

# *Practice* of *Thriving*

Opening to Divine Abundance Everywhere **1.0**

Based on the book  
by Edwene Gaines

## The Four *Spiritual* Laws of Prosperity





*Practice of Thriving*  
Opening to Divine Abundance Everywhere 1.0



[www.Unity.org/thrive](http://www.Unity.org/thrive)



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# Welcome to the Practice of Thriving!

A program of Unity Worldwide Ministries

*“Aligned in harmony, we act with a singleness of purpose to transform ourselves, our ministries, and our world.”*

Unity Worldwide Ministries is comprised of more than 900 ministries world-wide and growing. We are also united as a whole—as one movement.

We have a vision worth working toward: Centered in God, we co-create a world that works for all. This is truly a transformational vision. Even in the face of seeming global chaos there is evidence the seeds of transformation are springing to life. Unity ministries are uniquely positioned to nurture these seeds beginning to take root and grow.

The Unity message has never been more needed. Let us join together and share that message with passion and conviction.

We have three powerful intentions for our association and now have a strategic plan with clear goals to assist us in manifesting these intentions. These intentions grew out of a visionary statement which appears in brief below:

We are the fastest growing transformational spiritual movement in the world. Our congregants, leaders, and our new and established ministries are thriving, whole, healthy, and prosperous. We work closely with leaders around the world to bring forth “a new heaven and a new earth,” as one human family living in a world that works for all.

We believe that when we support our ministries in becoming thriving spiritual communities filled with thriving congregants, these intentions will become reality. We have designed a series of programs to support you and your ministry in living into the full potential of Unity principles. Many may already be living into these principles, and we applaud you. We also know that continuous improvement is available to all who seek further growth.

By choosing to participate in the Practice of Thriving program, you will experience:

- Deeper connection to the activity happening in the movement as a whole
- Increased energy and enthusiasm within your congregation
- Aligned commitment within your ministry’s leadership
- Greater support for you as a transformational leader

***“Without giving the soul shrivels but when giving is practiced as a part of Christian living, the soul expands and becomes Godlike in the grace and liberality and generosity.” —Charles Fillmore***

### **Just what is a thriving ministry?**

Imagine a Unity ministry or center where there is more than enough—more than enough energy, creativity, enthusiasm, expertise, volunteerism, money—an abundance of inspired, committed Unity students of all ages and backgrounds who come together to worship, minister, support, serve and make a difference in the world.

Next, imagine an amazing partnership between credentialed and other leaders modeling self-responsibility, personal integrity, commitment to spiritual practice and prayer, and non-violent communication in such a way that others are inspired to take up meaningful roles in the life of the church—leaders cultivating and mentoring other leaders.

Consider what it would be like to participate in a center or church that is so clear about who and what it has come here to be—that the majority of the community are in active roles of bringing forth the shared vision of their future together. Not only are people involved, but they are learning, growing and transforming. And because of this, there is a welcoming spirit that goes beyond attraction—one that brings first-timers face to face with the mirror of their own divinity.

This is a glimpse into what we call the Thriving Ministry Model™—the foundation for Unity becoming the fastest growing transformational spiritual movement in the world.

Unity Worldwide Ministries home office has developed three programs to serve as a pathway to help all our ministries move toward this model:

Option 1: The Practice of Thriving

Option 2: Thriving in Unity

### **You have selected Option 1: The Practice of Thriving**

This option has a variety of materials to support you in moving into the full experience of thriving. It offers you a starting point designed to move your ministry toward the Thriving Ministry Model™ described above by opening the flow of abundance in every area. This kit contains all you need to complete this program and to be recognized at the Unity People’s Convention.

When you have completed this program, we encourage you to move on to Option 2: The Thriving in Unity Program.



## Program Overview

This kit has the potential to provide a transformative experience for you and your ministry. As with most things, the energy and effort you put into it will determine how much impact you receive from it. Below is an overview of the program and kit contents (this information is also available for download at [www.unity.org/thrive](http://www.unity.org/thrive)).

### Introduction

- Overview of Program
- Tracking Sheet for Ministries
- Tracking Sheet for Individuals
- Sample Timeline for Program

### Part One: Leading into a Shared Vision

- The Art & Spirit of Vision
- Sharing the “Thriving in Unity” video in Sunday Service
- Getting Started
- Action Steps

### Part Two: Practice of Thriving Course

#### Section 1: Getting Prepared

- The Art & Spirit of prosperity
- Action Steps
- Contact article “When Abundance Isn’t Enough”

#### Section 2: For Your Board

- Board Program Instructions
- Ministry Prosperity Assessment
- Course Workbook for Boards

#### Section 3: For Your Congregation

- Congregational Program Instructions
- Sunday Lesson Materials
- Course Workbook for Congregations

#### Section 4: Extras for Everyone

- Power of Prosperity Messages
- Promotional Materials

## Assigning a Champion

We suggest you identify a Practice of Thriving champion or captain. This person may be the minister, a staff member, board member, LUT, or a key volunteer. Duties might include:

- Looking at the church calendar (September through April) to determine when each activity will be scheduled to avoid conflict with items already on the calendar (sample timelines with scheduling suggestions are included on the following pages).
- Noting where additional materials may be needed and downloading those materials from our website ([www.unity.org/thrive](http://www.unity.org/thrive)).
- Planning the program's events and activities or identifying another who is well suited to carry out the benchmark.
- Completing the required form for the program and submitting it to the home office.

## How to Complete the Program

On the following pages you will find some sample timelines and a tracking sheet. The sample timelines will help you plan how to schedule the program activities throughout the 8-month duration of the program (Sept.–April).

In order to receive credit for the program and be recognized at the next convention, the Program Tracking Sheet found on page 11 (purple heading) must be completed and submitted to Debbie Allen at Unity Worldwide Ministries' home office.

## A Word to Individual Participants

This program also has an individual Tracking Sheet (orange heading) on page 12 for those who are not participating as a ministry and for those who wish to do both the ministry and individual program. This tracking sheet has been modified to capture actions geared toward individuals. Please read all of the materials provided and complete the items listed on this sheet. Once you have done all items on the individual tracking sheet, send the completed form to Debbie Allen at Unity Worldwide Ministries' home office.

Congratulations on choosing to join us in Thriving in Unity with Option 1—The Practice of Thriving Program. We look forward to receiving your tracking sheet and cheering you on as you complete the program.

## Practice of Thriving Program Tracking Sheet for Ministries

Fill in this form as you complete each activity or task to track your progress. Once you have completed all tasks make a copy of this form and return it to Unity Worldwide Ministries home office (attention Debbie Allen) no later than April 30th to be recognized at the next Unity People's Convention.

| Activity/Task  | Date Completed | Notes |
|--|----------------|-------|
| <b>Part One</b>  |                |       |
| Share Thriving in Unity DVD with your congregation in Sunday service through a single talk or series   |                |       |
| <b>Part Two</b>  |                |       |
| Review all materials for the Practice of Thriving program  |                |       |
| Introduce Practice of Thriving program to board members  |                |       |
| Hold class or retreat for board members—conduct Ministry Prosperity Assessment as part of class or retreat   |                |       |
| Set up triads for board members  |                |       |
| Introduce Practice of Thriving Program to congregation through a Sunday (or weeknight) Series based on the book <i>The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity</i> |                |       |
| Promote this series to your community, encourage congregants to invite guests  |                |       |
| Schedule and hold at least two 4-5 week classes for your congregation as a follow up to the above series   |                |       |
| Set up triads for class participants following the conclusion of the class   |                |       |
| Use the Power of Prosperity Messages 1 through 8 (one per month)   |                |       |
| <b>Optional</b>  |                |       |
| Revisit key themes from the book (Forgiveness, Divine Purpose, Goal Setting, and Tithing) during Sunday lessons throughout the 8 months                      |                |       |

## Practice of Thriving Program Tracking Sheet for Individuals

Fill in this form as you complete each activity or task to track your progress. Once you have completed all tasks make a copy of this form and return it to Unity Worldwide Ministries home office (attention Debbie Allen) no later than April 30th to be recognized at the next Unity People's Convention.

| Activity/Task   | Date Completed | Notes |
|---|----------------|-------|
| <b>Part One</b>   |                |       |
| Watch the thriving in Unity DVD. The video may also be viewed at <a href="http://www.unity.org/thrive">www.unity.org/thrive</a> if you did not receive a ministry copy. |                |       |
| <b>Part Two</b>   |                |       |
| Review all materials for the Practice of Thriving program   |                |       |
| Read the book <i>The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity</i>  |                |       |
| Complete the course workbook for congregants  |                |       |
| Set up a prayer triad or find a prayer partner (continue holding consciousness together through April)  |                |       |
| Review one of the Power of Prosperity Messages at the start of each month and meditate on its message   |                |       |
| <b>Optional</b>   |                |       |
| Enroll in or facilitate the 4-5 week class with others  |                |       |
| Attend a prosperity workshop with Edwene Gaines   |                |       |

## Sample Timeline for Practice of Thriving Program

| September   | October  | November   | December  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Present Sunday lesson(s) on Thriving in Unity and share DVD during service.</p> <p>Introduce Practice of Thriving Program and promote upcoming series on <i>The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity</i>.</p> <p>Schedule class/retreat with board members</p> <p>Use Power of Prosperity Messages as a monthly email message, in newsletter, or as bulletin inserts.</p> | <p>Begin Sunday (or weeknight) series based on book <i>The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity</i>.</p> <p>Begin class or hold retreat with Board Members</p> <p>As part of class or retreat conduct Ministry Prosperity Assessment with board members</p> | <p>During December and holiday service promote upcoming class on <i>The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity</i>.</p> |   |
| <p>January</p> <p>Hold first 4-5 week class for congregants</p> <p>Use Power of Prosperity Messages as a monthly email message, in newsletter, or as bulletin inserts.</p>  | <p>February</p> <p>During February services promote upcoming class on <i>The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity</i>.</p>  | <p>March</p> <p>Hold second 4-5 week class for congregants</p>   | <p>April</p> <p>Complete paper work and send to association home office (attention Debbie Allen).</p> |

# Blank Timeline

Create your own timeline for implementing the Practice of Thriving Program

|           |         |          |          |
|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| September | October | November | December |
|-----------|---------|----------|----------|

|         |          |       |       |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| January | February | March | April |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|

Complete paper work and send to association home office (attention Debbie Allen).

# Part One: Leading into a Shared Vision

*“Most important, leaders can conceive and articulate goals that lift people out of their petty preoccupations and unite them in pursuit of objectives worthy of their best efforts.”*

*—John Gardner*

## The Art & Spirit of Vision

Having a clear vision and enlightened leadership practices is a major component of a thriving ministry. For Unity to thrive as a movement there must be coherence within our ministries and our organizations and congruence between them. Our association is making great gains in its efforts to align more clearly with Unity School.

Part 1 of this program is geared toward helping us align more clearly as an association.

We invite you to share these Thriving in Unity initiatives underway with your ministry leaders and congregants:

- Our Association Vision
- Our Association Strategic Plan
- Our Movement’s Leadership Structure (the two national organizations)
- The Thriving in Unity Program
- The Thriving Ministry Model™

By sharing this information with your staff, lay leaders, and congregants, you will enroll your ministry in the larger efforts underway for our movement as a whole. The energy and excitement we can generate together far exceeds what we can accomplish alone, as magnificent as our individual efforts might be.

*When we are clear, focused  
and united, our impact is immense.*

## Sharing the “Thriving in Unity” video in Sunday services

For our movement as a whole to truly begin Thriving in Unity, we need to be united in focus and aligned in purpose. In many ways, we are already united and aligned. To help us become more intentional about this important goal, we have created the Thriving in Unity DVD. Your ministry was mailed a copy along with a resource CD-ROM in a separate package.

## Getting Started

We recommend ministers and spiritual leaders incorporate the video into a series of talks or a single talk on who we are as a movement and where we are going. We hope that with widespread support by ministers and lay-leaders, we will have the following effect on our movement:

- Our association is strengthened by a common vision.
- Greater coordination is developed within and among association members and creates a renaissance within the movement, sparking new creativity and synergy that is possible when we work together.
- The movement as a whole is uplifted and energized as we align in energy and intent.
- Congregants and ministry leaders become enthused about the vision and direction emerging for our association and the strategic plan that has been crafted to get us there.
- Congregants and ministry leaders see how their ministry plays an essential role in bringing the vision into reality.
- Congregants and ministry leaders embrace the Practice of Thriving program as a path to building momentum for transformation.
- Congregants and ministry leaders take personal action to get involved and support the activities of the Practice of Thriving program.

Knowing that congregations differ, we have created topics and talking points for a four-part series, a two-part series, and a single talk.

## Action Steps

**Step 1:** Review the Thriving in Unity DVD (sent out separately).

**Step 2:** Review the lesson prep materials on the following pages.

**Step 3:** Prepare and present a Sunday series or a single talk during which you share the video.

**Step 4:** Note your progress on the tracking form for Part One.



## Lesson Prep Materials

The following pages contain an overview of the lesson themes and the detail information on each theme that may be used in preparing your talk(s). To save you time we have provided these lesson themes, as well as music, on the CD-ROM that accompanied the DVD (this was mailed separately). The lesson starters can be opened in MS Word so you may edit them as needed for your lesson(s).

## Overview of Lesson Themes:

### **Unity Movement:**

We are a spiritual movement with a proud heritage of exploring the leading edge. Charles Fillmore did not assign immortality to his own thinking or writing saying, “I reserve the right to change my mind.” He and Myrtle understood the importance of continuing the quest to find new and more effective ways to apply the Principle. Universal law is itself unchanging, but how we apply it should evolve over time as our practical experiences yield new understanding.

### **Theme 1: Who is Unity?**

Most would agree that we are in the midst of a global awakening. Fueled by emerging crisis on a planetary scale, humanity is searching for a new way of being—one that is life affirming, that puts the best of who we are and what we have to offer in service to the whole of life. Unity’s teachings are ideally suited for this task when they are applied with a realistic and clear view of where we are as a global community and what each of us can contribute.

### **Theme 2: A Vision for Unity (Thriving in Unity Video)**

We have a powerful and timely visionary statement out of which has emerged a bold strategic plan. Our new strategic plan lays out a clear road map for us to achieve our vision as an association of ministries and individuals. When we are clear, focused and united, our impact is immense.

### **Theme 3: A Plan for Unity**

The Thriving in Unity program offers a unique opportunity for our entire Unity Worldwide Ministries to join our efforts across the movement as a whole. Together we can align in harmony and act with a singleness of purpose to transform ourselves, our ministries, and our world.

### **Theme 4: Thriving in Unity**

By choosing to participate in the Thriving in Unity program, we will not only lend our energy to the efforts going on across our movement, we will also have the opportunity to live our principles right here in our own community, our own ministry, and in our own lives.

## Theme #1: Who Is Unity?

**Introduce/review a brief history of Unity and introduce/review the two partnering organizations which serve the Unity movement.**

### Key Points

- Our founders created this movement and its principles on the basis of healing and prayer.
- The movement grew out of a desire to create Unity centers so people could gather to share their journey and study the principles.
- In order to best serve the larger world and to serve Unity ministries, we formed two partner organizations.
- Our ministries provide supportive communities for congregants and Truth students to learn about and practice Unity teachings.
- It is up to each individual to determine what level of priority they are willing to give to embracing and living a spiritual path.
- Our challenge is to put the purpose of our own spiritual awakening first.

### Unity Founders

- Charles and Myrtle Fillmore
- A story of healing, a story of courage
- The five basic principles

### The Creation of a Movement

- Prayer service
- Publications
- The desire for worship centers that taught the basic principles

### One Movement/Two Organizations:

**Two organizations impact how we express ourselves as a movement.**

**Unity School** works to disseminate the Unity message to people beyond the Unity movement as well as those who are part of ministries.

Unity School is located at Unity Village, Missouri where it:

- Publishes Daily Word and other Unity publications
- Operates Silent Unity (continuous prayer for more than 100 years)
- Offers SEE classes, hosts retreats, and trains ministerial candidates
- Operates Unity.fm online radio shows on Unity principle

**Unity Worldwide Ministries** is made up of more than 900 churches and centers worldwide. It also includes credentialed leaders and congregants. Unity Worldwide Ministries's home office provides direct support to Unity ministries and seeks to ensure a basic level of consistency and quality across the Unity movement. The home office for our association is located in Lee's Summit, Missouri, just a short distance from Unity Village. Our home office:

- Accepts candidates for ordination
- Offers placement and transitional services
- Ordains and licenses graduates from Unity School
- Supports ministries through programs such as
  - Youth education curriculum
  - Small group ministries
  - Leadership and organizational development
  - Finance and tax advice
  - Worldwide coordination with international ministries

Unity Worldwide Ministries has produced a video entitled, "Unity: Two Partners, One Spiritual Movement" which captures the history of our movement and the role of the two organizations. You may wish to share this 13-minute video with your congregation. Some suggestions include:

- Run the video after the service in your fellowship hall
- Organize a potluck lunch and show the video
- Plan a special evening event to show the video
- Share it at your mid-week service

As a member ministry of Unity Worldwide Ministries, the Role of the Unity worship center

- Supports congregations at the local level in learning about and living spiritual principles.
- Provides a community of like-minded and open-hearted people.
- Offers programs, service/volunteer opportunities or other types of spiritual support to deepen one's spiritual life.

Each ministry also offers the challenge to go deeper:

- How much we get out of our experience of our home church often depends on what we put into it.
- By making a commitment to be of service in small ways or as lay leaders, we open the channel for spirit to flow more fully into our lives.
- Our home church offers us a place to develop our spiritual muscles and explore living principles.

## Theme #2: A Vision for Unity

Introduce the vision for our association and our movement.

### Key Points

- Unity Worldwide Ministries has developed its vision over the years, knowing that we are churches, centers and individuals.
- In current times, we are experiencing a greater urge for transformation throughout the world.
- Often what appears to be chaotic has divine purpose, as crisis almost always precedes transformation.
- Unity is uniquely positioned to support this transformation because of the transformational nature of our teachings.
- Our vision is to be the fastest growing transformational spiritual movement in the world.
- Every church and spiritual center, every leader, every congregant has a role to play in evolving the consciousness of the human family.
- It is up to each of us to commit to doing our part—as ministries, as individuals

First we asked the question “Who is Unity?” Now we will explore a vision for Unity as a movement.

### Set Context

We live in transformational times. As Unity Worldwide Ministries President James Trapp stated in the June/July 2008 issue of Contact Magazine, “This is truly an amazing time to be alive. Even in the face of seemingly growing global chaos there is evidence the seeds of transformation are springing to life. As we open our collective eyes and see the work to be done we might feel overwhelmed and small. Yet people all over the world are realizing ‘if it is to be, it’s up to me.’ WE, each one of us, make up the collective. And when we join together and do what needs to be done, transformation occurs.”

### The task can seem daunting

“History is governed by those overarching movements that give shape and meaning to life by relating the human venture to the larger destinies of the universe.” —Thomas Berry

- Like the caterpillar that must surrender itself to the transformational process of becoming a butterfly, we too must be willing to break down and peel away all that is no longer needed in order to break through to our highest self.

***“Truly I say to you as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did unto me.” —Mathew 25:40***

- Unity is uniquely positioned to serve us in these transformational times
  - Refer to theme #1 message and how the teachings of Unity are a guide to how we can bring about a new way of living.
  - Wisdom from Charles and Myrtle

Unity Worldwide Ministries, with more than 900 spiritual centers and churches worldwide, is uniquely positioned to nurture these seeds of transformation beginning to take root and grow. The Unity message has never been more needed than it is today. We must share that message with passion and conviction, boldly be all that we are, and confidently do that which is ours to do.

## Divine Potential

What would it look like if the Unity movement was living into its fullest divine potential?

“We are the fastest growing transformational spiritual movement in the world. Our congregants, leaders, and our new and established ministries are thriving, whole, healthy, and prosperous. We work closely with leaders around the world to bring forth ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ as one human family living in a world that works for all.”

From Ideas to Expression

Rev. James Trapp, January 2006

## Our Association’s Vision Statement:

**“Centered in God, we co-create a world that works for all.”** (The use of the word “all” rather than “everyone” is very important because it implies the understanding that our world must work for **all life** on planet Earth, not just people.) We know that by being intentional and holding a vision in mind, we can bring it into reality.

Relate Unity Worldwide Ministries’s vision back to your ministry

- How do we as a ministry contribute to this great work?
- What is our vision for ourselves, our ministry, and our world?

Relate Unity Worldwide Ministries’s vision back to the individuals

- How do the personal choices we make impact the world we live in?
- If we indeed make our own reality, what choices must we shift to change the reality we see?

***“Personal transformation can and does have global effects. As we go, so goes the world, for the world is us. The revolution that will save the world is ultimately a personal one.”***

***—Marianne Williamson***

## Theme #3: A Plan for Unity

Introduce the Strategic Plan by showing the 8-minute Thriving in Unity DVD

### Key Points

- The world is ready for a new vision and a new path forward.
- Unity is preparing to assist in this transformation.
- For our movement to realize its potential in this endeavor, we know that it will require all of us to participate. The time has come, and we are the ones.
- At every level, association home office, regions, lay and clergy leaders and congregants, we are Unity Worldwide Ministries.
- When we are clear, focused and united, our impact is immense.
- With our strategic plan Unity Worldwide Ministries now has a road map to focus our movement toward our goals.

We began by asking, “Who is Unity?” From there we looked at a vision for Unity, but not just for the Unity movement. We talked about a vision for our ministry, a vision for us as individuals, and how uniting in a common vision for good can co-create a new reality of a world that works for all. We asked tough questions about what each of us can do as individuals to make new choices.

Today we will look at what we as a movement are doing to help inspire the shift of consciousness that is needed to create a world that works for all.

### Strategic Plan

Our association home office along with teams of ministers from across the movement have defined a direction and developed a strategic plan to bring it into reality. We have a short video to show you that shares some of the objectives of this plan.

Be sure to direct congregants to the bulletin insert when you play the Thriving in Unity video. This insert gives them the highlights from the video as well as encourages them to consider how they can get more involved at your ministry. (See the back of the bulletin insert.) This bulletin insert is available on CD-ROM or at [www.unity.org/thrive](http://www.unity.org/thrive).

***“It will be a simultaneous transformation of ourselves and our world that will extend over much of the coming century, if not beyond it.” —Geoffrey L. Breedon***

## Theme #4: Thriving in Unity

### Introduce your ministry's involvement

#### Key Points:

- Our association has invited each member ministry to be part of something extraordinary: a year dedicated to the transformation of our congregations, our ministries, our movement, and our world.
- We (your ministry) are pleased to participate in the Thriving in Unity program this year.
- From September through April we are planning several activities to enhance our spiritual journey as individuals and deepen our passion as a congregation. The program will also help us strengthen ourselves organizationally.
- If the world is to transform, every individual must take up the call to tend their own garden and do their own work.
- Every step forward affects the whole, every time we make choices and respond to life from a place of oneness with God, the world is changed.

Our work is to dedicate ourselves to our personal transformation. As we move to a new place of consciousness, new choices, new ways forward emerge.

***“Problems cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them.”***

***—Albert Einstein***

By choosing to participate in the Thriving in Unity program, our ministry will not only lend our energy to the efforts going on across our movement, but we as a congregation will also have the opportunity to live our principles right here in our own community, our own ministry, and in our own lives.

Through mind opening courses and heart opening activities, we will have practical ways to put our spiritual principles into action. When we dedicate ourselves to serving Spirit in action, miracles happen. Not only in our lives, but in the lives of those we touch, and through the ripple effect many more. As we raise our own consciousness and our own demonstration of Spirit, the consciousness of the human family rises with us.





# Part Two: The Practice of Thriving Course

## Section 1: Getting Prepared

### The Art & Spirit of Prosperity

Too often when we think of prosperity we think of it in terms of what we have or don't have or by what we can or cannot do. This causes us to measure our abundance by external circumstances. When we look at abundance as something that occurs outside of ourselves, we will forever find ourselves chasing an illusion of prosperity that simply does not exist.

Rather than focusing on what we have or what we wish to do, we can shift our focus on what we choose to be. Placing our focus on “being that which we have come to be” allows us to connect deeply and powerfully with our divine purpose. When we are on purpose and in the flow, everything we need to accomplish that purpose is brought forth to us.

The Thriving Ministry Model™ is about linking our abundance to who we are and what we have come here to be. The first step in that process is remembering that God is our Source. Our prosperity comes only from Source—not our paycheck, not our congregation, not our job, not anything but Source. Scripture tells us that by returning to God the first 10% of our income, we will be forever blessed with the abundant flow of divine prosperity. Yet tithing continues to feel like a taboo subject rather than the gift that it is.

The Practice of Thriving 1.0 course is based on the book by master prosperity teacher Edwene Gaines, *The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity*. This program aims to support your ministry in opening fully to divine abundance. With both a board component and a congregational component, your ministry can step fully into demonstrating prosperity laws in action.

## Action Steps

### Prepare

- Step 1:** Champion and minister read all course information provided
- Step 2:** Champion and minister read *Contact* article “When Abundance Isn’t Enough” provided
- Step 3:** Champion and minister read the book *The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity*

### For Your Board

- Step 4:** Gain the commitment of the leadership first (board of trustees—including minister).
- Step 5:** Complete a prosperity assessment for your ministry.
- Step 6:** Board trustees and minister complete the coursework (either a 4-week class or a weekend retreat):
- Teacher instructions provided
  - Workbook provided (may be printed and given to participants)
- Step 7:** Board trustees complete final prosperity assessment.

### For Your Congregation

- Step 8:** Minister delivers a Sunday Series based on the book by Edwene Gaines, *The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity*
- Lesson preparation materials provided
  - Accompanying music suggestions provided
- Step 9:** Minister or designee teaches 4 or 5 week class at least 2 times in the 8-month program period (SEE credits available for 5 week class)
- Teacher instructions provided
  - Workbook provided (may be printed and given to participants)

### Extras for Everyone

- Step 10:** Follow up with the 8 Power of Prosperity Messages provided.

# When Not Enough *is* Abundance

by Gary Simmons, [UnityPeaceworks@aol.com](mailto:UnityPeaceworks@aol.com)

If you ever had not enough of anything, you know how difficult it is not to focus on what you don't have. Not enough can bring you to the edge of your resourcefulness and become a mirror unto your own sense of insufficiency.

As with individuals, the difference between thriving and surviving churches often lies in how the experience of "not enough" is managed. Here are two stories of how two churches and their leaders dealt with the experience of not enough. Both stories illustrate a foundational principle underlying the creative process: as above, so below.

The first story is about a minister and board who dealt with not enough as a problem to solve. The second is a story about a minister and board who understood and responded to their financial decline as feedback to their creative process. While these stories are fictional, you will likely find in them a reflection of your own relationship to the experience of not enough.

## A Problem to Solve

Rev. Joe and his board noticed a gradual decline in financial support beginning with the summer months. It seemed logical not to burden the congregation with alarm about the trend. After dipping into reserves and coming uncomfortably close to not meeting payroll, Rev. Joe and his board president, Emily, met privately. Emily tactfully communicated to Rev. Joe the board's concern over the church's financial situation. She wondered out loud whether Rev. Joe was doing everything he could to stay in touch with members. She asked him to call on people who left the church, keep track of his visitations, office hours, counseling sessions, and to teach more prosperity principles from the pulpit.

Rev. Joe shared Emily's concern over the finances, but resented the implication that it had anything to do with him. While he initially agreed to her requests, he quietly reflected on how the board had fallen short of his expectations.

As the situation grew worse, the board considered releasing the office manager and cutting back on expenses for special music. They thought it would be wise for Rev. Joe to consider a reduction in his salary insofar as this expense was the biggest line item in their budget.



Convinced that the underlying issue was Rev. Joe's leadership, the board quietly released the minister. Not surprisingly, the congregation was appalled by the board's action and how they were never made aware of the problems from the beginning.

## Feedback to the Creative Process

Rev. Susan's church fell into the same predicament. Declining funds created anxiety between her and the board. But unlike Rev. Joe and Emily, Rev. Susan met with her president, Thomas, and together they wondered how the decline was feedback to the way the leadership was modeling how to be in ownership of the church. They met and discussed how difficult it can be, not to project their discomfort over financial issues onto each other. They made a commitment to stay connected and supportive of one another as they each explored their relationship to money and issues of lack.

With the congregation, the board revisited their mission and vision using an Appreciative Inquiry process. Rather than attempting to determine why people had left or how the congregation felt about programs and services, they focused on what people valued most about their relationship to the church. Having acknowledged a pattern of losing past ministers during periods of decline, the church agreed that it was time to change the church culture. Looking at issues of congruence and organizational integrity, they found that the church had not been tithing regularly, that the minister and board were also not tithing regularly. They saw how the leadership of the church was not being a model for a thriving ministry.



Immediately, the minister and board made a commitment to tithe and established a special group of church elders who were also tithers to hold them accountable to their responsibility for modeling Unity principles. Those on the board who were unable to make the commitment resigned and others stepped forward. Tithing circles began to form within the congregation in support of the board. In less than a month, the finances of the church were back on track.

## Applying the Learning

Unfortunately, Rev. Susan's story is the exception rather than the norm in times of financial decline. Here is a review of the action steps to take when you experience not enough in your church:

- Partner with the congregation. Share your feelings and concerns over the discomfort of being in an experience of not enough.
- Stay connected in the minister/board relationship. Don't project your discomfort onto each other.
- Live within your means, not out of lack, but out of integrity. Don't make any changes without first partnering with the congregation.
- Revisit your mission and vision. Stop being all things to all people. Just do two or three things with quality and excellence.
- Most importantly, don't make lack into an enemy. How is it a mirror unto your own congruence as leaders?
- Finally, as leaders, model the principles you want your members to embody. Tithe, show up, stay connected, stay Spirit-led.

## Section 2: For Your Board

*“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” —Margaret Mead*

### Gaining Your Board’s Commitment

It can be said that the most critical group of lay leaders in any ministry is its board of trustees. Whether they know it or not, board members serve as role models for other congregants. Together with the minister, the board serves as a resonant core, setting the vibration or consciousness at the core of the ministry which in turn affects the vibration or consciousness of the organization as a whole. Research shows that consciousness of the congregation as a whole, and of the ministry as an organization, will not rise above the level of consciousness demonstrated by its leaders. If the board operates from fear in how it makes decisions, it’s likely that fear will spill out into the general congregation. If the board holds the high watch and is demonstrating spiritual principles and modeling best practices, this too will spill out and influence the general congregation.

Thriving ministries, by design or by chance, are congruent and in integrity from their most committed leaders through to their newest members. In other words, thriving ministry leaders live the wise words of Mahatma Gandhi, “We must be the change we wish to see.” Rather than just talking about spiritual principles they live them. Rather than just teaching spiritual principles, they demonstrate them. They lead by example, asking only that which they are willing to do themselves. Any shift in consciousness within the congregation must first be present at the board level. It is for this reason that, as with any consciousness raising initiative, our focus on enhancing a ministry’s abundance must begin at the top.

Many people have had limited exposure to charitable giving, and fewer still may be familiar with the spiritual practice of tithing. Some may understand that giving is an important and good thing to do, yet they may have no sense of why or how to proceed, nor have a full grasp of the connection between personal finances and spiritual principles. As ministers and spiritual leaders, one of the greatest gifts we can ever offer to those we serve is prosperity education. If you yourself are practicing prosperity principles, you know how powerful this is. Yet, often in ministry we shy away from sharing this blessing with others for fear it will be interpreted as “just a push for more money.”

In order to help people understand more about this important spiritual practice, they must not only hear it spoken about from the platform and take training classes, but they must witness to it happening in practice. They will take their cues from what they see and hear being authentically practiced by the leaders in the church.

The board sets the tone for the rest of the ministry. They lead in creating the field of consciousness, along with the ministerial staff. As the leadership moves through the material in this program and builds or strengthens its prosperity consciousness with a disciplined spiritual practice, the effects will be felt across the entire ministry.

## Board Program Instructions

The material in this section asks your board members to approach the teachings from the perspective of an officer of the organization. While they will most certainly find applications for their own personal finances, and they will be challenged to personally demonstrate prosperity principles, the main focus is on the financial health of the ministry rather than their own. For this reason, board members are encouraged to enroll in the congregational course as well. Credit is available for the 5 week congregational class, but not for the 4 week board session. Through the congregational class, not only will the board be served personally, but it will benefit others in the congregation to see the board members at the classes and to interact with them on the subject of prosperity principles.

Please select one of the following options to present the material and begin developing the field as a leadership group.

- Meet weekly for 4 weeks
- Hold Friday evening and full-day Saturday board “abundance” retreat

## Action Steps

1. Let the church know that the board is enrolled in the Practice of Thriving program at the board level.
2. Schedule your 4 meeting nights or your weekend retreat.
3. Invite the board members to read the book and point out that we will study the book sections in this order: Forgiveness, Divine Purpose, Goal Setting, Tithing.
4. One to two weeks ahead make two copies of the assessment and give to board members to complete. Ask them to answer as honestly as possible. During your first meeting, or on Friday night, board members and minister share their answers from the Ministry Prosperity Assessment (see page 32).
5. Review the list of affirmations on page 33. Choose one affirmation to start your course meetings. You may wish to do this for all your board meetings.
6. During the course, have each board member select a different affirmation from the list and personally hold for the church until the board meets again. Then choose a different one and repeat the process until all of the affirmations have been held for the church.

7. Take the board members through the exercises in the board workbook (additional teacher instructions can be found on page 34).
8. At the end of the course or retreat, have each trustee complete the final prosperity assessment (found on page 37) and see if perspectives have changed. Discuss any changes and any action steps for the board at the first regular board meeting you have following the close of the course.

## Ministry Prosperity Assessment #1

Take a few moments to center yourself. Breathe in deeply and bring into your heart the appreciation you feel for your church community. Ask for guidance in answering these questions as honestly as possible, knowing it will support the shift in consciousness of your ministry. When you are ready, write your answers in a journal or on separate paper.

1. What does it mean for your church to be prosperous?
2. Does this church have a prosperity consciousness?
3. Who holds that consciousness for the church?
4. What is your part as a board member in the prosperity of your church?
5. Does the church talk about prosperity?
6. What kind of prosperity education is being done in the church? What other ideas do you have?
  - a. Classes?
  - b. Talk from the pulpit?
  - c. Prayer groups?
  - d. Newsletters?
7. How does this board understand prosperity in the church? Is it just by the tithes and love offerings that we demonstrate prosperity as a ministry?
8. What are the feelings about prosperity on this board? Do you, as a board member, feel the prosperity of your church? If yes, why? If not, why not? Would people in your church agree?
9. What could this church be if money were no issue?
10. What, if anything, holds this ministry back from being prosperous? Would it take an uncomfortable change? What would that discomfort look and feel like?
11. How do you as a board address fear around lack in the church?
12. As a board member, what are you willing to do to raise the prosperity consciousness of this ministry?
  - a. Do you think that the leaders in the church need to model prosperity? Are you willing to be a model? What does it mean to be a model?
  - b. Do you tithe to this ministry? Are you willing to tithe?
  - c. Are you willing to talk about prosperity?

***“You are prosperous to the degree that you are experiencing peace, health, and plenty in your world.” —Catherine Ponder***



## Affirmations for use in opening meetings

1. The entire universe loves this church, serves this church, nurtures this church, and wants this church to succeed.
2. There is enough good for this entire church.
3. We, as a board, choose to release all sense of lack, struggle and fear.
4. We choose to trust that God is the source and we are the channels.
5. This church has wonderful gifts and we choose to share them generously.
6. This church has wonderful gifts to receive and we receive them joyously.
7. Prosperity comes to this church from all directions and we are richly blessed.
8. Money is energy and it is here to serve this church; we agree to be good stewards of this money.
9. As a board, we can be trusted to handle money spiritually and openly.
10. We will tithe as a church to where we are spiritually supported.
11. Money comes to this church easily and effortlessly for the work of God that is ours to do. We receive it in joy.
12. There is no lack in this church. We love to share.
13. There is no fear of lack in this church. God provides lavishly for this church and the work it does.
14. Large, rich, opulent financial surprises come into this church daily and we celebrate in gratitude.
15. This church has wonderful projects for good in the world and everything that is required to do that good shows up to support this church in that work.

And so it is!

## Teacher's Instructions for Board Course/Retreat

This Board Workbook follows a different order than Edwene Gaines' book. This allows for a sequence for building consciousness as a process. This can be done as a 4 or 5 week class or a Friday night-all day Saturday retreat. If done as a retreat each session is about two hours.

### Session One—Forgiveness

**Homework Assignment:** Read section in book on forgiveness before the first session.

Note: There is additional material in the workbook intended to supplement the assignments for each class. You may wish to complete this at home.

**Themes:** Let's clean the slate to make room for the abundance. Know that forgiveness is a process that cannot be completed in one class.

Before class convenes participants should read section on forgiveness. Open with the five introductory questions after the opening prayer in the workbook. Ask and answer questions out loud getting a few folks to share.

Discuss the reading for this week (Forgiveness) picking out key concepts from the book to highlight. Give the class time to complete the exercises in the workbook on Forgiveness. Remember that the board members should be answering these questions from the perspective of the ministry. What forgivenesses may be incomplete within the history of the church? Past hurts and disappointments can block the church's prosperity.

Forgiveness can be difficult or painful at times. Jesus told us, "where two or more are gathered, there I am also." This was the first prayer triad. Prayer triads or partners hold the light for one another when one cannot for oneself and allows the guidance and grace of Spirit to assist us.

#### **Set up prayer triads this week:**

To continue expanding your prosperity consciousness, each board member is invited to join with 2-4 others in a prayer triad. Triad refers to a group of three but for the purposes of Practice of Thriving a group of three to five is perfect. The members may determine for themselves what days/times they wish to meet (weekly, bi-weekly, in person, by phone, etc.). They may wish to meet 15 to 30 minutes before each class.

These beloved ones are the ones you will be most vulnerable with. You will share with them what you are not comfortable sharing with the world. They will hold in close confidentiality what you have shared and they will hold the "high light" for you when you are having trouble holding it for yourself. Remember that what is shared in the group stays in the group.

This is not a time for “stories,” but rather a time to come together to share prayer intentions and requests and to hold them in the highest light. You may have a format you wish to use, or you may wish to use this simple format:

1. Go around the circle and each person offers a brief (less than 2 minutes) check-in.
2. Go around again and each person offers a prayer intention/request.
3. One person then offers a heart-felt affirmative prayer for the group and offers thanksgiving for all that is blooming forth (you may rotate the responsibility for this).
4. Go around once more to allow each person to offer a word of thanks.

## Session Two—Purpose

**Themes:** What is mine to do? How do I figure out what my purpose is?

(Have index cards for the class for the first exercise.)

1. During the class discuss the church’s purpose.
2. Does the church have a purpose or mission statement? If not, spend time determining how the ministry could focus time and energy on creating one. What is it that the ministry is here to be and do? Once this clarity is attained, you will begin opening wide the channels of abundance to support you in your mission and purpose. If you already have a mission or purpose statement, review it. Is it current? Does it need revising? If so, determine how you will revise it. If possible, brainstorm a few ideas in the class.
3. Review questions 1-10 in the workbook under Divine Purpose. Discuss how they apply to your ministry, then spend some time in meditation about the exercises and the questions. Spending time in the silence is a great way to help discover the ministry’s purpose.
4. Consider adding a vision statement and values to your mission statement.

## Session Three—Goal setting

**Themes:** What are the next steps?

1. Now that the ministry purpose (what we are here to be) is becoming clear, it is time to ask what are we here to do? This is the ministry strategic plan. It takes the purpose into action in a focused way.
2. Spend time in meditation and then brainstorm some goals for the ministry to focus on. Try to keep the list to a handful of key goals rather than a laundry list of everything that needs attention. Define timelines and assign duties if appropriate.

## Session Four—Tithing

**Themes:** We have forgiven everyone and everything; we know our purpose, we have our plan in place; now let's put God first in all of it by tithing—time, talents, and treasures.

1. Read and discuss Questions to Ask Yourself about Tithing in the workbook.
2. Ask for tithing stories or share one of your own.
3. Discuss the difference between tithing and charitable giving.
4. Tithing is the greatest gift you can give yourself. So how big is the gift you want? Set a goal to move to a full ten percent tithe in a short time even if you have to work up to it. The sooner you get started, the sooner your gift will arrive.
5. Does the ministry tithe? If so how much? Does it consider charitable gifts as tithes? Discuss the importance of the ministry demonstrating good tithing habits as an organization. Discuss the church's tithing policy and make any necessary adjustments. See Unity Worldwide Ministries's tithing policy in the kit, Benchmark 10, as a sample and determine if you want to develop one for the church.
6. Discuss the importance of the board members embracing the Spiritual Practice of Tithing as a demonstration. Define or review your board tithing policy— how will board members tithe to the church? Keep in mind the board sets the tone or field of consciousness for the entire ministry.
  - a. You may decide to have the policy be voluntary for existing members as they did not commit to the policy before becoming a member.
  - b. Add the new policy information to your nominating requirements so that all new members will be fully informed before committing to service.

## Celebrate!

Either celebrate at the end of the last session, or schedule a celebration for the class. Invite members to continue their practice and follow up with any remaining action steps. They may also want to keep in touch with prayer partners.

You may wish to work in testimonials from tithers into lessons or classes throughout the 8 month period.

## Ministry Prosperity Assessment #2

### Complete after studying The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity Course

Take a few moments to center yourself. Breathe in deeply and bring into your heart the appreciation you feel for your church community. Ask for guidance in answering these questions as honestly as possible, knowing it will support the shift in consciousness of your ministry. When you are ready, write your answers in a journal or on separate paper.

1. What does it mean for your church to be prosperous?
2. Does this church have a prosperity consciousness?
3. Who holds that consciousness for the church?
4. What is your part as a board member in the prosperity of your church?
5. Does the church talk about prosperity?
6. What kind of prosperity education is being done in the church? What other ideas do you have?
  - a. Classes?
  - b. Talk from the pulpit?
  - c. Prayer groups?
  - d. Newsletters?
7. How does this board understand prosperity in the church? Is it just by the tithes and love offerings that we demonstrate prosperity as a ministry?
8. What are the feelings about prosperity on this board? Do you, as a board member, feel the prosperity of your church? If yes, why? If not, why not? Would people in your church agree?
9. What could this church be if money were no issue?
10. What, if anything, holds this ministry back from being prosperous? Would it take an uncomfortable change? What would that discomfort look and feel like?
11. How do you as a board address fear around lack in the church?
12. As a board member, what are you willing to do to raise the prosperity consciousness of this ministry?
  - a. Do you think that the leaders in the church need to model prosperity? Are you willing to be a model? What does it mean to be a model?
  - b. Do you tithe to this ministry? Are you willing to tithe?
  - c. Are you willing to talk about prosperity?

How have your responses changed from the first time you took this assessment?

What 2-3 action steps can the entire board take to help move the church forward in prosperity?

What 2-3 action steps you as an individual board trustee will take to experience prosperity?



## Section 3: For Your Congregation

Now that you and your board have set the tone and field of consciousness for the ministry, it is time to move the program out into the congregation.

### Congregational Program Instructions

**Step 1:** Announce that the ministry is starting an 8-month program, The Practice of Thriving. Share the components of the program:

- Sunday (or weekday) series based on the book The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity.
- Board course/retreat to set and hold the consciousness for the ministry as a whole
- Classes for congregants
- Power of Prosperity messages

**Step 2:** Begin sharing the Power of Prosperity Messages (found in Section 4) in your newsletter, as bulleting inserts, or emails, etc.

**Step 3:** Plan and hold Sunday or weekday series (lesson notes are on page 38). Invite congregants to use this series as an opportunity to invite friends and family. You may even wish to advertise the series.

**Optional:** Invite Edwene Gaines to speak at your ministry for the last day of the series.

**Step 4:** On last day of the series, announce information on the follow up class based on the book The Four Spiritual laws of Prosperity. Allow people to sign up that day if possible. Order books to sell for class participants.

**Step 5:** Hold The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity class at least two times in the 8-month period from September through April. (Teacher's instructions are found on page 42.)

**Optional:** Revisit the themes of the series periodically throughout the 8 month period (Forgiveness, Purpose, Goal Setting, Tithing).

**Optional:** Share the results of your board course/retreat such as a new/updated organizational tithing policy and a new/updated board tithing policy).

**Step 6:** Complete the Program Tracking Sheet and return it to our association home office attention Debbie Allen.

## Sunday (or weekday) Series Lesson Notes

These are just starting ideas and are not required to do the program. You may edit them however they may serve you. Or you may decide to create your talks from the book without the help of these materials. What matters most is that you offer the Sunday or weekday series on the book.

### Week 1: What is prosperity and what do we mean by prosperity principles?

**Prosperity Quiz** (possibly printed in the bulletin or newsletter)

1. I consistently tithe (10 % or greater) to the person, place or institution that feeds me spiritually.  Yes  No
2. I have no fear about money.  Yes  No
3. I currently am abundantly prosperous in all of the following areas: health, relationships, work and finances.  Yes  No
4. I have forgiven everyone in my life that I have ever held a grudge against.  Yes  No
5. I have specific, tangible goals, written down with dates by which I wish to achieve them.  Yes  No.
6. I have a complete understanding about what it is I am here to do on this earth, and I am living in alignment with that knowledge.  Yes  No

### Grading the quiz

If you answered YES to all of these questions, congratulations, you are prosperous! To reinforce your prosperity, come join the class beginning \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered NO to one of the questions, then you are fantastic! To achieve even more abundance in your life, join the class beginning \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered NO to two of the questions, then you are a spiritual being working to be in greater harmony with the spiritual laws of prosperity. Don't miss Sunday Services on the 4 Laws of Prosperity for the next \_\_\_\_\_ weeks

If you answered NO to three or more of the questions, you need to jump-start your prosperity consciousness! Join us on talks on the Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity. Come to the Wednesday night classes. Follow these principles and prosperity is guaranteed!



### **Week 2: Forgiveness and Prosperity**

Release all that no longer serves you. Think of forgiveness as emotional housecleaning. It will help you make room for the good you desire. When you release judgment of others, it becomes possible to know what you really want in life.

### **Week 3: Divine Purpose and Prosperity**

Begin to ask yourself questions about what is really important to you. Notice what brings you joy and fulfillment. This has probably always been with you. Tap into the amazing power that you are and commit to living your purpose!

### **Week 4: Goal Setting and Prosperity**

Learn to combine goal-setting and directed faith to see amazing results. This is a fun and creative part of the prosperity process. A space will be provided for you to begin to open yourself to infinite possibility.

### **Week 5: Tithing and Prosperity**

How would you like to live in a lavish, abundant world where all of your needs, wants and desires are met? You do! Learn to experience this firsthand as you move forward on your spiritual journey by participating in God's great law of prosperity. Tithing will change your life!

### **Week 6: Celebrating prosperity**

Have a prosperity party with people sharing what has happened in their lives throughout the last 5 weeks.

Created by Rev. Alice Anderson, Chair of Unity Worldwide Ministries's Prosperity Development Team. Used with permission.

## **Companion Music**

Because music has such a profound impact on us, it is so important to have music that supports your lessons in consciousness. We have assembled this list of songs that will help you raise the prosperity consciousness of your congregation in association with your lessons.

### **Week 1: What is prosperity and what do we mean by prosperity principles?**

“Give it Away,” by Richard Mekdeci. CD “God Is!” Songbook “Peace In Our Lifetime”

*If it's love you're after, give it away. Good news or laughter, give it away . . .*

Contact: Richard@empowerma.com

“Money is Coming to Me,” by Karen Drucker. CD and Songbook “Songs of the Spirit II”

*Money is coming to me easily and effortlessly, money is coming to me*

Contact: www.karendrucker.com

### **Week 2: Forgiveness and Prosperity**

“Center Me,” by Leddy Hammock and Sue Riley. CD and Songbook “Twelve Women of the Chalice”

*Center me, in the Presence of the Lord...still me 'til I can decide, with love at my heart side....center me*

Contact: sue@empowerma.com

“Ready Willing and Worthy,” by Richard Mekdeci. CD “God Is!” Songbook “Peace In Our Lifetime”

*I'm ready willing and worthy to open my heart and receive all of the Heavenly blessings there for me when I believe*

Contact: Richard@empowerma.com

### **Week 3: Divine Purpose and Prosperity**

“So Much More,” by Jennifer Ferren. Songbook “Baby Steps”

*I can see abundance flowing effortlessly in and through me, there's always higher good in store when we let Spirit open the door showing us there's so much more*

Contact: jferrensings@aol.com

“Ready to Use the Gifts I've Been Given,” by Jana Stanfield and Greg Tamblyn. Songbook “Jana Stanfield Songbook,” CDs Greg Tamblyn “No Credentials Whatsoever” and Jana Stanfield “Stop Look and Listen”

*I'm ready to use the gifts I've been given to make this world a better place to live in.*

Contact: www.gregtamblyn.com or business@janastanfield.com

### **Week 4: Goal Setting and Prosperity**

“Prosperity Chant,” by Karen Drucker. CD and Songbook “Songs of the Spirit II”

*What do I want, what do I desire, what will bring me to my highest good... prosperity I claim it*

Contact: www.karendrucker.com

“Get a Bigger Pan,” by Karen Talyor Good & Lisa Aschmann. CD “Song Guru”

*Don't throw those dreams back in the lake. It's not that you can't have it all, you've just been dreaming way too small. Get a bigger pan, get a bigger pan*

Contact: www.karentaylorgood.com

### **Week 5: Tithing and Prosperity**

“Special Penny,” by David Roth. CD “Practice Makes Progress” Songbook “Special Services and Chants Volume 1”

*So I took it from my pocket, and I placed it ‘neath a tree...that’s why a special penny is a treasure to be found*

Contact: [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org) or call 1-866-236-3571

“My Gift Goes Forth,” by Mel White. Songbook “One Voice”

*My gift goes forth, on the wings of love, and it lands where it can heal and bless*

Contact: [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org) or call 1-866-236-3571

### **Week 6: Celebrating prosperity**

“The Goodness of God,” by Sue Kroupa. CD “Lofty Ideals” Songbook “Sprit Is Joy”

*Yours are the hands, yours is the voice to celebrate the goodness of God*

Contact: [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org) or call 1-866-236-3571

“More Than Enough,” by Daniel Nahmod. CD and Songbook “Sacred Love”

*God’s infinite love will provide more than enough.*

Contact: [www.danielnahmod.com](http://www.danielnahmod.com)

For more songbooks and music resources, go to [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org) and visit our online store.

Resource for above songs is “Let’s Plan the Service—Song Suggestions and Pairings for a Cohesive Service,” compiled by Sue K. Riley. This is an invaluable resource of over 400 New Thought songs and themes including contact and order information. To order email [sue@empowerma.com](mailto:sue@empowerma.com)

### **How to sign up for music email**

The *Sound Connections* New Thought music section of Unity Worldwide Ministries’ e-newsletter, *The Path*, now goes to 1700 music directors, ministers and musicians every month. It is filled with relevant articles, featured artists, CD reviews and a free sheet music PDF each month. Opt in to begin receiving yours at [www.unity.org/enews](http://www.unity.org/enews). We encourage you to take advantage of this resource if you are not already doing so.

## Teacher's Instructions for Congregational Course

This Class Workbook follows a different order than Edwene Gaines' book. This allows for a sequence for building consciousness as a process. This can be done as a 4 or 5 week class. If you are teaching the class for credit it will have to be 5 weeks (see Optional Session A).

### Optional Session A (for five-week classes)

Give the class time to answer the five introductory questions after the opening prayer in the workbook. Break the class up into small groups to share their answers. Allow time for a full class discussion. Talk about prosperity. What does it mean to you? How open are you to receiving? Do you claim God as your Source for all?

**Homework Assignment:** Read section in book on Forgiveness.

### Session One—Forgiveness

Note: There is additional material in the workbook intended to supplement the assignments for each class.

**Themes:** Let's clean the slate to make room for the abundance. Know that forgiveness is a process that cannot be completed in one class.

For four-week class: Before class convenes participants should read section on forgiveness. Open with the five introductory questions after the opening prayer in the workbook. Ask and answer questions out loud getting a few folks to share.

For both 4- and 5-week classes, discuss the reading for this week (Forgiveness) picking out key concepts from the book to highlight. Give the class time to complete the exercises in the workbook on Forgiveness—reserve some time at the end of the class for sharing in groups of two.

Forgiveness can be difficult or painful at times. Jesus told us, "Where two or more are gathered, there I am also." This was the first prayer triad. Prayer triads or partners hold the light for one another when one cannot for oneself and allows the guidance and grace of Spirit to assist us.

#### **Set up prayer triads this week:**

To continue expanding your prosperity consciousness, each board member is invited to join with 2-4 others in a prayer triad. Triad refers to a group of three but for the purposes of Practice of Thriving a group of three to five is perfect. The members may determine for themselves what days/times they wish to meet (weekly, bi-weekly, in person, by phone, etc.).

These beloved ones are the ones you will be most vulnerable with. You will share with them what you are not comfortable sharing with the world. They will hold in close confidentiality

what you have shared and they will hold the “high light” for you when you are having trouble holding it for yourself. Remember that what is shared in the group stays in the group.

This is not a time for “stories,” but rather a time to come together to share prayer intentions and requests and to hold them in the highest light. You may have a format you wish to use, or you may wish to use this simple format:

1. Go around the circle and each person offers a brief (less than 2 minutes) check-in.
2. Go around again and each person offers a prayer intention/request.
3. One person then offers a heart-felt affirmative prayer for the group and offers thanksgiving for all that is blooming forth (you may rotate this responsibility).
4. Go around once more to allow each person to offer a word of thanks.

**Homework Assignments:** Do “Dare to Claim Your Good!” exercise, read section on Purpose for next class

## Session Two—Purpose

**Themes:** What is mine to do? How do I figure out what my purpose is?

(Have index cards for the class for the first exercise.)

1. Complete the “My Hero List” in the workbook. Ask each person to introduce herself with information from the exercise, as follows: “My name is Jane and I came here to be ....” This allows each to get comfortable voicing who she came here to be.
2. Give time to answer questions 1-10 in the workbook under Divine Purpose, then spend some time in meditation about the exercises and the questions.
3. Now that all know who they came here to be, have them write a vision statement and actions that support being who they came to be.

**Homework Assignment:** Read section on Goal Setting for next class.

## Session Three—Goal Setting

**Themes:** What are the next steps?

1. Hold a general discussion on the reading, picking out key concepts to touch on.
2. Ask each person to answer for himself: Now that I know my purpose what am I going to do? This is his strategic plan. It takes the purpose into action in a focused way.
3. Have each person work through the Goal Setting pages. Spend time in meditation and then write goals.

**Homework Assignment:** Read section on Tithing for final class.

## Session Four—Tithing

**Themes:** We have forgiven everyone and everything; we know our purpose, we have our plan in place; now let's put God first in all of it by tithing—time, talents, and treasures. Claim and live—God is our source (not our job or our paycheck, etc.)

1. Read and discuss Questions to Ask Yourself about Tithing in the workbook.
2. Ask for tithing stories or share one of your own.
3. Discuss the difference between tithing and charitable giving.
4. Tithing is the greatest gift you can give yourself. So how big is the gift you want? Set a goal to move to a full ten percent tithe in a short time even if you have to work up to it. The sooner you get started, the sooner your gift will arrive.

## Celebrate!

Either celebrate at the end of the last session, or schedule a celebration for the class. Invite members to continue their practice and follow up with any remaining action steps. They may also want to keep in touch with prayer partners.

## Section 4: Extras for Everyone

### Power of Prosperity Messages

Support your efforts to raise prosperity conscious by using the Power of Prosperity Messages in this section. These can be used as emails to your congregation, as articles in your newsletters, or as inserts in your Sunday bulletin. Congregants can use these messages as part of their personal spiritual practice around prosperity.

This program was adapted from an email program called Power of Prosperity x 12. The full 12 month program is available at [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org), under Publications. For this program it has been re-designed as an eight month process to align with Thriving in Unity.

### Promotional Materials

In order to promote your event to your congregation, we have included materials for download at [www.unity.org/thrive](http://www.unity.org/thrive), under The Practice of Thriving. These were created by Alice Anderson, minister at Christ Church Unity in Orlando, Florida, and are adapted for your use with permission.

You'll find:

- News release sample for those having Edwene Gaines in for a workshop
- Sample website material promoting the class
- Sample and ready to print post cards

Further, we have created Powerpoint slides based on licensed teacher Debbie Allen's class presentation. Feel free to modify and use in whatever way works for you.