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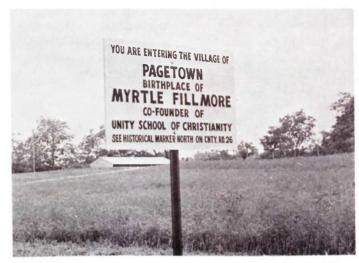
HISTORICAL MARKER HONORING MYRTLE FILLMORE'S BIRTHPLACE

A historical marker honoring Pagetown, Ohio, as the birthplace of Unity co-founder Myrtle Fillmore was dedicated August 6 in ceremonies attended by Charles R. Fillmore, president of Unity School of Christianity, and Rosemary Fillmore Rhea, coordinator of the Unity Radio and Television Department. Charles and Rosemary are grandchildren of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore.

The marker was placed on a farm near Pagetown, which research has proven to be the birthplace of Mary Caroline Page, later known as Myrtle Fillmore. Instrumental in locating the exact site where the Page family resided and in arranging for the marker was **Ed Dawson**, a member of the Unity Church of Christianity in Columbus, Ohio.

Others participating in the ceremony were the Reverend Charles Korfhage, minister of the Columbus Unity center, and local government officials.

The marker is inscribed as follows:



These signs were placed at the four entrances to Pagetown as part of the dedication ceremony for the historic marker.

"Pagetown

"Birthplace of Myrtle Page Fillmore, who with her husband, Charles Fillmore, founded Unity School of Christianity, Unity Village, Missouri.

"Born August 6, 1845, Mary Caroline Page, known as Myrtle, was the daughter of Marcus and Lucy Page, who founded Pagetown

"Unity is a non-denominational, non-sectarian religious organization which teaches the practical application of spiritual principals taught by Jesus Christ."



Rosemary Fillmore Rhea and Charles R. Fillmore unveil marker honoring Pagetown as the birthplace of Myrtle Fillmore, their grandmother and co-founder of Unity School of Christianity.

A cemetery near the Edwin Saltz farm, where the marker was placed, contains grave markers of many of Myrtle's relatives.

The dedication ceremony was perhaps the biggest occasion in recent times for the tiny village of Pagetown, according to Charles Korfhage. The cemetery was cleaned up and townspeople turned out to spruce up the neighborhood.

Nine Unity ministers from surrounding communities and 80 members of their congregations joined the Unity folks from Columbus for a luncheon. Then a caravan of about 200 made the 25-mile trip to Pagetown, where they were escorted to the marker site by county sheriff's deputies.

Charles R. Fillmore, Rosemary Rhea, Charles Korfhage and others spoke from the bed of a pickup truck, and local children rode bicycles festooned with red, white and blue bunting and flags.

Later in the evening a banquet was held in Columbus and the following day, Sunday, Charles R. Fillmore gave the lesson and Rosemary Rhea gave the meditation at the Unity center. A reception concluded the weekend of dedication events.

AUC President's Letter

Dear Friends,

In lieu of the usual President's Letter, may I share with you the substance of the address I gave to the 1977 SMRS Ordinands. In composing the talk, I found myself in the soul-searching position of reminding myself of the meaning of my own ordination. That which came to light has served as a basis of re-dedication of myself as a Unity minister. Perhaps you can gleen something from the message that will be of value to you. If so, I will be grateful.

"'There is no power which is not from God; and those who are in authority are ordained by God.' (Romans 12:1b)

"My remarks to you, the audience, will be brief. The bulk of my comments are to be directed to the ordinands in whose honor we gather tonight.

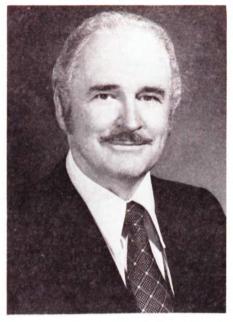
"As an audience, we are here to bear witness to the sacred activity or ordination. But ordination is not confined to the brief span of time into which a ceremonial service is fitted tonight. It began a considerable time ago in the minds and hearts of each of these twenty-four souls chosen of God, and called by the spirit of Jesus Christ to serve as a minister.

"Through Jesus came these words: 'You did not choose me, but I chose you and I appointed you, that you also should go and produce fruit and that your fruit might remain...' (John 16:16a)

"You are the ordinands, the ones upon whom ordination is being conferred. I am the ordinant, the one privileged to do the conferring. That privilege has been given me by the membership of the Association of Unity Churches whom I represent as President. But I emphasize that the action of conferring ordination in this ceremony tonight is but the least part of the whole of ordaining process.

"Many weeks ago when I realized the privileged position I would be holding on this particular evening, I sensitized my consciousness to the word "ordain." I have tried to capture within me the spirit of the idea behind the word. I have researched its derivation and studied its meanings.

"I found "ordain" to have six basic meanings, all of them applicable to the ordination of a minister, and most especially a Unity minister. They involve the following:



Paul C. Barrett

A COMMANDMENT by God.
An INVESTMENT by AUC.
An APPOINTMENT by AUC.
A COMMITMENT by the Ordinand.
An ARRANGEMENT by the Ordinand.
An ANOINTMENT by God.

"This indicates that ordination in its fullness emanates from not one, but three sources or channels--God, the AUC, and the Ordinand. I shall now touch upon each of the six facets of ordination, to wit:

The COMMANDMENT. First, 'ordain' means 'to order by fiat or by virtue of great or supreme authority.'

"Your ordination began when you received a calling to which you have consciously or subconsciously responded. That calling was a commandment of the Divine within you, 'an order by virtue of great or supreme authority.' It all boils down to this: you are not here by happenstance, but by divine command. I charge you to at all times be true to the fiat of God you received.

"There is only one who has heard the individual command you received, and that one is you. But we have faith in you, and thus in your calling. Thereby the AUC feels free to take the next step of ordination which follows.

"The INVESTMENT. Second, 'ordain' means 'to invest with ministerial or sacerdotal function.' 'Sacerdotal' means 'akin to being sacred; a sacred function.'

"The AUC invests you with the right

to be a Unity minister. We behold it as a sacred function. We speak in the name of Jesus Christ in making this investiture. We charge you to fulfill to the highest degree of your understanding all that the Name represents in its nature. Jesus Christ symbolizes the divine ideal of what a Unity minister should strive to be. We are reminded, too, that Charles Fillmore preclaimed Jesus Christ to be the recognized Leader of all the work of Unity.

"I choose to believe that Jesus Christ in His spirit is here tonight. His promise was that 'where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.' (Matthew 18:20)

"The APPOINTMENT, Third, 'ordain' means to establish by appointment or decree...'

"Your ordination as a Unity minister is by virtue of appointment. It is not something you have earned and can now claim, as with the graduation certificate you are to receive tonight for having successfully completed two full years of training in SMRS. Ordination is given by the AUC in the same positive spirit with which Jesus spoke these words "I chose you, and I have appointed you..."

"The appointment to ordination as a Unity minister might be described as the highest honor the AUC can bestow.

"In accepting the appointment, you join a family of Unity ministers who seek to be servants of the Word to all humanity; servants dedicated to teaching the Truth and living it through personal example; servants constantly becoming a light unto others so that they may find their way onto the spiritual path of unity with God and man. 'He who wishes to be great among you, let him minister...and be a servant to all,' said Jesus in outlining our responsibility of service. (Mark 10:43, 44)

"A minister asked a group of Sunday School children, 'Why do you love God?' He received a variety of answers, but the one he liked best came from a young lad who said, 'I don't know why I love God, Sir. I guess it just runs in our family.' The point: in your ordination you are joining a group where love runs in the family. Love is the foundation on which we are to build our personal lives and our ministries.

"We of the AUC are privileged to or-(continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 3)

dain (appoint) you a Unity minister by conferring upon (investing in) you the special rights necessary to conduct a Unity ministry. Our action testifies to our great faith in you and your spiritual commitment, for there is no provision for withdrawal of the ordination once committed. This brings us to the next facet of ordination:

"The COMMITMENT. Fourth, 'ordain' means 'to destine one's life as a part of a divine plan.

"In keeping with this definition, you do the destining. That is, you commit to the plan! The plan is of Divine Mind.

"As with Abraham in his move to the Promised Land, you may not know the divine plan in its ultimate form, but you commit to it by moving out on faith in the invisible things of Spirit. Your ordination will be complete in proportion to the depth of such commitment."

"I would remind you, as Jesus reminded us through His statement concerning false prophets, no one respects a teacher who is not committed. Your commitment testifies to the arrangement of your life, which leads me into the next part of ordination.

"The ARRANGEMENT. Fifth, 'ordain' means 'to arrange, order, regulate, manage, conduct.' From Latin, the root meaning of 'ordain' is 'to put in order or arrange...'

"Paul linked the two words 'order and ordain' when he wrote to Titus: 'For this cause I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are wanting and ordain elders in every city where there is a need...' (Titus 1:5)

"I charge you with the divine responsibility to arrange, and keep your life arranged in a way of divine order. This invovles setting an example of spiritual conduct, and loyal and ethical responsibility to the ministry you serve. There will be no judgment of your past by the Association. But in accepting ordination you commit yourselves to the responsibilities of being a Unity minister, and to the attendant way of leadership and influence of multitudes of God's children. It cannot be taken lightly what you do in the future.

"We come now to the last, and perhaps the most important facet of ordination:

"The ANOINTMENT. Sixth, 'ordain' bespeaks of 'the setting apart for admission

into the Christian ministry.

"The old way of 'setting apart,' as recorded in the Old Testament, was for God to call upon a prophet to anoint one of his servants to fulfill a certain need of ministry. With the advent of Jesus, a new way of anointment was given--a spiritual way. The way involved acceptance, in one's whole being, of the supreme idea of all time: 'I AM THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD!'

"The word 'Christ' means 'the anointed one.' You are anointed of God as you come to know you are the Christ, and not just know about it. You are ordained to build the Church of Christ--Christ Consciousness.

"'Upon this rock I will build my church...' (Matthew 16:18) In so saying, Jesus was not referring to a man named 'Peter.' Rather, He was referring to what Peter had just said in response to Jesus' question: 'Who do you say that I am?' (Matthew 16:15) The Master Teacher was talking about 'the church not made with hands,' or Christ Consciousness, which comes to every man who embraces in faith (Peter) the supreme idea that 'I am the Christ...'

"Anointment is consecretion. Be anointed of the idea, 'I am the Christ...'
This is the ultimate act of ordination--the act of consecrating yourself and the ministry you serve to the divine ideal.

In summary, your ordination began with the COMMANDMENT of God that called you to His work. It continues with the INVESTMENT we give you, a sacred charge to take on the ministerial function. and the APPOINTMENT to carry on that function in the spiritual conduct of a Unity ministry. The ordination involves your COMMITMENT to a divine plan for you, and the responsibility of ARRANGE-MENT of your life, and keeping it arranged in divine order. And above all, your ordination involves an ANOINT-MENT of the whole of your being with the God-given idea that 'you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' (Matthew 16:16)

"In closing, I share with you these words: 'And when they had tonight, commend you not to Unity, or the AUC, or the ministries you serve, or even to the people in those ministries. As of old, we commend you 'to our Lord, on whom (we) believe.' We love you; we bless you; and we expect the best of, and for you!"

References: (1) The Holy Bible as translated from the Peshitta by George M. Lamsa.

(2) Websters Third New International Dictionary (unabridged)

In His name,



Clearinghouse

Request—Unity of Bellevue, Washington would like to obtain 60 copies of the yellow Unity in Song hymnals.

Anyone wishing to respond may write to Unity of Bellevue, 16330 N.E. 4th, Bellevue, Washington 98008.

Request—Unity Church of Flint, Michigan, would like to obtain copies of the out-of-print book, Prayer In The Market Place, a compilation of various articles from different authors.

You may direct your response to Unity Church of Flint, 1001 West Carpenter Road, Flint, Michigan 48505.

Request—Unity Church of Practical Christianity in Buffalo, New York, would like to obtain two copies of the Color Key Songbook for Children, originally published by Unity Christ Church of St Louis, Missouri.

You may respond to this request by writing to Unity Church, 1243 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209.



Rebecca Clark, our minister in Lynchburg, Virginia, and Michael Connell were united in marriage April 27 in

Virginia. Michael is a Psychiatrist in the Lynchburg area. Alan and Kathryn Rowbotham, co-ministers in Roanoke, Virginia, performed the ceremony.

We know each member of the AUC joins in sending best wishes to Rebecca and Michael.

THINKING EXPANSIVELY with R. Scott Sherman

This column indicates not only the expansion efforts of the AUC Outreach Program led by its author in the Chicago area, but will regularly report other expansion projects by any member ministry. If you have an expansion project or idea, please write:

R. Scott Sherman AUC Outreach Director 622 Cress Creek Drive Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Four outreach assisted ministries began Sunday services in September. Several of them are assisted by Unity ministers and teachers from the Great Lakes Region working cooperatively.

MUSKEGON, MI—This newly forming ministry began Sunday evening worship services and Thursday classes late last month. Nine ministers from the Great Lakes Region will be helping to conduct the Sunday evening services. In addition, David Drew, newly assigned to Grand Rapids will teach a six-week series of

classes based upon Randy and Leddy Schmelig's Patterns for Self Unfoldment. This new group hopes to develop to the point where they will have a Unity minister assigned full time by next fall.

CHAMPAIGN/URBANA, IL—This newly forming group began its Sunday Worship services and Thursday evening classes earlier this year. The fall schedule, however, includes the involvement of even more Unity ministers and teachers from Illinois and Indiana. Four licensed teachers and five ministers are alternating at the 2:00 p.m. Sunday worship service, as Thursday classes are led by Karen Kelley of Springfield.

SOUTH BEND, IN—The first Sunday evening worship service in South Bend was held on September 11, when I spoke to this new group. It has been meeting for about a year under the leadership of Amalie Frank of Battle Creek, Michigan, but now includes the assistance of five other ministers and two licensed teachers.

They include Mike Cahall, Bill Kozy, Polly Dozier, Amalie Frank, and Doris Caldwell. The licensed teachers are Judy Sherman and Helice Green.

CRYSTAL LAKE, IL-The Crystal Lake Unity Group which has met for evening classes only during the last 18 months, began its services on September 25 at 11:00 AM. Helice Green, Judy Sherman, and I will lead this enthusiastic group during its formative time. Tuesday evening classes began during the first week of October featuring a six-session series based upon Raymond Moody's Life After Life. The group is seriously considering the purchase of a lovely chalet-like building which was previously used as a little theater playhouse in Crystal Lake. More details on this will be available soon.

In addition, two other outreach assisted groups in the Great Lakes Region are contemplating Sunday services. The Quincy, Illinois, group has begun a minister's fund and is seeking the right place for its Sunday activities, while the Joliet, Illinois, group now meeting under Helice Green's leadership on Sunday afternoon is considering morning worship services.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES Statement of General Fund Operations Four Months Ended 7/31/77

INCOME - OPERATIONS:	July	Year to Date
Love Offerings	\$34,396.11	\$142,819.30
Other Income	1,303.09	9,615.73
	35,699.20	152,435.03
Less: Tithe Transfer	3,439.61	14,281.93
Gross Profit Materials	962.40	5,336.48
Total Income	33,221.99	143,489.58
EXPENSES - OPERATIONS:		
General Office	24,046.68	82,028.26
Education Department	7,516.39	29,168.09
Total Expenses	31,563.07	111,196.35
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	\$ 1,658.92	\$ 32,293.23

MAY WE HELP YOU WITH YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL?

We would like to assist you in any way with your use of the new Sunday school material which is being developed. Youth Education Facilitators are available in every region (and on a sub-regional level) to conduct seminars for your youth education staff in the most effective use of the new material.

If you know who your Youth Education Facilitator is in your region, you may contact her direct and make arrangements. If you do not know who she is, please contact Bill Fischer at the AUC Education Office at Unity Village. We will either get in contact with your Facilitator, or help you to do so.

Ministers: Please advise your Sunday school Superintendents of this service. Recently we learned that some Sunday school Superintendents and Youth Education Directors were not aware that these seminars are available.

May we help you with your Sunday school?

REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT - by Charles Roth, Chairman

This report to you is being written on the last day of August (the deadline for CONTACT material for October is September 1). The Reorganization Committee will have met for its first brainstorming session in September when you read this, and you should be receiving a letter reporting that meeting within a few days. However, here is how things went during the two months following Conference and the appointment of the Committee.

Three letters have been sent to Committee members: June 27, July 27, and August 5. These letters contained the following items: Copy of the official motion by the Conference body so we would be in agreement as to our purpose, the names and addresses and phone numbers of all committee members, a copy of Bert Coffey's and Les Saunders' letter/questionnaire to their regions, a map of the seven Conference regions, a sheet giving statistics as to number of ministries in each region, the Barton Associates Report as recorded in the minutes of the 1976 Conference in the August/September 1976 CONTACT, significant excerpts from the Barton Report, a copy of Eric Butterworth's comments which were given at my request, and a copy of my comments on the purpose of AUC.

In return I have received letters and copies of questionnaires from all of the regional committee members. I have been in touch with Stan Hampson, Scott Sherman, Bill Fischer, and Frank Giudici and each one has been very cooperative and helpful. Frank sent me the minutes (at my request) of the Executive Committee

> Dial-a-prayer . . . 682-4546. Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

meeting of June 14, 15, 23, 1977; the Board of Trustees meeting of June 13, 16, 17, 22; and the Conference itself from June 20 to 23, 1977. Frank also sent me the office copy of the Barton Study Booklet and the office copy of the Barton recommendations.

Scott Sherman and Stan Hampson have sent me job descriptions of the AUC office staff and comments, Paul Barrett, our president, has sent a letter assuring cooperation and prayers.

So you see the main thrust of this first report to you is to tell you specifically what has been done over the short two-month summer period--not just a general letter saying, "Everything is coming along fine!" It is my feeling that the more everyone knows all there is to know, the greater the understanding all have of the problem and suggested solutions.

Remember to get your comments and suggestions in to your regional committee member. I have asked each one to keep statistics on how many respond. If we do a lot of talking, criticizing, and complaining at Conference time, and then "clam up" during the rest of the year and do nothing to help rectify the complaints and criticisms -- then that should be pointed out statistically at Conference time.

May you each have the most successful year of your ministry and reach increasing thousands with Unity's traditionshattering message of Fillmore's practical application of the Teachings of Jesus.



IDEA EXCHANGE

Unity Church of Wichita, Kansas, served by William Cameron, has been using some very effective newspaper ads (such as the one shown at left) to promote the Unity message. Bill reports that the ads have proven to be very successful.

My first "Unity ministry" was to a small class of eight fifth grade boys in Oakland, California, where I later taught junior high school, and still later served as Youth of Unity teacher and sponsor. My own four children have grown up in Unity Sunday schools, and I am keenly aware of both the strengths and limitations of our spiritual education program. As my ministry has expanded and diversified, with a fine minister in charge of our Youth Education Department, I found myself giving less and less attention to the activity of this department.

I have always felt it important that the children feel that their parents' minister is their minister too. From year to year at our Summer Vacation Bible School I would take a half-hour with each of the departments to sing with them and guide them into a short relaxation and meditation experience. Eventually this too became a point of contact I had to relinquish.

With my own direct contact diminishing, I found that numerous young parents had only vague notions of (a) what a Unity Sunday School is like, and (b) what was given to, and what was required of, Unity Sunday School teachers. As I pondered this, it occurred to me that the best way to get the information across would to be to give all the parents and other adults of the congregation a Unity Sunday School experience.

I selected a lesson from our junior high curriculum entitled, "When You Are The Target," dealing with creative response to criticism -- a skill most valuable to young and old alike. Using the excellent detailed teacher's guide for this lesson, I planned to conduct a Sunday School class as the entire content of our Sunday morning services.

I decided against telling the congregation in advance, lest I restimulate old negative tapes about dismal Sunday schools of another era and another brand. The topic, "When You Are The Target," simply appeared in our newsletter as the lecture title, along with the other titles of the month. However, the Sunday prior to the event I did advise the congregation that "Our Service next Sunday will be quite different from our ordinary service. Therefore, you may suggest to friends who have been thinking about coming to Unity, that they wait until after next next Sunday, when we will return to our usual format." Our usual Sunday format is rather formal, and I did not wish to induce shock without warning. The effect of the announcement was a considerable excitement and stirring of curiosity about "What is this unconventional thing John is going to do next Sunday?"

When people entered the sanctuary, they immediately sensed something of the nature of the experience, for they saw that in front of the altar in the center of the chancel had been placed two chairs, with a table between them for the overhead projector which was transmitting to the screen behind the altar a poem which the teacher's guide suggests for use in teaching this lesson:

> At last I'm Beginning to see That to be me I must really be me.

Not what someone Else says, thinks, Or feels ! Should be!

-J. Sig Paulson

Thus their pre-service meditations were keyed toward the idea of thinking lovingly of and for oneself. We dispensed with traditional hymns, accompanied by the organ. When my assistant/ and I came into the chancel and sat down in the chairs, I turned to her and asked her to lead us in singing some love songs, accompanying them on the autoharp. Then the affirmation for the lesson was projected on the screen. We affirmed it, then went into a deeper silence with it, closing with the entire congregation singing Malotte's "Lord's Prayer," which itself was a new experience for our congregation. The experience was heightened by having them stand as we sang the closing line, "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

The education department had given us permission to reprint enough copies of the take-home paper so that we could insert one in each Sunday bulletin. So the congregation was now invited to open up their take-home paper as we looked at the six basic reaction patterns when confronted with criticism. Then we reviewed a few of the life situations and asked them to estimate what their probable response would be to each one.

As suggested by the teacher's guide, we then had a pre-selected and coached person come and sit on the "hot seat" in the chancel with the instruction that they were to remain positive no matter how many discouraging things were said to them by people in the congregation. Then, turning the tables, another coached, preselected person came to the "hot seat" knowing that he or she must appear to remain discouraged no matter how many positive things were said to him. Because of the size of the "class" -- 300 at the first service and 600 at the second service--I was uncertain as to how much vocal input we could get. I should have known that in any group of Unity students of that size there would be a sufficient number of hams who would enjoy egging on the person in the "hot seat;" so I walked through the congregation with my wireless microphone, eliciting various audience comments and responses, each one clearly audible to everyone in the "class."

At the close of the class, our Youth Education Minister was called to the chancel and introduced to the congregation at large, many of whom had not met her, even though they had children enrolled in our Sunday School. This is not too surprising, as we have double sessions of our Sunday School, with over 200 children in attendance each Sunday.

At the time they were also invited to attend the Youth Education Seminar being conducted the following Saturday by our uniquely talented and inspiring Regional Youth Education Coordinator, Helen Nairn from Fort Worth.

As a result, we have not only gained a clearer insight into the possibilities and power of our Sunday School Department, but we had an exceptionally high ratio of participation at the Teacher's Seminar, resulting in at least thirteen new, enthusiastic and capable Sunday School teachers. Not only that, it gave everyone an opportunity to experience an almost total break with the usual Sunday morning routine. Some enthusiasts even begged that we begin to use this new format all the time!

It worked so well for us, that I thought there may be other ministries which would profit from a similar experiment. A cassette of the entire service is available by writing to our Tape Department (enclosing \$3.75) if you are interested in a clearer picture of the kind of stimulation and interest which this experiment awakened.

PLACEMENT

Placement occurs through the activity of Spirit. Your Field Services Coordinator notifies all active Unity ministers of churches seeking leadership through his placement report published separately. Ministers interested in placement notify the Field Services Coordinator who forwards their resumes to churches requesting leadership. Your Field Services Coordinator is directly responsible to the Board of Trustees of the Association of Unity Churches and utilizes the resources of the Placement Committee, Regional Representatives, and the Executive Committee in facilitating placements. Since the last issue of CONTACT, the following activity of Spirit has been accomplished in placement.

EVANSVILLE, **INDIANA** — **John Byrns**, newly ordained minister, began in September.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN – **Jeffrey Shumsky**, newly ordained minister, began as associate with David Williamson on September 1.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN — Nancy Hubbard began September 4. CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE — Bill Williams, newly ordained minister, began Setpember 4.

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS — Carolyne Johanson-Hart, newly ordained minister began September 4.

WACO & TEMPLE, TEXAS — Peggy Elia, newly ordained minister began in September.

SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Luis Perez began September 4. His Spanish work in New York plans to continue under his sponsorship with Hermes Bernard conducting services.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA — John & Jo Harris accepted, effective September 1, this outreach work of Toronto Unity. While Jim Sherman was here for YOU Conference he shared with us the plans for Kitchener, interviewed several persons and invited the Harrises.

"SAVING SOULS OR SAVING EGOS"

by V. Stanford Hampson

Recently a good friend came into my office to inform me that she and her husband were getting a divorce. As she talked, I discovered myself getting angry inside. All the platitudes and rationalization she was voicing were possibly to help hold her together but sounded like the rationale in deciding to discard a toothbrush. It was over; she wasn't asking for insight, only justification. She was seeking to preserve her ego and evidently was not prepared to learn from the experience.

As a counselor, you too are aware of the frustration you feel when couples get divorces at the first sign of trouble. There are many justifications and rationalizations but no apparent learning. Certainly there are times when divorce is a creative answer. The frustration comes for me when the people involved are probably not sure themselves of the reasons and the learning. You can't counsel anyone after the fact; when their minds are made up, any attempts to counsel for insight and growth appear to the

couple as attempts to keep them together -- it's too late.

If only such persons recently out of marriage had sought more to save their souls rather than their egos. If they had approached the desert places of their marriage with the attitude of "How can I grow by this experience," rather than "how can I best save face," they would be much further ahead in life-together or separate.

As a minister, you surely know the frustration of not being allowed to help and only after the fact being asked to confirm that the right thing was done. Yes, and we give our love and prayer support, but we know there is more we, or other professionals, could have done to grow the souls (consciousness) of the persons involved.

I bring to your mind this illustration for a similar parallel in the "marriage" of a minister and a congregation. As you can identify your own frustration in cop-out divorces, you can identify the frustration of the placement committee and myself in a cop-out "divorces" of ministers and churches.

So often the reasons for leaving are likewise vague, rationalizations, manifestations of wanderlust, anticipations that there must be a better minister or a better congregation somewhere over the rainbow. No counselor is invited. We are informed after the bags are packed. All egos are intact—and often no real soul growth has occurred. When several such moves occur, I get frustrated. Certainly one of us in our Association could be a channel of insight to the individuals involved.

When a minister leaves, we try to send in a representative (anyone of us who is closest and is welcome) to see what the facts are and to explain to the congregation the placement procedure. This is valuable but after the decision to split has been made only so much can be accomplished. As in marriage inharmony, the greatest soul growth takes place while the parties are still in one place. The way they see themselves and one another can be dialogued so that honest facts emerge, new directions can be set, and everyone can learn. Then whether they decide to stay together or go separate ways they do so with more illumination.

I've seen this happen to everyone's benefit on a few occasions-1 only wish it were more often. As you know, the conference body voted to have Scott Sherman work with me to coordinate liaison matters. We work closely on these matters since placement is usually involved. Both of us find frequent resistance from ministers to have a liaison person come to them. It is natural that every minister wants to be responsible and work out his or her own problems, but it is also easy to confuse ego with the omnipotence of God and actually seek to preserve that confusion. It is most difficult to be honest with ourselves. Naturally there is also a caution against letting our peers know our weaknesses, especially if some of those individuals may have influence over our future placement. I can understand.

However, silence isn't helpful to placement. Being closed-mouthed backfires. When potential congregations ask me "Why did so-and-so leave his last church?" I can only say I don't know-which unfortuantely looks to some as though I am being protective. Then, they will often and logically contact those former churches and get a picture that may not be too supportive of the minister. I've seen several ministers lose out on a church--before and after being a candidate speaker--because the new church was uncomfortable about the minister's past. Usually such a past is nothing serious. Usually the problem was a personality conflict, (continued on page 9)

wanderlust again, or personal reasons that don't now exist. I don't know so I can't help and Scott's involvement is usually after the fact of a split so he is in the same position as I. Many times I do feel the problems haven't been resolved and worked out—at least the minister hasn't been candid with me. Being ignorant, I can only give superficial support in recommendation.

Our Association is a support system composed of all of us. We can give each other much strength but vulnerability preceeds such actions. Greater honesty with each other will enable us to really be about the Father's business better--"saving souls and not our egos"-- building consciousness in the congregation God has led us rather than moving through life in an air-tight bubble.

I am speaking to myself and each of you. Let's open our hearts to one another. Together we can minimize unnecessary resignations that leave everyone the worse for wear. We can certainly invite liaison before irreconcilable differences occur. If we leave a place, or stay, we can use each challenge to become better people and ultimately better ministers. Our commitment to our ministries is as sacred as any marriage vow. It's up to us. Has God brought us into His work to grow our egos or our souls?

IN MEMORIAM

Victor A. Zarley, former Unity minister in Akron, Ohio, made his transition August 9, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Cremation for Vic was in Las Vegas, and a memorial service was held August 21 at the Unity center in Akron.

We extend special blessings of love and God-speed to Vic in his eternal ongoing.

LICENSED TEACHER NEEDED

Andy Lucas, minister in Colorado Springs has announced the need for a licensed teacher to act as associate minister also. If anyone is interested, you may contact Andy at: Unity-in-the-Rockies, 4950 North Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907.

GRADUATION AND ORDINATION - 1977



Pictured above is the graduation and ordination class of 1977. The service was held on Friday evening, August 12. William L. Fischer, Director of the School for Ministerial and Religious Studies presented the diplomas of graduation. Paul C. Barrett, minister of Unity Temple in Kansas City and President of the Association of Unity Churches, was the ordaining minister.

Front row left to right: Peggy Elia, who is assigned to the ministry in Waco-Temple, Texas. Beatrice Copeland, who will be pioneering a new ministry in New York City. The next person is Barbara Provost, who is serving the ministry in Massillon, Ohio. Then comes Viola Williamson, who has accepted leadership in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At the far right seated is Pauline Beauregard, who is currently serving as associate minister in San Diego, California.

Second row standing, left to right: Marilyn Witherspoon, who will be remaining in the Lee's Summit area. S. Colleen Graham, who is presently at work serving both Bozeman and Livingston, Montana. She is followed by John Harris. John and his wife, Jo, have accepted leadership in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. Jack Fries, who is the minister in St. Joseph, Missouri. Then comes John Byrns, who is serving in Evansville, Indiana. David Drew follows, and David is now serving in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Graeme Johnson has returned to Australia, where he will pioneer a new ministry. W. Hampton Williams follows, he has accepted leadership in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Next comes Jane Waddington, who is the new minister in St. Charles, Illinois. Carolyn Johanson-Hart is last in this row, and she is the new minister in Little Rock, Arkansas. (Bill Fischer and Paul Barrett are also in this row.)

Top row; left to right: Chad O'Shea is the first, and he is currently serving in Richmond, Virginia. Then comes Gerry Melin, the new minister in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Ross Tucker, who is serving as minister in Decatur, Illinois. Jeff Shumsky, who has accepted an associateship in Detroit, Michigan. Robert Hungerford, who is the new minister in Topeka, Kansas. Pictured next is John Wingfield, who is unassigned. He is followed by Dick Everts, who is the newly-accepted minister in Burien, Washington. Dennis Neagle, the new minister in northeast Kansas City. And finally is Robert Hill, minister in Culver City, California.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO WRITE TO EACH OF THESE NEW UNITY MINISTERS AND WELCOME THEM INTO THE FAMILY OF UNITY FIELD MINISTERS?

LICENSED TEACHER RECOGNITION

In July, 1977, the Licensing Committee met with and approved twenty three applicants for licensed teacher recognition. The Board of Trustees ratified such recognitions and we are pleased to welcome into the AUC: Edgar Hart, c/o Unity Church of Little Rock, 2610 Reservoir Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207; Kathryn M. Smith, 167 NE Avenue, Delray Beach, Florida 33444; Christine W. Jacques, 810 East Langsford Road, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063; Bette Robinson, 1808 Aden, Fort Worth, Texas 76116; Marleen Davis, 924 Westwind Cricle, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063; Callie Hoover, 5500 Trumbull, Detroit, Michigan 48482; Annie Spencer, 22B Lower River Terrace, South Brisbane, Australia 4104; Maxine Susong, 6826 Truxton Drive, Dallas, Texas 75231; Marilyn Williams Johnson, 6220 Keokea Pl., Honolulu, Hawaii 96825; Catherine Benjamin, Unity Village, Missouri 64065; Beverly Jean Alberstadt, 430 Bellaire Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70124; Linda Melin, c/o Unity Christian Fellowship, 2409 N. 8th Street, Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081 Betty Sikking, 10975 SE Vista View Lane, Clackamas, Oregon 97015; Goldie B. Brown, 12400 Layola Avenue, NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112; Lucille Jones, 1119 N. Richmond, Lehigh Acres, Florida 33936; Maryan Shumway, 5741 Antioch, Merriam, Kansas 66202; Dona Mae Bramel, Rt. 1, Box 81, Oakley, Illinois 62552; Dawn Brooks, 1800 Taylor Avenue, N., No. 404, Seattle, Washington 98109; Joanne M. Dator, 1834 Jackson Bluff Road, Apt. 2F, Tallahassee, Florida 32304; Mary A. Finch, 4614 Seebaldt, Detroit, Michigan 48204; Mae A. Harris, 19736 Oakfield, Detroit, Michigan 48482; RoseMary Hatfield, 300 NE 130 Street, North Miami, Florida 33161; and Mary Hayes, 6411 South Rhodes, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

We have listed the mailing addresses of these new licensed teachers with the thought that you might want to write each of them a note of congratulations and welcome.



FIRST LICENSED TEACHER RECOGNITION FOR INSTITUTO UNITY de CHRISTIANISMO PRACTICO

A special meeting of an Ad Hoc Licensing Committee for the Association of Unity Churches met on July 30, 1977, in Santurce, Puerto Rico to examine four Spanish-speaking candidates for Licensed Teacher Recognition. The Committee met with and approved four candidates. The Board of Trustees of AUC ratified such recognitions and we are proud to welcome into the AUC: Carmen Badillo Torres, Edge WateHouse Apartments, Apt. A7W, Santurce Condado, Puerto Rico 00907; Zoraida Colondres, Urb, Alborado I-3, Ponce, Puerto Rico 00731; Luis Montero, 2nd Street B 20 Country Estates, Bayamon, Puerto Rico 00619; and Eva Toro, Tigris 1602 Urb El Paraiso, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, 00923.

These four licensed teachers are the first full-fledged graduates of the Instituto. This school has a six-year program for graudation. This is the sixth year it has been conducted, and these are the first graduates.

YOU/YAU REPORTS..... Don Knight

Young Adults of Unity Report — The 1977 YAU Retreat was a special growing experience for the young adults who attended. The experiential workshop led by Tom Coates, minister of Pittsburgh Unity, proved to be an in-depth, enlightening move into oneself that produced revealing insights into the Self. Tom shared techniques and rich ideas for continuing the efforts toward building an ever new and higher consciousness. All agreed that the retreat offered young adults true "Stepping Stones" to build a higher consciousness.

The ministerial regions were well represented, and the business meetings that focused on the future of Young Adults activity, resulted in the following persons becoming responsible in their respective regions either as Coordinator or Assistant Coordinator:

Northwest - Sarah Gunning, Coordinator (Seattle, Washington)

Janet Woodward, Assistant Coordinator

(Olympia, Washington)

West Central - Kim McMillon, Coordinator

(Merced, California)

Southwest - Ken Harrison, Coordinator

(Cardiff, California 92007)

David Vetter, Assistant Coordinator

(Tustin, California 92680)

South Central - Jeanne Miller, Coordinator - North

(Independence, Missouri)

Bill Hawthorne, Asst. Coordinator-North

(Knobnoster, Missouri)

Penni Pruitt, Assistant Coordinator-North

(Riverside, Missouri)

Steve Rankin, Coordinator - South

(Spring, Texas)

Great Lakes - Jerry Tucciarone, Coordinator

(Minneapolis, Minnesota)

Mary Holdinski, Assistant Coordinator

(Westland, Michigan)

Pat Pearson, Assistant Coordinator

(Grand Rapids, Michigan)

Southeast - Wes Nolan, Coordinator - North

(Atlanta, Georgia)

David Ross, Assistant Coordinator - North

(Atlanta, Georgia)

Jim & Barbara Hobbs, Coordinators

(Birmingham, Alabama)

Eastern – Janis Zsadanyi, Coordinator

(Queens Village, New York)

Judith Gormandy, Assistant Coordinator

(New York, New York)

These young adults have accepted the responsibilities of steering the direction of developing programs for future retreat activities here at the Village and in their region. They would like to hear from the young adults in your center. Please write to Don Knight, YAU Coordinator, Unity Village, Missouri 64065 for further details and addresses.

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DIAL-A-PRAYER MESSAGES!

Here are three Dial—A—Prayer messages from **Donald Curtis**, **Dallas**, **Texas**. You are welcome to adapt or use as they are. One catch, if you enjoy the concept—send at least three of your own messages to CONTACT to be shared with our ministers in a forthcoming issue.

INNER CONTACT

Quietly now, I go to the center of my being and find contact with the infinite oneness of the Spirit. There is one life and I am living it joyously. There is one truth and I am knowing it clearly. There is one love and I am expressing it warmly.

I am attuned to the perfect pattern of myself. I am a wonderful person because I am made in the image and likeness of God. My destiny is to become perfect even as the Father in heaven is perfect. I diligently apply myself mentally, emotionally, spiritually, physically and materially to bring the kingdom of heaven about in my world. I go about the business of consciously creating circumstances of good for myself and others.

I am dedicated to service, and I feel the consciousness of Divine Spirit moving through me, uplifting me and making me whole today and always. And so it is. Thank You, Father.

TRUE PROSPERITY

Prosperity is answered prayer. All that the Father has is mine. It is the Father's good pleasure to give me the kingdom. I seek first the inner kingdom of abundance, and all good things are added unto me. I attune my mind to all that is bright, beautiful and good. All worthwhile things are waiting to come to me. I have an attitude of expectancy.

I anticipate all impending events with enthusiasm and expectation of good. I am filled with fertile, constructive ideas. I think well about other people. I think well about my world, about my job and about all things in my life. I am grateful, because I know that good is unfolding through me on every level.

Thank You, Father, for the abundance that is mine. I am successful and prosperous in every way. I give thanks for the good that is unfolding through me now. And so it is. Thank You, Father.

THE INNER SOURCE

I go to the center and find there the source of infinite power, infinite healing and infinite abundance. The kingdom of all good things is within me. As I seek first the kingdom, all other things are added unto me.

As I pray, I go into the closet and close the door, and make contact with the Father, the infinite power, the infinite love, and infinite creative activity of the universe itself.

I feel the working of the Father through my being today. I am strong, vital, alive, alert and attuned to perfect circulation, perfect assimilation, perfect elimination. I am established in deep inner peace. Happiness, order and harmony unfold in my life today.

The creative law of abundance is flowing through me, and all good things are expressed in my life on every level in every way. And so it is. Thank You, Father.



YOU/YAU REPORTS

(continued from page 10)

Youth of Unity Report — An especially effective YOU Sponsors' Seminar was held on the weekend of September 9–11 at Unity-In-The-Pines, Brooksville, Florida, for the sponsors of the Southeastern Region. It was more like a Seminar/Retreat because of the excellent retreat facility pioneered by Paul Funk, minister. This exceptionally, distinctive retreat setting provided just the right atmosphere for an in-depth coverage of all phases of responsibilities that sponsors have the possibility of facing. Southeastern's Regional Coordinator, Joan Goodman, who spearheaded the formation of this weekend seminar, shared her expertise in handling YOU matters from teaching know-how to the most difficult problem areas that a sponsor could experience in YOU.

From all the extremely favorable comments that the sponsors voiced in how productive and beneficial the seminar had been for them and from my own personal observation of the weekend activities, seminars for sponsors are essential for developing stability in YOU leadership, and for the subsequent uniformity within a YOU region. I firmly believe that whatever manner we

can provide a more stable basis for a structured but yet flexible medium to effect sound spiritual growth in our teenage youth, we should extend ourselves toward promoting the ideas to provide the opportunities that will make the desired spiritual growth a reality for our Youth of Unity. Promoting and activating plans for sponsor seminars is a grand way to begin. You are encouraged to help in your way to set the wheels in motion for a YOU sponsors' seminar in your region to bolster the sponsor in his/her efforts to be able to give the YOU'er much more than they are now able from their present understanding.

NEW ARRIVAL

A very special welcome into the Unity family goes forth to Troy Robert Caesar, newborn son of Howard and Diane Caesar. Troy made his entrance into this life expression on August weighing in at 7 lbs., 8 oz.

We rejoice with Howard, who is minister of Unity of Olympia, Washington, and Diane, and know that the Caesar family is being especially blessed.



REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL NEWS with George Rieger:

A new building was dedicated August 7 by the members of Unity Church of Joplin, Missouri, and by the minister, Roger Tiffany. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a covered-dish luncheon was shared by 80 guests. The entertainment was provided by The Terrifics, the Unity of Joplin band.

The new building, located at **20th and Highview**, is "L" shaped, with a sanctuary that holds about 100. The social hall and four Sunday School rooms take care of the educational and social programs.

Other summer activities included a ten-day Vacation Meditation School for the 6 through 15-year-olds. Roger also attended an eight-week divorce seminar at Missouri Southern State College, taught by the executive director of the Ecumenical Campus Ministry and two psychologists.



Unity Church of Joplin, Missouri.



SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL NEWS

with Loren Flickinger:

After October 1, Dana J. Voght, minister of Unity Center of Huntsville, Alabama, will be holding services in the new church building at 1328 Governor's Drive S.E., Huntsville, Alabama 35801. Dana says the sanctuary seats more than 100 and the building, situated on about an acre of land, has seven classrooms and a minister's study. Workmen are currently busy removing a huge baptismal fount and a pair of wading boots.



Unity Center of Huntsville, Alabama.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS with Jack Boland:

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in August for the new Sunday School-Fellowship building at Royal Oak Unity Temple in Royal Oak, Michigan. The main building will be remodeled, also, says minister Onita Meyer. The ceremony was followed by the annual picnic, held in the church basement because of rain.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL NEWS with Candida Wright:

Unity of Reno, Nevada, served by Carlton and Jacklyn Buboltz, opened its dedicated prayer line in August, which will be staffed from 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Jackie reports, "Callers will hear a recorded message at

other times. Staffing will be increased until eventually it will have workers on duty 24 hours a day."

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL NEWS with **G. Arthur Hammons:**

A new Maas-Rowe Carillon has been installed in the Prayer Tower of Unity of Tucson, Arizona. The carillon is the only one of its kind anywhere, according to minister Larry Swartz. "Most carillons must be programmed at the factory on rolls similar to those used in player pianos, but this one can be programmed by a musician playing at the console. Thus the range of music that can be played is much greater," reports Larry.



Maas-Rowe Carillon installed at Unity of Tucson, Arizona.

A unique emblem for a Unity church, combining the winged globe with the traditional cross, now adorns the front of the Unity Church of North Hollywood and Burbank, California. The emblem was carved by church member Ross Wheat, as was a similar ornament inside the sanctuary.

The symbolism depicts the relation be-(continued on page 13)

REGIONAL NEWS

(continued from page 12)

tween spirit, soul and body--the wings of the soul lifting the globe or body along the spiritual dimension, represented by the staff.



Winged globe emblem at Unity Church of North Hollywood and Burbank, Calif.



WHO'S WHO AT UNITY SCHOOL



Harold Pennington, Purchasing Agent for Unity School.

Everyone who works at or visits Unity Village is in some way

affected by the workings of the Purchasing Department and by the expertise of Purchasing Agent Harold W. Pennington. Harold and his assistant Mrs. Linda Stohr are responsible for purchasing nearly all of the thousands of items used at Unity School of Christianity.

About the only things the Purchasing Department is not responsible for are printing materials, such as fine paper and ink used in publishing, and the food that is served at Unity Inn. Everything else, from paper clips to computers, is purchased through Harold's department.

Harold Pennington has worked at Unity School for twenty-eight years and has been purchasing agent for the past ten. He and his wife **Joyce** live in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, twenty-one miles from Unity Village. They have a married daughter, **Diana Redwine**, and a son, **Mike**, who is a senior at the University of Missouri at Columbia.

The importance of the Purchasing Department to the effective operation of Unity School cannot be overstated. "Centralized purchasing is always a must in any organization," Harold says. Many hours are invested in research to find vendors of products and services who can supply quality at the most reasonable price. To keep track of the more than one thousand vendors associated with Unity School, Harold uses a computerized data system that assigns each vendor a number and records purchases in the computer memory for once-a-month payment. He foresees increased use of the computer to help him do a better job.

When a department at Unity School wishes to purchase an item, a requisition form is completed and sent to Harold's office. A purchasing order is issued and Harold chooses a suitable vendor Some vendors will accept orders over the telephone; others require a written purchase order before they will deliver. Harold says: "We have a beautiful relationship with all the vendors, perhaps because of the Unity environment."

To give some idea of the large quantity purchases that centralized purchasing makes possible, Harold cites the 500-case orders of paper towels--more than enough to last an average household a lifetime. Another example is the motel's annual order of 100 dozen sheets and pillowcases.

The Purchasing Department works closely with other departments to assure that their needs are met. If a particular item is requisitioned and Harold believes a comparable substitute might be more practical, he checks with whomever placed the order before he changes it.

"You have to work in harmony with all departments in order to have centralized purchasing, and you have to have centralized purchasing to save money." Harold says.

With seventy-five incoming calls and thirty orders a day, the work of the Purchasing Department has increased by one-third over a year ago.

When he is not working at his desk making sure Unity School's purchasing needs are being met, Harold might be playing golf, fishing, or performing his duties as Municipal Judge of Pleasant Hill, Missouri. Judge Pennington holds court every second Monday night, and handles all complaints involving suspected violations of city ordinances.

Whether ordering light bulbs from a local supplier or heavy machinery from a factory in West Germany, the Purchasing Department contributes greatly to the overall ability of Unity School to effectively meet the spiritual needs of millions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 1 Youth Education Seminar, Lansing, Mich., hosted by Unity of Greater Lansing, conducted by Judy Sherman
- † 1 Youth Education Seminar, Fresno, Calif., hosted by Unity Church of Fresno, conducted by Shirley Bonham
 - 2-6 Eastern Regional Conference, Sheraton Brock, Niagara Falls, Ontario
 - 4 Post Graduate Program, Niagara Falls, Ontario
 - 8 Youth Education Seminar, Pontiac, Mich., hosted by Unity in Pontiac, conducted by Judy Sherman
- † 8 Youth Education Seminar, San Jose, Calif., hosted by Christ Church, Unity, conducted by Shirley Bonham
- 14–16 Northern California Unity Students Annual Retreat, Asilomar, California
- 15 Youth Education Seminar, Indianapolis, Ind., hosted by Unity Truth Center, conducted by Judy Sherman
- 15-28 UICE Study Program-Session 5, Unity Village, Mo.
- 16-19 Southeastern Regional Conference, Naples, Florida, hosted by Unity of Naples
- 18 Post Graduate Program, Naples, Florida
- Youth Education Seminar, Livonia, Mich., hosted by Unity of Livonia, conducted by Judy Sherman
- 24-26 Southwest Regional Retreat, Palm Springs Spa Hotel, Palm Springs, California
- 29— UICE Study Program—Session 6, Unity Village, Mo. Nov. 11

NOVEMBER

- Youth Education Seminar, Oak Park, III., hosted by Unity Church of Oak Park, conducted by Judy Sherman
- †12 Youth Education Seminar, St. Louis, Mo., conducted by Judy Sherman
- 19-25 Thanksgiving Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.

5

DECEMBER

21-27 Christmas Retreat, Unity Village, Mo.



1978

JANUARY

- 16-20 AUC Mid-Year Council of Committee meetings, Unity Village, Mo.
- Youth Education Seminar, Honolulu, Hawaii, hosted by Unity Church of Hawaii, conducted by Judy Sherman

APRIL

24-26 South Central Unity Churches Association (SCUCA)
Regional Conference, Wichita, Kansas, hosted by Unity
Church of Wichita

JUNE

11-22 AUC Pre-Conference & Conference, Unity Village, Mo.

† Additions