



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)

*The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth.*

*This we know. All things are connected like the blood that unites one family.*

Chief Seattle

## In With the New

The seventh step on the *Path to EarthCare* is **Reaffirm**. Every work has its seasons, including ebbs and flows in **EarthCare**. The end of the year provides an opportunity to pause and reassess where a program has been and where it may lead in the future. Prayer and visioning anew allows the ministry to re-assess where to focus its efforts

For EarthCare, 2022 was by far the biggest in the 14 years of its existence. Led by CEO Shad Groverland, UWM made EarthCare one of the focuses at last year’s Peoples convention. They also committed staff support to assist in expanding the program’s outreach. The Core Team graciously embraced this opportunity by adopting an expanded vision and reorganizing its internal structure. As a result, we will increase efficiency and broaden services to better serve the needs of Unity congregations. Eleven (11) Initiatives have been created. They are: 12 Powers for our Planet, EarthCare Program, Communication, Collaboration (Mentoring), Internal Operations, Funding, International Outreach, Regional Outreach, New Thought/AGNT, Convention and Mindful Eating.

A lot of energy is being put into “12 Powers for our Planet” led by our dynamic team member, Cylvia Hayes. Each module in the coming year will focus upon one of the 12 spiritual powers and provide ways in which congregations can draw upon their divine nature to better serve our planet. Each module will include:

- Affirmations
- Prayer
- Feature Articles
- A Self-Directed Lesson
- Youth Lessons
- Videoed Sunday Talk
- Meditation

### In This Issue:

- In With the New
- Fossil Non-proliferation Treaty
- More Opportunities to make a Difference
- EarthCare Certifications
- U-Tube Channel
- Mentoring/ Collaborative Calls
- Facebook
- Have Questions? Here’s who to contact.
- Some final thoughts

- And possibly a service Project

The first module, “Love,” will be rolled out in April of 2023. And as the year goes on more ways will be coming to assist you and your congregation realize the goals of your local EarthCare program. So as the theme of the 2022 convention said, “People Get Ready!”

While many of the initiatives are still in the formative stage, some exciting possibilities are being talked about. Here are some:

- A calendar of world events that is promoted on social media.
- More coordination with other interfaith organizations such as Interfaith Power & Light and the Parliament of world religions.
- Expanded outreach to Unity churches worldwide as well as to individual groups such as team member Marcella Ramirez’s efforts to present Unity to farm workers in El Salvador.

## Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty

On November 2, 2022, Shad Groverland added Unity Worldwide Ministries’ name to that of many other faith organizations in calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation treaty. The signees hail from many faiths and beliefs but believe that together we can remedy decades of negligence to safeguard our coexistence with this earth. Just as our beliefs are entrenched in religious and spiritual teachings, our response to the climate crisis must be deeply rooted in science and equity to heal the planet and people alike.

The request calls on governments to urgently commence negotiations to lay out a binding global plan to:

1. End expansion of any new coal, oil or gas production in line with the best available science as outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Environment Program;
2. Phase-out existing production of fossil fuels in a manner that is fair and equitable, taking into account the respective dependency of countries on fossil fuels and their capacity to transition;
3. Ensure a global just transition to 100% access to renewable energy globally, support dependent economies to diversify away from fossil fuels, and enable all people and communities, not least the Global South, to flourish.

We have a narrow window of opportunity to act, which is why the movement is bringing together a growing chorus of Indigenous Peoples, civil society leaders, youth, cities, lawmakers, academics, and scientists in calling for a global treaty to phase out fossil fuels and support a just transition powered by clean energy and a sustainable future for all.

**What can you do to support the objectives of the call?** Cities are on the frontlines of the climate emergency and many around the world are making bold moves to phase out the leading cause of the climate crisis: fossil fuels. Find out who’s endorsed and access resources and support to inspire your own city to become the latest to endorse the Fossil Fuel Treaty by going to the Fossil Fuel Campaign HUB. The HUB is a

collaborative international network of civil and society groups. It features ideas and resources that can be used.

<https://campaign.fossilfueltreaty.org/>

## More Opportunities to Make a Difference

The next two years will present an important opportunity for you to make your voice heard regarding climate change. By appealing directly to the Executive Branch of the Federal government (i.e., President Biden), important issues related to social justice, biodiversity, and everything else can be made through Executive Action

Go to the Earth Justice link below to learn more about issues in which your voice can make a difference:

<https://mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/1/messages/188038?.intl=us&.partner=sbc&.lang=en-US>

## EarthCare Certified Congregations

On November 6, 2022, Unity Temple of Truth, St. Petersburg, Florida adopted an *EarthCare Covenant for Midtown Unity*. In so doing they completed the first two steps on the *Path to EarthCare*, **Pray** and **Vision**. They also fulfilled the requirements for certification at Level A of *EarthCare Program*. The congregation is led by Senior Minister Linda McLeod, president of the Board William “Bill” Puller, and Green Team leader Mary Gerken. Congratulations to Unity Temple of Truth!

Here, for the first time in this forum, is a complete list of Certified Congregations in the EarthCare program. The list is sorted according to region, name and level of achievement:

### Canada (3)

Unity Kitchener, Ontario, C (first certified church in the world!)  
Unity of Comox Valley, Courtenay, BC, B  
Unity Spiritual Center, Windsor, Ontario, B

### Eastern Region (3)

Unity of Buffalo, NY, B  
Unity of Fairfax, VA, C  
Unity on Cape Cod, Hyannis, MA, A

### Great Lakes Region (14)

Friends of Unity, Plymouth, MI, A  
New Thought Unity Center, Cincinnati, OH, C  
Unity Center of Cedar Rapids, IA, B  
Unity Church of Christianity, Chesterland, OH, A  
Unity of Appleton, WI, A

Unity of Blue Water, Port Huron, MI, A  
Unity of Farmington Hills, Farmington, OH, A  
Unity of Kalamazoo, MI, C  
Unity of Louisville, KY, A  
Unity of Medina Life Enrichment Center, Medina, OH, A  
Unity of Quincy, IL, A  
Unity of Traverse City, MI, C  
Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, MI, B  
Unity Spiritual Center of Woodstock, IL, A

**Northwest Region (8)**

Seattle Unity, WA, B  
Unity Community of Central Oregon, Bend, OR, C  
Unity in Lynnwood, WA, C  
Unity of Bandon, OR, A  
Unity of Beaverton, OR, C  
Unity of Bellingham, WA, A  
Unity of Olympia, WA, C  
Unity Spiritual Center of Anchorage, AK, A

**South Central Region (8)**

Unity Bay Area Houston, TX, A  
Unity Church of Overland Park, KS, C  
Unity Church of the Hills, Austin, TX, A  
Unity of Fayetteville, AR, C  
Unity of Joplin, MO, B  
Unity of Kansas City North, MO, A  
Unity of New Braunfels, TX, C  
Unity of Wimberly, TX, A

**Southeast Region (16)**

Christ Church Unity Orlando, FL, C (1st certified in US!)  
First Unity Spiritual Campus, St. Petersburg, FL, C  
Unity Atlanta, GA, C  
Unity Center of Peace in Chapel Hill, NC, C  
Unity of Birmingham, AL, B  
Unity of Charleston, SC, C  
Unity of Fort Myers, FL, A  
Unity of Palm Harbor, FL, A  
Unity of Panama City, FL, A  
Unity of Tampa, FL, B  
Unity of the Blue Ridge, Mills Creek, NC, C  
Unity of the Keys, Key West, FL, A  
Unity of the Villages, Summerfield, FL, B  
Unity on the Bay, Miami, FL, C  
Unity Temple of Truth Church, Inc., St. Petersburg, FL, A  
Unity Spiritual Center of Vero Beach, FL, A

**Southwest Region (7)**

Unity of Las Cruces, NM, A  
Unity of Las Vegas, NV, A  
Unity of Prescott, AZ, C  
Unity Spiritual Center of Albuquerque, NM, B  
Unity Spiritual Center of the Mohave Valley, Bullhead City, AZ, C  
Unity Spiritual Center, Sun City, AZ, A  
Unity Way, Vista, CA, B

### **Unity Worldwide Ministries (1)**

Unity Worldwide Ministries, Unity Village, MO, A

### **West Central (4)**

Unity in Marin, Novato CA, A

Unity of Roseville, CA, A

Unity of the Valley Spiritual Center, Vacaville, CA, C

Unity of Walnut Creek, CA, B

### **Summary**

<b>By Region</b>	<b>Number</b>
Southeast	16
Great Lakes	14
Northwest	8
South Central	8
Southwest	7
West Central	4
Canada	3
Eastern	3
UWM	1
Pacific Rim	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>

If you would like to join the EarthCare family, download the EarthCare Program on the EarthCare website by following the link above. You also may contact any of the EarthCare representatives listed below. Finally, join our monthly mentoring call program (see below). It is an excellent forum to learn more.

## **EarthCare YouTube Channel**

Hosted by Mary Gerken, numerous videos available on EarthCare's YouTube channel provide a wealth of information in the areas of Social Justice, Educational, Spiritual, Poems and Inspiration and music. Go to:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC4iYARFqsqlhuodoDC52R5Q/playlists](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4iYARFqsqlhuodoDC52R5Q/playlists)

## **Mentoring/Collaborative Calls**

Mary Gerken hosts these calls on the third Saturday of each month, at 11 a.m. (CT). A different topic is highlighted each time. 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. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please email Mary at [agreatpickle@hotmail.com](mailto:agreatpickle@hotmail.com).



## Facebook



Beth Remmes administers EarthCare's Facebook Page. To date, 1500 followers have discovered the timely resources and interchange of ideas that it contains. Please check it out by going to:

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

## Have Questions? Here's who to Contact.

For general questions, please email **Brenda Hicks-Wiggins** at [earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org). or call 816.524.7414. You also may contact the following:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
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>
Eastern	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>
Northwest	Cylvia Hayes	<a href="mailto:cylvia@3estrategies.org">cylvia@3estrategies.org</a>
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>
South Central	Mike McCord	<a href="mailto:michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net">michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net</a>
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>

### Some Final Thoughts

It has been my honor to be a member of EarthCare since its inception in 2007. Care for our Earth grew from the grassroots of Unity by a dedicated group of volunteers. It wasn't an easy task at times, but we persevered because of the commitment we all had to create a world in which humanity lives in spiritual consciousness with all of creation and care for our Earth home.

However, while we have made tremendous strides, I'm not satisfied. The world is in crisis because of years of neglect, greed and outright denial by some that the climate is warming at unsustainable levels that will affect all life on Earth. The results are apparent to all in many ways, including social injustice. So now is the time to act to do what we can to slow the process and, frankly, learn how we have to adapt to the results.

The EarthCare team is committed to addressing the climate change emergency at the local, national and international level. This will take many forms, which is why I'm excited about the recent changes that have enabled us to expand our efforts in these areas.

I sincerely hope you will join us in this critical endeavor. Whether it is by following the Path to EarthCare and becoming certified or by taking advantage of the many ideas and resources that we provide---all is good!

Personally, my commitment to care for the environment long predates EarthCare. It is based upon the simple proposition of knowing that when I die, I did all I could. This reminds me of one of my favorite poems by Drew Dellinger. It's called "Its 3:23 in the Morning," and goes as follows:

*It's 3:23 in the morning, and I'm awake because my great-great  
Grandchildren won't let me sleep. My great-great grandchildren ask  
me in dreams, What did you do while the planet was plundered?  
What did you do when the Earth was unraveling?  
Surely you did something when the seasons started failing,  
As the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying?  
Did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was stolen?  
What did you do once you knew?"*



Mike McCord, editor and  
Team leader