

# EarthCare Connections

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)

*By empowering Unity congregations, EarthCare envisions Unity Worldwide Ministries as a powerful force and global leader in addressing the climate change emergency and moving society towards environmental justice in order to create a world that works for all. In so doing, it will vitalize and expand our Unity movement.*

## 12 Powers for Our Planet

Your Unity Worldwide EarthCare Team is delighted to announce our new **12 Powers for our Planet** initiative. It provides resources for ministers, spiritual leaders and youth leaders. This is a set of online materials based on Unity's 12 Spiritual Powers integrated with Earth stewardship and Creation care themes and information. Here is the link –

<https://www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare-curriculum>

Each module will focus on one of the 12 Powers and will include the video of a Sunday talk, Youth Lessons, Self-Directed Lessons, Articles, Prayer and Affirmations, and a list of various resources related to that power and our planet.

The intention of this initiative is to give ministers and spiritual leaders easy access to materials, lessons and resources you can bring right into your services, whether in-person or online. The first few modules are ready for use and additional modules are being added regularly. The goal is to have all 12 Powers completed by the end of the year.

Currently, the Powers of **Life**, **Love** and **Power** are online, with more to come. To give you a flavor of the content of each module, the objectives of the **Life** module is to enable learners to:

- Demonstrate understanding of life as a spiritual principle.
- Identify links between life as spiritual principle and the life force in nature in ways that can benefit Unity teachings.
- Integrate the spiritual principle of life into Unity services and teachings.

The Unit Includes an article taken written by Rev. Kathy Harwood-Long, the video of a Sunday Talk by Rev. Cylvia Hayes entitled "The Meaning of Life," a Self-Directed Micro-Learning, "The Power of Life and our Earth" by Rev. Cylvia Hayes, Two original Youth Lessons created by Associate Minister Eliasa Sabogal; Children's Lesson and a Teen Lesson. An Eco-Celebration for the Starry Night Harlequin Toad, and numerous resources (Rights of Nature, Books, Films and Transcend, a publication written by EarthCare team member Cylvia Hayes.)

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Please take advantage of the wealth of information that is available to you through **12 Powers for our Planet!** We would love to hear from you when you start using these 12 Powers for the Planet resources!

## Unity Convention 2023, EarthCare Report

Six congregations are recipients of this year’s Green Star Award for activities completed in 2020. Here they are, in alphabetical order:

**Unity Bay Area Houston**, led by Rev. Kyra Baer and environmental facilitator Cathy Kemper-Pelle, they completed eight wonderful environmental activities. One of them is a beautiful labyrinth and nectar garden.



For a record **sixth** consecutive year, **Unity of the Blue Ridge**, Mills River, NC, has been awarded a Green Star. Led by Senior minister Rev. Darlene Strickland and environmental program facilitator Judie McKown, five activities were completed in 2022. Among these was environmentally friendly rubber mulch for a children’s playground.



**Unity of Fayetteville, AR**, also completed 5 activities last year. Rev. Katherine “Annette” Olsen is senior minister while Katherine Guendling leads their environmental committee. In 2022, they resurrected their environmental program and fourteen people joined the Green Team Visionaries. They also held a “coats in need” collection drive, which were

distributed to those in need at a local homeless shelter, a senior center and the Fayetteville school system.

**Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, MI**, led by Rev. Sharon Ketchum, restored a pond on their property by raising funds for a new pump. Lower water levels had made the pond dangerous for living things.



Thanks to the new pump, the pond feeds three gigantic elderly willows as well as wildlife – geese, egrets and Sandhill cranes.

**Unity Spiritual Center of Vero Beach, FL**, is led by senior minister Rev. Clyde DeLaPorte and Barb Brooks heads up the environmental program. Last year they attended a county wide environmental learning fest, where they collaborated with other environmental leaders. They also developed a butterfly garden and a community garden.



Finally, **Unity of Walnut Creek, CA** has been awarded both a Green Star and was certified at Level C of the EarthCare Program. They are the first congregation since 2020 to complete all seven steps on the *Path to EarthCare* and six of eight required activities of the *EarthCare Program*. Rev. Kristin Powell is senior minister while Lee Sparling coordinates the environmental team. Among their eight activities in 2022 was a *Social Justice Appreciation and Education* series that included Black History Month. Articles and web links were published each week in CenterPoint e-news and posted on bulletin board during Black History Month, a five-week class called *Spiritual Hands*, an LGBTQ+ Allyship Workshop,

information during Hispanic Heritage Month, and Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month. Information and web links were published in CenterPoint e-news and posted on bulletin board. UWC's website maintains a link to Unity's List of Resources Toward Dismantling Racism. It was compiled in collaboration with Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County.

Finally, **Unity Temple of Truth**, St. Petersburg, FL, senior minister Rev. Linda McLeod and **Unity of Bellingham**, WA, Rev. Frank Castro Wehr senior minister, completed Level A of the program by adopting a care for the Earth Covenant. Doing so also completed the Pray and Vision Steps on the Path to EarthCare.

**Congratulations to all these congregations for their commitment to making care for Mother Earth a part of the spiritual message of their ministries and putting words into action! They are living the truth they know.**

## Plugged in and Powered Up – An EarthCare Practice & Presence

Using Unity's Twelve Powers, this workshop presented by Rev. Elias Sabogal, was a smorgasbord of the senses that ignited EarthCare passions and delighted the hearts of everyone in attendance. The colorful and creative power stations proved that the way we move and breathe in space and time is on a precipice of change and we have the tools in great supply to be the change-makers needed now.



Approximately 30 people attended the workshop and everyone left with a new perspective regarding each of the 12 Powers.

## EarthCare YouTube Channel

Hosted by Mary Gerken, numerous videos are available on [EarthCare's YouTube channel](#) to provide a wealth of information in the areas of Social Justice, Educational, Spiritual, Poems and Inspiration, and Music.

## 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 mentoring mailing list, please email Mary at [agreatpickle@gmail.com](mailto:agreatpickle@gmail.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)

## Questions? Here's who to Contact

For general questions, please email [earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org) or call 913.907.4061. 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

The just concluded Unity convention was my sixth and each one has been a joy to attend. Everyone has a smile on their face and positive energy pervades the building. What a refreshing reprieve from the negativity we are surrounded with every day. With such energy and positivity, anything can be accomplished that we set our minds to!

Care for the environment is an example. It was obvious from the number of people who signed up at the EarthCare table, in addition to conversations we had with individuals and the number people who attended our workshop, that care for the environment is a priority. It reminded me of the power we possess collectively to make a difference in the world in slowing the effects of climate change. We mustn't forget this power because the battle against climate change can seem hopeless at times. But things are not hopeless!

As Al Gore pointed out in a recent article in the New York Times, *Clean energy is cheaper than ever and electric vehicle sales are surging as are other environmental activities thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act. Put together, Gore thinks developed economies could draw down their emissions with surprising speed. "If you sketch out what the potential curves take you to by 2030 or 2040, it becomes increasingly realistic to say, 'Yes, these expansive goals definitely are achievable," he said.*

However, every second counts! *"We can stop the temperatures going up worldwide with as little as a three-year time lag by reaching net zero," he said. And if we stay at true net zero, we'll see half of the human-caused CO2 coming out of the atmosphere in as little as 30 years".*

(Al Gore on Extreme Heat and the Fight Against Fossil Fuels, 7-18-23, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/18/climate/al-gore-on-extreme-heat-and-the-fight-against-fossil-fuels.html#:~:text=The%20faster%20we%20stop%20burning,net%20zero%2C%E2%80%9D%20he%20said>)

So let's work together to help achieve this vitally important goal for the sake of the planet and all living things. Through the many services and resources available through EarthCare and elsewhere, tailor your environmental program to address issues not only on a local basis but national and international levels as well.

Together we can do this!

**Mike McCord,**  
Editor and Team Leader