



EarthCare Connections



unity[®]
Worldwide Ministries
EarthCare

Fostering awareness of our spiritual oneness with the earth and promoting active care of creation.
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People, Get Ready!

The 2022 Unity People's Convention is coming soon: June 13-17, 2022
Overland Park, Kansas

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There will be three convention tracks this year: **EarthCare; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Ministry of the Future.**

All keynote and workshop sessions count toward Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credit. All Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion keynotes and workshops can be used for the Diversity/Inclusivity credit. While there are no Ethics credit available at this convention, there are options available on our website now and we will offer more options throughout the year. Check *The Path* or the website for more information. Contact Rev. Diane Venzera if you have workshop questions.



Convention Registration

Registration is now open! Register by end of day on May 29, 2022, by going to:
whova.com/portal/registration/uccu_202206/

Already registered and want to get back into Whova on the web app? Go to: whova.com/portal/webapp/uccu_202206/signin

Guest banquet tickets are now available on the registration page. Tickets are \$65.

- Come in person in June. Once you register, you will then receive a confirmation email with a link to the list of workshops from which to select.

- There is also an option to attend the convention virtually with a set selection of events and workshops available.
- Want to share a ride from/to the airport? To sign up, go to: whova.com



Whova Training

A training session on how to use the many features of Whova will be on **Tuesday, May 31, at 1:30 p.m. (CT)**. Please mark your calendars so you can become comfortable with Whova before the convention, discover its helpful features, plan how you might connect with other attendees and exhibitors, and participate in the games. To join this training, please go to: www.unityworldwideministries.org/unity-convention-home

EarthCare Track

We are pleased that EarthCare will be offering three workshops, facilitating a conversation session, and that a keynote address will be on the topic of veganism. More information on each is below.

Sacred Eco-nomics and the Living World

Cylvia Hayes, Speaker

Martha Powers, Co-Speaker

Tuesday, June 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Our current economic model, based on materialism, consumption, and limitless growth, is wreaking havoc on Nature and keeping millions trapped in poverty or unsatisfying, dead-end jobs. There is a better way! The New Economy movement is robust and gaining momentum as more and more people, entrepreneurs, businesses, and organizations say, “enough is enough,” and get busy creating healthier ways of making a living and doing business. In this interactive session, we will explore some of the current norms in our economic system that need a change-up, and we’ll dive into some of the exciting alternatives. We’ll share ideas that everyone, and every congregation, can take action on, including where and how you can bank, invest, eat, travel, and get goods and services in a way that helps heal our world. We discuss how we help make the shift from an economics of separation to an economics of reunion, respect, and love.

Key Takeaways:

- Have a clearer understanding on how our current dominant economic model is not serving our well-being or the health of the Living World.

- Know practical steps they can take as individuals and congregations to move toward an economics of restoration, respect, and love.
- Gain practical tools for incorporating these topics and insights into talks, classes, etc., in their congregations.

**Beyond Earth Day:
Ideas for Earth Care throughout the Year
Wednesday, June 15, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Rev. Kathy Harwood Long, Friends of Unity, Speaker
Beth Remmes, Co-Speaker**

Ideas for EarthCare are so doable—every day of the year! If you would like the sacredness and connection to the natural world to be a more integral part of your spiritual community’s identity and want to invite people looking for belonging and purpose to your ministry, this two-hour workshop will prepare you. Formulate a plan with doable next steps, applicable for any size ministry, and pertinent for intergenerational and alternative ministry services, and extended community involvement. Workshop participants will be invited to co-create, collaborate, and celebrate every progress, leaving with ideas and practices, a support partner, and a custom plan for inspiring, integrating, and sustaining practical action throughout the year.

Learning Objectives:

- ideas and practices for the annual calendar year
- partners for the year
- a custom plan with doable next steps

**Get Ready to Address the Cow in the Room
Dr. Sailesh Rao
Thursday, June 16, 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

“[The Cow in the Room](#)” campaign was introduced at COP26 in Glasgow to address the devastating impacts of the Killing Machine that is destroying the planet. One would think that it is common sense that a Killing Machine that is killing 88 billion land animals and 1 to 3 trillion sea animals every year may have something to do with the planet and people prematurely dying around us and that it isn’t just the fossil fuel Burning Machine that we need to address at COP26. But such common sense has been in short supply at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) whose 26th meeting was held in November of 2021. Vega, “The Cow in the Room,” was there to set the record straight, along with three other animals who represented other aspects of “The Cow in the Room” that the

mainstream community has been studiously ignoring to preserve its destructive, colonialist way of life. Infused with humor, Vega will now bring her fact-filled, courageous campaign to defeat Big Farma into the halls of religion at the 2022 Unity Convention through her loyal spokesperson and proud herd member, Dr. Sailesh Rao.

Conversations

Rev. Kathy Harwood Long & Beth Remmes
Thursday, June 16, 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

To create a meaningful conversation about the earth and our relationship with it, the people of Unity are invited to create a Council of All Beings. Our conversation model, inspired by the work of Joanna Macy, gives each person an opportunity to be a voice for a creature or living entity.

Spiritual Evolution through EarthCare

Mike McCord, Speaker
David Cordova, Co-Speaker
Thursday, June 16, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

In this interactive workshop, we will discuss the many services and resources that are available through EarthCare to support spiritual centers through the congregational certification process and beyond.

We also will discuss ways to elevate the Spiritual consciousness of your congregation through demonstration rather than protest. From how to organize, start and keep a Green Team going, to creating and implementing an effective action plan, the formula for a successful and impactful program will be demonstrated.

Successful activities will be shared for each of the seven steps and eight actions of the EarthCare Program, each of which guide spiritual communities towards integrating care for the Earth as part of the spiritual message of the ministry.

But the workshop will be more than a lecture. Through action circles, divine ideas will blossom that inspire, educate, and call your congregation to action as individuals/family, in our community/workplace and in institutions/systems. These tools will help create activated citizens that are good stewards of the environment. It also will enable you to show other ways to live your life in more spiritual harmony with the Earth.

Key Takeaways:

- Become activated citizens that are better stewards of the environment for a more socially just and environmentally sustainable world.
- Use the tools, resources, and activities necessary for a successful environmental program to make a significant contribution to reducing global warming.
- Implement a better understanding of how together we can transform political, economic, and social institutions through the power of wisdom and love in action.

Unity of Walnut Creek
Certified EarthCare Congregation, Level B

Under the leadership of Senior Minister Rev. Kristin Powell, Board Chair Veronica Wolfe, and Green Team leader Lee Sparling, Unity of Walnut Creek, California, has been certified at Level B of the EarthCare Program.

The spiritual center easily met the requirements of Level B by sponsoring many innovative and creative programs and activities, as shown below:

- An eight-week Zoom class entitled: *White Fragility*.
- A seven-week Zoom class entitled: *So You Want to Talk About Race?*
- Sunday Service messages on the topics of: Season for Nonviolence, See No Stranger Series - 1) Wonder, 2) Grief, 3) Listen, 4) Stand-Up, and 5) Reimagine.
- An eight-week Zoom class entitled: Raising Racial Consciousness--Awakening Our Minds and Hearts Toward Equality.
- The UWC website maintains a link to Unity's List of Resources Toward Dismantling Racism, compiled in collaboration with Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County (unityofwalnutcreek.org).
- *Sacred Plants, Sacred Home* workshop.
- Sunday Service, *Earthrise: Reclaiming the Web*
- *Honoring Our Ancestors* Labyrinth Walk
- Teddy bears to children who need comfort is a Unity tradition. (Buy a bear, infuse it with love and prayer, and a child in protective custody will receive that beacon of love during a difficult time.)

- A number of energy-saving actions including: automatic timers are installed on restroom lights, recycling bins with messages of what goes in each bin, collect aluminum cans and plastic bottles for recycling, “Recycle for Change” (recycleforchange.org) donation bin for clothing was placed in UWC parking lot located near the street in a visible location.

Way to go Unity of Walnut Creek!

2022 Green Star Awardees:
Unity Spiritual Center of Vero Beach
Unity of the Blue Ridge
Unity Community of Central Oregon

Unity Spiritual Center of Vero Beach, Florida

Senior Minister: Rev. Clive deLaporte
 Board President/Chair: Martin Mehalko
 EarthCare Contact: Barb Brooks

1. Recycle workshop. Featured speaker was the Indian River Recycling Education Coordinator who educated 30 participants about appropriate items to recycle in their county.

<p style="text-align: center;">JOIN OUR VERO BEACH GREEN TEAM</p> <p>Monthly meetings open to the public. Located at Unity Spiritual Center 950 43rd Avenue</p> <p><i>For more information:</i> PHONE: 772-562-1133 EMAIL: unityvero@gmail.com</p> <p>GOAL: Find SOLUTIONS for environmental issues!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PLANT NATIVE PLANTS Eliminate chemicals in your yard. STOP USING ROUND-UP!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How to Make Organic Weed Killer</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ingredients</i> 1 gallon white vinegar 1 cup salt 1 T liquid dish soap</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Directions</i> Spray only on weeds on sunny, non-windy days. <i>It works!</i></p>
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2. Environmental Postcards: Created 1,500 4"x6" postcards to inform the congregation and the public of the importance of planting native plants, and to replace Roundup with a recipe for natural organic weed killer.



3. Meditation Garden and Peace Pavilion. Beautiful and attractive butterfly attracting plants were planted throughout the area.



Unity of The Blue Ridge, Mills River, North Carolina

Senior Minister: Rev. Darlene Strickland

Board President/Chair: Bobbi Flowers-Owenby

EarthCare Contact: Judie McKown

1. Celebration of Nature's Oneness. The sanctuary was decorated with a variety of plants and other representations of nature. Congregants were encouraged to pick something they had never noticed through which God expresses and focus on it as both holy and Divine. They then were invited to share stories about nature and how we are connected to it as well as the Divine. It was an inspiring way to look at each and every blade of grass, every tiny ant, every blooming flower, and also each other, and see God's creation expressing through them.

The essence of the celebration was summed by St. Thomas Aquinas: "The whole Universe in its wholeness more perfectly shares in and represents the divine than one single creature by itself." Also, Genesis 1:31: "God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good."

Finally, as a congregation their EarthCare Covenant was reaffirmed.



2. Nature's Cathedral. Congregant and gifted artist, Karen-Eve Pfozter, created "Nature's Cathedral," to honor the Spirit of these plants and our sacred connection to all plants. Cells and arches are structures. Arches changed manmade structures forever to span openings and support loads. This exquisite work of art now hangs in the sanctuary. Karen-Eve also gave a presentation regarding how it was created and the meaning behind it.



3. Pavilion Structure at Our Labyrinth. The church purchased and installed an Amish-constructed pavilion kit at their outdoor labyrinth. Made of natural wood, this structure allows them to hold small ceremonies and celebrations outdoors. Along with connecting them to the divinity of our beautiful landscape, this pavilion enables them to reduce energy costs as events held outdoors won't require electricity to heat, cool or illuminate.



4. New carpeting and flooring were installed in the sanctuary, entrance, vestibule, hallways, and offices. They selected carpet that has Green Label Plus which is an independent testing program that identifies carpet, adhesives, and cushion with extremely low emissions of VOCs to help improve indoor air quality. The carpeting in the sanctuary consists of small adhesive-backed squares instead of the standard wall to wall. This will allow us to replace small sections which may become stained or damaged instead of having to replace the entire room.
5. An organic lawn was installed with the help of their Habitat for Unity Team. Their policy is to care for the lawn using no pesticides or other harmful compounds. For example, they use a white vinegar solution to kill weeds instead of deadly weed killers such as Roundup. In addition, they planted several arborvitae trees to serve as a green screen vs using manmade materials.

Unity Community of Central Oregon, Bend, Oregon

Senior Minister: Rev. Jane Hiatt

Board President/Chair: Clare Kubota

Spiritual Leader and

EarthCare Contact: Cylvia Hayes

1. Season of the Earth. This Earth Day observance was taken through May when minister-in-training Cylvia Hayes coordinated a Season of the Earth series with an Earth stewardship theme. Every Sunday talk during that period had an Earth stewardship theme.
2. Organized a tour of our local landfill and recycling center.
3. launched a demonstration garden that shows a number of low water consumption irrigation approaches and organic growing techniques.
4. Held a Blessing of the Animals ceremony that was zoomed to bring in all kinds of critters.

Several hundred people participated in activities 1-4.

5. ACT Ministry. The congregation committed to funding a part-time Spiritual Leader position to lead our Action Compassion Transformation (ACT) ministry which is our environmental and social justice ministry. In addition, we have a very engaged volunteer who has stepped up as our Community Engager and keeps our congregants aware of volunteer and activism needs in our community.
6. Fish Rescue & Nature Forest Restoration. Assisted the Deschutes River Conservancy and helped restore native forest joining in on the Deschutes Land Trust's Holiday Tree Hunt.





7. We've supported organizations that aid youth and teens by supplying Birthday Bags to Mountain Star Family Relief Nursery, donating to Grandma's House, and collecting bottles and cans for Bottle Drop Holiday Giving.
8. We assist seniors and the Council on Aging of Central Oregon through help with Meals on Wheels, Partners in Care and Caring Connections.
9. We've donated bags and bags of food through the Bend Food Project, we've assembled a team to serve meals at Family Kitchen, and we've collected winter clothing for Bethlehem Inn. We assist the Latino Community Association with English tutoring.



How to Contact EarthCare

For general questions, please email Brenda Hicks-Wiggins at earthcare@unity.org or call Mike McCord at 913.907.4061. You also may contact your regional representative as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Canada	Mike McCord	michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net
Eastern	Martha Powers	mpowers7@gmail.com
or	Mary Gerken	agreatpickle@gmail.com
Great Lakes	Kathy Harwood Long	kathyharwoodlong@gmail.com
Northwest	Cylvia Hayes	cylvia@3estrategies.org
West Central	Mary Gerken	agreatpickle@gmail.com
Pacific Rim	Cylvia Hayes	cylvia@3estrategies.org
South Central	Mike McCord	michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net
Southeast	Beth Remmes	bremmes@hotmail.com
Southwest	David Cordova	davecordova@msn.com