

Issue 36

January/February 1973

Midyear Meetings Met With Enthusiasm

The Midyear Council of Committees was held at Unity Village during the week of January 14. The committees that were called to meet at that time were: The Executive Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, Licensing and Ordination Committee, Ministerial Education Committee, Bylaws Committee and Laymen's Professional Counsel.

We are deeply grateful to all who added to the consciousness of these meetings and for the recommendations that will strengthen our movement.

AUC CONFERENCE 1973

We are looking forward to a "Welcome Home Celebration" when the annual AUC Conference meets here at Unity Village. The dates for Conference 1973 are: SUNDAY, JULY 15 through WEDNESDAY noon, JULY 17. (Wednesday afternoon we will move to Kansas City for the Convention activities.)

Victor Zarley, the chairman of the Conference Program Committee, presented the inspiring plans of the Program Committee to the Board. The Conference theme will be "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About . . ." Some of the things we will be given the opportunity to *know about* and *ask about* in the programs are: "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Writing a Book"; "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Meditation"; "Everything Else You Always Wanted to Know about Anything (but were afraid to joke about)."

The Conference will begin on Sunday afternoon at Hospitality Hall, where open house will be held from 2:00 on . . . This will truly be a "Welcome Home" event with fellowship, singing and refreshments.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR CONFERENCE

There will be UICE classes during Conference time and accommodations will be at a premium. Contact the Reservations Office at Unity Village today!

REPORT ON POSSIBLE CHANGE OF CORPORATE NAME

A motion was made and approved by the Conference body last year that the name of the *Association of Unity Churches* be changed to the *Association of Unity Ministries*. In that this change would affect a Bylaws change, it will be presented to the Conference body again this year.

As the membership began to prayerfully consider the name change, it was recommended that a vote be taken by mail concerning the preference of names. The results of the votes of those who returned their cards were: 118 votes for retaining the name *Association of Unity Churches* and 114 for changing the corporate name. Upon review of the vote, the Board of Trustees decided to postpone any action until the Conference in July.

**OUR NEW YOU
COORDINATOR**

The newest member of the AUC staff is Jacqueline M. Neal, a first year ministerial student. Jackie comes from Washington, D.C., where she was involved in the YOU as teacher-sponsor. Her training and profession before becoming a ministerial student was that of a registered nurse. She has been interested in the various aspects of the ministry for a number of years. It was this deep interest which ultimately led her to Unity. Jackie feels that Unity's unique approach to life is a vital help, especially to young people as they endeavor to know themselves. She is extremely happy and excited about her new position as YOU Coordinator, and is ready to give it her time, talents and enthusiasm. Jackie feels this is a beautiful way to learn and grow through service to others, and a wonderful opportunity to share the love and truth young people around the country are experiencing.



**YOU CONFERENCE
AUGUST 12-17, 1973**

The YOU Executive Committee met at Unity Village during the week following Christmas to make preparations for YOU Conference and to discuss related YOU activities. Michael Murphy, Unity minister of Unity Church of Christianity, Seattle, Washington, was the acting chairman of the meetings. As you will recall, Michael was the YOU Director for the AUC from 1968 through 1971. Michael will be working closely with our new YOU Coordinator, Jacqueline Neal, on YOU Conference planning and activities.

The theme chosen for YOU Conference this year is **IN THE BEGINNING . . .** Special program highlights will include daily Bible classes by Edward Rabel, Bible interpretation teacher for the School for Ministerial and Religious Studies; and workshops conducted by Robert Proctor of Character Research Project. The subject for Mr. Proctor's workshops will be "A Purpose for Your Life." In 1969 Mr. Proctor conducted workshops for the YOU Conference and by popular demand he has been asked to participate in the program again this year.

**LAYMAN'S PROFESSIONAL
COUNSEL**

We were privileged to have Dick Buchholzer of Akron, Ohio; Jay Eaton of West Palm Beach, Florida; Grover Eubanks of Chicago, Illinois; Peter Higbie of Detroit, Michigan; Wilfred Harricharan of Brooklyn, New York; and Deane Lundy of Vancouver, British Columbia with us during the Midyear meetings. They are the members of the Layman's Professional Counsel who give so generously of themselves to act as an advisory group. They stand ready to help the ministries in any way possible.

It was their recommendation that they make themselves available to give counsel to the second year ministerial students in ways they could advise them from a business standpoint. The Layman's Professional Counsel will plan to meet with the second year students this year at Conference time.

CONTINUING BLESSINGS FROM UNITY SCHOOL

Over and over again we are all mindful and grateful for the many evidences of prayer, inspiration and support extended to the AUC and its ministries from Unity School. In their continuing desire to help the AUC and its ministries, Unity School has graciously made available some new avenues of service to us. We express heartfelt appreciation for the following proposals which the Board of Directors of Unity School submitted to the AUC Board of Trustees.

Unity School proposes to make available to the AUC a special fund of a substantial figure upon which the AUC can draw and use in any manner it chooses to aid in founding new ministries or in revitalizing old ones. And Unity School has also proposed an increased use of its periodicals in the establishment of a new ministry or the revitalization of a dormant one.

Unity School and the AUC will explore ways to cooperate in the administration of the Unity Institute for Continuing Education. While Unity School will maintain direction, we will work closely together to help determine the curriculum for the UICE classes. Courses of particular value to the ministries could be added with the AUC providing a teacher for these courses. A portion of the offerings received by UICE will be apportioned between AUC and Unity School in proportion to the AUC participation in a given term.

NEW FORMAT FOR CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

After a good deal of prayerful consideration, Unity School, in full cooperation with the Association of Unity Churches, has decided to discontinue the active grading of certain courses currently offered for credit through correspondence. This applies to *Lessons in Truth, How I Used Truth, Series I, and Series II, (or Christian Healing)*. The French, Spanish and German work will not be affected, neither will the popular Old and New Testament Bible study courses.

It is recognized that the teachings contained in this material are of an important and fundamental nature. The Adult Education Development Committee — William L. Fischer, AUC Director of Ministerial Education; Nicholas J. Griffin, Curriculum Advisor; Vera Dawson Tait, Director of Correspondence School; Harold B. Whaley, Librarian; Philip W. White, Director of UICE — would like to assure all ministers and lay people in the field that the essentials of this material will still be available, in changed format, on an even wider basis to those who wish to read or study them for their own benefit, or who may wish to use them as teaching tools. As progress continues, and details are worked out, CONTACT will carry further news.

Immediate information will be forthcoming from UICE to all extension program leaders and students concerning the status of those now pursuing this work, and how the papers will be handled.

CASSETTE RECORDINGS OF THE VOICE OF CHARLES FILLMORE

Larry and Mary Ellen Swartz, our ministers in Tucson, Arizona, have shared an activity which has proved to be a real blessing to their congregation. During the Christmas season they sent out invitations to the congregation offering themselves to visit all who would invite them for a few moments of Christmas prayer within their homes. This year, they took with them into every home a cassette recording of the voice of Charles Fillmore repeating "The Lord's Prayer" and "Consecration of the Room." Larry said that everyone enjoyed hearing Mr. Fillmore's voice and that the response was indeed wonderful.

In the thought that many of you would like to use the cassette in a similar way in your ministry, the Cassette Department has begun to produce it for you. It will be available after March 1. Order the cassette of "The Lord's Prayer" and the "Consecration of the Room" by Charles Fillmore from the *Cassette Department, Unity School of Christianity, Unity Village, MO 64063. The price will be \$2.00 each.*

**SYNOPTIC STUDY
NOW AVAILABLE**

"Introduction to Unity," A SYNOPTIC STUDY OF THE TEACHINGS OF UNITY, is a course of lessons which evolved from a growing awareness of the need for a course which systematically presents the entire scope of the Unity teachings. In the 1950's a committee was formed to develop the course and many ministers have used it for their classes throughout the years.

The Association of Unity Churches is happy to announce that the "Introduction to Unity" has been reprinted and is now available for purchase through the AUC office for \$2.50. The course contains 24 lessons (101 pages) with questions to aid the student in his study. It is printed on 8½ x 11" punched, reinforced paper. The lessons concern healing, prosperity, the twelve powers of man, prayer and the Bible. It is a course of study which is highly recommended for beginner classes, and can be adapted by the teacher for more advanced classes.

We are most grateful to the committee who originally gathered the materials for the "Introduction to Unity." The committee members were: Eric Butterworth, Chairman; Georgiana Tree West; Donald O'Connor; Vera Dawson Tait and Charles Roth. Thank you, friends!

**STUDY OF THE NEW
TESTAMENT AND LESSONS
IN TRUTH STUDY BOOK**

A STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, by Dr. Herbert J. Hunt, is made available in bound form through the Association of Unity Churches for \$2.00. It contains the same course of lessons which is offered by the Correspondence School. Both teacher and student will find this course helpful in their Bible study. We were temporarily out of this book while it was being reprinted, but now we are happy to announce its availability again.

We were also temporarily out of the LESSONS IN TRUTH STUDY BOOK for a time. We trust that since it has been reprinted, we have filled all of your back orders. The LESSONS IN TRUTH STUDY BOOK is a workbook of the actual pages of "Lessons in Truth" printed on punched, 8½ x 11 inch reinforced paper. The study book is an excellent help for ministers, teachers and students. There is ample blank space for writing additional study notes on the pages. The study book may be ordered from the Association of Unity Churches for \$4.50 each.

**SONGS TO GO WITH THE
COLOR KEY PROGRAM**

"The Color Key Program for Children" was developed and used by Christ Unity Church, St. Louis, Missouri, by the minister, Joel Boehr. It is a program designed to motivate the individual of any age toward greater growth and development. As the name "Color Key" indicates, a color is selected for each month and is related to one of the disciples and corresponding faculty of mind. The Association of Unity Churches has made the Color Key Program packet available for \$1.25.

Those of you who have been Color-Keying will be delighted to know that Joel Boehr and his fine staff have now developed a "Color Key Songbook" to go with the program. The "Color Key Songbook" may be obtained for \$1.50 from Joel Boehr or Joan Shaw, Unity Christ Church, 33 North Skinker, St. Louis, MO 63105.

**ADDRESS CORRECTION
FOR YEARBOOK**

To "err is human," and we apologize for any mistakes which might have occurred in the printing of the Yearbook. We made an error in listing the incorrect address for Whipple Bishop and we wanted you to know his correct address so you could make note of it. His correct address is: Whipple M. Bishop, 13540 El Dorado Dr., Apt. 48-D, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

As we hear of other errors in the Yearbook, we will be happy to include corrections in CONTACT.

**NEWS FROM DANIEL
PERIN IN DENVER**

The last issue of CONTACT reported that Daniel Perin had tendered his resignation in the AUC office. Dan was led to accept the opportunity to work with Dr. Irwin Gregg and the Divine Science organization in Denver, Colorado. Dan has told us that at this time he is taking classes, assisting on the platform and giving talks on an alternating basis. We know that Dan's consciousness of loving service will continue to bring blessings of abundant good to him and to all whom he serves.

**GUEST SPEAKERS
WELCOMED AT
BOURNE END**

Our friends at Unity House in Bourne End tell us how pleased they have been with the great contribution Unity ministers have made to their annual summer programs. If you are planning a vacation to Europe this year, we invite you to contact Douglas Morton, Unity House, Bourne End, Bucks, England, and plan on stopping a few days with them. You will be delighted you did, and all our Unity friends in England will be blessed by your presence. They hold weekend seminars which they call Renewals, and they are always pleased to have guest speakers from America.

IN MEMORIAM

Fred Beale, Unity minister in Canton, Ohio, since 1952, made his transition on December 31, 1972. Prior to accepting leadership in Canton, Fred served as a teacher in Syracuse, Ithaca, Elmira, New York, and in Montclair, New Jersey. Our abiding gratitude and love surrounds Fred as he moves forward into the eternal light of Spirit.



WEDDING BELLS

Ken Brabeau, our Unity minister in Merced, California, and Dorothy Sherlock were married on January 28. Jim Morgan of Fresno officiated at the service. Our best wishes and love are with Ken and Dorothy and we will look forward to seeing them at Conference and Convention this summer.

Bill Aull and Arlene Martin of Los Angeles, California, were married during the Christmas holidays. Bill is minister for the continuing development of the work at Christ Church, Unity, Antelope Valley, in Lancaster, California. Arlene is the minister for the development of youth ministries for the Southern California Ministers and Teachers Conference.

**IN RECOGNITION OF
NEWLY LICENSED TEACHERS**

We are pleased to announce that three people received their Licensed Teacher's Certificate at the recommendation of the Licensing and Ordination Committee when they met here in January.

The newly licensed teachers are Clara Epps and Catherine Turner from Christ Unity Temple, Chicago, Illinois; and Geraldine Peterson from Christ Unity Center, San Clemente, California. Our blessings are with these new teachers as they continue to share the Unity message.

PLACEMENT

MEDFORD, OREGON Negotiations are continuing with the ministry in Medford upon the retirement of Katharine Bosworth. Mabel Carlin is serving as interim minister in Medford until succession of leadership can be finalized.

VISTA, CALIFORNIA Bert and Eva Coffey have been accepted as co-ministers of our Unity work in Vista, California. They accepted leadership as of January 1, 1973.

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK With the move of James Heinecamp to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, an opening occurred in Syracuse, New York. Larry Kendrick, who was minister in Grand Junction, Colorado, has accepted an invitation by the board at Syracuse to be the new minister there. Larry accepted responsibility for his new ministry February 1, 1973.

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO Marion Brown is in Grand Junction as our interim minister until such time as succession of leadership can be finalized there.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE Mabel Donaldson is serving on behalf of the Association of Unity Churches as interim minister in Nashville until succession of leadership can be finalized.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI With the vacancy caused by Philip Nicola's move to Los Angeles, as reported in our last CONTACT, an invitation was extended to Jack Dolen to be the minister at South Side Unity Church. Jack accepted his responsibilities as of January 1, 1973.

CANTON, OHIO With the passing of Fred Beale, our minister in Canton, Ohio, a vacancy occurred and negotiations are under way regarding succession of leadership there.

JACKSON, MICHIGAN Eleonore Krafft, our minister in Jackson, Michigan, has tendered her resignation, with the view to retirement. Negotiations are now under way regarding succession of leadership.

DECATUR, ILLINOIS Hazel Erisman, our minister in Decatur, has tendered her resignation as minister in Decatur, Illinois, and will be retiring as of March 1, 1973. Negotiations are under way regarding succession of leadership there.



WE IN THE AUC SEEK TO ESTABLISH

a loving sense of BELONGING

an atmosphere of ACCEPTANCE

an air of INTEGRITY

an expression of CONFIDENCE

a promise of OPPORTUNITY

. . . for all who are a part of

this great UNITY MOVEMENT.



UNITY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION '73

Registrations for the Convention are now beginning to flow in from the field at an increasing rate. NOW is the time to put the promotional materials to use if you have not already done so. If you have need for more materials, use the pink Order Form or simply write to the AUC for whatever you need.

Regarding the Registration Forms themselves, there has been some confusion about the word "donation." In using this word we mean the "fee" for the Convention, which is \$30.00 for each adult. We realize the forms are unclear in this regard, so please explain it to your people.

We have a new "plan of attack" on transportation needs for the Convention. TRANS-MARK TRAVEL will be contacting each ministry by letter on an individual basis. The ministers assigned to coordinate their area with Trans-Mark no longer have that responsibility. Please make your own arrangements with Trans-Mark for your ministry. Mr. Mims, General Manager, invites each minister to call his agency COLLECT at any time for information (816-842-1002).

We are asking EVERYONE who wants to attend the Convention to pay the full registration fee. This includes all ministers and their families. Our feeling, of course, is that the fee is our contribution to the effort we're taking in presenting Unity to the world through this Convention. This will be the greatest single event in the history of the Unity movement, and we each surely want to do our part to make it meaningful and successful.

Once you have registered for the Convention, we will send you the "housing packet" which has all the materials necessary for making your hotel reservations in Kansas City.

Each of the AUC regions will have a display at the Convention. Please contact your regional representative for information about these displays.

Donald Curtis of Dallas has been doing quite a bit of "direct mailing" in his ministry and has designated funds for the purpose of doing a direct mailing for Convention '73. We are very excited by this idea and eagerly await the results of this form of advertising and promotion. Needless to say, we are most grateful to the Dallas ministry for this intriguing gesture.

COORDINATOR, AS GUEST SPEAKER

Starting in March, 1973, Wes Wallin, Convention Coordinator, will be available for guest speaking purposes. If you are in the process of planning activities for promoting Convention '73 and would like to have Wes add his special blessing to those activities, please contact the AUC office. Wes has developed a Truth talk around the idea of "Unity, the Way Up," which has been well received in many ministries.

We know you join us in our prayers for the unfoldment of this tremendous event as the most significant thing to happen yet in Unity.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES
Statement of Income and Expenses

December '72 and January '73
 9th and 10th Month of Bookyear

	December '72	January '73	YEAR TO DATE
Love offerings	20,817.46	25,315.52	197,186.70
Ministerial Education offerings	5,985.00	1,612.00	9,646.63
Youth Education offerings	45.35	26.78	894.98
 Gain from Operations			
Curriculum and Material	222.59	288.46	7,748.90
 Other Income			
Interest and Miscellaneous Income	528.50	882.13	6,918.31
Tuition Income	2,100.00	-	8,277.00
 TOTAL INCOME	29,698.90	28,124.89	230,672.52
 Expenses:			
General Office	16,608.80	18,336.11	161,165.02
Youth Education	1,520.18	2,133.90	30,447.22
Ministerial Education	4,848.61	4,475.40	37,532.04
 TOTAL EXPENSES	22,977.59	24,945.41	229,144.28
 EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENSES	6,721.31	3,179.48	1,528.24

*Coffee, Tea or . . . ?*

(Entertaining church and board members)

Helen Hampson, the gracious wife of our Unity minister in Hawaii, led a group discussion on this subject at the mini-conference of ministers' spouses in July, 1972. Here are some of this group's findings.

In reading the many books written for and about ministers' spouses, it is interesting to note the continual references to manse and rectory. Most Unity ministers and their families live in a dwelling which they buy or rent on their housing allowances rather than a home which is part of the church property. This puts us in the delightful position of entertaining because we *want* to and not because we have to as is expected in many other religious denominations.

How good this is, because true entertaining should be an honest and gracious extension of one's hospitality toward another, rather than obligatory or a social repayment. While the "Open House" idea and other forms of group gatherings can be joyous occasions, they should not be used to recoup social obligations in blanket form.

"It is a wonderful thing for a family to set aside its home for itself and its friends," writes Amy Vanderbilt in her "New Complete Book of Etiquette." "When guests are invited to break bread for other than purely friendly reasons, the entertainment is too often a failure. A good rule to follow is: don't try to do business over your own dinner table. Entertaining at home should have no strings attached."

Wallace Denton in his classic study, "The Role of the Ministers' Wife," writes "Wives of public figures are 'on display' and are expected to be gracious hostesses. The wife of a businessman, educator or minister frequently entertains various dignitaries and emphasis is placed upon her ability to fulfill this aspect of her role and otherwise put guests at ease. In all that the minister's wife does she is expected to set the example in gracious living."

In "The Pastor's Wife and the Church" by Dorothy Pentecost, we read "It never works to entertain individuals, couples, or families in the manse. It is impossible to get to entertain all who belong to the church. Even if you succeeded in reaching everyone carefully, you would be criticized because of the order in which you invited them. No matter what you do, you cannot win. We entertain in groups, such as Sunday school classes, the board members and their wives, prayer groups, morning coffee for the women of the church, Sunday school board, young people, and once a year -- Open House for the entire church. In this way, everyone who wishes to can come to the manse on invitation, at least once a year, and the active members usually come several times because they are members of the groups that are invited."

Then we have these ideas from Helen Shoemaker in "How to be a Minister's Wife and Love It." "No sooner do the new minister and his wife settle into their new parish than the invitations for dinner will start flowing. A frantic thought may come to the preacher's wife, 'How can I ever repay all these people?' The obvious answer is, of course, that they do not expect to be repaid. They consider this an opportunity to become better acquainted with their clergy family and this in no way puts an obligation on her. She who entertains twenty-four or so guests from the parish -- 'a few of our close friends' -- is treading upon dangerous soil. Twice that many will say to themselves, 'I thought we were their close friends.' The solution to this is the Open House, given from time to time in the rectory. This automatically includes everyone in the parish and when the sensitive touchy soul says, 'They never ask *me* to their parties,' the preacher's wife can always fall back on, 'So sorry you weren't able to come to our Open House -- perhaps next time you can make it.'"

Whichever of these suggestions you feel comfortable with, Amy Vanderbilt's further suggestion on entertaining is important. "If host and hostess themselves can, through the careful selection of their guests and through sufficient advance preparation, look forward with pleasure to an evening, then the party is virtually assured of success. Whether trained servants present platters of peacocks' tongues or the hostess herself dishes up a good spaghetti dinner is quite immaterial. If the house looks as if it expected and welcomed guests, if the host and hostess are relaxed and smiling, the guests will feel at home and at ease, no matter what superficial accouterments of entertaining may be missing through necessity or design."

THE SPICE CABINET (Continued)

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I thought you would enjoy more excerpts from recent columns by Amy Vanderbilt regarding etiquette for clergymen and their spouse.

### MINISTER'S WIFE

*My husband is a pastor, and we are frequently invited to the homes of parishoners for dinner. What is expected of a minister's wife and family in regard to reciprocation?*

Nobody expects a minister's family to reciprocate invitations in kind. In some cases they don't expect any reciprocation at all. Occasionally a minister has outside financial resources, but most of those who depend upon their salaries certainly cannot do much entertaining. The husband and wife give so much of themselves that few people would expect social entertaining from them as well.

### WEDDING INVITATIONS TO MINISTER

*Do the minister and his wife receive an invitation to a wedding ceremony the minister performs?*

The minister and his wife should receive a wedding invitation if it is to include the reception. If there is a reception they are always invited.

### CLERGYMAN AT THE RECEPTION

*My husband is a clergyman, and we wonder when we should accept invitations to wedding receptions. So often we know only one set of parents. Should we send a gift? Since we do not drink, may we toast with water? Are we supposed to stay until the cake is cut?*

Most people do invite the clergyman and his wife to the reception. It is not necessary for you to accept, since clergymen have so many obligations. You are not expected to send a gift, although clergymen sometimes do when they are close to either or both of the bridal partners. If you do accept, don't be embarrassed about not drinking. You may certainly toast with water. Just don't make a fuss about it. (Some people think toasting with water brings bad luck, but you can tell anyone who protests that this has always been the custom of King Gustav of Sweden.) People do stay through the cake cutting, but if it does not follow at a convenient time, you may certainly excuse yourself. Make your departure quietly after speaking to at least the bride's parents.

### TEA PARTY

*Is it better to invite the minister and his wife to tea alone or with others?*

Many people feel a little restrained when it comes to entertaining the clergy. But clergymen and their wives are like everybody else; they enjoy the company of other people. I would suggest that you have others in for tea.

PRODUCTIVE RESULTS FROM BARTON ASSOCIATE SURVEYS  
of the  
ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES

During the first week in October of 1971, 387 questionnaires were mailed to members of the Association of Unity Churches. By December 22, 1971, 202 responses had been received. This is a 52.2 percent return. In the realm of studies and surveys, this is considered a most excellent response. Even the most carefully structured audience ordinarily produces from 25 percent to 33 1/3 percent return. We as a movement can be proud of our response, but we can be even more proud of the progress that has been made in increasing the effectiveness of our service to our ministries through the Executive Office of AUC in response to the questionnaire.

Barton Associates made a number of recommendations to the AUC as the result of the findings of the attitude survey. Those recommendations fell into four categories, which were designated as Committee 1, Internal Communications and Public Relations; Committee 2, Committee on Personal Representation, Lectures, Speakers, Field Representatives; Committee 3, Committee on Literature; Committee 4, Interpretation and Expansion External.

*COMMITTEE 1, Internal Communications and Public Relations*

The voice from the field through the survey was loud and clear. Increased effectiveness in internal communications and public relations was a mandate from our membership. Increased regularity and content of CONTACT has been made number one priority. As our internal communications continue to unfold, CONTACT is increasing its scope of material covered with the inclusion of information of interest to the field, from and about Unity School, from and about regional activities, from and about special groups such as the ministers' spouses, laymen, etc.

Increasing the effectiveness of our day to day correspondence with ministers, ministries and teachers in the field has continuing attention within the normal procedures of our office. Since AUC is primarily organized and conducted through the Executive Office as a service organization to our ministers and ministries, this person to person communication continues to be of vital importance.

*Pension Health Plans for the Field*

In spite of continuing communication regarding both our Banker's Life Annuity program for ministers and our Money Purchase Pension Plan for ministers, teachers and workers, the surprising proportion of our membership was unclear as to what was available in the way of pension planning. Increasing communication on a person to person, regional and national level regarding our pension plans has been entered into. A detailed brochure is available for consideration by ministers and ministry board members in this regard.

A surprising proportion of respondents sought assistance in the development of a group health insurance plan. Research steps were taken immediately, and such a plan was communicated to the membership at Conference and subsequently in printed form. The very small proportion of our membership that has responded to the plan indicates that decisive action in this matter cannot as yet be taken.

*COMMITTEE 2, Committee on Personal Representation, Lectures, Speakers, Field Representatives.*

This committee is concerned with person to person representation in the field. Extensive steps have been taken in the development of procedures that enable us to provide lecturers and speakers to all of our ministries upon request. This involves cooperation with Unity School staff personnel, by the channeling of all requests through the Executive of AUC. Since this plan has been instituted, we have not failed to supply a speaker for every requested special occasion. From time to time it has been necessary to provide alternate choices of speakers or lecturers, but the need has been filled.

Since the recommendations regarding Committee 2 were first received, AUC Board of Trustees representatives have increasingly been involved in attendance at regional meetings, in addition to the presence of the Executive Director. Person to person communication has been increased by the inclusion of executives of the AUC in attendance at Board/Minister meetings within the regions. Continuing research is involved in ways to increasingly provide for the field personnel for those special activities in every ministry which adds to the growth and development of the ministry.



### *COMMITTEE 3, Committee on Literature*

The value of printed pieces specifically designed to fulfill needs within our ministries was stressed by the survey and the recommendations from the survey. The Executive Office of the AUC increasingly produces and provides as a service to its ministries such pieces of literature as "Unity, a Ministry of Service," "Twenty Questions," "Guidelines for Unity Board Members," "Information Regarding Money Purchase Pension Plan," "Something Special," and a new pamphlet in the works defining procedures, policies and guidance for ministers and board members regarding change of leadership and placement.

This obviously must be a continuing committee in the fulfillment of needs as they arise for printed matter that will assist in our field activity.

### *COMMITTEE 4, Interpretation and Expansion - External*

We still are limited in our effectiveness in interpretation of what Unity is, what the Association of Unity Churches is and what Unity ministries are externally. Continuing efforts are being made to provide skilled services collectively by which we can communicate to the world at large who and what we are and the service that we stand ready to render.

## **BARTON ASSOCIATES QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING AUC CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

In November, 1972, a questionnaire was sent out from the Association of Unity Churches to be returned to Barton Associates regarding "Why I Did Not Attend the AUC July Conference." This went to all ministers who did not attend the July, 1972, Conference. Of 94 ministers to whom the questionnaire was sent, 63 responded. This indicated a 67.02 percent return, which is phenomenally high and evidently means that our ministers have an especially great interest in this subject, as well as a desire to be cooperative. We rejoice and give thanks for a ministry that is cooperative and has a quickening and active interest in the ongoing activities of our field movement.

The 94 ministers that did not attend Conference in 1972 represent 37.14 percent of the entire established field of the Association of Unity Churches. It is important for us to recognize that this is a significant portion of our membership, and therefore there is considerable significance to the results of the survey.

The overriding reason stated for non-attendance was "Prefer Conference at Unity Village," with 44.44 percent of those responding giving this as their reason. Closely tied in with that was a second reason, "Don't like shows, circuses, spectaculars," 12.69 percent. The two above reasons combine to total 57.13 percent. A third reason was "Don't get enough out of it," 12.69 percent. The other articulated reasons for non-attendance were health reasons, other commitments, want no laymen at Conference, wrong time of the year, and financial. Respondents specifically stated repeatedly that the atmosphere of Unity Village is more serene, uplifting and conducive to replenishment of the spirit. The survey obviously evidenced the search on our part for a "reveal and heal" atmosphere.

### *Immediate Responses to Latest Barton Associates Survey*

The Board of Trustees of AUC at the Midyear Council of Committee meetings were presented with the above survey results and immediately determined to make every effort to return AUC Conferences to Unity Village, exclusively for ministers, teachers and their spouses. Decisions have been made by the Board of Trustees, which must be ratified by the membership in July at the Conference, regarding the reversal of the Conference body decision to hold the 1974 Conference in San Francisco and reversal of the Conference decision to increase the involvement of laymen in Conference activities.

Continuing efforts will be made to render the service that is needed to our lay people, but this will be done separate from our Conference activities, subject to the approval of the Conference body.

## **WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS TO BARTON ASSOCIATES FOR SKILLED SERVICES RENDERED AND FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED**

Both the Board of Trustees of the Association of Unity Churches and its entire membership wishes to express its appreciation to Barton Associates of Akron, Ohio, for its gift of services to AUC in making it possible for our membership to express its wishes and its desires so clearly and concisely. We rejoice in the maturity within our movement to respond to this communication and add strength and stability to our movement as a whole.

## SCHOOL FOR MINISTERIAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### NICK GRIFFIN JOINS SMRS FACULTY

Nicholas J. Griffin  
has joined the  
faculty for the

Winter trimester. Nick was born in London, England, and came to the United States in 1964. He graduated from the School for Ministerial and Religious Studies and was ordained a Unity minister in January, 1968. He was assigned as Assistant Minister of First Church Unity, St. Petersburg, Florida, before taking a leave of absence to pursue further his academic education. He took up his graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma, and now holds a Ph.D. degree in modern social and intellectual history, as well as being a member of the American Association of University Professors. Immediately prior to coming to Unity Village, Nick was engaged in a nine-month academic research fellowship in Britain. He and his wife, Carole, have a four-year-old daughter, Michelle. They are residing at Unity Villa, adjacent to Unity Village.



### STUDENT GIFT SHOP

The Ministerial Student Gift Shop has recently stocked a useful, new item which should be of personal interest to many of you in the field.

It is called a "MINISTER'S PERSONAL RECORD." This is a hard-bound book which allows ample space for keeping records of: personal data, churches served, baptisms, dedications, members received, marriages, funerals, sermons, addresses and publications. There is also a year-by-year record where totals may be kept. Attractively bound in blue cloth, it is a publication of approximately 150 pages. The Student Gift Shop will accept mail orders for the "MINISTER'S PERSONAL RECORD." The cost is only \$2.95 per copy. (Of course, the students would appreciate anyone's sending a little extra to cover postage.) The Student Gift Shop invites all ministers in the field to take advantage of purchasing this useful item.

### APPLICATIONS FOR SMRS NOW BEING RECEIVED

We are eager to receive and process applications from persons who are *seriously* interested and qualified for the Unity ministry. If you have any such persons in your congregation who fit into this category, please have these persons contact William L. Fischer, School for Ministerial and Religious Studies. It is important that these applications be received as early in the year as possible, and we are now prepared to give them our prompt and thorough attention. PLEASE MAKE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED PERSONS IN YOUR CONGREGATIONS.



**FIELD INTERVIEWS FOR  
PROSPECTIVE SMRS STUDENTS**

William L. Fischer, Director of Ministerial Education for the AUC, is currently making a series of trips into the field for the purpose of interviewing and testing persons who are *seriously* interested in applying for admission to the School for Ministerial and Religious Studies. During the week of January 22, Bill was in California, where extensive interviewing was conducted in Los Angeles and San Francisco. The week of February 12 will be spent doing the same thing on the East Coast, with visits to Virginia Beach, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. A similar trip is now being planned for the Seattle area. In the past these trips have proved beneficial in two ways: First, such trips have produced some excellent ministerial students, some of which are now serving quite successfully in the Unity field ministry. Secondly, they are of benefit to the applying students, since it saves them the expense of a trip to Unity Village for tests and interviews. If your area has a sufficient number of interested students to justify the expense of a trip there, please contact the Administration Office of SMRS.

**REQUIRED READING COURSE  
FOR APPLYING STUDENTS**

In our continuing effort to upgrade the standards of the School for Ministerial and Religious Studies, it has been felt that every student applying for admission to SMRS should be well-read in what Unity teaches. Therefore, a Required Reading Course has been compiled, and each applying student is asked to read the books in the course prior to admission. The list includes the following books: "LESSONS IN TRUTH," "CHRISTIAN HEALING," "THE STORY OF UNITY," "KNOW THYSELF," "WHAT ARE YOU?," "TALKS ON TRUTH," "DISCOVER THE POWER WITHIN YOU," "PROSPERITY," "THE UNITY WAY OF LIFE," "BE YE TRANSFORMED," and "YOUR HOPE OF GLORY." It is felt that, if any student has read these books along with his classwork in a Unity ministry, he should have the basic knowledge of Unity he needs to begin his course of ministerial study.

**INTENSIVE SEMINAR PLANNED  
FOR STUDIES IN BLACK  
CULTURE AND COMMUNITY**

A special intensive seminar entitled "PROFILES IN BLACK" is being planned to be conducted from April 30 through May 2. Gordon T. Vivens, associate minister of the Detroit Unity Association, is in charge of this seminar. He will be assisted by Phyllis Warren, a professional musician, who is a vital part of the congregation of Detroit Unity. She is active as a part of the musical staff of the temple, as well as being involved in other aspects of the ministry there. This seminar will deal specifically with how our ministerial students will deal with unique aspects of the black community. Current SMRS plans call for regularly-scheduled seminars of this type in order to better prepare our new ministers for working with all segments of our society. Further details of this seminar will be forthcoming in a future issue of CONTACT.

**VITAL INTENSIVE SEMINAR  
CONDUCTED FOR SMRS STUDENTS**

During the week of February 12, a tremendously important intensive seminar was conducted in the ministerial school. The title of this seminar was: "CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN CONDUCTING A MODERN UNITY MINISTRY." It was conducted by Grover Thornsberry and Dorothy Pierson, President and Vice-President of the Association of Unity Churches. Both of these progressive, successful ministers were able to draw on long years of experience in the ministry in presenting important ideas. The subjects covered were: "The AUC Charter, Bylaws and Code of Ethics," "Center Operation - Minister and Board," "What it means to be a Minister," "Counseling," and an opportunity for questions and answers. We are grateful to both Grover and Dorothy for giving of their valuable time to spend this week with the ministerial students.