

Special points of interest:

- **Earth Day Is Coming Soon!**
- **4 Ways to Connect**
- **Welcome Mel Horwath-Lucid to the EarthCare Team!**
- **Martha Powers—An Environmental Dynamo for Unity on Cape Cod**

Earth Day Is Coming Soon!

Wednesday, April 22, is just around the corner. This year, Earth Day isn't near Easter Sunday, therefore, ministers are free to emphasize a Spirit-directed environmental message on Sunday, April 19. It's a great opportunity to renew our commitment to preserve and protect our earth home. One way to do this is by having the congregations recite their EarthCare Covenant with God. If you haven't yet made a covenant, here is the [covenant](#) adopted by Unity EarthCare:

Our consciousness reveals that all of creation is connected as one. The story of creation reveals that we are to be good caregivers of the creation. As a people of faith, we commit to a renewed reverence for life and respect for the interdependent web of all existence. We honor our spiritual commitment to the care, support and defense of the balance between our individual needs and those of nature. We envision a world in which everything has intrinsic value and where all beings are assured a secure and meaningful life that is ecologically responsible and sustainable. We agree to transform our individual and congregational lives into acts of moral witness, discarding harmful habits for new behaviors that demonstrate our respect for this harmony and interconnectedness.

We declare our covenant with God to walk upon the Earth for the greatest good of all creation.

Another way to renew your interconnectedness with creation is by playing (or singing) EarthCare's official anthem, *I Dream*, by Lisa Firestone. Here's the U-Tube link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfOtVLEd7RE.

Now There Are Four Ways to Connect and Put Your Passion for the Environment into Action!

A new and improved EarthCare website

Unity.org/EarthCare is complete thanks to the amazing care and diligence of our chairman Ron Habin and Bernadette Swanson at Unity Worldwide Ministries. Our website explains in user-friendly fashion how easy it is for Unity faith communities to become "EarthCare Certified." This certification is the very best way for Unity to be known as a dynamic, environmentally engaged Spirit-led movement.



www.unity.org/earthcare
earthcare@unity.org

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.



EarthCare Facebook Page

Our new [Facebook page](#) is just a click away on Unity.org/EarthCare. Here ministers, congregants, and all friends of Unity can post green church events and share insights about church happenings. Everything from enticing healthy recipes to the latest earth friendly movie or book can be listed and discussed.

Unity Connect

Unity Worldwide Ministries recently launched **UnityConnect**, a website designed for programs throughout Unity that hold the light for human need, peace and justice, relief and development, education, earth care as well as service to the animals and all sentient beings. UnityConnect is the social community for people who want to be of service to compassionate social action and our looking for ways to start the conversation. It is a place where programs list what they do and tell stories about how they show up in service of their passion. People can connect in social conversations—likes, images, comments and discussions provide components for training, urgent event responses and trip notices. It's a wonderful way to put your passion into action in order to make a real difference in the world. For more information, visit: unityconnect.org/anticipate1.

EarthCare Mentoring Calls

One of the great services provided by the Unity EarthCare Team (UET) is the monthly mentoring calls. Here, anyone can share ideas and ask questions about building local green teams or any other related environmental issue. The calls occur the third Saturday of every month from noon (Eastern) until about 1 p.m. The phone number to join the free conference call is 1.605.562.3000. The access code is 1043504#.

Melissa "Mel" Horwath-Lucid EarthCare's Newest Core Team Member

It is with great pleasure to announce that Mel Horwath-Lucid has agreed to join the UET Core Team. Mel is the head of Youth and Family Ministry (YFM) at Unity of Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. She came 18 months ago after being spiritual leader of the Unitarian Universalists (UU) in Kitchener. In addition to being a yoga teacher and therapist, she is presently taking SEE (Spiritual Education & Enrichment) courses including Metaphysics 2 and 3 and is considering future Unity accreditation. In YFM, Mel is conducting a project on the Sacred Life of Bees (and how to save them) and will be planting seeds with the children soon in their church garden. She is now initiating an "eco-spirituality" group at her ministry to explore the changing ocean environment. Thus far, her green team has sponsored three local events along with metro-area UU churches.

Martha Powers, an Environmental Dynamo for Unity on Cape Cod — a Spiritual Center



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Thanks to Martha Powers, Earth Care Ministry leader at Unity on Cape Cod, Hyannis, Mass., the month of April will be filled with activities honoring Earth Day. A three-film series begins April 10, starting with *Origins*, followed by *One Life* on the April 17 and *Love Thy Nature* on April 24.

On April 19, the service will begin with a PowerPoint of images with quotes of beautiful nature, accompanied by the song, "I Am One with the Heart of the Mother."

During that service, the church will tithe to the National Marine Life Center (www.nmlc.org), an independent nonprofit dedicated to the rehabilitation and treatment of stranded sea turtles and seals, with future plans to expand to treat dolphins, porpoises and small whales. The Director of NMLC will come to the service to receive the check and also do the Sparks youth program that morning, talking about turtles. The Green Team will also do a beach cleanup and potluck picnic at a nearby beach.

The special Earth Day service, April 26, will be delivered by singer/songwriter David Roth, who is putting the recently adopted EarthCare Covenant to music! The Board will announce its approval as Unity Worldwide Ministries' most recent "Level A" [EarthCare Congregation](#).

After visiting Cape Cod every year of her life, in 2002 Martha moved back to the Cape from Oregon, where she had spent the previous 15 years. With its breathtaking views, meandering rivers, oceans, bays, quiet ponds, woods, dunes, tidal marshes, bright starry nights and abundant wildlife, she finds the Cape is a perfect place for communing with all of nature. Her first "prayer partners" were the ospreys who accompanied her on early morning walks to the beach. She finds that gratitude is a strong motivator for cherishing and protecting the sacred natural beauty that surrounds her.

She began the EarthCare Team and the annual film series, now in its 8th year, a few years after finding Unity on Cape Cod. "The film series provides an opportunity for us to bring awareness to the issue of living in right relationship to the earth, as well as to bring together various community leaders to speak at the films," she says. After April, she adds, "I like to get off the computer and get outdoors as much as I can!"



