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CONTACT...CONTACT...CONTACT...CONTACT...CONTACT

This magazine is published monthly (usually) by the Association of Unity Churches for its member ministries and ministers. It is not for sale or for public interest; yet any interested person is welcome to receive it.

CONTACT...CONTACT...CONTACT...CONTACT...CONTACT

CONTACT STAFF

Editor: *V. Stanford Hampson*

Associate Editors: *Gladys Branscum, Marilyn Helvey, Rod McCallum, Ruth Hill*

Graphics & Layout: *Cheryl Vestal*

Production: *Art Bassett, Bob Eagen, Ken Huff*

Circulation Department: *Sara Watson*

NOTE: *Special thanks for this month go to Anna Finfrock for her excellent graphics and layout.*

AUC President's Letter

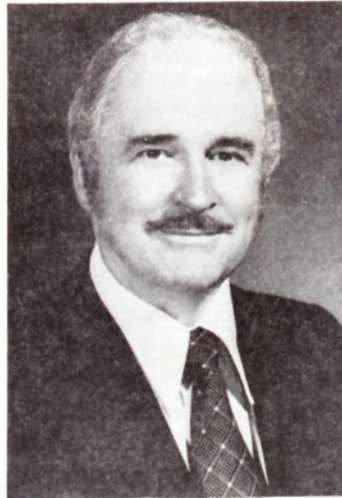
Dear Friends,

My presidential year is rounding the third quarter turn and is moving fast toward the home stretch.

It has been an interesting and rewarding year thus far, though I must confess one of great challenge. As a responsible minister of AUC, it is not a challenge I would choose to turn away from, for I consider it not only a duty, but a privilege to serve our movement through the Association in areas where I can make a viable contribution. However, it has been a challenge to do a wholly adequate job in light of the fact that the office of President has become a more active and responsible position than perhaps at any time in our AUC history.

The extra burden of responsibility upon the President's office has come about in major part because of the decentralization of leadership authority within the AUC office. Primarily, I refer to the fact that the AUC office now has no active, full-time Executive Director, or someone filling a corresponding position. (I would interject that the three executive department heads of our AUC office have done an admirable job this year in carrying out their assigned responsibilities, especially considering the transitional state of things in the Association.)

The ideal behind increased presidential responsibility may well be good with the President representing,



Paul C. Barrett

in the most direct way, the consciousness of the Board of Trustees of AUC, and hopefully that of the people. Nevertheless, I must challenge the practicality of this ideal from the standpoint of my own personal experience this year.

I am not convinced that AUC can function at the greatest level of efficiency and productive service without someone in a position of higher executive authority in the AUC office. There are too many hardcore decisions that need to be made on almost a daily basis. These reflect greatly upon our ability to rightly and efficiently serve the needs of our membership that arise daily. Many of these needs cannot practically await the

redtape action of making decisions through decentralized authority, individuals or groups.

I add that I cannot surmise how, considering my responsibility to my own ministry, I could have done even half of the limited job I have done as President of AUC were I not here on the doorstep of headquarters.

I contend we should consider seriously the re-institution of a position of centralized authority in the AUC office - the establishment of a full-time office of executive leadership accountable directly to our Board of Trustees. It would be set up with appropriate safeguards to insure that accountability. It would be supplied with sufficient policy guidelines, furnished by the Board and membership, to do an adequate job. This office could maintain continual direct contact with the President as to the making of major decisions, and the President could maintain appropriate contact with the Board.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this point of view. I bless you all - and I do trust Spirit moving through us to bring about the perfect plan for our AUC.

In His name,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul".

AUC POLICY NEWS

During the Board of Trustees meetings in January, 1978, the Board approved the motion that all policies created by the Board and the Conference Body would appear in CONTACT so that all members would be apprised of changes. Henceforth after these meetings a report will so appear in this publication. Obviously, the first item of interest at this time is the notification that new policies will appear for you in CONTACT.

Last year a special committee Chaired by Arthur Hammons was commissioned by the Board to research alternate methods for exception to ordination. This committee's recommendations were accepted by the Board and that entire new procedure appears elsewhere in this issue. (page 5)

Last year at Conference it was voted to mail out all minutes. David Schumacher, Springfield, Missouri, even volunteered to cover the expenses of such a printing and mailing should it be necessary. No time was specified, however. It was moved that the Association mail all minutes to the AUC membership at its own expense. These minutes were defined to cover only actual points of business, deleting any and all items of a sensitive and personal nature for the preservation of the integrity of individuals involved. Because these policy changes will be reported in CONTACT as soon as possible following the meeting, the minutes will therefore be mailed out six weeks prior to Conference to expedite the reading of the minutes.

It was passed that our Banker's Life Annuity Program be extended to cover AUC office employees and all center ministry employees. The passing of this motion makes it possible for not only our office staff, but the office staff in your ministry to be covered by both of our retirement programs, Money Purchase Pension Plan and Banker's Life.

After some discussion about a special code of ethics for SMRS students, it was voted that the AUC Code of Ethics be adapted for the students.

It was approved that the Synoptic Study of Unity be utilized as an approved text for licensed teacher recognition. It was also reaffirmed that licenses for teachers be renewed annually only if they are affiliated with an AUC member ministry.

The Post Graduate Committee has been upgraded to a full-time standing committee. This will enable the committee to have more time to create outstanding post graduate programs.

Two new policies affecting placement have been established by the Board. The first one is "Occasionally ministers move from church to church without benefit to themselves or the ministries involved. Therefore, it has become a policy that any minister who moves for the second time within a four-year period not including time spent as an associate

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or assistant minister, may be required to meet with the Placement Committee at the discretion of the Placement Committee before additional placement can occur." This policy is to assist a minister and ministries in placement in an orderly loving way. Also, after a minister is reinstated to active Unity service, there has been no time duration for which that reinstatement is valid. If the minister does not actively seek placement, a second policy would go into effect: "When a minister has been reinstated after an absence or has been ordained and does not respond to placement opportunities within six months, he or she may be required to meet with the placement committee and/or the Board of Trustees before placement can continue. "

Welcome Aboard!

At the Board meetings in January, Ed Hoge applied and was reinstated. He is currently seeking placement and his friends will be happy to know of his current address, which is 3010 N. State Highway 20, Oak Harbor, WA 98277. Two new ministries are a part of our Association now: Unity in the Seven Hills, Lynchburg, Virginia, currently seeking its new minister was accepted into membership in January. Also, Unity of Raleigh, Raleigh, North Carolina, Jim Rosemergy, Minister, has incorporated and been accepted as a member of our Association. You would want to welcome these two ministries into our fellowship and their addresses are: Unity in the Seven Hills, 4709 Myrtle Street, Lynchburg, VA 24502; and Unity of Raleigh, Box 31107, Raleigh, NC 27612.

Nancy Neal from Miami, Florida, was granted licensed minister status, which is subject to the Conference Body approval in June. Also, Mary Katherine MacDougall was authorized by the Board for Ordination pending Conference Body approval, and her ministry in Austin, Texas was made eligible for membership.

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:

REGIONAL NEWS

"... and a little child shall lead them." For this issue, CONTACT is adapting to Cheryl's absence in bringing forth her first-born child. We are being led into shortcuts which caused us to delete our regional news and idea exchange. Our goal is to be back to normal by May.

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS - Bob Wasner was unanimously accepted to begin February 15.

HOUSTON, TEXAS - Sig and Jane Paulson began March 1.

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON - Marilyn Witherspoon accepted to begin as Assistant Minister on February 1.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY - Charles Lelly started March 5.

CINCINNATI, OHIO - Frank Hanson began February 16.

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA - Becky Clark began February 12.

QUARTERLY PLACEMENT REPORT

October - December 1977

Openings As of October 1	Senior Ministers - 13	Associate Members - 0
New Openings During Quarter	Senior Ministers - 9	Associate Members - 2
Number of Ministers Retired	0	
Number of Ministers on Sabbatical or Leave of Absence.	4	
Transitions	1	
Number of Reinstatements	Ministers - 0	
Number of Ministers Ordained	0	
Number of Placements Completed . . .	10	
Number of Open Ministries as of December 31, 1977	14	



"ON LEAVING A MINISTRY"

by Stan Hampson

There are many ways to leave a ministry, even as there are many reasons for leaving. Two of our fine Unity ministers recently left their ministries. John Rankin prepared this outstanding article for his bulletin just as he resigned from the Golden Pyramid. After talking with Miki Bowen, CONTACT asked her to put her ideas in writing and it is a privilege to share her comments with you.

ETHICS EQUALS LOVE

by John Rankin

Since Unity does not give its members rules of conduct, you may not realize that Unity ministers have pledged themselves to certain ethical obligations to each other. Each of these rules is an expression of love; certainly a love for each other as persons, but particularly a love for the Unity movement as a whole.

If you understand these ethical concepts, you can help strengthen your church and give wise, loving support to your new minister. Necessary and important changes will take place under his leadership, and he will need not only your love and prayers, but also your active, loyal support even if you do not understand the reasons for the changes at first.

As a member of this church, you will be looking to him for guidance, rather than to me (John Rankin). If you have grievances or questions, take them up with him, rather than with me. If you have need for the special spiritual services of christening, marriage, or funeral occasions, you may be hesitant because "The new minister doesn't know me," but you will find that he serves you well and with much love anyhow; so let him serve you in these important seasons of life. It is an excellent way of letting your love for him grow and unfold.

Some have wondered if you would at least see me in church from time to time. Probably not, or rarely! Do not think for a moment that my absence indicates any lack of interest or love. On the contrary, experience shows that frequent attendance by a former minister impedes the forward movement of the

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ON LEAVING A MINISTRY

Miki L. Bowen



Quite often when there is a change of leadership in a Unity ministry, there is also a period when the church is left without a leader. This is unfortunate in a way, for it means obtaining an interim minister, sometimes for months, during which time the ministry suffers, the congregation suffers, and the incoming minister suffers as a result. Occasionally, the ministry is strengthened by this experience when changing leadership, whether or not the relationship with the outgoing minister has been somewhat ideal.

I recently left a ministry where I had a great relationship with the board and the congregation - and have been asked often: "Why did you leave your church when things were going so well for you?"

Well, during the time I was training to become a minister, I was told that a Unity ministry belongs first of all to God, then to Jesus Christ, then to the congregation that supports it but - NEVER to the minister, who is there by divine appointment to serve the needs of the people. Ideally, through serving, the minister's needs are met and fulfilled, too. I was also told that I would know when it was time for me to leave a ministry as Spirit would reveal it to me - "loud and clear." And this is exactly what happened to me last year when the decision was made to leave the center I was serving.

San Luis Obispo Unity Church was a very small work in 1971 when I was asked to go there. The former leader had been ill for some time so there was a succession of temporary leaders: ordained ministers and licensed teachers. Then the minister resigned and a retired ordained minister served as interim leader for three months. By this time, many people had left the church but when I arrived, there was a nucleus of good Truth students who had helped to hold the group together and were ready and eager to grow with a "permanent" leader. For six years we worked together and built up a fine congregation, obtaining a good piece of property which is valued at almost four times what we paid for it.

We had a real "love affair" going in our church - so why did I leave? All the "reasons" I might give add up to just one thing: the Father sent me to San Luis Obispo to do a work. I did what He sent me to do, and when that was completed, Spirit said it was time for me to move on to something else where my talents could be best utilized. This is unfolding itself in San Jose and in our Region. My leaving when I did opened up the ministry for a fine young couple who were ready and "needing" a place to serve.

When announcing the decision to leave, I explained to the board and the congregation as best I could why I must go and that I would help them obtain another minister if they wanted me to, promising to remain until the person arrived. Well, Spirit had the RIGHT couple (this was what I felt was needed!) who were ready and eager to serve in a small town in California. The board members made their own selection from

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EXCEPTIONS TO ORDINATION

New Policies: January, 1978

Exceptions for ordination have been more clearly defined, and a plan for determining a course of action, as approved by the Board of Trustees, is outlined below. It replaces Article 5 of the Licensing and Ordination Policies found in the 1978 Yearbook on page 167.

As this recommendation is worked with and applied to those who feel that they are exceptions to the SMRS training program and goes through a time of determination, your input from the field will surely be appreciated. Your input will aid the Board and the "Exceptions to Ordination Committee" to know and respond to the feelings and wishes of the field. Contact Arthur Hammons, Chairman.

Those seeking exception to all other points of these policies may apply to the President of the AUC upon application form available from the Executive Office of the AUC.

Said applicant must be an exceptional person who is teaching Truth principles as interpreted by Unity and who is demonstrating outstanding effectiveness in oral communication, successful interpersonal relationships, and leadership in a dynamic growing ministry. This person must also be evidencing emotional, mental, and physical stability as well as demonstrating a working knowledge of the laws of abundance. Exceptional candidates will be ordained according to their capability to conduct a successful individual ministry, not isolated to a specific center or a specific spouse.

Application shall be referred by the President to the "Educational Review Committee" (ERC) of the Association of Unity Churches. This Committee shall be comprised of members of the faculty of SMRS and Unity School and other Unity ministers in the local area. The current Committee will be William L. Fischer, Chairman; Phil White, Stan Hampson, George Hilbert, Paul Barrett, George Rieger, with Hypatia Hasbrouck as alternate. The Educational Review Committee shall review the application and:

1. Arrange for tests and interviews with the applicant or refer questionable applicant back to the President for further action at Board level.
2. The Educational Review Committee shall conduct in-depth testing and interviews (minimum of three days) with applicant and take the following action:
 - A. Prepare a recommendation to the Licensing and Ordination Committee recommending ordination or licensed minister recognition or other action of said applicant. Information copy to Board and advise applicant of this action.
 - B. If additional training in SMRS, a field ministry, or educational institution is deemed necessary, the ERC shall make a recommendation to the Board delineating such requirements similar to the required standards for graduation from SMRS. Upon Board action a letter shall be forwarded to applicant advising him of this requirement. Applicant who agrees to complete these requirements, shall make arrangements with the ERC to complete training. If applicant declines recommendations, no further action shall be taken. (The Board may return recommendation to ERC with revisions.)
 - C. Upon satisfactory completion of additional training, the ERC shall forward a recommendation for ordination or licensed minister recognition to L & O Committee.
 - D. If applicant does not satisfactorily complete training, the ERC shall advise the Board of Trustees by letter. Upon Board approval, the applicant will then be advised of this.
 - E. At the next regularly scheduled meeting of the License and Ordination Committee, the applicant will be interviewed and a recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for ordination, licensed minister recognition, or other action. The Board of Trustees will render a decision and issue a licensed teacher certificate, or invite the individual for ordination as soon as possible, or advise the individual of other action.



ALAN ROWBOTHAM
AUC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER

Alan Rowbotham and his wife, **Kathryn**, are ministers of Unity of Roanoke Valley, in Roanoke, Virginia. Alan is a native of England and came to the United States in 1967 to work as manager of the filmsetting branch of a typesetting company in Chicago, Illinois.

After ordination in 1971, Alan served for a short time as Associate Minister in Akron, Ohio, then moved to Roanoke to be married and to work with Kathryn in developing a new ministry there. Starting with a core group of just a handful of people six and a half years ago, Unity of Roanoke Valley now has 250 members and a new building on 28 acres of land. "It is beautifully located," says Alan, "with extensive views of the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains. We have been in the building one year and already need to think of expansion. Future plans include more classroom space, retreat cottages, a Montessori school, and a main auditorium."

A past-president of Eastern Unity Conference, Alan was elected to represent his region on the Reorganization Committee and now also serves on the Board of Trustees as Regional Representative of the Eastern Region.



MIKI BOWEN
AUC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER

Miki Bowen was ordained a Unity minister in 1960 after serving for 2½ years as leader of the Unity Church in Castro Valley, CA, under special dispensation of the Field Department of Unity School, until completing the training program.

A health challenge caused her to resign that position in 1963 when she assumed the role of Regional Minister in the Youth of Unity in Northern California, serving in that capacity for 8 years. In 1965 she also began serving as Minister of Youth Education and teacher of adult classes at Christ Church Unity in San Jose, CA.

From 1971 until 1977, she was the minister at Unity Christ Church in San Luis Obispo, CA and is currently serving again at Christ Church Unity in San Jose as Associate Minister. She is presently available as a guest speaker in Northern California and other Unity Centers throughout the country.

When Miki went to Castro Valley and to San Luis Obispo, the congregations were small, using rented quarters and unable to pay a "living wage." Under her dedicated leadership, both groups grew and prospered sufficiently to purchase their own buildings and to offer a good salary to the men who succeeded her.

Ever since her ordination, Miki has served on a variety of UMA and AUC committees. She is currently a member of the new AUC Reorganization Committee, as a representative from the AUC Board.

Wedding Bells



John (Jack) Byrns and **Lee Stahl** were married on December 19. The service was held in Wichita, Kansas, and conducted by Bill Cameron. John is the minister of the Unity Church of Evansville in Indiana. Lee is a second year SMRS student. They are looking forward to a co-ministry after Lee's graduation in August.

On Wednesday, March 15, **Bob Sicking** and **Beth McCarter**, both of Ft. Worth, Texas, were married. The intimate ceremony was performed at sunset by Bob's mother, Sue, in the family home in Santa Monica, California. "May your joy be a living ocean joining the shores of your eternal souls."



NEW ARRIVAL

All of us join in greeting **Brandi Elizabeth Vestal**, newborn daughter of **Cheryl and Bob Vestal**. Brandi finally made her entrance into this snow-covered world on February 25, at least a month after her parents expected her. She weighed 6 lbs., 10 oz.

Mother Cheryl is doing nicely and will return to our AUC office in the near future to resume her varied duties, including the graphics and layout for CONTACT.

TAX STATUS OF MINISTERS

The following is a legal opinion sought by your Association to assist ministers and Boards in financial planning:

Under the Internal Revenue Code, ministers have two options as to their tax status. They may consider themselves to be self-employed or they may consider themselves to be employees of their church. Currently, the ministers of the AUC have elected to treat themselves as self-employed individuals. The question under review in this memo is what the tax consequences would be should the ministers decide to declare themselves to be employees of the church. After a review of the Internal Revenue Code and the Revenue Rulings, it appears that such a switch in tax status would have minimal consequences, although the ministers may derive some benefit from declaring themselves to be employees of the church.

PARSONAGE

A specific point of concern was whether such a change in tax status as discussed above would influence the exclusion from gross income of parsonage allowance that the Unity ministers are now permitted to claim. 26 U.S.C. §107 provides that neither the rental value of a home furnished to a minister as part of his compensation or a rental allowance paid to him as part of his compensation, to the extent used by him to rent or provide a home, is included in the gross income of a minister of the gospel. This exclusion from gross income of a parsonage allowance is applicable to church-employed and self-employed ministers alike. Should the Unity ministers switch their mode of employment from self-employed to church-employed, the exclusion of their housing allowance from gross income will not be affected.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Should the ministers elect to treat themselves as employees of the Unity Churches, they would still not be eligible for unemployment insurance or liable for the corresponding tax. 26 U.S.C. §3306 (c) (8) specifically excepts, "Service performed in the employ of a religious, charitable, educational, or other organization described in §501 (c) (3) which is exempt from income tax under §501 (a)" from its definition from "employment." As self-employed individuals, the ministers currently are not covered by the Unemployment Tax Act. Thus, a change in their tax status would not alter their position with regard to unemployment insurance.

WITHHOLDING

Under 28 U.S.C. §3401 the "employed" minister's salary is not considered to be "Wages Subject to Withholding." Therefore, should the ministers elect to alter their tax status, the church would not have to withhold amounts for income tax from their paychecks.

F.I.C.A. AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT TAX

As self-employed individuals, the Unity ministers are currently liable for the tax on self-employment income. This tax encompasses both old age, survivors, and disability insurance and hospital insurance. Under the provisions of 26 U.S.C. §1402, a minister must pay self-employment tax and is covered by the corresponding Federal programs, unless he has

filed for an exemption under subsection (e) of this section. Any individual who is a duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed minister of a church shall be exempted from the self-employment tax with respect to services performed by him as such minister upon his filing of an application, in the form and manner required by subsection (e), and a statement that he is either conscientiously opposed to or because of religious principles he is opposed to, the acceptance of any public insurance which makes payment in the event of death, disability, old age, or retirement or makes payments toward the cost of or provides services or medical care. Thus, a minister who has declared himself to be self-employed, is automatically covered by the Federal programs discussed above, unless he files for an exemption.

A minister who is employed by a church, a tax exempt organization under §501 of the Internal Revenue Code, is automatically exempted from payment of taxes and coverage under the Federal Insurance Contribution Act. (F.I.C.A.) 26 U.S.C. §3121 (b) (8) (A). This exemption from F.I.C.A. can be waived by the minister and other employees of the church by following the procedures set forth in 26 U.S.C. §3121 (k). Similar provisions, regarding coverage of church-employed ministers under the old age, survivors and disability insurance act, are found in 42 U.S.C. §410 (8) (A) (B).

It should be noted that in the self-employed situation the ministers are automatically covered by these programs and must actively file for an exemption, while the church employed situation, the minister is automatically exempted from coverage and must file for a waiver of the exemption, in order to be covered by these Federal programs. In either situation, the minister does have the option of being covered or being exempted from coverage, but the procedural details vary.

The benefits that accrue to the minister by declaring himself to be an employee of the church, are derived in the area of F.I.C.A. As a self-employed individual, a minister who wishes to be covered by the Federal programs must pay self-employment tax. This tax is substantially higher than the F.I.C.A. tax paid by employees. The reason for this is that the employer under contributes F.I.C.A. for each employee, thus splitting each employee's total tax burden between the employee and the employer. If the Unity ministers currently are paying self-employment tax, by declaring themselves to be employees of the church they could decrease their tax burden under F.I.C.A., while maintaining the same level of coverage under the Federal programs. If the ministers were to make such a switch in tax status, the churches, who employed the ministers, would then be liable for their share of the Federal insurance taxes.

CONCLUSION

The Unity ministers would not lose any of the tax benefits that they now enjoy if they were to declare themselves employees of the church. Given the difference between the self-employment tax and the F.I.C.A. tax it would be economically advantageous to the ministers to make such a change in their tax status.

June 29, 1976

NEWS FROM THE EDITORIAL AND PROMOTION DEPARTMENTS OF UNITY SCHOOL

The Promotion and Editorial Department of Unity School are working together to bring a new kind of service to you-- a preview into upcoming literature that may be helpful to your center ministry. We will use this space to point out articles in our three periodicals and books that we feel are of particular interest to you.

SPARKPLUGS - - A Summary of WEE WISDOM Magazine

"Nothing's fair," said Mark.

It was not a good day. Mark didn't get picked as first pitcher for the team even though he knew he was a good pitcher. And now a bird, the very one he had nursed back to health as a fledgling had flown against his house and appeared to be dead.

Mark was angry and hurt but he learned a good lesson that day as the bird revived and regained the ability to fly and then took its place at the crowded bird feeder. As Mark put it, "Even birds have to wait their turn." What it meant to Mark was he, too, would have his chance to pitch - - maybe next year.

It is hard to talk about waiting and patience to a child who is angry and hurt and nobody actually did in the story. It was Mark, himself, who learned the lesson. But patience should be discussed when children are both emotionally hurt and when they feel good about themselves.

This story about patience, fairness, persistence, and courage is called "Mark's Special Friend," by Jacquelin Hagen. It appears in the May, 1978 issue of WEE WISDOM Magazine. This story would be good to discuss with children in a Sunday School lesson. A good conversation could be started about patience, what children call "fairness," what they think about how they will find their place "at the bird feeder" (their place in life), and how a positive attitude (a developing overview of life) will help them.



SPIT-POLISH

(Taken from article in Kansas City Star written by H. Gordon Havens.)

Good use of our language is imperative to every minister. Each month CONTACT will share with you a short exercise to polish your English. Below is a list of 120 most commonly misspelled words in the English language, compiled over a 7-year period by the author. These 10 dozen words, all common vocabulary, are the easiest to misspell. No one has ever scored perfect on this test. It is a significant challenge of basic spelling abilities. The results may prove embarrassing.

For example, one of the groups tested orally was a sample of volunteers at a regional gathering of Mensa. Mensans possess a tested Intelligence Quotient higher than 98 per cent of the general populace. Their mean score was 37 words spelled incorrectly.

If you wish to compare results, ask a friend to give you the test orally. For the lazier armchair wordsmiths, check or circle the words that are incorrectly spelled, allowing a 10-minute time limit. (Answers on Page 12)

Similar	Harebrained	Cemetery	Occasionally	Battalion	Sieve
Admissible	Liaison	Hypocrisy	Precedent	Assistance	Drunkenness
Miniature	Conciliate	Dissipate	Knowledgeable	Rebuttal	Permissible
Surprise	Nickel	Seize	Discipline	Superintendent	Mayonnaise
Consensus	Irresistible	Innovate	Sacrilegious	Inoculate	Acquiesce
Benefited	Anoint	Exhaustible	Parallel	Assassin	Hygiene
Separately	Conqueror	Salve	Inadvertent	Loneliness	Exhilarated
Quizzes	Restaurant	Miscellaneous	Supersede	Controversy	Genealogy
Efficiency	Insistence	Icicle	Effervescence	Shriek	Iridescence
Peaceable	Heresy	Disapproval	Colossal	Persistence	Pavilion
Heroes	Camouflage	Accidentally	Allotted	Guillotine	Criticize
Massacre	Accommodate	Innocence	Perseverance	Indispensable	Plausible
Apparent	Rarefy	Chauffeur	Obedience	Hemorrhage	Frolicking
Ecstasy	Asinine	Achievement	Symmetry	Deterrent	Pedestal
License	Ukulele	Liquefy	Abscess	Category	Occurrence
Impostor	Resuscitator	Paraffin	Weird	Suffrage	Recommend
Changeable	Allegiance	Nauseous	Vacuum	Reminiscence	Diaphragm
Argument	Deceive	Incidentally	Moccasin	Boundary	Apparel
Embarrassing	Aquarium	Phenomenon	Harass	Maneuver	Mischievous
Hitchhiker	Mathematics	Desperate	Vicious	Leisure	Paralyze

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

Richland, Pasco and Kennewick, Washington. Recent conversation with David McClure and Phyllis Jamison, who have been assisting the development of this southeastern Washington area, indicate the group is seriously considering establishing a full-time ministry by the end of 1978. David and Phyllis have been assisted by David Travis of Yakima in the development process.

Victoria, B.C. Canada. Conversations with Max Lafser of Vancouver, reveal that the Victoria group is planning to be ready for a full-time minister by August. Max's wife, Vicki, has been responsible for the group for nearly a year.

Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. The following letter was recently received from Jo and John Harris of the new Unity

Centre of Practical Christianity in Kitchener. We thought it would be of interest to the AUC membership as a whole.

"Dear Scott, We want to thank you for your part in helping with the special event at Unity Centre of Practical Christianity with Margaret Conn as our featured speaker on January 15. All here have labelled it an unqualified success. Even the weather cooperated after a series of six icy and snowy Sundays, we had bright sunshine and a beautiful day. Over ninety persons heard Margaret give one of her typical, warm, witty, and inspiring lectures.

In addition to those coming to the service, we have had numerous telephone contacts of new Unity friends who had learned of us from the mailing. I anticipate that Unity Centre will receive many future blessings in this way. We truly do appreciate your endeavors and the helpful support that AUC gives us. We love you and we bless you.

In His love,

Jo and John Harris"



LICENSING INFORMATION FOR PREVIOUS GRADUATES

"If I graduated from UICE in 1977 (or before) is it possible for me just to appear before the Licensing Committee? Or, do I have to attend the Skill Development Seminar?"

This is a question that has been asked of us a number of times recently. Therefore, we would like to give you the current answer to that question, that you may share the information if you are asked.

Any person who has graduated from UICE in 1977 (or before) and who has completed twenty-four hours of adult Truth study class teaching under the direction of his/her minister, may apply to appear before the AUC Licensing Committee. This person must have completed the required teaching by October, 1978. One who has met these qualifications will not need to attend the Skill Development Seminar to be held following the Autumn UICE sessions. Those not completing these requirements will need to attend the Skill Development Seminar.

The qualified person needs to write to William L. Fischer, Association of Unity Churches, Unity Village, MO 64065, and request the necessary forms to be filled in and returned. Personal correspondence will follow to complete the arrangements and advise the person of the dates the Licensing Committee will be meeting at Unity Village.

Any person graduating after 1977, will be required to attend the week-long Skill Development Seminar. The Licensing Committee function will be conducted as a part of that seminar.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES Statement of General Fund Operations Ten Months Ended 1/31/78

INCOME - OPERATIONS:	December '77	January '78	Year to Date
Love Offering	\$36,896.95	\$40,418.93	\$347,888.99
Other Income	5,539.56	954.14	30,948.16
	42,436.51	41,373.07	378,837.15
Less Tithe Transfer	3,689.70	4,041.89	34,788.90
	38,746.81	37,331.18	344,048.25
Gross Profit Materials	4,793.10	1,030.93	21,932.41
Total Income	43,539.91	38,362.11	365,980.66
EXPENSES - OPERATIONS:			
General Office	20,549.99	18,761.07	197,466.56
Education Dept.	9,290.30	9,453.35	84,435.76
Total Expenses	29,840.29	28,214.42	281,902.32
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	\$13,699.62	\$10,147.69	\$ 84,078.34

REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT by Charles Roth, Chairman

You received the Minutes of the January Committee meeting and the proposals and recommendations finalized at that time. The only new development at this time (March 3rd) is that I have forwarded the Committee's proposals to Tom Coates, Chairman of the Bylaw Committee along with explanatory remarks and comments regarding the mechanics of Bylaw Changes.

I feel it will be helpful to the membership to be aware of some of the "nitty gritty" of the Committee's work, so my letter to Tom Coates and also a letter to the Committee members are included in this report to you.

February 17, 1978

Dear Tom, Let's see, Tom . . . how or where do we start! First let me call your attention to Section 14.01 of the Bylaws regarding amending the Bylaws. It says in effect that the Board of Trustees must pass the suggested Bylaw amendments first . . . THEN they are approved by the Conference. It also says that the members must have a 30 day notice of the exact changes . . . this means that the Board of Trustees would have to have a special meeting well before May 19th. for May 19th is 30 days before the Conference, and the printed changes would have to be in the members' hands on May 19th!

Problems: 1. Board only meets in January and June. Would be expensive to call 21 together as present policy states that the AUC pays for any official Committee or Board meetings except the January and June meetings. Also would take time planning and arranging for a special Board meeting.

2. Because we have "alternate" proposals, it would somehow mean the Board "passing" all alternate proposals in order to conform to the Bylaws. I don't know whether this is logical or legal!!!!??

3. If a special meeting of the Board were called for, say, the first week of May, it would mean the Bylaws Committee would have to have all Bylaw amendments for the proposals and the alternate proposals in final form for the Board by May First. This means only March and April to get the committee together and do all the "figuring out" and finalizing. Quite a task!

Enclosed is a marked copy of the Committee's proposals. The "remarks" written in are not to "tell your committee what to do;" they are merely my observations, and sent only to help. I intend to send photocopies of that same marked copy to my Committee members and ask if they agree, disagree, or have anything to add.

It would seem wise to check with the President and see if the Executive Committee meeting in April would rescind its "tabled motion" to hire a Bylaw "expert" to work with your Committee. (of course, going in this direction would seem to make it extremely difficult time-wise to have the changes ready for the June Conference.)

Well, as you see, I don't have a lot of answers - just questions to raise! But it's a start in our getting together to see how we can help the AUC membership to the best of our ability.

I am sending additional copies of the Proposals for each of your Committee members under separate cover.

Sincerely,
Charles R. Roth

Dear Committee Member, Enclosed is a photocopy of the list of proposals that I sent to Tom Coates, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, with my handwritten notes in the margin.

If you have additional remarks or suggestions to make to the Bylaws Committee send them direct to Tom, and a copy to me.

I have photocopied the written suggestions concerning other bylaw changes, (such as the Standing Committee and the Placement Advisory Committee) of Les Saunders, Dorothy Pierson, Dessie McDonnell and Alan Rowbotham and sent them to Tom Coates for his Committee's consideration.

Also enclosed is a copy of my letter to Tom. In carefully reading Section 14.01 concerning the mechanics of Bylaw changes or amendments I can see where the time factor is a matter of concern. The motion of last June's Conference states as follows:

"That the Bylaw Committee of the AUC shall prepare suitable Bylaw proposals in response to the Reorganizational Committee's recommendations, in time for inclusion in the official business of the 1978 AUC Conference. The procedure for approving all proposed changes shall be in accordance with the procedures specified in our AUC Bylaws."

Those proposals that we made that aren't really Bylaw changes, but Recommendations to the Conference Body (such as, the Recommendation for a Policy Committee, the Recommendation for developing a more workable division of Regions, and the proposed Committee concerning the Education Department - - unless the Bylaws Committee writes that Committee into a Bylaw) will be presented by our Committee to the Conference in June.

Sincerely,
Charles R. Roth

CORRECTION

On page 1 of the Reorganization Committee Proposals sent out in CONTACT (February - March, 1978) the following correction needs to be made. Please correct your copy.

Regarding President

Item 3

A. Term of the President be one year with option to renew for another year.

In favor 60% Not in favor 34%

B. Term of the President to be one year.

In favor 34% Not in favor 43%

the very fine resumes which had been sent by the Field Services Coordinator and they worked out all the details with John, the new minister. I was there in case they needed me but was pleased to observe the board working together so lovingly and harmoniously without me.

On my last Sunday with the church, John and I were on the platform together. I was proud and happy to introduce him, his wife and their new baby to the congregation, for I felt they were the ideal couple to continue the work that I had loved so much. When I turned the "spiritual gavel" over to him, it was with a feeling of joy (and some sadness), knowing that the church would soon be growing with leaps and bounds. And I'm happy to say it is!

I spent a few days with John at the church, to familiarize him with the files, the activities past and present, and to help in any way I could to make him feel welcome and "at home." Then -I STAYED AWAY from the church unless John called me for help. (We were too busy packing and getting ready to move, anyway!)

Because I loved the church and the congregation, I wanted them to have a minister who would love them and whom they would love as much as they did me. I wanted the ministry to keep on growing and unfolding the great potentials I knew were there and that's why I was interested in helping the change in leadership to be just as loving and harmonious as we could make it. The new minister is doing a tremendous job and I am so proud of him and his wife - and so thankful that Spirit chose and appointed them to succeed me.

I am sharing this, not because I feel every change in leadership should be or even could be handled in the way we did, but to encourage ministers who are leaving a ministry to help prepare the congregation and, when feasible, to help the incoming minister. Perhaps I'm being too idealistic about this, but it seems to me that many Unity ministers leave a Center too quickly, without adequately preparing a congregation and the board for a change in leadership - perhaps because they don't understand their full responsibilities as a Unity minister. We do need to have a re-print or revision of the book "CHANGING LEADERSHIP" which would be given out to all ministers. This should also be part of the curriculum in SMRS, as a large percentage of ministers face this challenge sooner or later.

We, as Unity leaders, owe it to the many students who support the Unity Movement through centers and churches to fulfill our responsibilities and to help the people we serve to understand their responsibilities. If we don't, who will?



UPDATE YOUR YEARBOOK

Page 95	Remove P.O. Box 4725 from Roanoke, VA address.
Page 21	Add: Unity of Livermore, 2020 5th Street, CA 94550
Page 17	Unity Church of Castro Valley, CA office phone number is 415-538-1416
Page 87	Unity Church of Christianity in Memphis, TN office phone number is 901-323-1148
Page 26	Rod Talley's residence phone number is 415-758-6274
Page 56	Unity of Lexington in Lexington, KY office phone number is 606-266-1896
Page 43	Mailing address for Unity Christ Church, St. Petersburg, FL is P.O. BOX 14031
Page 39	John Strickland's residence phone number is 904-388-3434
Page 99	David McClure's residence phone number is 509-747-0459
Page 184	James E. Parkinson's address is Redondo Beach, CA
Page 12	Birmingham, AL office phone number is 205-251-3713
Page 69	Remove Holiday Inn on the Bozeman, MT address.
Page 103	Mailing address for Kitchener Unity Centre is 52 Stirling Ave, N. Kitchener, Ontario N2H 3G5

Youth Education Reminder

Summer Youth Education lessons will be available this year for all age levels. The summer quarter will include lessons for June, July and August, and should be available early in May.

To order SUMMER LESSONS, please order Year 1, Quarter 4, materials on the AUC order form.

In many cases, churches restructure their summer Youth Education programs to require less staff and to account for less-than-full attendance. This might mean grouping several age levels together, team teaching, or using learning centers staffed by fewer leaders for varied groups of students. The summer lessons have been prepared to facilitate such summer teaching in that all age levels will study the same scripture references each week. Each Teacher's Guide will tell how to develop the reference so that it is meaningful for a particular age level. For this reason, a teacher who is working with a group containing more than one age level might work with more than one set of Teacher's Guides and Take-Home Lessons to present an integrated class for a mixed age group of students.

(Just a reminder, Youth Education classes should now be using the spring quarter, Year 1, Quarter 3.)

POST GRADUATE STUDIES--ADVANCE NOTICE!

The Post Graduate Committee met during the Mid-Year Council of Committee meetings in January. This committee has come up with an imaginative Post Graduate program for the coming year.

During Pre-Conference week in June, the program will be as follows:

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1978: Dr. Bruce Rahtjen, Professor at St. Paul's School of Theology (Methodist) in Kansas City, Missouri, will present a seminar on: "The World of St. Paul." Dr. Rahtjen is a renowned Bible scholar and a specialist on the works of Paul.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1978: Dr. Paul Parker, Psychiatrist, who is on the staff of Christ Church, Unity in San Diego, California. Dr. Parker will be presenting: "Unity Friends." This is a program for the development of lay ministerial-assistants in a ministry, which has proved most successful in San Diego.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1978: William L. Fischer, of the Association of Unity Churches, will present the "Mind Development" seminar, which he has been presenting at the Regional Conferences, for the benefit of those who missed and would like to take advantage of this seminar.

For the Post Graduate Studies program to be presented at the Regional Conferences during the next year, the committee has approved a program to be presented by **Martha Giudici**. Martha will select one minister from each region to assist her. This will be a seminar based on the theological questions used in August, 1906, when Charles and Myrtle Fillmore tested for their own ordination. You will have an opportunity to know what their answers were to these sixty-eight questions. The title of this seminar-workshop will be: "The World of Metaphysics Revisited Workshop."

All of these programs should provide some new insights for most of us Unity ministers. Make your plans now to attend both Pre-Conference week at Unity Village and your Regional Conference.

(SPIT-POLISH ANSWERS)

SCORING: The only word misspelled is the word MISPELLED, in the introduction. All the others, without exception, are correctly spelled.

Score as follows: If you missed 1-4: phenomenal (Noah Webster and Benjamin Franklin salute you); 5-7: excellent; 8-10: superior; 11-13: good; 14-16: average; 17+: hire a secretary!

Since it is much more difficult to spell a word correctly than simply to identify a misspelled word, those who struggled through the test orally should divide the number of words they misspelled by three (3) before scoring. Authority for the answers is Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, College Edition.

SCHOOL FOR MINISTERIAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES



In our continuing effort to familiarize you with the ministerial students who will be graduating and going into the field in August, we once again feature five second-year students. From left to right they are: William Newsom, Antoinette Popp, Marc Glover, Janet Bowser, and Alec Evason.

Although he is an American, **Bill Newsom** came to SMRS from Australia. He met his wife, Pandora, while working in Australia. They are from Largs Bay. Bill has served in the Peace Corps. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of California. Bill and Pandora have no children and presently reside in Lee's Summit. They plan to return to Australia following graduation.

Prior to coming to Unity Village, **Toni Popp** lived in Everett, Washington. While there, she was associated with the ministry where Sandra Cousens is minister. Toni is a registered nurse and holds an Associate Degree in nursing. Her nursing experience has been principally in surgery. While in Everett, she taught in the Unity Sunday School. She is unmarried.

A native of Kansas, **Marc Glover** came to SMRS by way of New York. While there he was active in the ministry of Eric Butterworth. He served on Eric's Board of Trustees, was a retreat group leader, and led discussion groups in the center. Marc was formerly a petroleum engineer and holds his degree from Kansas University. He is unmarried.

Janet Bowser came to SMRS from Canton, Ohio. June Dorrell was her minister, although Barbara Provost is the minister there now. Janet is in a one-year program, having been a licensed teacher prior to SMRS enrollment. While in Canton, she served in many capacities as an assistant to the minister. She is a talented musician, holding a degree in music education from Asbury College. She has worked principally as a school and music teacher and is unmarried.

Alec Evason comes from England. While there he was associated with the London ministry, where Margaret Baker is minister. In addition to doing youth work, he was the secretary for the ministry. Alec holds a diploma in administration and management from South West London College. He has been involved in computer work since 1968. Alec is not married.

DIAL-A-PRAYER MESSAGES!

Here are three Dial-A-Prayer messages from Florence Allen, Arden, North Carolina. You are welcome to adapt or use them 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.

Hello, friend. I want to ask you something: do you have trouble in human relationships because you get too attached to somebody? If you do, then when one particular person leaves this earth plane, or moves many miles away, or simply turns his back on you, you feel an overwhelming sense of loss. Think about it this way: The smile, the words, the tone, the support, the fun, the whatever, that I received, I will look for again, not necessarily in one person, but just go about expecting it. And from many different directions, those same lovable qualities will come to me! The only way I can escape them is to turn in upon myself so that my eyes do not see or my ears hear. As I keep my heart open, the emptiness will begin to fill. Actually, perhaps I will love myself more creatively because the attachment to another personality is broken. I will do it, not in self-pity, but in appreciation of the previously undiscovered good in me. The Bible (Jesus) says that he who is not rich in the things of God is shortsighted! So I will find all the ways I can to love God, the Truth, and Love will return to me in such abundance that I do not need personal attachment to any one channel. I may have been "fed" by a particular person, and that was good, but now I expand to see that I am fed manifold. My world becomes so great that I cannot find the horizons! Whereas attachment held me in a pretty narrow radius, now I am free to be more wholly me, guided by my indwelling Individuality. Thank You, Father.

Hello, friend. I read a story the other day about a little girl who had been talking with an older playmate, and learned that Santa Claus is a myth. When her father, the manager of a department store, came home that evening, she flew into his arms and told him her news, with joy and gladness!

"Aren't you sorry there isn't any Santa Claus?" he asked her, in surprise.

"No," she answered emphatically, "because Pam told me all about God being with us all the time, and I like Him lots better." "Even better than Santa Claus?"

the father asked, looking at her with new eyes.

"Yes, was her firm reply, "because Santa Claus always makes you wait a whole year to give you anything at all, and God, right in your heart, will give you what you really need every day! Isn't that super?" "It certainly is," her father said, still wondering at his daughter.

"Well," she said, with a tilt of her head "I just thought you ought to know about it. You told Mamma last night it was hard work to run a store for Santa Claus, so I thought I'd better tell you, daddy, how easy it would be to run one for God."

There is a lot of Truth in that, isn't there?

Who runs your business? The long arm of materialism, or "the Father that is with you all the time, right in your heart"? The Father with you is the steady choice, the one that can keep your foot from stumbling, the one that tells you what to do if you stand still to be told, so that "the government is upon His shoulder." It sounds to me like "the only way to go!"

Every time a challenge comes to you in business, or in anything at all, friend, remind yourself, "The Father is in me and with me. I put the governing of this matter on His shoulders.

Hello, friend. Let's get into you and consider today what you're really like--not what you think you're like, but what you're really like.

I may never have seen you but I can tell you a lot about yourself. You do not like yourself sometimes, but you should. It's like this: concealed and covered over by your outer changeable personality, you have a True and Eternal Self that is ever the same--a bright shining Presence of Love and Wisdom! You can center yourself into this and tell your faulty outer self, "Listen, Sam (or whatever your name is), remember Me, your True Self, more often, and you'll find Me running to meet you. I am right here to support you, love you, and help your soul grow. Come to me when you're weary, confused, or disturbed, and I

will give you rest. Everything is all right, right now. Every time you remember Me, you will feel that. I am the Light you need, and you cannot really turn Me off. I never leave you because I cannot leave you. I am your True Self!"

You know within yourself that this is true, so why keep frustrating it? You are the Father's own Son, or if you do not relate to that kind of terminology, you can say, with Dr. Evarts Loomis, "I am a resonator of the Cosmos, I am a transducer of Energy." All three statements are true, and any way you look at it, you're beautiful--the Real You is beautiful!

Keep remembering, dear one, keep returning to that part of you that is greater than your mistakes, and believe in yourself again, for you are God's Child, and like Father, like son.

RANKIN - Continued from page 4

congregation under its new leadership, and I love this congregation too much to be accessory to such a negative development.

Your understanding of the above ideas will prevent needless awkward situations and questions. I could say correctly that ethical obligations compel me to stay "out of the way." But it is nearer truth to say that it is love which guides me thus.

One further point which is not necessarily an ethical one, but one concerning sensitivity and courtesy. Just as I have urged you NOT to quote me to your husband or wife; if an idea makes sense to you, it is YOUR idea, and doesn't need my name attached to it; so as you get to know your new minister, I urge you NOT to begin sentences with words like "John used to say . . .", "When John was here we always . . .", or "John would never let us . . .". It's a bit much like "My mother always made it this way," or "My first wife always/never said . . .". If you have an idea, express it on your own authority, and prepare for new light, both from within and through the channel of ministry which has been brought to you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 1-14 UICE Study Program - Session 1, Unity Village, MO.
- †3-6 Executive Committee Meetings
- 15-28 UICE Study Program - Session 2, Unity Village, MO.
- 24-26 South Central Unity Church Association (SCUCA) Regional Conference, Wichita, Kans., hosted by Unity Church of Wichita.
- 25 Post Graduate Program, Wichita, Kansas

MAY

- 3-5 Northern California Regional Conference, San Luis Obispo, Calif., hosted by Unity Christ Church
- 14 *Mother's Day*
- 20-26 Maytime Retreat, Unity Village
- †21-24 "The Simple Truth" Unity Vacation Retreat in Toronto, Ontario, Canada at the new Hotel Toronto, with James Sherman.
- 29 *Memorial Day*

JUNE

- 3-9 Rose Festival Retreat, Unity Village, MO.
- 11-16 AUC Pre-Conference, Unity Village, MO.
- 14 *Flag Day*
- 18 *Father's Day*
- 19-22 AUC Conference, Unity Village, MO.
- 24 - UICE Study Program - Session 3, Unity Village, MO.
- July 7

JULY

- †2-8 Annual Unity Retreat at Cedar Crest College Allentown, PA. Presented by the Unity Center of New York City, Eric Butterworth, minister.
- 4 *Independence Day*
- 8-21 UICE Study Program - Session 4, Unity Village, MO.
- 22-28 Summertime Retreat, Unity Village, MO.

AUGUST

- 5-11 August Festival, Unity Village, MO.
- †11 SMRS Graduation
- 6-12 SCUCA Laymen's Regional Retreat, Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby, Colo.
- 14-20 YOU Conference, Unity Village, MO.
- 16-20 Southeastern Regional Retreat, The Breakers Resort Hotel, Palm Beach, FLA.
- 21-25 YAU Retreat, Unity Village, MO.
- 26 - Mid-Season Retreat, Unity Village, MO.
- Sept. 1

SEPTEMBER

- 4 *Labor Day*
- 9-15 Autumn Retreat, Unity Village, MO.
- 15-17 Sierra Retreat, Waystation, South Shore, Lake Tahoe, Calif.
- 23-29 Harvest Festival Retreat, Unity Village, MO.
- 24-27 Great Lakes Unity Regional Conference, Decatur, IL, hosted by Unity Church of Decatur.

OCTOBER

- 2-3 *Jewish New Year*
- 7-13 Indian Summer Retreat, Unity Village, MO.
- 9 *Columbus Day*
- 11 *Yom Kippur*
- 14-27 UICE Study Program--Session 5, Unity Village, MO.
- 28 - UICE Study Program--Session 6, Unity Village, MO.
- Nov. 10

NOVEMBER

- 11 *Veteran's Day*
- 13-18 Skill Development Seminar, Unity Village, MO.
- 18-24 Thanksgiving at Unity, Unity Village, MO.
- 23 *Thanksgiving Day*

DECEMBER

- 23-29 Christmas at Unity, Unity Village, MO (Cancelled)
- 25 *Hanukkah/Christmas Day*

†Additions

Italicized dates are yearly holidays and events which may be of interest to you.