

# EarthCare Connections



Fostering awareness of our spiritual oneness with the earth and promoting active care of creation.

<https://www.unityuwm.org/earthcare>  
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All humanity lives in a spiritual consciousness that manifests as loving co-existence with all creation and care for our Earth home.



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## EarthCare News Unity EarthCare Alliance

**BIG** changes are coming to EarthCare! The UWM Board of Trustees has approved EarthCare to become a full-fledged, independent ministry.

The following message was received from Rev. Roxanne Graves, Chief Executive Officer of Unity Worldwide Ministries, on September 25, 2025:

*On behalf of all of us here at Unity Worldwide Ministries, I would like to congratulate Unity EarthCare Alliance on officially becoming a new ministry in the Unity family!*

*We are excited about your program and look forward to seeing how the Unity movement grows through your work. Please take some time to look through our website for additional materials and resources that can help you on your journey.*

As a Service Based ministry, *Unity EarthCare Alliance* will be focused upon providing services for the benefit and betterment of their community. All services provided must be in alignment with UWM's vision and mission. Being a Ministry will significantly alter the structure and expand the activities we can undertake. More information will be coming soon.

## 2025 Green Star Honorees



A record 25 congregations have been awarded the 2025 Green Star! Each winner completed at least three significant activities in 2024 that correlated to one of the seven steps and/or eight actions of the *Path to EarthCare*. (Go to the EarthCare Program at, <https://www.unityuwm.org/earthcare.>)

Unity Worldwide Ministries and its EarthCare Team congratulates each and every one for their commitment to foster awareness of our spiritual oneness with the Earth and promote active care of creation! We also would like to give a special thanks to Kathy Harwood Long for her assistance with congregations in the Great Lakes Region.

Here are your 2025 Green Star Honorees:

### CANADA

**Unity Spiritual Center of Windsor, Ontario, Canada**  
Senior Minister: Reverend David Old  
Number of Activities: 3

### EASTERN REGION

**Unity of Buffalo, NY**  
Sr. Minister: Rev. Mary Masters  
Number of Activities: 3

**Unity Christ Church of Bon Air, VA**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Patty Bittner  
No. of Activities: 3

### GREAT LAKES REGION

**Unity Minneapolis, MN**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Rev Pat Williamson  
Number of Activities: 7

**Unity of Eau Claire Spiritual Center, WI**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Rev. Becky Whitehead  
Number of Activities: 6

**Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, MI**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Rev. Sharon Ketchum  
Number of activities: 10

**Unity of Royal Oak, MI**  
Senior Minister: Rev. Ric Beattie Org  
Number of Activities: 3

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**Unity Spiritual Center of Traverse City, MI**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Robert White, Ministry Coordinator  
Number of activities: 5

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**Unity of Appleton, WI**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Mary Lou Palmer  
Number of activities: 7

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**Unity of Ames, IA**  
Senior Minister: Rev. Debra Hills-Davis  
Number of Activities: 3

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**Unity East of Clinton. MI**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: April Ellenburg, LUT (after August 2025)  
No. of Activities: 3

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**Friends of Unity, Plymouth, MI**  
Mentor Minister: Linda Dominik,  
Number of Activities: 3

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**Unity Blue Water, Port Huron, MI**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Rev. Brian Griffin-Drafton  
No. of Activities: 3

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**Detroit Unity Temple, MI**  
Senior Minister: Rev. Gregory Guice  
No. of Activities: 3

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**Unity of Rochester, MI**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader (none)  
No. of Activities: 3

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## **NORTHWEST REGION**

**Unity of Bellingham, WA**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Rev. Frank Castro  
Number of activities: 3

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**Unity Spiritual Center of Spokane, WA**  
Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: We're currently between ministers.  
Number of activities: 3

## SOUTHEAST REGION

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### **Unity Church of Charleston, SC**

Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Rev. Richard Bunch, transitional minister  
Number of Activities: 9

### **Unity of the Blue Ridge, Mills River, NC**

Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Rev. Darlene Strickland  
Number of activities: 6

### **Midtown Unity, St. Petersburg, FL**

Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Rev Linda McLeod  
Number of Activities: 3

### **Unity Spiritual Center of Vero Beach, FL.**

Senior Minister: Clive deLaporte  
Number of Activities: 6

## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

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### **Unity of Fayetteville, Center for Conscious Living, AR**

Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader Rev. Annette Olsen  
Number of activities: 6

### **Unity Temple on the Plaza, KCMO**

Senior Minister: Rev. Anne Tabor  
No. of Activities: 3

## WEST CENTRAL REGION

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### **Unity of Walnut Creek, CA**

Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader: Rev. Kristin Powell  
Number of Activities: 6

## UNITY VILLAGE

### **Unity World Headquarters, Lee's Summit, MO**

Board Chair: Rev. Ken Daigel  
CEO: Jim Blake  
Number of Activities: 4

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If you would like more information regarding the specific activities for each congregation, go to:

[https://youtube/7qJLIQoBJ-U?si=egwBhITexs-Q\\_E6v](https://youtube/7qJLIQoBJ-U?si=egwBhITexs-Q_E6v).

You also can learn how you might initiate similar activities by writing me at, [michael\\_mccord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michael_mccord@sbcglobal.net). I'll put you in touch with the appropriate contact person.

**Joint Unity Statement on Freedom, Love, and the Call to  
Courage**  
**Unity Worldwide Ministries and Unity Worldwide Headquarters**

The following joint statement has been issued by UWM's Social Action Team:

*I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something;*

*and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.*

*—Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909)*

In Unity, we teach and know that every person is a vital and irreplaceable expression of the divine. Every soul carries this divine spark, and with it, an unshakable worthiness for safety, dignity, and belonging. We affirm the Christ Spirit as the true authority within each person—not imposed by intimidation but realized through love, wisdom, and the free unfolding of the soul. Our nation’s founding ideal, *e pluribus unum* – out of many, one – calls us to form a more perfect union. Democracy requires all of us to actively participate, share our values, and stand for our beliefs. We reject domination, coercive control, and the seeming unraveling of the principles of democracy intended by our forefathers, for these run counter to the spiritual law of liberty in Christ consciousness – the divine truth that freedom is our birthright, realized in love, never imposed by force.

Unity around the world stands on the truth that every being is an expression of God. This truth compels us to end division, to stand shoulder to shoulder, and to let compassion be our action, peace our path, and Spirit our unwavering guide. We are committed to building a world where all life can breathe, belong, and thrive. In a nation founded to honor liberty and law, justice always prevails; families are preserved, leaders speak for their communities without fear of retribution, education is upheld with integrity and accountability, courts act fairly to challenge discrimination, and government protects and serves all. And we know that these same principles resonate far beyond our borders, reminding the global family of humanity of our shared longing for justice, peace, and freedom.

The pattern we see today—when unchecked power grows, when fear is weaponized, when trust collapses, and when people are driven apart—is not political; it is instead a spiritual crisis. History shows us that such systems strip away rights, voices, and dignity unless they are collectively and courageously confronted. When sacred truths about justice, equity, and democracy are traded for control, censorship, and fear, we must remember: This is not freedom for all, and it is not who we are called to be.

What can we do? We can respond with hope. We do not despair. We can speak up. We are not silent. We can act. We are not powerless.

This moment calls us to rise—not in silence or fear, but with clear minds, bold hearts, and compassionate spirits. Guided by the teachings of Unity cofounders Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, we will honor the divine nature within ourselves and others, co-creating a world where love, truth, and justice prevail.



Take this proclamation as your affirmation to take positive action in the areas of social and environmental justice at this critical moment in our country's history.

## Mentoring/Collaboration Calls

With Mary Gerken



Mary Gerken hosts these calls a monthly basis. One of the benefits of participating in these calls is that they provide a way for you to connect with other churches, open new avenues to collaborate and share your ideas, successes and challenges. A different topic is selected at each meeting and creative ideas are shared.

For the date and time, please contact Mary at, [agreatpickle@gmail.com](mailto:agreatpickle@gmail.com).

## EarthCare Facebook Page

Beth Remmes administers EarthCare's Facebook Page. Over 1500 followers have discovered the timely resources and interchange of ideas it contains. To join them, go to:

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



## The Power of Faith, Belief and Action

There is no question that we are living in troubled times politically, economically and, for many of us, personally. It's easy to feel helpless and hopeless.

There was a time in my life when I also felt helpless and hopeless. In March of 2001, I was left completely paralyzed (quadriplegic) as the result of a home accident. I fell down some stairs breaking my neck (C-5) and damaging my spinal cord. I was given about a 10% chance of ever walking again. Months later, I was let go from my job with a major financial institution and my wife of 30 years divorced me for another. This was without a doubt the darkest night of my soul.

But something happened my first night in the rehabilitation hospital that changed everything. I couldn't sleep so, hour after hour, I gazed out the window of my room at the stars in the night sky. Eventually, dawn approached and the sky began to change from black, to grey, to rose-colored hues as the morning sun approached. Finally, the sun peaked above the horizon and the sky turned slate green. Within a few minutes it was a cold pale blue that deepened as the morning sun rose higher in the eastern sky. After a while, tiny white clouds formed here and there and, in the far distance, tiny specs—birds--swam on an ocean of blue.

As I gazed mesmerized through sleep-deprived eyes, suddenly the sky and everything else in the world took on the glow of a miracle. Within seconds things I had scarcely noticed before the injury became more exquisite than words could express. From the threads in my sheets on my bed to the stars in the sky all glowed with divinity. Even the reflection of the sun from the sand in the bricks outside my window became the eyes of God looking into mine.

That morning I also began to “see” inside others; how lonely or afraid we are and how much we all need one another. I realized how sometimes even our smallest gestures of kindness can have an effect upon the lives of others in ways that we may never know. Through tears of joy, I gave thanks for the things I still had--the ability of rational thought, of being able to hear and to see--because there were people only a few feet away from me who didn't have these blessings. God had opened my eyes to the miracle of His universe and I was forever changed. I am convinced that in that instant of time, at the exact moment when I turned away from fear and opened my heart to love, my healing began.

But my healing required more than just seeing the world through eyes of love. It also required putting faith & belief into action. Against all odds, I went on to become 90% recovered and climbed the highest mountain in Colorado (Mt. Elbert) 30 months later. I also got a better job and am happier and more fulfilled now than before.

The same process can work for you in overcoming your life's challenges as well as those of our country. You can be a mighty force for change. As Jesus said:

*Matthew 30-31, Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “Ye of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?*

*Mark, 11:22-24, New Revised Standard Version, Jesus said: For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

And finally, in **John, 14:12: King James Version:** And Jesus said: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*<sup>1</sup>

So don't give up! Look into your heart, listen and hear, "what is mine to do." Then put it into action. If each of us does our part, we shall overcome!

<sup>1</sup>*One Step at a Time, Memoir of a Former Quadriplegic*; <http://www.miraclesonestepatatime.com>.



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