

# CONTACT

## *A Report from the Association of Unity Churches*

October 1967

### SOUND OFF

During Conference in June the Program Committee planned a special "Sound Off" meeting in which you were able to express thoughts of loving criticism and make suggestions for increased effectiveness in our work. There was considerable discussion in regard to lay participation in our movement. Suggestions were made by a number of you that Board members of our centers and churches might have an opportunity to attend and participate in all of our conference activities. A suggestion was made that we might have an observer committee of lay people attending Conference. This may well be a subject that we could discuss in the Board of Trustee meetings in January. If you have some strong feelings or suggestions in this regard, perhaps you would like to share them with a Board member near you.

### PROGRAM PLANNING SUGGESTIONS

There was a strong feeling that the Program chairman should plan a definite program for our delegates, or we should be discouraging delegates from attending. It was recommended that more of our ministerial talent should be used in our program such as organists, pianists, singers, comedians, etc. Several of you felt that we ought to bring more singing back into our meetings for conference and that once more we should invite Silent Unity to conduct a meeting for us. There was strong feeling that more in the way of discussion activities in smaller groups should be made available to stimulate a greater interest.

These suggestions will be passed along to the Program Committee for next year. The chairman, Wendell Mixson, will appreciate any further suggestions you have to offer.

### AUC LIAISON WITH CENTER BOARDS

Much discussion was given during the "Sound Off" session toward preparation of communication to Board members in the centers and churches.

This might come in the form of a regular newsletter touching on specific subjects from time to time. It was suggested that some guidelines might be shared through this media as to responsibility to AUC, the center, and to the minister. Further suggestions will be forthcoming in this regard, because this particular communication is of vital importance.

MISCELLANEOUS  
RECOMMENDATIONS

It was felt that the restriction placed upon housing children at Unity Village be reconsidered, as many parents would welcome the opportunity to bring their children with them....Many thought that the Prayer Guide could be resumed and distributed through the AUC facilities.... The question was asked again whether it was possible to have our center list in the DAILY WORD magazine rather than the UNITY magazine....A strong recommendation was put forth that once more we try to create the Journal for the exchange of ideas by our members.

REPORT OF FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT

We thought you would be interested in knowing that as a result of a recent survey that at the present time our support is as follows: 54% of our members are regular supporters (those who have given more than three times in the first seven months of 1967), 24% are occasional givers (those who have given three times or less), and 22% have not given at all.

We are aware that these figures are undoubtedly a bit misleading since quite a number of centers and churches have made the decision to tithe regularly in July or August. Those who have increased in their support, and we are aware of a number, would not be reflected in the figures.

At the recent Conference of Unity Ministers in the Northwest region, held in Billings, Montana, considerable, constructive, and prayerful discussion was given to the matter of AUC support. It was strongly felt by all who participated in the Conference, and thus made a matter of record, that some sort of regular support should be the aim of every ministry. In this way all of the services of AUC can be made available to all ministries without extra charge.

We know that as the AUC continues to effectively render its service to its member churches it will draw forth the needed supply to do all that has to be done in our work.

HEIGHTENED INCREASE  
IN YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Dan Perin, our Director of Youth Education, has already effectively responded to the "Sound Off" suggestion that he should personally contact all Unity ministries to gain their prayerful support of our youth education program.

YOUTH EDUCATION  
NEWS

All ministers have been placed on the mailing list to receive the communications sent to Sunday School Superintendents, Young Adult groups and individuals. This being done in order to keep all phases of our ministries aware of what is going on. As the executive head of the ministry, the minister most of all needs to be informed as to what is taking place in the area of Youth Education.

Y.O.U. SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM

We are launching a very special program this year in the Youth of Unity----the Scholarship Essay Contest. Full details on this are being sent out in your Y.O.U. NEWS-NOTES, which you may have already received. We encourage you to read about it. An educational scholarship will be given to the winner. We have tentatively set a figure of \$500 for this scholarship, but we have received word from some of our ministers that they plan to give toward this so that it can be expanded to an even larger amount.

The scholarship would be released to the winner as soon as we have evidence supporting enrollment in a college or university of his or her own choosing. We are attempting to encourage the further education of our young people through this means. We invite you to send your thoughts along regarding this plan, and if you feel led to support the scholarship program for Y.O.U., we will certainly be glad to accept it.

SPONSOR ADVISORS  
FOR Y.O.U.

Each region will have to give thought to electing a Sponsor Advisor for regional Y.O.U. This person should be an active Y.O.U. Sponsor. As our Y.O.U. NEWS-NOTES suggest the sponsors in the region should elect from their own group the person to do this work. It will be important for ministers to work with their own sponsors as much as possible in order for them to gain confidence in this area should they be chosen to represent a region.

YOUNG ADULT  
GROUPS

We are attempting to maintain an up-to-date list of young people of post-high school age for communication purposes. We would appreciate your cooperation in sending us the name and addresses of such young people who have left your area to attend school elsewhere. It is our plan to inform local Unity Ministers when these young people move into their area for schooling. Thus, we may be able to encourage continued activity in Unity for them.

We have always heard a lot about how "our young people have all moved away to college." But, have you ever thought that while



they are moving away from your area, others are probably moving to your area. If we can be of service in keeping you informed, we should be able to be of greater service to our young people. They want this kind of thing and it will benefit our ministries if we give our full assistance.

DYNAMICS FOR LIVING  
STUDY GUIDE

A study guide prepared by the AUC for the new Charles Fillmore book, DYNAMICS FOR LIVING, is ready for distribution. Warren Meyer who compiled the book also wrote the study guide to be used with it. Attractively designed, it is a sixteen page plus cover study guide and covers very adequately the salient points that every student of Mr. Fillmore will be interested in. The AUC is able to provide this study guide to you on a love-offering basis. Orders for the study guide, which may be used with adult classes, young adult groups, or other special groups and classes or individuals may be obtained through the AUC office.

ASSISTANT AND  
SUPPLY POOL

From time to time the offer to serve as a supply teacher or minister is offered by a less active or inactive Unity teacher or minister. If it would be of service to you, we will be happy to create a file of those teachers and ministers who wish to have an increased opportunity to serve in their area. If you would like to do supply work or would like to have someone do supply work, such a file might render a real service. Please let us know of your interest in this suggestion.

Also, if any minister would like to be considered for replacement in the field we would appreciate knowing of this and if you have any preference as to locality. We also plan to create a file with this information which would be valuable to our Placement Committee.

SPECIAL BLESSINGS IN  
MEMORIUM

We know that you who are a part of the Unity movement will want to join us in special spiritual blessings for those of our members who have recently passed on. We enfold each of these loved ones in our consciousness of prayer, blessing them and their eternal ongoing and especially blessing their loved ones as they meet the challenge of this transition. Schuyler Cronley, July 29; Yonda Gustafson, August 7; Yvonne Steiner, September 13; and Osla Sehrt Jones, September 29.

DIVINE ORDER IN OUR  
PRINTING ARRANGEMENTS

You will be pleased to know and will continue to affirm with us that Divine Order is established in every phase of our AUC office work. We have recently made new arrangements for our printing and trust in the future our printed matter will be less delayed. Your membership card and certificate is in the final process, and the 1967 Yearbook should be mailed during the week of October 16.

THE UNITY  
NEWSLETTER

The Unity newsletter, under the editorship of James Decker, is serving as a remarkable means of communication. It keeps us informed as to items of interest at Unity School and in the field. At this point it is not our plan to include such items in our CONTACT from your AUC office. If you have items of news that you feel would be of interest you may send them direct to Jim Decker. If you, any of your teachers, board members, or workers would like to be on the mailing list to receive the Unity Newsletter, we know Jim Decker will be happy to hear from you.

After much in the way of thought, your AUC staff has come up with a name for this publication. We hope you like it....CONTACT. This will be the vehicle for official communication from this office.

# GOD FIRST

We invite you to join us in putting GOD FIRST in all things and in using this  
prayer for the month of November

God provides  
for our every need.  
We praise and give thanks  
for His bountiful provision.

*Unity School Prayer Group*

