

CONTACT

A Report from the Association of Unity Churches

July, 1968

"The Best Ever" Again and again those who participated in the Second Annual Conference of the Association of Unity Churches have expressed these words or similar ones. Every year there are those who reiterate these words but this year they seemed to have a greater significance. There was greater discussion among our ministers and teachers on vital subjects. There was honest evaluation of the Unity movement and of ourselves as expressors of this Truth. There was greater unity and a greater aspiration to bigger things in the future. We had the most marvelous banquet in the history of our movement. The Conference only lacked one thing, everybody who is a part of AUC was not able to be there. As a part of this report we are sharing some candid pictures of our banquet festivities. We sincerely hope that they will convey something of the spirit of joy that was felt, not only at the banquet, but in all of our times together. We trust that our Conference report, herein will somehow catch the spirit of strength and oneness that was so much a part of this Conference.

ORDINATION SERVICE



Front Row: May Rowland, Doris Caldwell, Alma Colemon, Marie Cruz, Sadye Thomas, Charles Lelly, Margaret Conn, Hazel Van Dusen, May Armstrong, Virginia Hinners, Jean Bould, and Lowell Fillmore.
Second Row: Jean Beggs, Charlene Linnell, Lula Nute, Rudy Leidig, Howard Armstrong, Thomas Skalitzky, Joyce Kramer, and Robert Stevens.

Our Ordinands this year were certainly a source of inspiration to all who attended. We convey to them the very special blessing of each member of AUC, not only in the service of ordination, but in their continuing activities within our movement.

MINISTERIAL
TRAINING

Probably one of the most important and vital things that occurred during and prior to Conference this year was the wonderfully healthy dialogue that occurred between our Executive Committee and the Education Department of Unity School. The Education Department requested an open dialogue with the AUC Executive Committee to convey the clarity of their thought regarding research and education by the staff and faculty of Unity School. They defined clearly the kind of direction in which they must go in research and outreach for the long-range good of our Unity movement. They recognized that inherent within this direction the AUC did not feel that sufficient emphasis was being given in the training of Unity ministers to fit into the existing field ministry and that they would be open and receptive to any suggestions.



The Executive Committee prayerfully discussed this matter at great length and presented a tentative proposal to the Education Department. In substance that proposal was the budgeting of \$25,000 for the first year to be expended by the AUC in the clarification of our direction in Ministerial Training by the creation of an AUC Director of Ministerial Training. This in conjunction with a continuing program of revolving faculty from the field would enable the AUC to accept responsibility for Spiritual Counseling, Unity Fundamentals, Center Administration, Preparation and Presentation of Truth Ideas.

This proposal was wholeheartedly accepted by the Education Department and Charles Fillmore and was then shared with your Board of Trustees. A unanimous decision was made by the Board to recommend to the membership the acceptance of this proposal and further extended their recommendation that William L. Fischer be invited to accept this post. This was unanimously ratified by the Conference Body and eagerly supported by the Conference body in the unanimous acceptance of our proposed budget of 1968-69.

MINISTERIAL
TRAINING ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

In order that William Fischer and all who would serve with him might be wisely and lovingly directed in the fulfillment of their responsibility, a Ministerial Training Advisory Committee has been appointed. Dorothy Pierson is chairman of that Committee. This Committee met and presented to the Board a statement of purpose which is as follows:

FIELD LIAISON
WORK

A tremendous proportion of our Executive Director's time and the time of the members of his staff has been given to liaison work. (Let it here be understood that liaison work has in the past been referred to as trouble shooting, fire fighting, etc.) In a desire to render this service more successfully, the Executive Director sought board approval of a plan to train liaison workers to assist the Executive Office in meeting the challenges that arise from time to time. As we display an increasing consciousness of faith in the spirit of God to function through us, His will shall be made manifest in an orderly, loving, and satisfying way. Your prayerful support is sought as we grow together in maturity.

NEW AUC
EMPLOYEES

For sometime since our increasing responsibility in the development of Sunday School material, it has been evident that we require full-time accounting in the AUC. The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation that the AUC should hire Ken Tiffany as comptroller. Ken will be relieved of his responsibilities as minister in Springfield, Mo. as of Feb. 29. He will accept responsibilities for all fiscal matters in the AUC, including cost accounting, purchasing, receipts and disbursements, and general bookkeeping.

Michael Murphy was International President of the Youth of Unity in 1966. He applied, and was unanimously accepted in our School of Ministerial and Religious Studies upon the completion of his University work. He is now a junior at the University. We have hired Mike as YOU Secretary. He will take a little longer to finish his academic work and will be serving with us at the same time.

MONEY PURCHASE
PENSION PLAN

As you will recall, the Money Purchase Pension Plan was communicated to you as a possible means by which you might establish a more meaningful source of retirement funds. As you will also recall, the plan was to become effective with the participation of twenty-five centers or churches. As of this time the plan is short about four centers and has not yet been put into force. Within the next couple weeks we will get an information sheet out to you regarding the Money Purchase Pension Plan and the Banker's Life Plan for your further consideration and for possible sharing with your board.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE
REPORT

For many months a great deal of effort has gone into the creation of a Handbook for ministers. The Board of Trustees, with one or two recommendations, passed on it as it was presented by the Committee. These will be ready for you in looseleaf form at Conference time this year.

TEACHING METHODS
AND PUBLICATIONS
COMMITTEE REPORT

Under the artistic and enthusiastic leadership of Vic Zarley, this Committee has made a number of recommendations and some real action for all of us in the field. The following items have been approved and will soon be published and available through the AUC. A Wedding Certificate and a pamphlet for the minister to share

with the bereaved loves ones of those for whom he conducts a funeral service. In addition to these, a series of pamphlets is planned and are being prepared by the Committee to present our unity viewpoint in regard to doctrinal questions that are frequently asked.

CONFERENCE IS COMING! It may seem early to begin thinking about our June Conference, but it isn't really. Our Conference this year will begin on June 9 and will run through the final breakfast on the 14th. The Pre-Conference of June 2 is also being planned for your participation and enjoyment. Details regarding will be forthcoming. A decision was made by the Board of Trustees that in the future all authorized delegates, which naturally would include husbands and wives of ministers, will be welcome to participate in all Conference activities, both business meetings and inspirational meetings. Of course, it is understood that delegates would not have a voice or a vote, but should be welcomed to attend all of our meetings.

The Reservations Office has asked that we inform you that a \$10.00 deposit will be required for all reservations. In this way they hope to eliminate so many last minute cancellations and as a result, empty rooms that could have accommodated others. A card will soon be forthcoming giving the necessary information and if you will please return these to the Reservations Office rather than the AUC Office, it will speed up matters. According to the new policy, limited space is available for minister's children, but this requires special application.

BANQUET COMMITTEE REPORT Your Committee chairman this year is Mary Stovin. She has met with her Committee and has conceived of a bold plan for your enjoyment. In the past, our amount of space available in Unity Inn has been limited. We have had to limit the number of people participating or move out for a picnic style activity at the Amphitheater.

Arrangements are being made this year for our banquet to be held at a large restaurant near the Plaza in Kansas City. There will be adequate facilities for all who are attending Conference, anyone from Unity School or nearby congregations would be welcome to join with us. A program of entertainment is being planned which will include dancing. It will be necessary for those wishing to participate to purchase their tickets in advance of Conference. There will be further information regarding this.

JANUARY ORDINATION SERVICE On Tuesday evening, January 23, a combination graduation and ordination service was held at Unity Village. Those graduating from the School of Ministerial and Religious Studies and receiving Ordination were: Paul S. Ackerley, Nancy L. Compton, Angelo E. Giordani, Nicholas J. Griffin, Philip S. Nicola, Marlyn W. White, and Francis B. Hanson in absentia. By the time you read these words, all will have been placed in the field, either as assistant ministers or ministers in charge of a work. We know

that you join with us in a special blessing to these new fellow ministers in our great work.

LICENSING AND ORDINATION COMMITTEE REPORT Licensed Teacher certificates have been granted by your Board of Trustees on the recommendation of the Licensing and Ordination Committee to Elaine Fry, Helen Garver, and Grace Spruill, all of Unity School, and Ruby Rawlins of Kansas City Northeast. The Licensing and Ordination Committee met with all of the first and second year students in order that their progress could be evaluated as they too work toward licensing and ordination.

YOU MINISTER ADVISOR We want to remind the ministers in each region of their responsibility to give careful and prayerful consideration to the selection of a YOU Minister Advisor. Under no circumstance should that position be considered in any way honorary because such advisors will be expected to produce much for the benefit of our YOU in the Region. Minister Advisors will have an opportunity during the minister's conference in June to elect from their number, two representatives to serve on the Executive Board of YOU. We have an increasing responsibility to all young people in general and even more specifically to our YOU'ers within our movement.

UNITY WINGS DECAL A number of years ago Unity School had available a decal of Unity wings with the Prayer of Protection on the back. Do you remember them? They have long since been out of print. A member of Richard Billings congregation in Oak Park, Ill. has designed a similar decal in gold and blue, but with no printing on the back, simply the wings and the word Unity overprinted on them. Anyone interested in these can write to Oak Park Unity Center. It has been suggested that these could be sold at a reasonable profit after the cost of approximately 5¢ each has been paid.

DOUBLE CREDIT CLASSES A great deal of interest has been shown to the report in the November issue of CONTACT regarding the extension program. A great many questions have been asked and the project is becoming clearer and clearer. In conjunction with the Education Department and the Correspondence Department, a sheet of points for conducting credit and double credit classes has been prepared. A copy of this is enclosed for each center or church.

UNITY RETREATS The Unity Retreat Department has recently asked us some questions and given us some answers.

Need something to revitalize, renew, or just plain pep-up your congregation? Several of our ministers have brought a bus load, plane load, or just a group of persons to Unity Village for a retreat. It serves wonderfully well to spark a new enthusiasm which carries

long after the retreat is over. Here is an advance schedule of retreats:

Silent Unity Vacation	May 4-10
Rose Festival	May 25-31
Open House Vacation	June 10-16
Midsummer Festival (family)	Aug 10-16
Seminar for Young Adults	Aug 26-31
Bible Light Seminar	Sept 7-13
Autumn Vacation	Sept 21-27
Indian Summer Vacation	Oct 5-11
Harvest Festival	Oct 19-25

The Retreat Department hopes to have a brochure in your hands by the first of March.

Some of our ministers have already made reservations to bring groups this year. Bert Coffey brought a large group last year from the West Indies, and has already made reservations for a group of 50 this year. Something wonderful DOES happen within the group!

In future editions of CONTACT we hope to give you information for your calendar of national and regional activities. In order to be able to do so, we need you to share such information back through this office. When there is a rally, a retreat, a conference, a day of prayer, or a committee meeting to be held that might be in conflict with other activities, this information should be dispatched to AUC as soon as possible. In the meantime, know that a great blessing of love and faith reaches out to you in the work that you are doing for the Father. God bless!