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JUNE/JULY 1978

ISSUE 89

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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

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AUC President's Letter

Dear Friends:

I direct the attention of this, my last President's letter, to a single individual in the form of an open letter to William L. Fischer, D. D., to-wit:

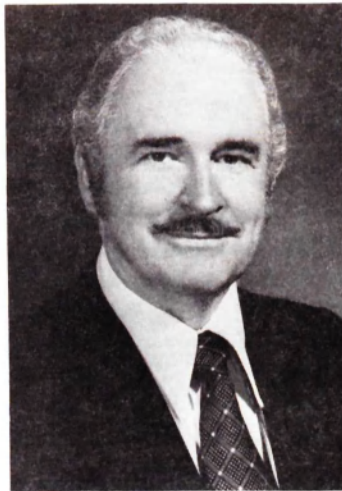
Dear Bill:

On April 3, during a meeting of the Executive Committee, you handed me a letter. It was addressed to the Board of Trustees of AUC and directed to my attention as President. Even before you read a copy of the letter to the Committee, my eyes scanned it's content. I confess my heart quickened in pace when I saw the words: "Please regard this as my letter of resignation as Director of Ministerial Education of the Association of Unity Churches."

The Executive Committee later accepted your resignation "with love and appreciation for (your) many years of service as Director of SMRS." This is a simple, but true statement of gratitude which I'm sure reflects the consciousness of our Association members everywhere.

"Love and appreciation" are words common to the vocabulary of one caught up in the spirit of Truth. But we would want you to know, Bill, that common though they are, they do convey a heartswell of loving feeling from a mass of people who are proud of you.

Those who know the Bible well will recall that in ancient times the nation of Israel would put out a call for leadership in time of need. Then God would draw up out of their midst the right person to



Paul C. Barrett

lead them in serving and solving that need. In the fledgling years of AUC, we put out a call. Our need was great! It dealt with the most important facet of the Unity field movement, that of educating and training our ministers and leaders of the future. The need was for one knowledgeable in the teachings of Unity and dedicated to Principle; one skilled in organization and administration; one adept as an educator and teacher; one who had earned the badge of ministerial success and could inspire others to be successful, too. God answered our call with you, Bill. He sent us a Fischer who turned out, indeed, to be a "fisher of men"--or should I say "a fisher of ministers."

"With Love and Appreciation" in our

hearts, we do thank you, Bill. We thank you for a contribution to our field movement which, in my opinion, has not been exceeded by any individual in AUC over the past ten years. Under your leadership as Director of Education we have built what many have termed the finest of all New Thought institutions for the training of ministers.

SMRS in a great measure stands as a tribute to you. It reflects your dedication to Unity and all for which it stands. Through it, much that is of your spirit has filtered out into our field ministries, and for decades to come will shine brightly through the ministerial skills of many, many who serve. Perhaps that is your greatest contribution.

We treasure the legacy you leave us in SMRS--that of continued dedication to excellence through striving always to refine, upgrade, and improve our ministerial training program.

Bill, we release you to go forth not only with our "Love and Appreciation," but to go knowing that we hold a vision of you entering a new age of joy and service, success and reward!

In His name,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul".

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:

VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON—Terri Burkett has taken a sabbatical. Bill Esslinger has been accepted as new leader.

AMARILLO, TEXAS—Jane Weber has married and is taking a sabbatical. Her new address is Jane (Weber) Hamilton, 551 North Date, Apt. 210, Villa Verano, Escondido, California 92025. Mark Smith has been accepted as new leader.

LEWISTON, IDAHO—Scott Thornton has been accepted as their new minister, effective June 1.

ST. CHARLES/BATAVIA, ILLINOIS—Genavee Campbell has been accepted.

UNITY VILLAGE, MISSOURI (Unity Village Chapel)—Frank and Martha Giudici has been accepted as their new ministers.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—Mamie Spencer has been accepted as new minister.



**"THOU
SHALT NOT
CHANGE"**

by Stan Hampson

In ancient mythology there is the story of the no-so-wise king who commanded the tides to stop changing. Evidently he was not successful in his determination. So it is with life for each of us. No matter how much we would like to keep things the same, we have little success in holding things static.

As in everything else, changes occur in the ministry. Not only do ministers change within themselves, but members of congregations certainly change individually. Also, changes occur in a ministry in that people come and go for many reasons. Ministers also change from one church to another. In fact, the most dramatic change that can occur in the life of a ministry is when it loses one minister and then goes through the process of obtaining a new one. This process should not occur very often since a minister probably reaches his/her maximum stride in a ministry after five years and seems to really expand his/her effectiveness in the second five years with the same congregation. We would like to hold back the tide, however, these changes do occur.

During the start-up time as a minister and congregation are getting acquainted there is a tendency on behalf of the minister to want to make changes. It is important for the minister to remember that just his/her being there is a dramatic change in the life of a congregation. As few other changes as can be made are usually best for the ministry during the first six months. In fact, the entire first year is a crucial time in which every minister should be vitally aware of the instruction "Thou shalt not change."

Sometimes we feel that certain changes must be made. If such a change is valid it will be equally valid six months later and will then be a change upon established procedure rather than change upon a predecessor. Particularly when the former minister was dearly loved by the congregation, any change--especially one in worship--becomes a reminder of his/her absence. Since the worship service is the basic contact with the majority of the people attending the church, arbitrary changes can be difficult for people to swallow unless there really is such a need. One independent organization that has done study in several denominations makes a strong recommendation that changes in worship not be made for the first six months at least.

Occasionally a minister can feel that certain changes are required when they are really a matter of personal preference and could be put into effect much later. Changes can say to a congregation that their former practices are not approved or are even considered unacceptable. Those practices may have

been important, and until a minister has gotten to know the congregation and be brought into their confidences, he cannot understand the meaning of various activities to the congregation. We don't often think of making changes as being critical of the way things were done prior to our presence, but often it can give that impression which does no good.

Adding something is less risky than substituting something within an operational procedure and certainly within the order of service. To add something is not threatening to most people. To take away something and substitute something else in its place can create additional grief feelings when a congregation is already deeply involved in the adjustment of change.

It's important to think in terms of making no changes for the first six months. Then after that time, gradual change becomes natural change--a part of the eternal evolutionary activity in all life. As said earlier, we know that change is inevitable; we do not need to force it. It's been said that into each life some rain must fall, but some individuals go around seeding clouds. Likewise, we know the changes will eventuate regardless of what we do--we do not need to seed the clouds of change by rushing the activity.

To say absolutely that no changes should be made within the first twelve months would obviously be an overstatement. There are some changes that will have to be made: changes that the majority of the congregation will support and may even have communicated to the minister upon his/her being chosen. Changes should never be "surprises" and should be discussed at length with the Board of Directors and members of the congregation far in advance of such changes going into effect. Discussion can prevent the minister from going in a certain direction thinking many people are so inclined, only to find out too late that he has been hearing the ideas of a small group within the church with a special interest. To respond to that minority could alienate the majority. In a booklet produced by the UMA years ago, the following paragraph was stated, "It is well to analyze every aspect of the program that the former leader conducted before considering any changes. There is no point in making changes just to be different. Unless the new minister feels that an important change is absolutely essential, it is better to carry the established program on unchanged for the time being because there may be sound reason for the way things have been done."²

This sound advice is continued later with the following paragraph, "If the work is failing, or the previous leader has left under a cloud, some immediate outer changes might be justified. . . Generally, changes in the outer should only be introduced when the leader is convinced they will be beneficial and only after a considerable period of working with the old way."

We can't hold back the tide. Change is inevitable. We make progress most joyously without forcing change--it will happen on its own. Whenever that change has occurred of a new minister in start-up activity, the ruling commandment for the first six months is most appropriately, "Thou shalt not change."

¹ "The Pastor as Newcomer." Roy M. Oswald, The Alban Institute, Inc., Mt. St. Alban, Washington, D.C. 20016

² "Changing Leadership" edited by David Williamson, U.M.A., out of print.

REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT – by Charles Roth, Chairman

Fellow Unity Ministers,

Another June is here. We have come full circle from the June Conference of 1977. Below is a recap of what the Committee you elected did during the year:

As Chairman of the Reorganization Committee I want to thank and praise the individual Committee members. In over 20 years of involvement with the U.M.A. and AUC Committees I have never known committee members to have given more time to Committee work than this Reorganization Committee.

The job you gave us was no easy one. In fact, just interpreting your directive to us as stated in the Motion was no easy task. Many of you feel that we were supposed to come up with one final, specific reorganizational proposal. We did not see it that way. We felt you wanted us to tap the "grass roots" feelings, suggestions, and opinions; and then offer the Conference Body choices that embody major trends of grass root opinions and suggestions.

The reason we felt this way is because of the tenor of the 1977 Conference. If you will think back you will remember that there was definite feeling that there was too much "power"

at the top of the organization flowing downward, and not enough at the "bottom" (the Conference Body) flowing upward!

A dramatic example of this was, the then recent action of the Executive Committee and subsequently the Board of Trustees in taking action for which the Bylaws called for Conference approval, but which action was irreversible--and Conference approval only a formality.

The very formation of the Reorganization Committee was a "cry from the grass roots," in that the Conference took unprecedented action to choose and elect a Committee Chairman and instructed each region to choose and elect a member for the committee.

Taking all this into consideration we chose the Questionnaire approach. We realized, however, that the questionnaire answers did not reflect the true feeling of the entire field for only 2/3 of the ministries answered it. Therefore, at Conference we will offer a report that contains choices or alternatives. These choices are not the "brain children" of the Committee members, but of you, the individual ministers in the field.

July
&
August

Individual Committee members sent questionnaires to their Regions to determine what changes are desired, and what their feelings are toward present AUC policies and procedures.

January 1978

Committee meets to evaluate tabulation of the 203 returned questionnaires (65% of the 315 voting members), the synthesize suggestions to give the Conference Body the choice of the most popular suggestions.

September

Committee meets and from the seven individual Regional input compiles a questionnaire that embodies all suggestions and proposals.

February

Committee communication by mail to clarify, correct, and finalize wording and format of January meeting deliberations.

October

Questionnaire mailed to all voting members.

March

Results sent to Bylaws Committee and President.

December

Reminder postcard to return questionnaire sent to all voting members.

April

Communication with President in regard to best way to present report to Conference Body.

May

South Central Region Conference submits a Reorganization proposal to the Committee. Southwest Region invites Chairman to Regional meeting to see how they can help. Committee report sent to all AUC members to give them time to think about it before Conference.

NEW YOUTH EDUCATION TRAINING SEMINAR

The Youth Education Facilitators, representing the AUC Regions, met in March at Unity Village to prepare a new teacher training seminar for next year. A very productive planning session yielded a new seminar on "Ways to Teach the Bible." This program will be available to your church through your regional Youth Education Facilitator, as of September, 1978.

Some of you may not be aware of how the Youth Education Facilitator fits into the development of the Unity Youth Education program. Each region has selected one or two qualified persons to represent your area in the development of a unified, continuing, and essentially local, youth education training program. The facilitators meet once a year at Unity Village to prepare the teaching plan for the following year. This activity is supported by the participating regions.

The Facilitator is then available to assist the centers in the region with teacher training and other Youth Education services. The Facilitator can be contacted directly or through the Regional Representative. In addition, the facilitator for your region will contact you regarding the possibility of conducting a seminar for your church or for a group of churches in your area.

The Facilitator is compensated on a love offering basis from the centers who benefit from the program. Expenses for travel and accommodations for the Facilitator are also shared by all participating centers. For example, if your church hosts a youth education seminar for several churches in your area, your group will make the arrangements, but all participating centers should share the expense and love offering to the Facilitator.

The Youth Education Facilitators are looking forward to working with you.

YOUTH EDUCATION FACILITATORS

EASTERN REGION
Kathleen Shelton

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
Lani Jones
Joy Powell

GREAT LAKES REGION
Mildred Garling
Judy Sherman

NORTHWEST REGION
Karen Johnston
Margaret Skidmore

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION
Shirley Bonham

SOUTHEASTERN REGION
Joan Goodman

SOUTHWEST REGION
(To Be Announced)

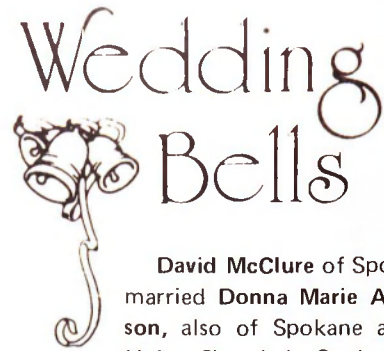
ORDINATION BIBLE PROJECT

An exciting project was started last year, which we thought you would want to know about and participate in this year.

The project gives the field ministries an opportunity to provide the Dickson Analytical Bibles which are presented to the graduating ordinands each year. This year there will be thirty-four (34) of these Bibles presented. If you are interested in participating, please send a check for \$50.00 to the SMRS office. Make the check payable to the AUC and note that it is for the Ordination Bible Project.

The inscription in the front of the Bible will note that it is being presented by your ministry. Also, if you would like your Bible to go to a particular student (perhaps one who originally came through your ministry), please let us know and it will be handled in that way, if at all possible.

If you would like to participate in this project, we would appreciate your prompt response. Please send your check in care of the SMRS office to the attention of **Gladys Branscum, SMRS Secretary.**

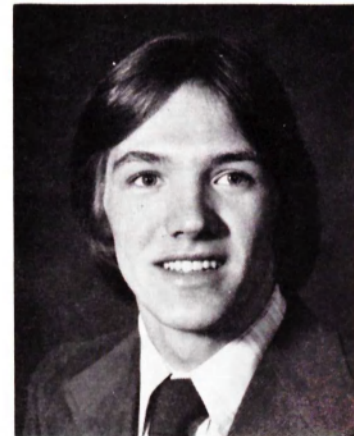


David McClure of Spokane married **Donna Marie Anderson**, also of Spokane at the Unity Church in Spokane on Wednesday, June 7. Associate minister, **Marilyn Witherspoon** performed the ceremony. The couple will honeymoon in the Ozarks before coming to Post Graduate and Conference.

We know each member of the AUC joins in sending best wishes to David and Donna.



AUC WORKER HONORED



Steve McBride has been selected as Student Rotarian of the Month by the Lee's Summit Rotary Club. Steve is the son of **Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Bassett**, Lee's Summit. Steve works in our AUC office part time and assists in our printing and production of materials. He is a senior at Lee's Summit High School and has been an honor roll student for four years. Upon graduation, Steve plans to attend Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg and will major in music and minor in drama and theatre.

WHO'S WHO IN AUC



LARRY A. SWARTZ
AUC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER

Larry A. Swartz has been involved in Truth since early childhood. Larry always "knew" that someday he would be in the ministry. The right time opened up after he received an AA degree from a California college and served four years in the United States Air Force.

Larry was accepted into ministerial training in October of 1962. He worked one year in SSU. He graduated and was ordained as a Unity minister in March of 1966.

In May of 1966 Larry became the minister of Unity of Tucson, Arizona. Unity of Tucson moved to a new facility, its present location, in February of 1969.

Unity of Tucson is presently one of the few ministries that teacher all of the UICE credit classes available to the field ministries. It is also actively involved in a Bio-feedback program and has a 24-hour prayer tower ministry patterned after the Silent Unity Prayer Ministry where both Larry and Mary Ellen worked.

Larry and Mary Ellen have three children--Timothy, 3; Felicia, 2; and Najah, 1.



ARTHUR HAMMONS
AUC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER

Reverend Arthur Hammons is one of Unity's exceptional young ministers. He founded Christ Church Unity of El Cajon eight years ago and has been successful in expanding a handful sized congregation to a standing-room-only sized congregation. He and his Ministry are presently in the process of building a new Church edifice which will accommodate more Unity students, which his progressive ministry consistently attracts.

Art represents the largest Region (in number of churches) within the Association of Unity Churches, the Southwest Region, as their Regional Representative to the Board of Trustees of the Association of Unity Churches. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Unity Churches.

Art and his lovely wife, Robin, and their eighteen month old son, Trevor, live in El Cajon, California. Their attitude of service and appreciation of Unity's Truth ideas, is the cornerstone of their relationship to each other and to the ministry to which they are dedicated.

UNITY HELP LINE

It was 10:00 p.m. and "Mrs. Blitz" had been pacing the floor since noon. The pressure had been building up for several weeks, but she had kept putting things off, until now; she was about at the end of her tolerance. "If only I could talk to someone who would understand," she wailed to herself. Suddenly she remembered the small white card she'd picked up at the library last week. "UNITY HELP LINE," it said, "WE LISTEN. WE CARE. WE HELP." "Well, why not try it?" she thought to herself as she dialed the number. She heard the phone ring, and a voice answered, "Unity Help Line." Still shaking and crying, "Mrs. Blitz" began to pour out her story.

This account is the story of repeated calls that come in to the Help Line service at Unity Village. Recently, one of the phone volunteers was visiting a Unity Center in another state and was asked by the minister exactly what kind of calls came to Help Line. She wanted the details, saying she would rather put the Unity Help Line card on her bulletin board (even though it is a toll call out of state) than some other crises agency card. Other ministries may be interested in this information as an idea to develop in their own center or as a service to people in their own center. When a person may need to just "let off steam" or to hear an impersonal voice over the phone may be a good time to call Help Line. Help Line volunteers have been trained in Truth principles and prayer techniques as well as crisis counseling. Many times, this is the callers first contact with Truth. For more information to start your own Help Line service or to take advantage of ours here at Unity Village, contact us at Help Line, Unity Village, Missouri 64065 or call 816-525-1000.

Field Speaks

I want to respond to the admissions procedure sheet I received along with CONTACT. Seems to me that much time could be saved for the faculty of SMRS and for potential Candidates if when they request an avocation to SMRS they would be given a brief questionnaire that deals with the points you bring out, such as:

- (1) Length of time involved in Unity.
- (2) Length of time involved in a Unity Ministry.
- (3) Classes taken in Unity fundamentals, eg., Lessons in Truth, Christian Healing, etc.

- (4) Interest in being a Minister (or Teacher).

If these questions could be answered before much time is spent in filling out an application and reviewing it, it would seem a much more expedient approach rather than giving everyone who applies an application form.

Concerning the last item on the sheet, I think that involvement on the part of the Field Ministers is totally unnecessary. We have a group of teachers who have been successful Field Ministers, they know what is needed to get the job done and should be trusted to accept or reject candidates without assistance from the field.

David Monument, Unity Church of Peoria, Illinois

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1978 PRE-CONFERENCE & CONFERENCE

Committee meetings start Monday, June 12, at 8:30 a.m. Pre-Conference begins Thursday, June 15, with the Post Graduate Course on "The World of St. Paul," presented by Dr. Bruce Rahtjen, Director of Admissions and Professor of Biblical Theology at the St. Paul School of Theology (Methodist) in Kansas City. Friday, Dr. Paul Parker, practicing psychiatrist in San Diego, will present "The UnityFriends Program." William L. Fischer, Unity minister, will present "Mind Development" on Saturday, June 17.

There is a \$15.00 registration fee for each course. Courses will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. The morning session will run until 12:00 noon. Afternoon sessions will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. and will conclude at 4:00 p.m.

Registration for Conference 1978 will begin at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, June 18. A program dedicating a portrait of May Rowland will be held in the Activities Center from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. The dedication and unveiling of the portrait will be conducted by both Unity School and AUC representatives.

Conference 1978 officially begins at 8:30 Monday morning with Regional meetings and roll call. Business meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue through the afternoon. At 7:30 p.m. Monday evening Unity Temple on the Plaza will be celebrating their Seventy-fifth Anniversary. Anyone interested in attending may obtain a ride to the Temple upon request during registration on Sunday, June 18.

Tuesday morning, June 19, will be devoted to Business meetings. At 1:30 p.m. there will be a film on "Unity, A School of Christianity" for anyone interested. Business meetings will begin at 2:15 p.m. Tuesday evening there will be a special guest speaker. Dr. Irvin Oyle, D.O., is a leader in holistic approaches to healing and will be speaking on that subject beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Business meetings will continue on Wednesday morning, June 20. Wednesday evening will be the AUC Banquet at the Muehlebach Hotel. "The Classmen" will be featured.

Thursday, June 21, will be the last day of Conference. Final Business meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m.

This year's Conference promises to be an exciting and busy time for all in attendance. See you here!



HUMILITY LESSON!--from letter by Marilou Smith, associate minister in Naples, Florida.

"I don't think there is anything more flattering to a minister's heart (at least to this minister's heart!) than to see someone listening attentively and taking notes during a Sunday service. Last Sunday when Jack was in St. Louis, I noticed someone taking notes during my talk--and was spurred on to even greater inspiration. While picking up the odds and ends in the sanctuary this AM, I found a bulletin with the following note on it, 'I left the dryer going.' So much for ego!!!

WHO'S WHO AT UNITY SCHOOL



Chris Jackson, left, Visitors' Center manager, and George Fleming, Bookstore manager, inspect new facilities at Unity Village. (Photo by Tony LaTona)

Unity School's new Visitors' Center, which incorporated the former Tour Guide Service and Post Office, and the Tower Bookstore, has moved into new quarters at the east end of the Administration Building. The area, which previously served the Unity Inn and Shipping department, was recently refurbished to accommodate the Visitors' Center, Bookstore, Counseling Center, and Youth Education department. Consolidation of these offices in one convenient location fills a long-felt need at Unity Village to have a focal point for these public-service areas. The new location also allows ample parking for visitors who utilize these services.

Chris Jackson, manager of the Visitors' Center, has also assumed the duties of Postmaster of Unity Village. The Post Office was established to serve Unity School employees and visitors to the Village but does not handle the bulk of Unity's mail. Chris says the Post Office processes approximately 7,500 pieces of mail each month and provides a much needed service. "However, the Mailing department is a considerably larger operation with more personnel and a much greater quantity of mail," Chris said.

The Visitors' Center is an integral part of the Public Relations department. A staff of P.R. representatives, **Peter Bradley, Larry Davis, Jody Russell, and Harriet Schumacher**, assist Chris with the operation of the Center. In addition to providing visitor information and postal services, the Center also offers guided tours of Unity School and audio visual programs to some 10,000 visitors each year. Chris explained that staff members have many duties and giving tours is only one of the functions they perform--although a very important one.

All P.R. staff members write news releases and assist with programs sponsored by Unity School, both at the Village and in the community. They also assist with press conferences and handle research projects--this includes periodic revision of tour brochures and information sheets as well as special
(continued on page 11)

MORE THOUGHTS ON ORDINATION

William L. Fischer

In the May, 1978, issue of *CONTACT*, AUC President Paul Barrett advocated that we not ordain graduating SMRS students at the time of their graduation. Rather, he said, they should have some sort of proving period for about eight months, and then be ordained at the AUC Conference the following June. This is an attempt to solve problems that new ministers have during their first year in the field.

This, in my opinion, is a regressive and unfair proposal. When I first went out into the field, new ministers were not ordained for at least one year. I endured the limiting and embarrassing effects of being an incomplete minister under these circumstances.

A few years ago someone brought up this same point. In response to it, we made a survey of all SMRS graduates

since the AUC took responsibility for training Unity ministers. We found that few new ministers get into difficulty during their first year in the field. Therefore, to withhold ordination from all graduating ministers would be penalizing the many because of the few.

Furthermore, we have the mechanics for handling this through the Licensing and Ordination Committee. The L & O Committee can withhold ordination from any individual student if it feels that there is some question about the student's ministerial qualifications. That graduate is given Licensed Minister status for one year. If he/she proves all right, ordination is extended at that later date. If not, recognition is dropped.

It was also suggested in Paul's article that the final decision for ordination be made by the Board of Regents, which was

originally selected for the granting of the now-defunct Doctor of Divinity program. This is not fair to the Licensing and Ordination Committee, which is probably the hardest working committee we have in the Association. The L & O Committee knows how to do its job, and does it well.

Many of you who read these words were ordained at the time of your graduation. Think for a moment how handicapped and embarrassed you would be if you went into your ministry without this Unity endorsement and honor. Let me tell you as a person who experienced this--I didn't like it, and neither would you.

This seems to me to be an ill-conceived proposal, and if it ever gets to the conference floor I hope you will vote it down. We desire to be a progressive organization. I feel that to endorse this proposal would be a step backward.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES

Statement of General Fund Operations

Twelve Months Ended 3/31/78

INCOME—OPERATIONS:	February	March	Year to Date
Love Offerings	\$28,509.70	\$39,171.51	\$415,570.20
Other Income	10,858.26	425.32	42,231.74
	39,367.96	39,596.83	457,801.94
Less Tithe Transfer	(2,850.97)	(3,917.15)	(41,557.02)
	36,516.99	35,679.68	416,244.92
Gross Profit Materials	789.36	6,612.81	29,334.58
Total Income	37,306.35	42,292.49	445,579.50
 EXPENSES—OPERATIONS:			
General Office	18,058.59	14,025.68	229,550.83
Education Department	14,773.54	9,465.96	108,675.26
Total Expenses	32,832.13	23,491.64	338,226.09
 INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	\$4,474.22	\$18,800.85	\$107,353.41

by l.i.g.h.t.

(Living In Good High Thought)

you can always enjoy

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE
L*I*G*H*T KIND

with

U.F.O.'S

(Unlimited Free Omniscient Selves)

—such as Your Self—

The heading above introduced creative affirmations in Bert & Eva Coffey's (Vista, Calif.) recent bulletin. Maybe you would enjoy using their clever idea.



REGIONAL NEWS

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL NEWS with Robert Wasner:

Gene Sorensen, minister of Unity of Livonia, Michigan, reports that Milly Collins, licensed teacher, has just completed seventeen more stories for "JOYLINE" for children. These are three-minute character-building stories especially geared for young children to use in ministries in a telephone-answering service. This is the seventh tape she has created (especially geared for holidays). The stories are arranged in chronological sequence, beginning with New Year's Day and concluding with Christmas. For full information about "JOYLINE" for children and this outreach to the community, contact **Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154**, or phone (313) 421-1760.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL NEWS with Loren Flickinger:



Members of **Asociacion Unity de Cristianismo Practico en Ponce, Puerto Rico**, participating in groundbreaking ceremony for new facilities. Nicolina Benitez, minister, reports: "Our building is well on its way and we hope to be ready to move to it late in the Fall."

Emerson C. Brathwaite, minister, reports on **Unity of Barbados**: "Barbados, the most easterly of the islands in the West Indies, is one of the developing countries in the Caribbean community. Its industries are Sugar Cane and Tourism. Because of the race belief in lack and wrong thinking there are still elements of poverty, unemployment and over population. The traditional elements of Christianity for the past

300 years have made a deep impression on the consciousness of its natives. It is against this background that Unity of Barbados is laying a strong foundation for personal development and spiritual growth.

"In its weekend study programme, classes are conducted in the basic texts: Lessons in Truth, Christian Healing, Jesus Christ Heals, and other related material. In addition to the intellectual study and knowledge of Truth Principles, participants are encouraged through class participation and research to discover for themselves that which is meaningful and dynamic in learning process. On the whole, it is a kind of laboratory experience.

"In addition to its weekend study programme, Unity of Barbados is intensifying its outreach programme through the retreat experience--Our One Day Independence Retreat at Sam Lord's Castle (Marriotts Resort)--was a tremendous success. Our Christmas Candle Light Celebration was also a success. The celebration took the form of a dialogue based on 'The Twelve Powers of Man' by myself.

"Because of the nature of our situation here in this Caribbean island, spirit is leading us to a Retreat Project. We know the substance is all there, but it can only come into expression through you and me.

"Already, an area of approximately 55,000 square feet of land on a lovely white sandy beach not far from Sam Lord's Castle, has been allocated for the Project. When the idea has come into expression it will be no longer the property of Unity of Barbados, but spiritually and legally, a World Unity Vacation Retreat Project.

"This Project will be a community project and will be at your disposal as individuals, families or an organized group. For Phase I of the Project we would like to provide sleeping accommodations for at least 50 retreatants.

"So here is an idea on which we could together work and I leave you free to support us through AUC or Unity School of Christianity with your prayers, your substance, your ideas such as a suggested plan, material or even arranging a work camp.

"In working with such an idea and bringing it into manifestation you will not only be expanding your consciousness but in a tangible way you will be helping the Caribbean people to develop their spiritual potential."



Unity of Barbados, West Indies, served by Emerson C. Brathwaite.

(continued on page 12)

SCHOOL FOR MINISTERIAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Each month in recent issues of **CONTACT** we have been introducing to you members of the second-year SMRS class. This is so you may be acquainted with new ministers who will soon be serving in the field. The final three members of the 1978 graduating class are pictured above. Left to right they are: Marlene Wolford, John Davis, and Kathryn Garton.

Marlene Wolford came to SMRS from Niles, Ohio, where she was working in an outreach work of Akron. She has been

associated with the Akron ministry, where **Glenn Mosley** is minister, for about eleven years. Her outreach work was done in the Youngstown-Warren area in Ohio. Her career prior to coming to SMRS was in office work in the secretarial, accounting, and management areas. Marlene is a Licensed Teacher, and has served in many different ways in the Unity work. She and her husband, **Ted**, have no children.

John Davis lived in Gardnerville, Nevada (which is near Reno) prior to his SMRS enrollment. He was associated with the ministry in Reno, as well as the one in Newport Beach, California. In Newport Beach, he served as both a Board member and YOU counselor. His most recent ministers have been **Carl** and **Jackie Buboltz**. John attended Los Angeles City College and Bryan's Stenotype School. For many years he worked as a court reporter. John and his wife, **Marlene**, (who is a first-year SMRS student) have three children.

Kathryn Garton was a resident of St. Petersburg, Florida, before her move to Unity Village and SMRS. She was associated with the ministry there during the time that **Paul Barrett** was minister. During her three years of Unity association, Kate worked in youth education, was a guest speaker, soloist, and song leader. She holds a B.A. in Philosophy from Vassar and an M.A. in Education from the University of Kentucky. Her career has been in sales work and as a teacher. Kate is not married.



Dennis the Menace



"HEY, MOM! THERE'S A GUY AT THE DOOR!"

"WHAT ARE YA SELLIN'?"

MATURATION

*Me, angry
afraid,
often
me needs it now!
Give it to me.
me sing, and laugh
worry too.*

*I, righteous
indignant
desperation.
I usually get my way,
I manipulate.
I enjoy; in spite of the depression
and think seriously.*

*I am centered,
whole
in God.
I am knowing my own shall come to me,
I let!
Joy quietly permeates my faith
God is; I am.*

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 UNITY Magazine

In the June 1978, issue of UNITY Magazine, field ministers may be particularly interested in a new series by **Jerry Fankhauser** entitled "The Power of Affirmations." The first report, subtitled "You Can Change" is one of four articles concerning the positive power of affirmations.

The July issue will contain part II, "The Mind Dynamics of Affirmations," which illustrates how we acquire positive and negative thoughts. Part III, "Steps in Changing Our Thought Climate," a method of changing negative thoughts to positive thoughts is in the August issue, and the September edition has the last article, "The Use and Misuse of Affirmations."

Material from the articles could be used in sermons about affirmations, in a workshop on changing thought processes, incorporated into material used in teaching Lessons in Truth, or as a basis in developing your own outline or guidelines for a counseling program.

Jerry Fankhauser, a Houston Psychologist, says the statement he hears most often in working with people in counseling is, "I really have tried to change but nothing seems to work."

This sums up the feeling of helplessness some people feel when they see their challenges as problems rather than as opportunities to change. The author believes lives cannot be changed until two basic concepts are accepted: (1) We create our own world and are totally responsible for it. (2) We see

life as a growth process.

When these Truths are accepted people have a place to begin; they are on the threshold of change.

The theme of personal responsibility is strong throughout the series. So is the idea that when people change their thought climate they bring about good feelings of peacefulness and harmony.

Coincidentally--in the same issue (June 1978)--Marcus Bach writes in "The Case for Holism" about the holistic movement in the field of healing arts. (Holism is from the Greek word *Holol* and means total, complete, and holy.)

This article has a direct connection with Jerry Fankhauser's because the holistic movement supports the view that the responsibility for healing rests on our willingness to change our thinking and perhaps our life-style. Persons are seen as responsible for and capable of changing themselves. Health professionals are viewed as cooperative assistants and guides in the quest for health. True health is seen as the harmonious interrelation of the body, mind, and spirit.

What better incentive is there to take control of one's life and change one's thoughts than a reward of an integrated relationship of mind, body, and spirit? The right use of affirmations, according to Jerry Fankhauser, will lead to such integration.

"The Power of Affirmations," by Jerry Fankhauser, begins on page 43. "The Case for Holism," by Marcus Bach starts on page 4, UNITY Magazine, June 1978.



WHO'S WHO AT UNITY SCHOOL

(continued from page 7)

subjects. With the transfer of the postal operation, two staff members are now trained as relief postal clerks.

"The P.R. staff is often the first contact the public has with Unity and every effort is made to see that Unity is well introduced. We strive to make each visitor feel welcome and to be aware that our words and actions reflect the Unity teachings." Chris stated.

Across from the Visitors' Center in the same newly refurbished area is the Unity Bookstore, managed by **George Fleming**. George, who began serving in the Bookstore nine years ago, was recently promoted to manager. The Bookstore,

an area of high visibility and public contact, is also a part of Public Relations. George and his staff, **Doris Kellar** and **Ethel Smith**, operate the Bookstore seven days a week. During the spring, summer, and fall the Bookstore is open twelve hours a day to accommodate the additional influx of visitors to the Village.

More than a hundred different book titles are displayed for sale; triple the number nine years ago. The Bookstore stocks hundreds of booklets, pamphlets, and current issues of Unity periodicals. The Bookstore is a major public source for Unity cassette programs, currently stocking some twenty-five cassette albums and more than thirty single cassettes. The Bookstore also stocks Unity farm pro-

ducts.

"People often ask advice about what book to buy," George says. "We try to refer people to a book that will suit their understanding and need--this is especially important to those individuals who are new to Unity concepts. Each staff member is conscientious about learning the subject matter in all books so we can suggest one that is appropriate."

Both Chris and George are very pleased with their new facilities and invite you to visit them the next time you come to Unity Village.

"People cannot change truth,

but truth can change people."

Idea Exchange

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY IDEA

David McClure, minister of Unity Church of Spokane, Washington, has found an interesting way to introduce and welcome strangers to a Unity Sunday experience. It is called "Friendship Sunday."

David explains how it works: "Three weeks ahead have invitations with matching envelopes available for congregation. Encourage them to invite someone special for Friendship Sunday."

"Gear message and entire service for visitors. Be especially selective in music and hymns, don't "assume" everyone knows "Let There Be Peace on Earth" (mention it is on page 4 in the songbook).

"Have extra greeters and ushers. Have name tags pinned inside Sunday program: one color for visitors, one color for regular attenders. Have everyone pause during service to put name tags on and get acquainted.

"Have special refreshments after services and key people chosen to circulate, converse, and spread cheer and good will, etc.

"Have "Welcome to Unity" packets available for visitors. We give these out to new folks every Sunday. They love them! They are in small white envelopes with "Welcome to Unity" written on them and include: that month's Silent Unity prayer card, several pamphlets (Wherever You Are God Is; Unity; and Twenty Questions About Unity), a copy of "I Am There," a coupon for free Unity literature, a request to be added to the mailing list, and cards containing information about center programs.;"

David reports the idea was very successful. The services have been "jam-packed."

SUNDAY DEVOTIONAL LESSONS

Blaine C. Mays, minister of Unity Church of Practical Christianity in Phoenix, Arizona, has come up with an idea that has become a "tremendous help in planning and advertising."

Blaine reports, "Have a main title of quarterly series, with thirteen Sunday lesson titles relating to quarterly series title. This allows one to know what he or she is going to be talking about up to six months in advance, thus being able to prepare more effective lessons. Publish the entire series at least one month before the three month series begins.

"This idea has worked great! There have been many fine comments. It definitely creates a continuity and lets the members know you know what you are doing and are going to do."

COOPERATION IDEA

Richard Dale Billings, minister in Oak Park, Illinois, has a great idea to produce harmony. He reports, "Each member of the Board of Directors is assigned the chairman of a committee in the operation of the center administration. Each chairman is required to submit a report each month at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting which keeps members of the Board in touch and informed as to the working principles of our center. This activity also gives the Board member a sense of usefulness and one of responsibility. This type of delegating of responsibility relieves the minister from many burdensome activities and gives a feeling of cooperation as the members are drawn into the operation of the center. The role of a Board member has meaning and also a recognition of talents that otherwise could be wasted. I feel it is worth considering by others who seem to have poor relationships with the Board Members.

"In my years of ministry this has proved very successful and I get to know the Board Members as friends and there is a real sense of cooperation and dedication to their position on the Board. Once a year the entire Board gives a service as well as serving for the Good Friday Services and Candlelighting Service. They have a real part in the work and unfolding of greater good in the Center. They show a deeper interest and also are very good about attendance since they are a definite part of the work and have a role to fulfill. IT WORKS!"

THE ANT AND THE EMPEROR

(The following is a story from Economics Press, Inc., which makes a fine point of perseverance. Perhaps you can use it somewhere.)

It happened in Southwest Asia in the 14th Century.

The Emperor Tamerlane's army had been routed--dispersed by a powerful enemy. Tamerlane himself lay hidden in a deserted manger while enemy troops scoured the countryside.

As he lay there, desperate and dejected, Tamerlane watched an ant try to carry a grain of corn over a perpendicular wall. The kernel was larger than the ant itself. Sixty-nine times the ant tried to carry it up the wall. Sixty-nine times he fell back. On the seventieth try he pushed the grain of corn over the top.

Tamerlane leaped to his feet with a shout! He, too, would triumph in the end! And he did--reorganizing his forces and putting the enemy to flight.

REGIONAL NEWS

(continued from page 9)

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL NEWS with
Arthur Hammons:

Unity In The Desert, Palm Springs, California, served by **Dale F. Batesole**, announced a mortgage "burning" ceremony was held in April, with **Duane Fowler**, former minister of Unity In The Desert, as a participant in the program.

Dale reports, "The Board of Directors is now formulating plans for the future growth and expansion of the church. Attendance during the Sunday services and increased weekly participation in classes has been most rewarding."

DIAL-A-PRAYER MESSAGES!

Here are three Dial-A-Prayer messages from Phillip Smedstad, New Port Richey, Florida. 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 for CONTACT to be shared with our ministers in a forthcoming issue.

Hello my friend,

Do you know that if you are experiencing any kind of problem or distress or upset in your life right now the reason is because of your beliefs? Your beliefs are the strongest power in the entire universe. The combined total of all of our beliefs is what creates the world in which we live. Your beliefs create the world in which you live. The things that you see, hear, and experience are the result of beliefs which you continue to maintain in your mind. So if you are having any kind of difficulty or problem, this would tell you that the way to have harmony, love, prosperity, and health is to go within and change your beliefs, because your beliefs are the cause of all of the things which happen to you. If you no longer believe in disharmony, if you are no longer willing to see inharmony in other people, if you are no longer willing to see inharmony in yourself, then you will be beginning to form a new belief. That belief will manifest as harmony in your life. The truth about you, the truth about all people is that you are divine, that God is within you as your life, as the very breathe you breathe, as your intelligence, as every quality about you. God expresses through you to the extent that you allow God to express through you by believing in that power within, by believing in that power within all people. Now is the time to form a new belief. Believe in harmony, believe in love, health and prosperity, in wholeness of every kind. The more you keep your beliefs in this realm, the more you will see wholeness, harmony, love and health demonstrated in the manifest world. This is Phil Smedstad from Unity. Right now we're knowing the truth about you and we'd like you to join us in seeing this truth about you and all people. God bless you my friend and have a great day.

Hello my friend

This is Phil Smedstad from Unity. Let's think about prosperity for a moment. Prosperity, in the broadest sense of the word, includes not only money, although

it does include money. It includes love, fulfillment, the abundance of life that Jesus promised. When you think about prosperity do you put ceilings on your expectations? Do you think in terms of "this much and no more." Well, if so, decide today to change your thinking, to broaden your concept of prosperity, for you have the power to invite prosperous conditions into your life. Whenever you pray for light and understanding you receive new insight as you open yourself to inner light—the light of spirit and ask to be shown how to make your life more vital and worthwhile, how to lift yourself out of any condition that seems to impoverish or limit you, you will be shown that richness of living is God's will for you. You are not bound by lack or limitations of any kind. You certainly are not bound by past failures; you are free right now, today, to accept prosperity as your birthright. God is your unfailing supply and His good is limitless. His blessings are continually being poured out upon you. The only problem that any of us ever have is our ability to receive them. Open yourself up today, expand your thinking and you will find that you will attract more prosperous conditions into your life. This is Phil Smedstad from Unity. We're praying with you, knowing that you are becoming more prosperous each day, and that abundance of life is becoming an ever-greater part of your experience. God bless you and have a great day.

Hello my friend,

So often we have said, "Turn to the mind of Christ or turn to the Christ mind within you and that will be the answer to your problem." Truly it is the answer to your problem, but think for a moment. What is this Christ mind within you? The Christ mind is the mind of God, your individual part of that mind. The Christ mind within you is the source of all your wisdom, all of your ideas, all of the thoughts you have of

going about right ways of solving problems. The Christ mind within you may well be likened to a compass, for it always points the way to right, good and intelligent action. If you are, right now, seeking the way out of some problem, remember that the way out of a disturbing situation is the way in. And the way in is into your own mind to contact this Christ presence. As you go within in prayer to the Christ mind, turning away from outer distractions, you will be shown what to do, you will receive light, wisdom and guidance if you believe that it is there within you. Since an emotional upset can obscure your vision, the first thing you will want to accomplish by turning within is to clear out your emotional atmosphere. You can do that by becoming poised, calm and trusting, in thinking about God, in thinking about love and truth. If you are facing a problem today, whatever problem it is, turn to the mind of God, the Christ mind within you. It is the source of every solution to every problem, and it never fails to give you the exact right answer you need right now. Believe that it is there and turn within. This is Phil Smedstad from Unity--and we're praying with you to know that Christ mind within you, the source of all your wisdom. God bless you and have a great day.

AUC OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday

8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon

Friday

8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Note:

AUC has the same office hours as Unity School.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- 3-9 Rose Festival Retreat, Unity Village, MO
- 15-22 AUC Pre-Conference & Conference, Unity Village, MO
- 14 *Flag Day*
- 18 *Father's Day*
- 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 Youth Education Teacher Training for new teachers, hosted by Unity Church of Modesto, Calif., conducted by Shirley Bonham
- † 15 Youth Education Teacher Training for new teachers, hosted by Unity Church of Modesto, Calif., conducted by Shirley Bonham
- 8-21 UICE Study Program-Session 4, Unity Village, MO
- 22-28 Summertime Retreat Unity Village, MO

AUGUST

- † 1-5 Fourth Vacation-Retreat for Creative Living, Asilomar, Calif.
- 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, FL
- 20-23 Northwest Regional Conference, Port Townsend, Washington, hosted by Harmony Hill Unity Church, Everett, Washington
- 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.
- 17-20 Great Lakes Regional Conference, Decatur, Illinois, hosted by Unity of Decatur
- † 23 Youth Education Seminar, hosted by Christ Church Unity, San Jose, Calif., conducted by Shirley Bonham
- 23-29 Harvest Festival Retreat, Unity Village, MO
- † 24 Youth Education Seminar, hosted by Unity Church of Truth, Spokane, Washington, conducted by Margaret Skidmore
- † 30 Youth Education Seminar, hosted by Unity Church of Truth, Seattle, Washington, conducted by Karen Johnston

OCTOBER

- 2-3 *Jewish New Year*
- 2-5 Eastern Regional Conference, Pawling, New York
- 7-13 Indian Summer Retreat, Unity Village, MO
- 9 *Columbus Day*
- 11 *Yom Kippur*
- 14-27 UICE Study Program-Session 5, Unity Village, MO
- 15-18 Southeastern Regional Ministers/Teachers Conference Birmingham, Ala., hosted by Unity of Birmingham
- 19-20 Fiftieth Anniversary celebration of Unity of Birmingham
- 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

- 25 *Hanukkah/Christmas Day*

1979

APRIL

- † 23-26 SCUCA Regional Conference, Denver, Colo., hosted by Unity Church of Denver

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