthCare Supports International Summit for Climate Change

On November 2, 2015, Dr Ron Habin, Chair of the Unity EarthCare Ministry Team wrote the United States Special Envoy for Climate Change, on behalf of the Ministry Team, expressing its support for the objectives of the summit. As Dr Habin wrote, "Even at this relatively early juncture of the 21st century, the fate of the continuance of humanity and the diversity of sentient beings, is in the hands of the attendees at this critical conclave. Our prayers for you achieving an international agreement to dramatically reduce worldwide carbon emissions and other deleterious environmental degradations go with you."

Pursuing the Path to EarthCare

Unity of Comox Valley, Courtenay, British Columbia, CA, has completed Level A of the EarthCare Program, "EarthCare Covenant." On October 11, 2015, the entire Sunday service was devoted to care for the earth, including dividing the covenant into three sections and have members of the EarthCare Team speak to each section, followed by having individual congregants sign the covenant and before being given a hand sewn cloth napkin as a memento. The spiritual center is now pursuing certification under Level B. Congratulations, Unity of Comox Valley!

In addition, Unity of Olympia, WA is pursuing Level C, EarthCare Congregation Certification. As always, your EarthCare Team stands ready to assist in any way possible. Congratulations, Unity of Olympia!



Awakening the Dreamer though Unity—Finally!

The four-year process to adopt the 2 and 3.5 hour versions of this symposium is nearly complete. Unity Worldwide Ministries' EarthCare Ministry Team has partnered with the Pachamama Alliance to create Awakening the Dreamer Through Unity, a program to foster awareness of our spiritual oneness with our Earth home and promote active care of creation.

Unity Worldwide Ministries, through its EarthCare Team, embraces this opportunity to face full-on both the opportunity and challenges of our times in a way that gives energy and hope to healing our planet, while being open to the fact that something greater than ourselves is moving.

Be looking, in the near future, for more information as to how you can bring this powerful event to your church community.

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.