

CONTACT

A Report from the Association of Unity Churches

July, 1969

We have just concluded the largest and, in the opinion of many, the most productive and promising Conference in our history. We had 319 ministers, teachers, and delegates, and were unable to find a record of a larger Conference. We experienced what might be called spiritual "groundswell" that has caused us to move forward in an exciting, encouraging, and gratifying way. The consciousness of prayer and dedication exhibited by all who participated, strengthens our assurance that Unity is in great shape and getting better all the while.

BOARD ELECTIONS Marjorie Hartzell and Grover Thornsberry were elected by the Conference body to serve on the Board of Trustees for three years. Blaine Mays, Johnnie Coleman, and Dale Newsum were those elected by the Board of Trustees to serve on the Board for three years. We rejoiced in the increasing stability of our Board and its service to us as a movement. We know that your consciousness of prayer and blessing makes it possible for these dedicated fellow ministers to accept the responsibility that you have intrusted to them.



Johnnie Coleman, minister of our Unity ministry in Chicago, was elected President of the Association of Unity Churches for 1969-1970. Phillip Pierson was elected as our new Vice-President.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE Upon the direction by the Board of Trustees, Johnnie Coleman our new president, did considerable, in the way of restructuring the personnel on our standing committees. One of the great advantages of having established the pattern as a matter of policy that the vice-president will automatically become the president, we can avoid the all too frequent duplications of personnel on standing committees. Much time and prayer was given by your president and those with whom she worked to involve as many willing workers in our AUC activities as possible. Four standing committees have been disbanded because they were either no longer operative or they had fulfilled their need. The committees that have been disbanded are as follows: Teaching Methods and Publications Committee: the responsibilities that have been carried by this committee are now being carried through the Educational Advisory Committee. Central Organization Funding Committee: this committee has been disbanded and once this project is in force a new committee will have to be appointed as soon as the responsibilities are clearly defined. Retirement Plan Committee: the Retirement Plan Committee is no longer necessary since it would appear that the needs of our ministers are so adequately met through the Emeritus Fund, the Banker's Life Annuity Plan, the Money Purchase Pension Plan, and Social Security. We will be carrying information regarding the services that are available in our later issue of CONTACT. Handbook Committee: the Handbook Committee has been disbanded since the Handbook, not the Yearbook,

seems at the present time to fulfill our needs. Should revision be required the committee can again be appointed.

Two new committees have been established this year. As they prove to fulfill a need they can in succeeding years be made permanent committees. The new committees are: The Ethics Committee which will not only be responsible for consideration of points for our Ethics but this committee will have the responsibility of dealing on behalf of the AUC with those ministers or ministries involved in some ethical difficulty. The second committee is the Equal Opportunities Committee. Further information will be coming from your president in regard to the responsibilities of this committee.

ORDINATION 1969 The Ordination Service at Conference is always a high-light of our wonderful Unity family gathering. Our president, William Helmbold, was our ordination speaker. His message to the ordinands was challenging, provocative, and wonderfully helpful. A tape recording was made of the Ordination Service and is available to the ordinands and any others who might wish it. The cost of the tape is \$5.50. Ordination class pictures were taken and we are happy to share that with you here. Black and white glossy copies of this are available for \$1.50.



l. to r.: Margaret Conn, W. E. Goodison-Orr, Ruby Rawlins, Ella K. Peterson, Florence Anderson, Lowell Fillmore, Sallye C. Wannamaker, Mabel K. Swanson, Evelyn Diederich, Bonnie Armstrong.
Top Row: Ernest Ramsey, Ann Monson, Sune' Richards, G. Arthur Hammons, Freddie Brown, Pat Filiault, Grace Copeland, Violet Goetchius.

At the time of the graduation of our SMRS students in August, there will be a graduation ordination service and at that time the following will be ordained: Carrie Bowens, Violet Assam, Adelaide Dibblee, Mary Fourchalk, William Hines, Jack Hamilton, Emily Sanford, and Tom Sikking.

BUDGET 1969-1970 In your copy of the program for Conference, there was the 1969-1970 Budget approved by the Board of Trustees and published that the membership might have the opportunity to give prayerful consideration to it prior to Conference. The tremendous consciousness of expansiveness is the "groundswell" that came from our membership regarding expansion and ministerial training which caused our Budget to be altered considerably. We are including in this issue of CONTACT the Revised Budget as approved by the membership at Conference.

You will note that three areas have been substantially increased. These are the areas of Expansion, Ministerial Training and our Tithe. It was the strong conviction of the great majority of those attending Conference that it is imperative that we increase our allocation of funds for expansion of our ministries in the field. This expansion activity and the expenditures involved will not, as was extensively discussed, be a "welfare type" program of support. A reorganized Expansion Committee has been appointed involving regionally elected members that will work toward an orderly pattern for expansion. The unanimous conviction of the membership was to move in the direction of actual expansion in our field movement. The budgeted figure for the ministerial program has been increased to enable the AUC to accept responsibility for administration of SMRS as requested by Unity School. The tithe naturally is increased proportionately as the rest of the Budget has been increased.

AUC TITHE PROCEDURE Considerable impassioned discussion was entered into by many Conference members on the floor regarding the matter of the AUC tithe for 1969-70. The decision was made, as a matter of business, that the AUC tithe shall be given to Unity School on a monthly basis. The tithe check for 1968-69 was presented to Lowell Fillmore at the Farewell Breakfast. The check amounted to \$14,630.50.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM A unanimous vote of confidence was given to the direction in which we are moving in the development of teacher-oriented Sunday School material. Dan Perin will be available in the late summer and fall months for superintendents and teacher-training seminars in the regions. You will want to encourage your Sunday School workers to be involved in these activities. For further information feel free to contact Dan Perin here in the AUC office.

YEARBOOK LISTINGS Since the AUC Yearbook is our regular listings of our membership it will include the listings of your center as it is called by the Internal Revenue Service. Some centers and churches use different names for their ministries than is listed with the IRS, but our listings will be in keeping with the regular IRS listings. A number of suggestions were made during Conference to also include in our yearbook a new section entitled, "Special Information." In this section, our placement procedures and general tax rules will be included.

PROJECT ASTRONAUT You will find attached to this issue of CONTACT a form that was shared at Conference time and was called Project Astronaut. It seemed to be the consensus of the membership that we would want to have the opportunity not only of signing and mailing some of these for ourselves but also to make it available for our membership. If you would like copies for your membership and you do not have duplicating equipment we will be more than happy to make them available upon request.

MINISTERIAL TRAINING PROGRAM A great deal of attention was given at our Conference to our Ministerial Training Program. Reports given and received were praised and the direction in which we are moving certainly has the blessings of our membership as a whole. The Budget was increased for the administration aspect of SMRS has been transferred to the AUC. We know that your prayer consciousness will assist tremendously in attaining the goals that we have set for ourselves and the responsibilities that we have now taken upon ourselves.

1970 AUC CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION A direct result of the enthusiastic spirit of expansion that was evident in our Conference was the wonderful plan for our 1970 AUC Conference and Convention. Tentative plans have been made for our Conference activities to extend from June 15th through June 27th in 1970. June 15, 16, and 17 will be given over to committees and Board meetings entirely. The Conference for 1970 will officially commence on Thursday morning, June 18. The 18th and 19th will be given entirely to prayer and the business of our Association. With the exception of the Banquet, Saturday evening June 20th, the Saturday

and Sunday will be free time. The Conference will reconvene on Monday morning the 22nd and will run through Tuesday, the 23rd. These two days will be given entirely to prayer and inspirational exchange of ideas so meaningful to all of our ministers and teachers. Wednesday, the 24th will be free but the first Unity Convention may very well commence that evening. Accommodations at the Municipal Auditorium and downtown hotels have been reserved for a lay convention on the 25th, 26th, and concluding with a morning meeting on the 27th. To this convention we hope to draw Unity students, workers, and friends in large numbers. A very ambitious program is envisioned, including internationally known participants. It was the feeling of the Conference body that a tremendous spirit of enthusiasm could be engendered in our lay people as they could participate in a national convention that would directly involve them in the larger aspect of our ministry. For the benefit of those lay people who have never visited Unity Village we envision an open house at Unity Village on the Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, June 27th and 28th to enable these friends to visit our World Headquarters. Obviously, all of those who are a part of the Unity Movement will want to get behind this project and encourage their folks to plan to participate. Details will be worked out in the early fall and adequate publicity will be forthcoming. In the meantime, your consciousness of prayer on this matter is lovingly solicited.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT Included in the Executive Office report were a number of statistics and figures that the membership felt should be made available through CONTACT so that you might share them with your Board. The point was clearly made that our ministry is an expanding, growing ministry and that we have a great movement in which we are involved. From the Financial Reports made to AUC from our centers, our Gross General Income of Unity centers has increased by over one-half million dollars. From 167 reports we have a General Income of \$3,829,898.70. Our Building Fund Income has increased by more than one-fourth million dollars. From 106 centers reporting, \$803,592.76 has come into our Building Fund in our centers.

In our Savings Accounts and/or Building Funds, from 131 centers reporting we have accumulated assets of \$1,589,186.67. Our Real Estate evaluations from 122 reports (not including Unity Temple in Kansas City, Christ Church Unity in Los Angeles, the Unity Center in Seattle, and Detroit) is \$13,426,627.47. The average minister's salary for those not including housing, auto expense, love offerings for counseling, funerals, weddings, annuities, and so forth, amounts to \$6,427.48 annually. This is an increase over our last year's figures.

The AUC, too, shows evidence of greater stability and growth. At the time of the formation of AUC we had total assets in AUC of \$41,761.29. At the end of our Fiscal Year, 1969, we have assets amounting to \$101,242.19. This has been made possible by the generous and increasing support of our member centers and churches and others. The regular supporting ministries who have given 10 or more times during the year represent 41.25% of our membership and they have given 53% of our income. The last regular supporters have been broken into two groups. The first group, those having given from 6 to 9 times during the year represent 18.84% of our membership and these have given 13% of our income. The other group, those having given less than 6 times during the year represent 35.43% of our membership and they have given 8% of our income. There is still 4.48% of our membership that has supported in no way. Foreign offerings, primarily from the West Indies, represent 1% of our income. Non-member centers and honorary centers represent 4% of our income. Our regional conferences and retreats have given 3% and Unity ministers from their own income have given 18% of our gross general income.

The expenditures of AUC were shared in the form of a pie showing that 29+% of our income has gone to office salaries, 19% has been directed in Youth Education program (70% of which is for salaries). Twelve plus percent (12+%) has gone to printing, postage, telephone, travel and Conference expense. Eleven plus percent (11+%) has been

directed to Emeritus, Expansion, and Scholarship Funds. Nine percent (9%) to our Tithe, 9% to the Ministerial Training Program (of which 89% is for salaries), and 10% to Office Expense. Our proportion of expenditures on salaries is 47%. The national average for a service organization is 53%. By this you will see that we are well within the national average.

CENTRAL FUNDING Those attending Conference exhibited a positive and enthusiastic response to the idea of Central Funding. Briefly, the idea is this. Centers and churches will deposit all or a part of their savings with the Justus Credit Union. The present limit is \$7,500.00 per center or church. The total deposits will comprise the central fund available for making real estate loans to those organizations wishing to build a new building or buy an existing building. Your deposit is not a gift but an investment, as you will receive an anticipated dividend of 4½% in 1969. It is anticipated that the dividend will rise to 5% for 1970. Your money is always available to you, should you need it. Possibly the rate of yield is a little less than could be obtained in some areas, however the fact that your deposits will be helping in the overall expansion and growth of the Unity Movement should add to the worthiness of this project. The Justus Credit Union was chosen as our depositor as it is an experienced banking institution, a Unity affiliate, and has demonstrated a willingness to be of service in this area of the activities of the AUC.

If you are in charge of a member church, you will find enclosed a card to be completed by your board which should be returned together with your initial deposit to the Justus Credit Union, Unity School, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063. Should you desire additional information regarding Central Funding, address your inquiries to Ken Tiffany, Association of Unity Churches, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063.

A VERY GOOD IDEA Stan Hampson, who conducts our work in Honolulu shared the following idea with us that certainly seems worthy of our prayerful consideration.

"I realized how many news items were in WEEKLY UNITY and were relevant to people in church. So for Christmas we gave subscriptions to WEEKLY UNITY for each Board Member. They are thoroughly enjoying this gift--and are experiencing with me a broadened sense of our ministry in Honolulu as a part of the great Unity Family. Perhaps many churches would like to use this same good idea and subscribe to WEEKLY UNITY for Board Members and maybe Sunday School teachers and ushers and hostesses, too."

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES

BUDGET

April 1, 1969 - March 31, 1970

GENERAL OFFICE	
Emeritus Program	\$ 11,000.00
Expansion Program	30,000.00
Scholarship Program	1,000.00
Printing	2,500.00
Office Equipment	2,000.00
Office Equipment Repairs	250.00
Depreciation Expense & Amortization	980.00
Postage	2,500.00
Telephone	4,000.00
Salaries	36,000.00
FICA Expense	360.00
Public Relations & Promotion	1,000.00
Insurance & Fidelity Bond	925.00
Tithe	22,250.00
Conference Expense	6,000.00
Office Improvements	2,500.00
Travel and Expenses (Executive Office & Committees)	12,000.00
Office Rent	1,500.00
Office Supplies & Rentals	5,200.00
Pension Plan	5,700.00
	<u>\$147,665.00</u>

YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT	
Research & Development	\$ 1,600.00
Salaries	28,200.00
FICA Expense	810.00
Telephone	750.00
Postage	720.00
Travel and Expenses	3,500.00
YOU Conference	600.00
YA Retreat	400.00
Public Relations & Promotion	1,100.00
Office Rent	1,500.00
Office Supplies	1,000.00
Depreciation Expense	100.00
Y. E. Seminar	200.00
	<u>\$ 40,480.00</u>

SERVICE DEPARTMENT	
Salaries	\$ 15,400.00
FICA Expense	770.00
Office Rent	1,500.00
Miscellaneous Labor-Unity School	1,200.00
Legal and Accounting	2,800.00
	<u>\$ 21,670.00</u>

AUC MINISTERIAL TRAINING PROGRAM	\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL	<u>\$239,815.00</u>

PROJECT ASTRONAUT

WHAT EACH ONE CAN DO

Few, if any, of the millions who were able to watch the progress of the pioneers from blast-off to touchdown could have had any thought that they would hear prayer and Bible reading from the moon orbit. In view of the entanglements which unbelievers can achieve under the umbrella of the Constitution, it is quite likely that none of the three men whispered a word of the intention to any earth creature before the departure.

Now it seems that Atheist Mrs. Madeline Murray of Baltimore, Maryland, who succeeded in banning prayer from our schools, has more than 27,000 signatures on a petition condemning our astronauts for their Bible reading on Christmas Eve.

Too often the "pagan minority" have had their way because the "Christian witness" has remained silent. If you approve and appreciate the Christian testimony made by our astronauts, let it be known by signing this form and sending it to:

N.A.S.A.
% Family Radio
San Francisco, California 94134

Your response to this challenge is strongly encouraged. Almost 20,000 letters have arrived already. The goal is 100,000 letters. Then Bill Mansdoerfer, Director of Communications for Family Radio, will take them personally to N.A.S.A. headquarters in Houston and call a press conference.

I APPROVE AND APPRECIATE THE CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY MADE BY OUR ASTRONAUTS

Signature

Address

City

State

Zip

PROJECT ASTRO-1

WHAT EACH ONE CAN DO

Each of the millions of people who have been interested in the project since it was first announced have been asked to contribute in some way to the success of the project. This is not a financial contribution, but a contribution of time and effort. The project is a long-term project and it is important that each one of us who is interested in it should do his part.

There are many ways in which you can contribute to the success of the project. You can contribute by making a donation to the project, by volunteering your time and effort, or by spreading the word about the project to your friends and family.

It is important that each one of us who is interested in the project should do his part. This is not a financial contribution, but a contribution of time and effort. The project is a long-term project and it is important that each one of us who is interested in it should do his part.

San Francisco, California 94102

For a complete list of the project's activities, please refer to the project's brochure. The project is a long-term project and it is important that each one of us who is interested in it should do his part.

I APPROVE AND APPRECIATE THE PROJECT'S TESTIMONY MADE BY OUR ASTRONAUTS

Signature

Address

City

State