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Contact

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SPECIAL ISSUE

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Larry Swartz
Unity of Tucson
Tucson, Arizona

Without becoming maudlin I want to share with the entire Association how much of an honor and privelege it has been for me to serve as president. There is a part of me that few people know. I possess the capacity to have a wet eye or two at certain moments in life (on New Year's Eve as we close our service by singing auld lang syne and I reflect on where I was just a year ago and what the new year will bring, as I christen an infant and look into his/her eyes and think how quickly our children are growing and how it will seem like such a short span of time between now and when they strike out on their own). I also can feel very deeply when good-byes are said.

This past year has been a well traveled year for me. I have, as a part of my duties as president or other duties directly reflecting this past year within the Association of Unity Churches, traveled from Alaska to Florida, California to Pennsylvania, Indiana to Texas, North Carolina to Minnesota, and Nevada to Unity Village. I have had the joy of representing the Association at the Groundbreaking for the new Silent Unity Building and, along with Glenn, turned the Association's official shovel. I had the pleasure of being the ordaining officer for the Asso-

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MINISTRY SERVICES PERSPECTIVES

Glenn R. Mosley, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Welcome to our International June Conference. A significant time in which we as ministers, spouses, licensed teachers, volunteers, and delegates representing member ministries are able to share is at this time, annually. We are able to cross-breed our learning experiences and celebrate commitment together with colleagues. We share our teaching/learning experiences whether they are in a classroom or of mind, emotions, administration, or fund raising.

For an important sharing of healing techniques, be sure to attend the 10-credit, two-part Healing Workshop by **Louise Hay** on Tuesday.

John Templeton will share as a featured speaker on Wednesday evening; he will be with us all week. Treat yourself this week: get to know this interesting and internationally-known man.

During 1986, approximately thirty-seven billion dollars of the seventy-nine billion dollars of annual giving to nonprofit corporations went to religious organizations; that's no accident.

Many ministers, boards, and other people responsible for field ministries have for several years spoken about the need for "appropriate" fund raising educational programs. All Unity people acknowledge that we "fund raise" one way or another,

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VICE-PRESIDENT'S LETTER

THE GOOD RACE

"In the beginning God" is a phrase I have read many times and always associated with the creation story. One evening, in a time of stillness and silence, I discovered the words to be the heart of every creative act. In the living of life and the function of ministry, where one is going is not as important as where one begins. In my life, my beginning has often been human consciousness and the results have been obviously human. Now I see there is another possibility.

When a race is being run, the person with the best start often wins the race, although this is not always true. However, success in ministry, whatever that means, depends solely upon the start of the "race." When my beginning is God, my actions are not my own; they are Spirit's. I join Paul in declaring Christ lives in me.

As I observe and reflect upon my life and actions,

Jim Rosemergy
Unity Church of Truth
Spokane, Washington

I am aware of the compulsion to act and "make it happen." I am more concerned with where I am going than where I am when I begin. Having a filled sanctuary becomes a supreme goal, and I give little thought as to why I believe this is important.

GOAL SETTING OR GOALS BEING SET, WHICH?

During a Sunday service not long ago, I found myself saying, "I don't believe in goal setting anymore, but I do believe in goals being set." For me the difference is the beginning. When I engage in goal setting, my human consciousness is the beginning. I am aware of what I do not have, and therefore this "item" heads my list of goals. There is another way--IN THE BEGINNING GOD. When a consciousness of the Presence is the beginning, I am running the good race. Goals come, but not because I feel deprived or do not have something. The goals rise from within, out of a consciousness of contentment and are an activity of God. In truth, I am about my Father's business.

THE PROPOSAL

I am sure that this idea is recognized as valid by most of you reading this article. It makes good reading, but our purpose as individuals and ministers, licensed Unity teachers, and board members, etc., is not to acknowledge true ideas with the nod of the head or the yes in the heart.

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LIVING TRUTH TODAY

As the Unity movement approaches the completion of its first century of prayer and spiritual service to humankind, the time is right for us to re-examine our history and to remind ourselves of the richness of our heritage. Our roots run strong and deep and have sustained us well through our first one hundred years.

However, it is equally important to take stock of ourselves in the present moment. We know that Truth is timeless; it is that which is forever true, without limitation.

We often tell our students, "Truth never changes; it is our understanding of Truth that grows as we grow in spiritual awareness."

There is much talk these days about the emergence of a New Age. Popular literature notes a wave of thinking centered around

Connie Fillmore
President
Unity School

the ideas of peace, unity, and a spiritual basis for living. Our environment is changing rapidly with technological advances that impact virtually every facet of our society. We are bombarded daily not only with advertisements for various products, but also with "advertisements" for various ideas, including religious ones.

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MINISTRY SERVICES
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but we usually prefer to call our fund raising by a different, perhaps "nicer" name.

At one time or another it seems most Unity students, teachers, and ministers admit to feelings of frustration when faced with the need to set goals for growth and progress, and our tradition of "not fund raising." It has often been like trying to nail Jello to a tree. Most of us are well schooled at not raising funds, but raising consciousness. Together, I trust we can find ways to do both.

It is obvious that a ministry has Annual Giving possibilities all the time--just general expenses require it. If the ministry plans to build/purchase new facilities for worship, education, media, etc., a Capital Giving Program is required. For long term, ongoing expansion, A Planned Giving Campaign is required.

Be sure to attend the conference post-graduate course by **Howard Kelley** and **Peggy Bassett** on Thursday.

After you return to your ministry, a contribution you can make to the products and services of your Association is through 35mm color slides, appropriate for use with our seasonal or special holiday bulletin covers. If you have taken the picture yourself, please send the slide along with a note granting us the right to use the picture if it is selected for use by the Editorial Committee. If the photographer was other than yourself, please ask him/her to send such a note as well. If you wish to keep a copy of the slide(s) you share with the Association, please have a copy(ies) made before forwarding to us.

The Editorial Committee continues to grow, and with its increased growth, changes in CONTACT and other Association publications continue as well. To keep the purpose of CONTACT clearly in mind as you read the balance of this column, please re-read **Editorial Purpose** below.

You can help us achieve and maintain the purpose by contributing articles to CONTACT. It is our intention to impact on 70% of our ministers and ministries at least 70% of the time. In our view, the best way to do that is to publish real "live" experiences of people in ministry talking about "What I did and how it worked (or didn't)," "what I feel I will do (or avoid doing) in the future," and "Breakthrough" experiences in general (900 words or less, please). This invitation is to ministers, youth educators, board members, and other volunteers and staff.

In order to receive full value from your CONTACT publication, you may need to tear it "asunder." On the Resource File pages you will find printed holes for drilling or punching for easy notebook filing and/or BOLD PRINT titles for filing horizontally in folders.

Have you used the logo update clip art on page 9 of the April 1986 issue? You will notice the logo is used in different forms of art; all that is needed is your creative touch. Have you torn out page 13 of the same issue to share with your ministry's Youth Education Director? It's an excellent Outline for Lesson Planning by our Youth Education Department.

We have run readership surveys in both CONTACT and MINISTER'S LETTER, about what you want/need to have your CONTACT magazine provide you. We have implemented every practical suggestion possible. Your Editorial Committee and the staff who work on CONTACT and the authors who contribute educational and administrative assistance articles feel we have a good magazine. The real test of that is if it is being used. CONTACT need not be filed neatly on a bookshelf after reading. Remember that anyone affiliated with your ministry may receive his/her own copy by just asking to be placed on the mailing list (name and either home or ministry address).

Share and celebrate with friends and colleagues during Conference, and remember to continue the sharing after you return home.

Again, welcome home to your "Unity family"!

SPARKPLUGS

Talk Topics and Sermon Starters from Unity Cassettes

This month: ***The Angelic Consciousness***
By William L. Fischer
Harp music by Marj Britt

What are angels? William L. Fischer suggests that they are divine ideas by which each of us can grow and unfold to form an angelic consciousness.

This view is similar to that held by Charles Fillmore, who wrote in Jesus Christ Heals, "That God and angels and heaven exist is accepted by all who believe the Scriptures, but there is wide diversity of thought about their character and abode. Those who read the Bible after the letter have invented all kinds of imaginary notions as to the conditions under which God and His angels live and as to the location of heaven. Their minds being fixed on things, they have not conceived of the realm of ideas."

William L. Fischer charts the biblical and historical concepts surrounding angels. He shows that when we become receptive to the Lord of our being we experience a goodness and peace that transcends human understanding.

Mr. Fischer is a Unity minister who serves as director of retreats at Unity Village.

The Angelic Consciousness ends with a meditation accompanied by harp. It is a single cassette album that can be purchased through the Sales Department of Unity School.

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Editorial Purpose

The Editorial Purpose of CONTACT is the purpose of the Association: The Association of Unity Churches is dedicated to supporting and strengthening its member ministries by providing human resources, administrative and educational programs.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER
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ciation last year at Unity Village as well as at special ordinations during the year.

I am truly thankful for and appreciative of everyone in the Association for empowering me to be of service. I don't plan to say goodbye, however. I have another year to serve on the Executive Committee and Board and after that I plan to continue to be an active part of the movement through the Association of Unity Churches.

Unity is our strength. Our message of Truth is indeed our greatest strength and it continues to be taught, through our member ministries, to people throughout the world. We have a message that can help people discover the freedom, love, and peace that is God; and because this Truth is greater than anything, it will carry us through those moments when we individually or collectively fall.

Fear is our greatest weakness. We fear to give our all and our very best. This happens in our individual ministries as well as within our Association. Within the Association we express fear as we become divisive, angry, or unhappy because of agendas we don't like or personalities with whom we feel threatened. We express our fear by not attending and supporting our regional or national gatherings. We hide behind our fear with excuses and reasons, or with the cry of autonomy. Indeed, as another has shared with me, "we are a fragile lot."

But Unity will win. Its message, belief and implementation will be greater and stronger than any one person or small group of people who do not choose to be supportive and serving. Our future is the best of any other group of New Thought ministries on the face of the world. Yet I often think how much greater we could be, how much more known, how much more help we might give if we could bury a few fears and come together within an agenda of love and service.

Jim Rosemergy has the opportunity to "pound the gavel" for this next year (and wait in airports for late or nonexistent airplanes). Remember to bless him for his efforts and sincerity with your prayers and an occasional note of love and appreciation. He and his ministry are about to give a very big gift of energy and commitment and are to be blessed.

Thank you for this past year. I choose to continue to be an active and supportive figure within our Association.

PLACEMENT AND LIAISON

Joann Landreth
Director of Placement & Liaison

Welcome ministers, licensed teachers, Board members, delegates, and friends to the 1987 Annual Association of Unity Churches Conference. It's a joy to have you here!

Included in my responsibilities are Placement activities. *MINISTER'S LETTER* is the publication which lists the open churches. Printed placement procedures are available for both ministers and board members to assist them in moving through the placement process. We recognize, however, that all placement in the Unity Movement occurs through the activity of Spirit, based upon the consciousness of all concerned.

Also, included in my responsibilities are Liaison activities. A liaison representative may be sent into a ministry only if the minister, the majority of the Board, or a significant number of members request Association assistance through their Board. The liaison representative is invited to support the ministry; that is, the minister, the Board, and the membership. A liaison representative can often be much more objective in viewing the problems than those persons directly involved with the situation. General procedures for liaison assistance are also available in printed form.

If at any time I can assist you in the areas of placement and/or liaison, please give me a call.

An area where often ministers and board members have stated the Association can serve them is recommending special (non-Unity) guest speakers. In an initial attempt to provide such a service, I would appreciate your completing the form at the right and returning to me. Once I have compiled all the data, the information will be made available through MINISTER's LETTER.

Again, it is great to have you here for Conference. May it be the most enriching and spiritually fulfilling Conference ever.

OUTSIDE SPEAKER SURVEY

1. Do you presently hold workshops and seminars presented by outside speakers in your center?

   ____ Yes ____ No ____ Occasionally

2. Are you open to any New Thought ministers or professionals present programs?

   ____ Yes ____ No

   Opinion:

3. Do you want the guest workshop leaders to also give the Sunday worship service to arouse interest in the workshop?

   ____ Yes ____ No

4. Are you open to outside workshop leaders conducting weekend retreats for the congregation or the board?

   ____ Yes ____ No

5. Would you support an active bureau that lists current tours, speakers, seminars/workshops, and circulates this information quarterly?

   ____ Yes ____ No

6. Please share name and address of workshop presenters you recommend:

7. Please share name and address of any workshop presenters you have hosted in your center and would not recommend:

Return to: Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Vice-President's Letter
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We are to live what we know to be true. We defer action until truth is revealed, and then the "race" begins.

I propose that from this day forth, we let go of where we think we are going and give attention to our starting point, that we cease setting goals and allow the goals to be set. This ensures IN THE BEGINNING GOD, rather than our human consciousness, being the starting point.

I propose that we defer action until we allow ourselves to experience the Presence. Let's take what we call time to enter the timeless realm and truly allow God to be God in our lives.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES' MEETINGS

As the executive and board meetings convene during the year, we will let God be the beginning. Sometimes, actually at all times, we are busy and have much to do. We share our opening thought and speak an affirmation together and begin. During the year I have the privilege of being your president we are going to pause a little longer to listen and to allow God to be God. We are going to attend Silent Unity prayer services. When we are grappling with a difficult decision, we are going to pause and let the beginning be God. How else can we run the good race? There are times when we are aware of strained relations in ministries, situations in which there is much hurt. We are going to pause and acknowledge the Presence. It is not that these things have never been done, because they have, but this year my pledge to you is that they will have our special attention.

"Our business is the Father's work . . ."

Perhaps there are some of you who are thinking, how are we going accomplish all of the Association of Unity Churches' business? First, I believe that when the beginning is God, people work more effectively. The staff I work with at home has an hour meeting each Monday morning. A year ago we decided to not just have an opening thought and a few affirmations, but to take fifteen minutes of silence as our beginning. We are now more effective than before. Second, what is the Association of Unity Churches' business? How many times have I believed that the business was indicated by the agenda prepared by our staff. This is not true. Our business is the Father's work, and it is best discovered in prayer and silence.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Perhaps this way of life is the norm for you and you have been running the good race for years. I wish you would have told me, for I have stumbled around the track for quite some time. If, however, your beginning has not been God, now is the time to run the race as you have never run before.

Please examine your personal life and the actions in your ministry to determine if the beginning is God or if it is human consciousness. The results of your reflection are not to be labeled bad or good. What is, is.

How gentle and powerful are the words, IN THE BEGINNING GOD... It has taken me years to see their meaning or at least a portion of what they mean. And so, I conclude with this thought: WHERE WE ARE GOING IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS WHERE WE ARE WHEN WE BEGIN.

ISSUES IN MANAGEMENT

CHARACTERISTICS OF A LEADER

Barbara O'Hearne
Management Consultant

A recent review of a book and tapes by Warren Bennis and Burt Nanus highlighted some new information and insights into the topic of leadership.

Activities and change within the independent sector (not-for-profit) have helped to dispel some of the myths about leadership. One such myth is, "leaders are born, not made." This is not true. The basic competencies of leadership can be learned. Currently there are several hundred community-based leadership training programs throughout the country. These organizations know the value and the potential for impact that trained leaders will have in their respective communities.

Another myth often quoted is, "leadership is a rare skill." Happily this is not a truth. There are many examples of fine leaders in our history, both past and present. Each one of us has our own heroes and heroines. These leaders may serve as role models for us in our personal development of leadership skills. It has been said that leadership opportunities are plentiful and within the reach of most people.

Defining leadership has been tried for many years. Trying to define such terms as leadership, love and good parenting are all difficult, if not impossible tasks. However, for purposes of this article, the following definition of leadership will be used:

> **Leadership is the ability to turn a dream, a vision of a desired future state, into a reality with and through other people.**
> **(Bennis & Burt)**

With the above definition in mind, ten characteristics of effective leadership will be examined. These characteristics cover a wide range of skills, behaviors and abilities. Many are possessed by all of us, some are more developed and utilized, others are awaiting development.

"It has been said that leadership opportunities are plentiful and within reach of most people."

Number 1. The leader has **a clear sense of purpose.** They know and can articulate in very specific terms what they want to achieve. They are results-oriented individuals and have an agenda to get the job done.

Number 2. **Persistence** or a stick-to-it attitude is most important for effective leaders. When a leader presents new and innovative ideas, they are aware of the obstacles and opposition they may face from others (reactions to new ideas for change within an organization may be thought of as unfeasible and impractical, or the leaders are met with jealousy, competition and perceived as a threat to people in the organization). The effective leader holds fast to the purpose. He or she is a dedicated and tireless worker.

"Rarely do leaders suffer from the grandiose idea that they can do everything."

Number 3. Most leaders clearly exhibit **self-knowledge** in a variety of ways. They are very aware of their strengths and their weaknesses. They capitalize on their strengths by doing the things they do best. For example, some leaders are excellent speakers. During their years of formal education they actively participated on debating teams, had parts in plays, and took courses in speech and communication. As adults they have continued to demonstrate and improve these skills with public speaking experience and additional training.

Because of the astute knowledge of their own weaknesses in certain areas, they are comfortable in delegating this responsibility to others who are more capable of doing that job to make sure they reach their goals. If long-range planning is not a particular strength, the leader will hire planners to do that job. Rarely do leaders suffer from the grandoise idea that they can do everything. Leaders have a firm grasp of the total picture of an organization and where they stand in relation to this gestalt. They find those jobs and opportunities to match the skills they know they possess. This does not imply that they do not strive to improve their own skills and abilities.

Number 4. Among the more interesting characteristics is that of being **a life-long learner.** Leaders are constantly engaged in a variety of activities to develop their skills and knowledge. They attend courses and workshops, read books and magazines, and work with consultants who help them learn new skills and insights. They stay informed through a variety of learning experiences.

Number 5. They describe their work with enthusiasm and excitement. **They love what they do**--work is fun. This also comes from a strong sense of purpose. They are dedicated and joyful individuals. They are not workaholics, nor driven by pressure. They are able to work long days with enjoyment and zest.

Number 6. Leaders have **an ability to attract and energize people.** The leader's own example of high energy, enthusiasm and commitment engages people to "join-up." The followers feel united in a common purpose, even though they may not all like one another. The leader serves as a role model for many people. How fortunate are those individuals who have a mentor with this unique ability.

Number 7. Leaders are usually **emotionally mature.** These individuals know that leadership is a human skill that requires certain behaviors. Among these are: accepting people as they are, trusting and encouraging people to do their very best, giving people two or three chances. In addition, leaders listen with respect, do not take people for granted, and do not need constant approval. They are centered in the here and now.

They are concerned with their clear direction of purpose and not how well they are liked. That is not to say they alienate people in the pursuit of their goals.

"Quite often they will take chances with people, ideas, and money."

Number 8. **Risk-taking** separates leaders from nonleaders. Quite often they will take chances with people, ideas and money. They are drawn to the imaginative and innovative and money is an instrument they use. This is not to imply that these individuals are impulsive. They are willing to take risks because they have a "strong sense of purpose," and they are not afraid of failure.

Number 9. They **do not believe in failure**; it is not part of their vocabulary or frame of reference. Leaders may experience a set-back, or make a mistake; however, their inherent positive attitude acknowledges that they learn from their mistakes. Sometimes part of the process of reaching goals is making a mistake--an unintentional error.

"Building on your strengths and learning ways to compensate and develop weakness is a critical skill in leadership."

Number 10. Leaders are **expert followers.** In order to be a leader one must also be a follower. This is a position supported by many experts in leadership. Many individuals moved into leadership positions because they were good followers of the needs of the organization.

As you read through the listing of characteristics, note the ones that describe you and the ones you would like to develop. Building on your strengths and learning ways to compensate and develop weakness is a critical skill in leadership. Remember, leadership skills can be learned. By accepting the challenge and responsibility of leadership, we have the opportunity to share and change organizations to meet the changing needs of the world we live in.

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P. K.'s KORNER

Especially for children of ministers

Wow! School is out for the summer!! Yeaah! Time to go swimming, running, to the beach, out to play and all those wonderful things you can do when it's warm and sunny outside. I love it!

You know that wonderful word, VACATION? It means "magic" to some people. It means visiting special places and doing special and different things. But to me, as well as to my friends who are also children of ministers, it means visiting another church or going to a conference. Oh yes! When my parents say vacation, I know we'll either be going to a church or somewhere where they do what they do best--WORK.

This year they said, "P.K., we're going on vacation."

"Uh huh!" I said. "Big deal, what church are we going to visit this year?"

"How would you like to go to Unity Village to the Minister's Conference?" they asked.

"Get real," I thought. "You've got to be kidding. A minister's conference? How much fun can that be? Will there be any kids there? What will I do all day? Oh wow, a business meeting with all ministers, that's got to be a real fun day!"

"Well," I answered. "What's in it for me?"

Now, you must know that teddy bears are ageless. My age goes from what you would call three years old to what you might think of as 14½ years old. I'm not old enough to drive a car, butI am very mature. Realistically, I believe you are that way too--you know, sometimes you feel and act like you're three and other times you feel almost grown-up (whatever that is).

"Well," Mom said in that semi-serious voice she uses that tells me I really don't have a choice, but she is going to make this sound as exciting as she can. "This year Andrea Buenzli will be there with a very special children's program.

"Ah huh," I said. "So what's happened with my friends Joyce and Lisa? Why aren't they doing some fun stuff with kids?"

"Well," Mom said, "they really need time to talk with ministers and teachers about programs and materials for youth ministry; so the conference planning team decided to free up their hectic schedule so they could share with the people who really need to hear what they have to offer."

"I will miss doing the special things with Joyce and Lisa, Mom." "They are fun," I said.

"I know, P.K., but I'm sure Andrea will have some special things for you, too."

Well...to make a long story short:

I packed my stuff--my books (just in case things got boring, even though my folks have told me time and time again boredom is a choice), my shades (have to look really cool--in case there is another "P.K." there), my wild and crazy jams, a jacket, bubbles for those days when I have to make my own party, my brush (gotta brush my fur so I look nice), and breath freshner. There, all packed (just the essentials).

We packed the car and drove all the way to the Village (well, it's really not very far from where I live). Mom and Dad had reserved a motel room for us on the grounds at the Village.

"Hey! I can see the swimming pool! Wow! There's the tower! Mom! There are lots of kids there! I think I'm going to like this vacation!"

Monday morning! There was so much going on and I wanted to be a part of all of it. There was the Fun Run--not for kids though--and a golf tournament. There were people playing tennis (too hot for me). My Dad went to the Partners in Ministry workshop with the other spouses of ministers. Mom and Dad sure were right, there really were Treasures Unlimited! I got to be with...guess who--right!...other children of ministers! Wow! Did we have a lot to talk about. There were even some from Africa, some from Germany, England, Canada and all over the United States. We talked and talked about some of our feelings. We found out that we aren't alone in feeling the way we do about some things. We felt the same way about sharing our parent/s, about our church, and about lots of things. It really felt good inside.

The week went so fast. I had made some really good friends (some of whom will write to me and I will write back). It will be special to have someone who understands my feelings to write to or maybe even talk on the phone sometimes.

Friday morning, already. Reverend Jim Rosemergy led the whole conference body (that's what they call the whole group of people who attend the conference) in the closing ceremony. It was so special, it made me feel all "goosebumply" and warm all over. I hugged all my friends and said goodbye to Andrea (what a special job she did). I hugged Joyce and Lisa and made plans to be with them at YOU Conference in August. Wow! What a week! And I didn't think I'd have fun at all!! I didn't even have a chance to read my book or make my own party with my bubbles.

The Association of Unity Churches' 1988 Conference, "It's Magic," will be held in Orlando, Florida!! Talk to your parent/s about going. I know we'll have a WONDERFUL time.

See you next time!

TRUTH TODAY

Continued from page 1

Television evangelists have achieved such high profiles that the media has created a name for them: The Electronic Church.

Megatrends author John Naisbitt was, I believe, one of the first to make note of the increased sense of isolation that technological advances carry with them. He suggested that the electronic age brings an increased need for people to relate to one another in a personal way. We must balance "high tech" with "high touch" so that human values can be maintained and strengthened in our society.

We in Unity are in a unique position to serve this increased need for human interaction and support in our rapidly advancing scientific age. Our philosophy rests squarely on the idea of an open, loving, nonrejecting God who is equally available to everyone. Our belief in the importance of individual responsibility based on divine guidance ensures a nonjudgmental attitude toward others and a respect for their personal belief systems. We continue to seek the thread of Truth that runs through all religions, and we always try to find that point of unity with others.

" . . . to seek God within our hearts, to listen to His guidance, and to follow it to the best of our abilities."

The Unity teachings are just as valid today a they were when conceived by Charles Fillmore years ago. They are timeless and universal because they present a glimpse of Truth that can be expanded and built upon by one's individual understanding.

It is sometimes said that Unity is a open-ended philosophy, but I am not sure that this is accurate. What I believe is that Unity presents to the world a clearly articulated set of beliefs, teachings, and practices. Individuals may take whatever portion of these ideas seems appropriate and valid to them, and their **experience** with these ideas is open-ended. We cannot say for certain where their individual quests for Truth will lead them, but it is our responsibility as Unity students, teachers, and ministers to present Unity teachings as clearly and accurately as we can.

Living Truth according to our best understanding is truly an adventure. We cannot say for sure where the Inner Guide will lead us. But regardless of the individual path we find before us, the Truth about that path never changes.

"The Unity teachings are just as valid today as they were when conceived by Charles Fillmore years ago."

Finding our own personal connection with God, maintaining that connection, and following the guidance we receive are the most important of life's tasks. It is truly the ultimate blessing that as we do this, we are empowered, prospered, and healed.

The world as we see it today is filled with myriad and ambivalent energies. Daily life flows around us rapidly as we receive information not only from our small world of personal experiences, but also from far-flung places via the electonic media. However chaotic this may feel to us, in essence our task is no different from the one that faced Charles and Myrtle: to seek God within our hearts, to listen to His guidance, and to follow it to the best of our abilities. Truth underlies all of life's activities today just as it did a century ago. We can know it, live it, and teach it with the same sense of excitement and adventure that enlivened our Unity ancestors. The time for Truth is not past; it is now--forever and always now!

EXPANSION NEWS

Susan Eng
Expansion Specialist

"A TIME TO GROW"

"This article isn't relevant for me. Our church is too small to reproduce itself in a neighboring town." Eighty percent of you may have had this thought. Afterall, most of the Unity churches/centers have less than 150 people in attendance on an average Sunday.

The facts compiled from the Association membership reports are as follows:

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE OF UNITY MINISTRIES:

50 and under	39%
150 and under	40%
250 and under	10%
500 and under	8%
501 and over	3%
	100%

" . . . the best way for a church to grow is to be active in reproducing itself."

"How could this article possibly be relevant for me? Our church is small and struggling. I need to focus my attention on increasing the size of my own congregation rather than starting another church."

The simple fact is that the best way for a church to grow is to be active in reproducing itself. It is also a fact that it will cost people, time, money and identity; but the fruit will make it worthwhile.

Practically none of Unity's nearly 500 established ministries (not including study groups) should be considered too small to help a new work get started. Licensed teachers, musicians, and other workers can be supplied or loaned on a temporary basis from established churches.

The more financial help given to a new church, the less it seems to grow. Ninety percent (90%) of the pioneering ministries the Association funded failed within three years. A church should be self supporting. Therefore, it is better to give financial support directly to the pioneering minister. The minister builds the church with finances from the congregation. It is inspiring to see struggling churches give assistance to pioneering ministers who need the help.

The synergism of churches planting churches means that ministries working together can do more than any one alone. The Association of Unity Churches is here to provide strategy, motivation and information.

In order to plant a church, one must have the proper tools:

Number 1:
DO YOU HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR MIND?

Number 2:
DO YOU HAVE THE DESIRE AND COMMITMENT TO PLANT A CHURCH? It takes an extraordinary individual to overcome the challenges.

Number 3:
IS YOUR SPOUSE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING YOU IN YOUR GOALS?

Number 4:
ARE YOU DEDICATED TO THE TEACHING PRINCIPLES OF TRUTH AS TAUGHT AND EXEMPLIFIED BY JESUS CHRIST? Unity ministries are dedicated to teaching the Truth of Jesus Christ through Practical Christianity. A positive message based on Bible is still the main reason people are attracted into a church.

Number 5:
KNOW YOUR CREDO. Sometimes, new churches are planted because of a church split. Churches fail because of church polity more than in any other area. Call the Association about liaison assistance.

"It is inspiring to see struggling churches give assistance to pioneering ministers who need the help."

Number 6:
SELECT THE RIGHT CITY OR TOWN. Study the demographics of the area. Call the Association expansion office regarding the many ways this research could be done.

Pray for divine guidance in the selection of where to plant a church.

The Association receives many requests for a Unity church in cities and towns. We reply to an average of 300 people per month who request the location of their nearest Unity ministry. The list of names and addresses of the people who write are made available to ministers who have nearby ministries to add to the church mailing lists. A copy of our reply to the person wanting to know the location of the nearest Unity ministry is sent to the minister of the nearest church.

Number 7:
STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE. The music, location, advertising, bulletins, flyers, newsletters, Sunday messages, etc., should be done as best can be done. Individuals with high standards will not attend mediocre churches.

"Unity ministries are dedicated to teaching the Truth of Jesus Christ through Practical Christianity."

Number 8:
WAIT ONE YEAR BEFORE ELECTING A BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Wait and it will be evident who would be the best qualified to serve on the board of directors. Churches run by committees rarely grow as well as a church led by the pioneering minister since it is not the committee but the minister who starts the church.

Number 9:
PRAY AND MEDITATE DAILY ON LOVE AND WISDOM. Read Jim Rosemergy's article, "The First Five Years." This was published in five parts beginning with the August, 1986, issue of CONTACT.

Number 10:
TEACH THAT THE TITHE IS MONEY THAT IS CONSECRATED TO GOD.

Number 11:
DON'T ANNOY THE PEOPLE BY PERSISTENTLY ASKING THEM FOR MORE MONEY. If you believe in the principle of tithing and try to get congregants to tithe, there would be no need to ask for more except for special projects such as building funds or Christmas projects.

Number 12:
BE ABSOLUTELY TRANSPARENT ABOUT WHAT AND HOW FUNDS ARE HANDLED.

Make financial reports to the congregation at congregation meetings (staff salaries need not be listed individually).

Publish an audited statement at the end of the first year. Make it available to anyone who asks for it. Many people do not trust a new church. Take it to the banker and to other businesses with which you associate.

Number 13:
HIRE A BOOKKEEPER AS SOON AS THE CHURCH HAS FUNDS TO DO SO. Never be in the dark about the financial condition of the church. Keep accurate financial records.

Number 14:
CHOOSE AN APPROPRIATE NAME FOR THE CHURCH. Call your group a study group until a minister is the official leader and there are at least 25 people in regular attendance on Sundays. People do not mind attending a study group composed of 20 persons, but psychologically they want the "church" they attend to be larger.

It is helpful to have the name begin with Unity. Recently I wanted to attend a newly established church and had difficulty figuring out the directions. When I called the operator for the phone number, there was no phone listing under "Unity" since it did not start with Unity in the name.

Do not name a church after a street address or specific metropolitan area since chances are high that you will outgrow the location.

Number 15:
EFFECTIVELY MARKET THE MINISTER AND THE CHURCH. Every time you meet someone that is interested in the church, put their name on your mailing list.

" . . . the tithe is money that is consecrated to God."

Send a regular newsletter. Incredibly, over 20% of the newsletters from member ministries are sent to the Association without a) the minister's first and/or last name; b) the church mailing address; c) the church meeting address; or d) the Unity logo. Use of the Unity slogan will also shape our reputation. Please check to see that your newsletter is not missing some vital information.

Number 16:
POST "LEAVING FOLDERS" IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS. Leaving Folders are brochures designed by the Association for adver-

Continued on page 9

SERVICE—NOT ADVERTISING
A Media "Breakthrough" Feature

By Gregory Penn, D.D.
Unity of Escondido
Escondido, California

I would like to share with my collegues some insights I have received from years of work, study, practice and participation through radio and television. I would like to give you the posture for it, the actual benefits of it, and a little bit of the insight of what to be prepared for after it has been done.

"If you look at radio as a way of advertising your center, that message is definitely going to come across."

Ministers are often confronted with the idea that they need more exposure to broaden and expand their ministry, to bring people into their work. When we are confronted with the idea, is it going to be newspaper, radio, or tele*vision?* Each medium has its place. I would like to share with you my experience in an effort to help any of you who are thinking about these three or would like more information regarding radio and television.

I don't feel that newspaper advertising, unless it is an article about your work or your ministry, helps very much. Normally you're thrown on a "Church Page" with many other churches and it doesn't seem to have any impact. For ten years I have been on the radio in the San Diego area and it has been an immense help to me. However, I feel it is the posture of my approach that has really helped.

If you look at radio as a way of advertising your center, that message is definitely going to come across. You're going to find that radio will not help you at all. In fact, you will find that many people will be turned off. The approach one needs to take when doing radio programs is to spend a majority of your time on radio seeking to serve humankind with a special message you have to offer. You are not there to make a name for yourself or build a church. Rather, you are seeking open and honest communication with your listener. One of the best ways to do this is in the framework of what you deliver to the people who are listening to you. It is often thought that if one offers on the radio the typical metaphysical platitudes, people listening are going to be interested. This may not be true. Most listeners have heard all of the platitudes and philosophies. I have found they want something that directly affects their life. You would be surprised how many people want to go beyond the common mediocrity of their mind. These are people who are looking for a deeper insight into themselves. They want answers to such questions as, "Why is life so difficult for me?" "Why do I find it so hard to get along with my mate or my friends?" "Why do I feel emptiness or apathy about my life?", etc. I have found that addressing these major issues brought a difinite response from the audience. I am offering a service to humankind that is very important, and this type of service has not only helped my radio program but my church as well.

"You are not there to make a name for yourself or build a church."

Never underestimate the power of radio. Radio is very valuable. I am on a station that is 24-hours a day of traditional, Christian religion. I have found that even though my message is different from most of the other messages on the station, my voice is heard and appreciated; and the beautiful part about it is I receive letters everyday from people telling me how much the program has helped them. It goes beyond advertisement. The motive is service to humankind.

Let's move to television. We have recently started a television program here in San Diego on a major station that has a potential viewing audience of over 50,000 people. Production of TV is quite a chore and very costly.

"You would be surprised how many people want to go beyond the common mediocrity of their mind."

It is slow as far as results are concerned; but let me warn you, when the results hit they hit! You had better be prepared for them. I was not totally prepared for this and I still don't feel totally prepared.

First of all, the average production cost of a television program such as mine (30 minutes, with no outside commercials--where on a Sunday I will shoot 6 to 8 different programs, have them edited, produce what are called "wrap-arounds" which consists of an intro, a call for support, and a closure which lasts 3 minutes, plus air time), runs about $3,500.00 per Sunday. Now you may gasp at this; but again if your approach is open and your motives are pure, as far as seeking to be of service to humankind, you will find that you open doors to great prosperity.

I started this project with a very small congregation of about 180 people. My congregation has grown to over 350 in the period of one year. However, while this growth may seem very appetizing to you, it has problems. You have to rearrange your life drastically.

" . . . it is very important to have a cohesive crew; a crew which works with you and enjoys what you are doing."

Let me address one issue in production which is very important. There are many different price schedules for production. Shop around, find out who is offering what and at what price. I also found that it is very important to have a cohesive crew; a crew which works with you and enjoys what you are doing. I am lucky that all the people on my "shoot" are Bahaists. My work and my teaching coincide beautifully with theirs. Very beautiful things have come out of this. You must always have a harmonious set.

Concerning the teachings you offer on TV: If you come across as though you are "teaching doctrine," or as a "know it all," or seeking to make a name for yourself, you're going to find your program will probably be overlooked my many. I learned that the way to approach it was just as I did on radio, by seeking to understand the audience, what their needs are and addressing those needs on a practical, spiritual, everyday level. Do not offer them lofty platitudes and confusing metaphysics. Keep it simple and remain humble in your presentation.

The last thing I would like to address is the ramifications of all this. I've had great drains on my energy, body, and health (what with the daily radio program, Sunday lessons, counseling, and the TV program to shoot). You will also find your personal life is interferred with when you go to a restaurant or other public places. Please be aware of this. You may think that notoriety is a lot of fun and exults your ego. But I think you will find that it is one of the burdens you carry for being in the public eye. If you do not have the makeup to deal with this, by all means, don't do it. My personal life has changed drastically through television.

If I can help any of you with questions you may have in preparing for a TV/radio program, please do not hestiate to let me know. I would be more than happy to offer what I know and what I've found through my experiences. I offer this article in true humility in hopes it might help one of my fellow collegues.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY
a network of spouses of ministers

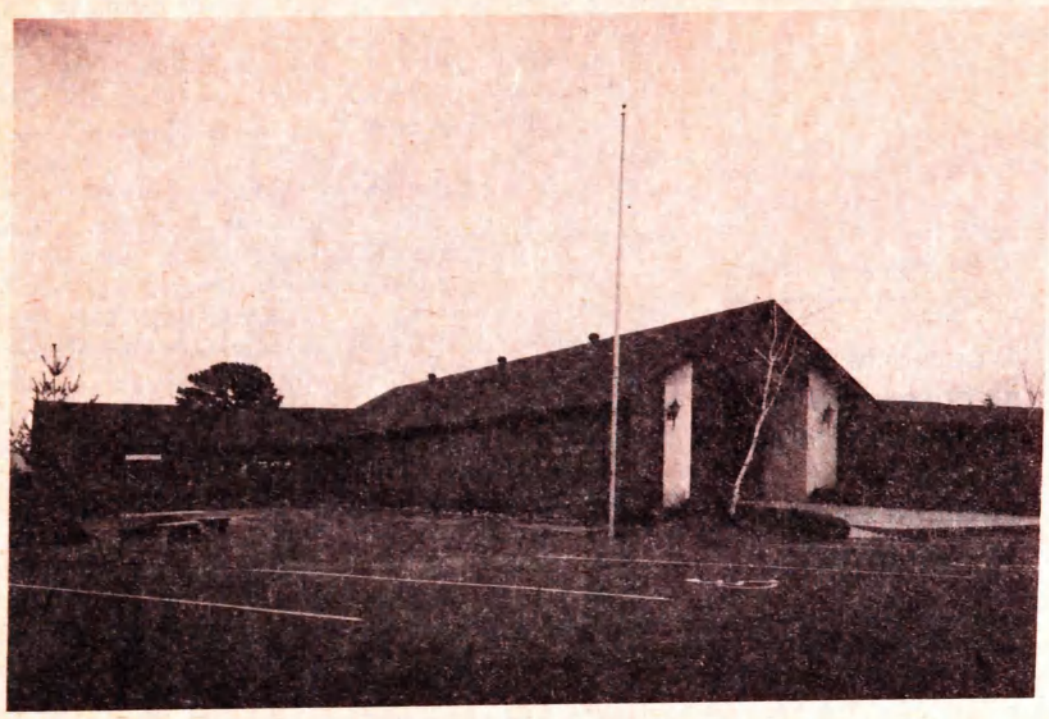
By Karin Mosley & Weaver Hess

I'm sitting here right now in my office listening to the sounds of birds and the lawn mower out on the great expanse of grass that surrounds this wonderful building in which the Association of Unity Churches is housed. I picked up the notebooks labeled, "CONTACT 1986" and "CONTACT 1987" this morning and leafed through them to the Partners in Ministry columns just to see where you and I have been together over the last several months.

Names...being a whole Child of God...playing the "role"...supporting our minister spouse...commitment...personal growth...expressing our uniqueness...treating our minister spouse as a person...choices...and the list goes on.

The mailbox is empty (again) today; the phone is still. And so, beloved friends, today this column is empty. Or is it?? Today, I give you a time to be quiet, to reflect on something GOOD, something POSITIVE. A quiet meadow, a still lake; whatever makes you feel peaceful. Put this CONTACT down right now and take whatever time you might have used in reading this column and just enjoy. I love you.

UNITY OF ROANOKE VALLEY 15th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Unity of Roanoke Valley, Roanoke, Virginia, celebrated their 15th Anniversary with a three-day retreat in September, 1986. The following is an excerpt from their "Special 15th Birthday Edition" bulletin describing the history of Unity of Roanoke Valley, from the beginning of a small group in 1971, to the ever-expanding ministry it is today:

Fifteen years ago a small group of eight people had a dream of a Unity Center here in the Valley. They made a commitment to that dream and they took action to bring it about. In September 1971 they asked The Rev. Kathryn Doyle (now Rowbotham) to be their minister and agreed to guarantee her salary for a three-month period during the establishment of the ministry.

"Fifteen years ago a small group of eight people had a dream."

Other people, including The Rev. Alan Rowbotham, began to catch the dream. Alan also had another dream in mind - to marry Kathryn. So, soon after Unity of Roanoke Valley was established, Alan and Kathryn were married and together made a commitment to the development of this ministry of Truth.

The dream grew. It captured the imagination of many others who were searching for a new and positive way of life. The people met during the week in study groups held in bank building meeting rooms in different parts of the city. On Sundays they held services, first at the Salem-Roanoke Valley Civic Center, then Raleigh Court Elementary School, then Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, then the Sheraton Inn and

"It captured the imagination of many others who were searching for a new and positive way of life."

then at the Airport Holiday Inn, a mile away from the ultimate home of Unity of Roanoke Valley. During those years the ministers used their home for offices and counseling, then sold their home to move to a large house on Grandin Road where an office, classroom and prayer room were established. In the spring of 1976, the Center and the ministers' home was relocated to Electric Road.

The dream was gathering momentum. During those years of initial growth, a commitment was made to the unfolding dream by growing numbers of people. They gave of their time, money, and talents to see that dream come true. By September 1973, just two years from its inception, the Unity group had saved $20,000 over and above operating expenses. A down payment of $17,500 was made on 28 acres of land in Roanoke County costing $77,500. The $60,000 was privately financed at 8% over a 10-year period, but was paid off in two years and in November 1975 plans were announced for the construction of a permanent Unity Center to be built on the 28 acres. In June 1976 a final contract was drawn up for the design and construction of the Unity Center and manse, which were completed in March 1977.

A dream had become a visible reality. But it was not yet complete. Furnishings, including carpets, drapes, office furniture, kitchen and maintenance equipment had to be provided at a cost of $27,000. Another commitment was made, Unity Investment Trust was formed and the money to furnish the building was provided.

"We wanted the beautiful land to be used wisely and to the best advantage for future growth."

The dream expressed itself and expanded in beautiful and mysterious ways. It reached out into other communities through study groups in Christiansburg and Lexington and a new satellite ministry in Lynchburg.

The dream is still expanding itself. A beautiful stone entrance with wrought iron gates and lovely carved church sign were added. It was known from the beginning that the initial buildings were only the first phase and that the dream would outgrow the facilities. As the next point of growth it was decided to have an architect and building team study the entire site and present a possible solution to our immediate needs and future growth. To stabilize our efforts as we grew the decision was made not to proceed with the plan to expand the sanctuary and add a youth education building to it, but instead to go ahead with the paving of the road and parking lots and to build the Sunday School Annex (Youth Education building). It was decided to wait on the sanctuary expansion until more funds were available while still continuing to research ideas and possibilities that would best serve us in the future. We wanted the beautiful land to be used wisely and to the best advantage for future growth. Our youth education building is already full to overflowing with wonderful, happy children and has become a much used facility since it was completed (and paid for) at the end of 1984.

"We see the Unity ministry reaching out to serve the community in deeper and ever more meaningful ways."

The year 1985 saw the purchase of a new Rodgers organ and a like-new Kawai grand piano, both paid for at time of installation.

Now we have made another commitment to the dream. The "garden room" or "atrium wing" has been completed. The original estimate for the addition was $50,000. We came in at just over $42,000 and had it completed and paid for before the end of 1986! This garden room will later become the narthex (entrance lobby) to the lovely sanctuary which will seat 750 with a lower level for youth education classrooms and other facilities. A beautiful courtyard with bell tower and fountain will grace the entrance when it is linked to our future sanctuary. The total (present day) cost of all the planned expansion is $750,000.

We have a dream and a commitment to that dream. We see the eventual development of the Unity land with the main auditorium and plenty of fellowship space, children's school and Sunday School facilities, excellent administrative facilities, counseling services, adult classroom space, expanded bookstore and library, radio station, retreat facilities, amphitheater, arts center, senior citizen village and beautifully landscaped gardens and waterfalls and nature trails. We see the Unity ministry reaching out to serve the community in deeper and ever more meaningful ways. We see people helping people, knowing and practicing the Truth that makes us free.

NEW CHURCH HOME COMPLETED

During the summer of 1986, members of Unity Church of Traverse City in Michigan, were clearing ground, transplanting trees, moving bushes and burning brush.

Their efforts were all part of the church's building project, which was completed in the fall of 1986.

"While the majority of the work was done by contractors, church members felt whatever they could do themselves not only saved money, but gave them a personal interest in the building," said Kathryn DeMougin, minister.

The 5,800 square foot building is located on 25 acres of wooded property which provides an opportunity for nature walks for members of Unity Church of Traverse City. It houses a sanctuary capable of seating 180, an assembly room, a book room, a Sunday School room, and an office.

Unity Church of Traverse City began as a study group seven years ago and was incorporated into a church in 1983 and became a member of the Association of Unity Churches.

Kathryn commented, "The church currently has about 55 members. I don't expect us to be huge, but would expect that one day we will fill the church."

UNITY CHURCH OF QUINCY FINDS NEW HOME

(Ed. Note: Excerpts taken from June 26, 1986, edition of the Quincy Herald-Wing newspaper.)

The people at Unity Church of Quincy, Illinois, are singing with a fuller heart since their move to new quarters.

"I don't know exactly what the difference is, but something has happened," said Patricia Bosh, minister.

The group is refurbishing its new quarters, the old St. Paul Church at 927 Monroe, in the heart of the German Village core area. They moved there in April 1986. The church and adjoining school have been empty since 1983, and vandalism and neglect had taken its toll.

Patricia said members are donating time and money to make the buildings into a church home. "As long as they feel like there's work to do, they keep coming to do it," she said.

Rooms in the school building have been fixed up for a chapel, two Sunday school classrooms, a bookstore and an office. Workers are also reno-vating the main hall. The kitchen, where members found a bright purple sink, requires major renovation.

The church, school and parsonage east of the church were built in 1874 by a group which joined the Evangical Synod of North America in 1881. It was called St. Paul's Kirche then, as evidenced by the name plate above the door.

In 1886, a home for the school teacher was built west of the church. In 1913 the original school building burned and was replaced with the present structure, which was again damaged by fire in 1919.

At the time of the congregation's 50th anniversary, a spacious choir loft, organ and organ lofts, and the sanctuary window were added as part of the celebration. In the 1930s and '40s, wood inlay panels and a pulpit and lecturn were added.

In 1945, St. Paul and St. Peter churches merged and became Trinity United Evangical Church. In 1965 the congregation moved and the building was then owned for several years by the Mormons.

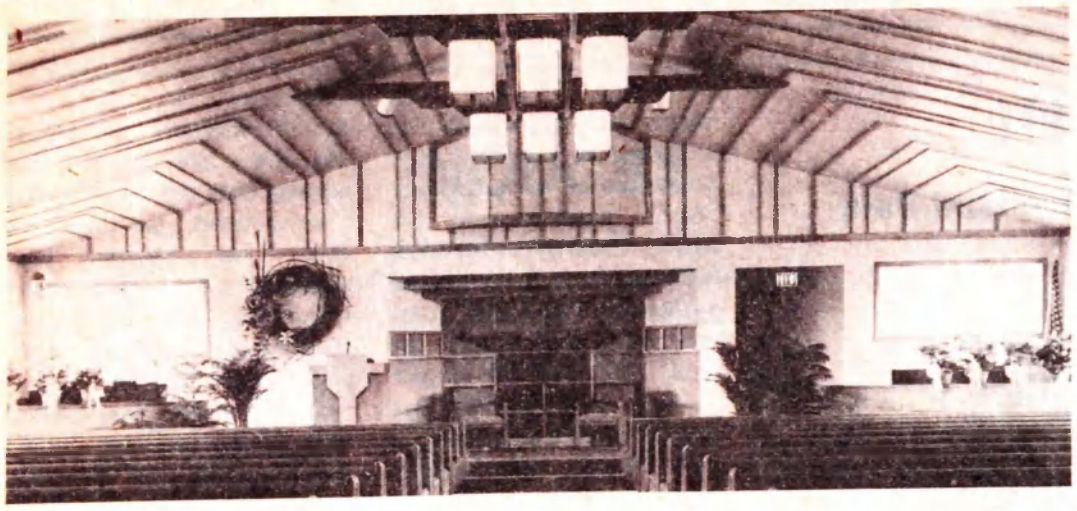
In 1984, historians recommended the church serve as an anchor for the city's first historic district, the north side of the 900 block of Monroe Street. The district never materialized.

"This building is an important part of the community," Patricia said. "The neighbors are glad to have it occupied and taken care of again. And we feel just wonderful about the place.

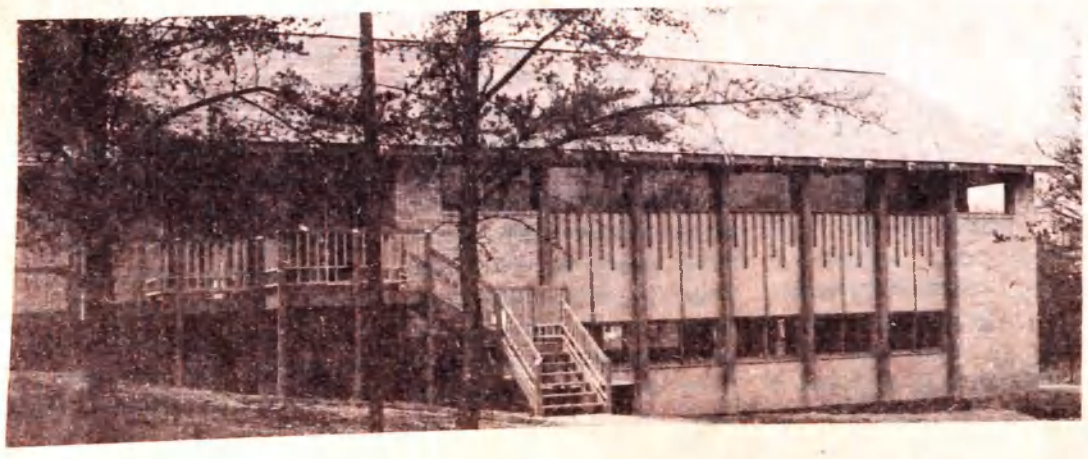
"We plan to fix up the church, but we can't restore it to its original condition. Too many additions and changes have taken place," she said.

"But it's ours, so we can take our time and do what we want with it and grow with it."

UNITY CHURCH OF FT. WAYNE DEDICATION SERVICE



Unity Church of Fort Wayne, Indiana, dedicated their new sanctuary on March 29, 1987. Claudette Farone, minister, reports: "This project began in the Fall of 1986 when it was decided more space was needed to handle the growing congregation and increased activities of the church. The previous building was remodeled for offices and classrooms for Youth Education and the new sanctuary was added. We give thanks for this beautiful facility and for the opportunity of reaching more persons and blessing their lives in unimited ways."



LET US KNOW . . .

We welcome any comments, criticism, or suggestions you may wish to share with us regarding this special issue of CONTACT. Send to: CONTACT, Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063. We look forward to hearing from you.

Also, if you have any news regarding events happening in your church that you would like to share with others in the field, we are now accepting articles for possible inclusion in next year's Conference edition of CONTACT. Send them also to us at the address given above.

Thanks for your interest and support.

EXPANSION NEWS
Continued from page 6

tising your ministry. These could be placed in Unity free literature racks along with DAILY WORD.

The Leaving Folders and free literature racks were described in detail in the April, 1987, issue of CONTACT. (Order numbers 1991 and 1992 on the Association order form.)

Leaving Folders could be posted on community bulletin boards, in hospitals, nursing homes, doctors' offices, etc. This form of advertising has made a difference.

Number 17:

USE CABLE TELEVISION. Some stations will advertise your church free as a "community event."

Perhaps the local talk show programs may be interested in interviewing the minister.

Number 18:

MAKE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS. Radio stations may give free advertising.

Number 19:

USE RADIO ADVERTISING. One minute radio spots have the potential of reaching more people in an area.

Number 20:

FIND A GOOD CHURCH SITE. Find a permanent location as soon as possible.

The church should be easily accessible. When I lived in San Francisco, some people would drive long distances to attend church, but would not drive five miles across the city in stop-and-go traffic.

The building should be visible to the neighborhood it desires to serve. A church sign on the outside is important but studies show that the public remembers the building better than forms of media.

Number 21:

OBTAIN RESOURCE AND SEMINAR INFORMATION. The Unity Starter Kit is available through the Association expansion office to ministers and licensed teachers.

Write to Charles E. Fuller Institute for Evangelism and Church Growth, P.O. Box 90910, Pasadena, California 91109-0910 for information on seminars and books.

Robert H. Schuller, Your Church Has A Fantastic Future! A Possibility Thinker's Guide to a Successful Church. Regal, 1986.

Robert H Schuller, Your Church Has Possibilities! GL Publications, 1974.

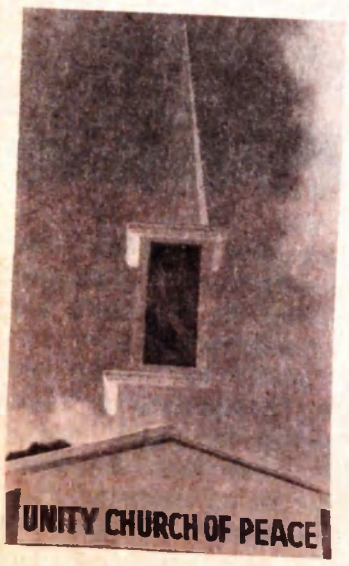
A new Unity special education ministry is now available and presented by 1986 Unity ministerial education program graduates, Brunetta Winthers and Doris McCafferty. They are presently working as a team in facilitating "Anger Control" groups with court-remanded clients and design "special issues" workshops. The "Creative Confrontation" workshop has been received with enthusiasm in Unity ministries because of the challenges that arise in the ministry and may end in a church split. For more information on bringing the workshop to your workshop, write to SEMINAR, 408 N.E. Sharon Street, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063; or call (816) 525-4652 or (816) 761-7249.

Not everyone will choose to plant a church. Those that will plant will find that there is no one formula to plant successfully. Choose those tools that feel right for you and HAPPY PLANTING!

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Unity Church of Peace, Port Charlotte, Florida, has a new addition to their church. Mary Hinkle, minister, reports:

"Unity Church of Peace is located on Highway #41, the main artery going south, which gives us much local and traveler traffic going by our door. Our Chapel is nestled between a piano and organ store and a used appliance store and hardly anyone could see we were a church unless they were looking for Unity in particular.



"In September, 1986, our blessed Women's Prosperity Circle gave our church its new bonnet, which is a beautiful steeple designed and created by David Clevenger, Artistic Metal Fabricators, with a stained glass replica of the dove of Peace made by Theodore Much, a member of our church. The wingspread dove of Peace is lighted and can be observed by the passing traffic at night.

"Unity Church of Peace is now known as the 'Chapel in the Marketplace'...with a steeple!"

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A dedication service for the baby grand piano purchased in memory of George (Bud) Hausmann was held Sunday, December 7, 1986, at Unity Center Church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Bud passed away on December 31, 1985. The piano was purchased with funds given in his memory.

After a concert by the church organist-pianist, Jian Li, who is completing work on his doctorate in piano at the Cleveland Institute of Music, the dedication of the piano was conducted by Mel and Sidney Ryman, ministers of Unity Church of Christianity in Columbus, Ohio.

Winifred Hausman continues as minister of Unity Center Church.

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After learning about the Myrtle Fillmore Center's annual "Remarkable Woman Award," Unity of Greater Lansing in Lansing, Michigan, decided to follow suit with a yearly "Loving Person" award.

The first recipient of this award was Ruth Hoffer, a Unity student since 1964. She began playing the organ at Unity of Greater Lansing in 1964 and continued through 1971. Along with her studies and volunteer work, she also led a study group from September 1981 through October 1986. Dick Ammons, minister of Unity of Greater Lansing, comments: "Ruth has contributed a great deal of love, joy, time, and effort within our congregation. We were happy to have the opportunity to show our appreciation to her."

Unity of Greater Lansing is also sponsoring a support group for persons who no longer have custody and/or contact with their children due to adoption, divorce, court decisions, illness, or other circumstances.

"S.O.U.L." (Sense of Unique Loss) meetings are now held each Sunday evening and there are plans to begin a second group during the week. There are also other cities showing an interest in beginning their own groups. A local advertising firm has donated their time and materials in designing a flyer for this special cause.

Since the announcement of this support group, Unity of Greater Lansing has received many calls from people who are interested in joining such a group, and the love, understanding, and support being made available to this group continues to grow.

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Shay St. John, minister of Unity Christ Church in San Francisco, California, was invited to do the invocation for the United States Post Office's dedication of the new LOVE stamp. The dedication took place in San Francisco on January 30, 1987.

The 1987 LOVE stamp is the sixth overall and fourth annual in a series which has proved highly popular with people everywhere.

"It was an honor to have been a part of this special event, and an excellent opportunity to promote the Unity message," commented Shay.

****

James Lewis, minister of Unity Church of Denver, Colorado, was featured in a recent issue of the "Rocky Mountain News Sunday Magazine," a supplement of the Rocky Mountain News newspaper. The weekly column entitled, "People To Watch," highlights individuals from the Denver area who have made a contribution to the community.

Jim also received a letter from Patricia Schroeder, Congresswoman from Colorado, thanking him for his uplifting, positive attitude about life.

The following are some excerpts from the column:

THE ONE PERSON I'D LIKE TO MEET: "Jesus."

THE SMARTEST BUSINESS MOVE I EVER MADE: "Coming to Denver."

THE WORST ADVICE MY MOTHER EVER GAVE ME: "Don't go into the ministry."

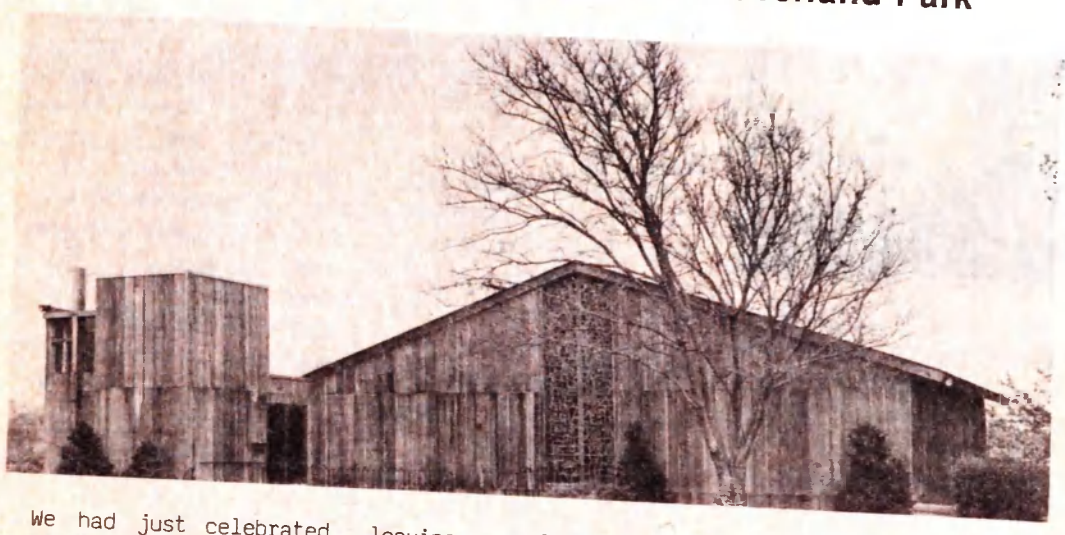
I DECIDED I NEEDED TO LOSE WEIGHT WHEN: "I did a lot of water skiing and it was hard for the boat to get me up out of the water."

MY DAILY AND WORKING PHILOSOPHY: "Do the best I can as often as I can for as many as I can."

I'D LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED FOR: "Helping people develop a higher-type value system."

KEEP THE FAITH!

by Bob Brumet • Unity Church of Overland Park



We had just celebrated paying off the debt on 3.5 acres of land we had purchased to build our new church home in Overland Park, Kansas. We hired an architect to develop the plans for the new building. Our enthusiasm was dampened when we saw the site plan. Virtually all of the usable land would be covered by building or parking lot, leaving very little green space available. Most of the beautiful trees on the lot would have to be removed. But the big blow came when the architect showed us the price tag--1.2 million dollars. (He informed us that figure was based on today's construction costs, the actual costs could be much higher.) We were dismayed, but we continued to pray and to image our perfect place.

For seven years we had been meeting in the lower level of a shopping center and it appeared we would be there for several more. But then a very interesting series of events occurred. A member of our church told me he had a telephone conversation with a friend of his in Philadelphia. His friend in Philadelphia has a friend in Overland Park that attends the Episcopal church right around the corner from where we were meeting. This friend informed him that the Episcopal church was for sale. I called the church to find that they had just signed a contract with a buyer a few days before. Feeling discouraged, I left for a week-long retreat in Colorado.

Upon returning I found a message to call the Episcopal church. the priest informed me that their previous deal had fallen through and they were interested in talking with us. He explained to me that they were building a new church because there was an abundance of Episcopal churches in this area but non further south where they were moving.

We looked at the building. It was contemporary in style with natural wood siding and was located on five acres of land on a main thoroughfare, perfectly adequate in every way and right around the corner from us!

We prayed, we negotiated, we bought the building (for about one-third of our estimated construction cost).

Our contracted possession date was based upon the expected completion date for the new Episcopal church. They soon fell far behind in their schedule and when it came time for us to move in they had nowhere to go--except to our space in the shopping center! We hired a mover to help us trade places. The Religion Editor of the Kansas City Star got wind of our story and wrote it up in the newspaper, along with a picture of myself and the Episcopal priest standing in front of the new building swapping keys!

The lesson from all of this? When things look dark, keep the faith, the answer to your prayers may be right around the corner!

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR NEW CHURCH

August 3, 1986, was a wonderful day of celebration for Unity Center of Positive Christianity in Woodbury, Minnesota. They celebrated their five-year anniversary and groundbreaking ceremony in an outdoor sanctuary with a vaulted roof of blue sky, green and yellow tree-lined walls, and soft green grass carpet.

Douglas and Garnet Quimby, ministers, pioneered this Unity ministry following Doug's ordination in June, 1981. Beginning in rented space from the Council of Churches, moving to an old lodge building, and then to a junior high school, it became very obvious that it was time to locate a permanent facility. The goal set at a Board retreat in February, 1986, was to "be in our own facility for Candlelighting Service on the 24th of December, 1987." Property was located in March with 10.9 acres of rolling country, one-half mile from a new freeway access. Meetings followed meetings as earnest money was paid, contracts signed, architect located and construction scheduled to begin.

At the groundbreaking ceremony there was a magnificent array of colors as hundreds of balloons were released and five skydivers descended on the new church property. Doug turned the first shovel of dirt as the congregation broke into applause and tears of joy. He then gave the shovel to Garnet (while he scanned the dirt for fish worms) and she gave a special blessing and also turned a shovel of dirt. During the solo, "On Eagle Wings," they were blessed with the appearance of an eagle flying overhead.

Garnet stated, "Unity Center of Positive Christianity has come a long way in five years. Now the joy continues as we build and grow on a firm Unity foundation of Truth. By the time this is published, we will have completed Phase I of our building program and will be enjoying the 'fruits of our labors.'"

NODOBE

by Rev. Amos N. Kalu
Unity Church of Practical Christianity
Aba, Nigeria, W. Africa

In Nigeria Unity ministers wear clerical collars, white robes and, at times, black robes. What is the difference? I mean we are all ministers of God ministering in various ways. We all have access to God. When you are yourself you have the contact consciously with God. I have proven this. I sought for God and I could only find myself. I sought for myself and found God and it was in the quiet place of my heart.

The Truth we teach is not visible.
Yet, it is seen in manifestation.
The thoughts we think are not visible.
Yet, its product (word) is heard and is touching.
The word is not visible nor the thoughts.
Yet, they have power to change you
Your attire is visible, but it does not change you.
Only that which changes your thought has power to change you.
But can you really see the differences between one to another?
Only in consciousness is the difference.

As I write this, my mind reminds me of the article I wrote for the Ministerial Student newsletter while in USRS, "NODOBE."

"Jesus said in John 8:32 'You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free.' Are you free? To know the Truth is one thing, to do the Truth is another.

"Can you differentiate between a notorious rogue in a camouflaged minister's attire with his Holy Bible preaching the Gospel (from whom you term to be) and a real minister of God also in his attire preaching the Gospel? You cannot. Appearance is deceitful. We do not judge by appearance. No outsider can determine whether or not you have known the Truth. It is always in the absolute and not in the relative.

"For you to be a good minister of God, determine now, make it a vow:

TO KNOW THE TRUTH
DO THE TRUTH
BE THE TRUTH
- KNOW-DO-BE

Nodobe

OUR SECOND JOURNEY OF LOVE AND LEARNING

by Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Mulligan

(Ed. Note: Alexander and Eloise Mulligan are recent graduates of the CEP Advanced Course, USRS, and have traveled to many Unity churches presenting their programs, "Positive Problem Solving," "Psychocybernetics," "Semantics of Metaphysics," "Our Healing Hands," and "What Makes Unity Different.")

What a thrilling experience it was to drive 7,365 miles (from Farmingdale, New York--our home--to Omaha, Nebraska, and back) and have the rare opportunity of presenting our programs in nineteen Unity Churches along the way.

We called this highly stimulating adventure "Our Second Journey of Love and Learning" (our first was in 1985). Sharing our love for the Unity Movement through our programs with the Unity congregations across the United States, and having the culminating thrill of completing our advanced studies in the CEP program and graduating from the USRS on May 1, 1986 was truly an exciting journey of love and learning!

However, a journey of love and learning such as this required much prayerful preparation. It began in October of 1985 with our first packets of material and correspondence being sent to over fifty Unity churches. Next came dozens of follow-up phone calls and letters. We finalized our itinerary and actually started on our journey in February, 1986.

At each Unity church we were joyously received and felt a warmth of love and receptivity. One thing, among many wonderful things, which we discovered about Unity is the individuality, uniqueness, and distinctiveness of each Unity church. Granted, the Unity churches we visited are all members of the Association of Unity Churches, yet each one had its own distinctive personality, atmosphere and diverse activities. Some churches were small, either just getting started or in the initial stage of growth, while others were large and well established.

What seemed to be at the heart of the churches we term "successful," were: the high spiritual consciousness of the minister and staff; the raised consciousness of the congregation; open, honest, and continuing two-way channels of communication, and good human relations between the minister, the board, and the congregation; and a variety of classes in Unity principles.

One could not take a journey of this type and observe so many different Unity churches without becoming aware of the needs which may contribute to the growth and expansion of a Unity church. For instance, has everyone in town heard about the Unity church and know its location? Do the people who attend regularly (members and friends) really know what Unity is and what makes it different? Is there an ongoing, comprehensive educational program to help members and friends understand the basic teachings of Unity? Is the Unity church and its activities listed in both the white and yellow pages of the telephone directories, as well as any specialized community organization directories such as those published by the local public library and community organizations? To what extent does the Unity minister participate in community organizations? Is there a wide public relations program and effort on the part of the Unity church (minister/board/member) to publicize the Unity classes and activities?

A journey of this type was not "always business." Even though we were about our "Father's business," we did plan for and enjoy such sights as the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and the Space Center at Huntsville, Alabama. We also took time to visit friends and relatives along the way.

We would like to think that our "Second Journey of Love and Learning" not only broadened our lives and expanded our understanding of the Unity movement, but that the ideas we shared through our programs with the Unity ministers and their congregations contributed, in some measure, to the growth and expansion of each of the Unity churches we had the privilege of visiting.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES®

Annual Report 1986

The Association of Unity Churches is spiritually affiliated with the Unity School of Christianity insofar as it embraces the teachings of the School's co-founders, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. Although the two organizations are financially and organizationally separate, there are many areas where they work in cooperation with one another.

The Association's main thrust is the establishment of Unity Churches; it is separate and distinct from the Unity School and operates by its own bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. The Association was incorporated in June, 1966 by Unity ministers as a vehicle for administering the affairs of Unity Churches and ministers; it is a nonprofit organization supported entirely by freewill offerings.

The Association of Unity Churches is a worldwide organization made up of approximately 500 ministries and nearly 200 affiliated study groups, along with some 100 informal prayer groups. The day-to-day operation of the Association is handled by the Executive Director and his staff and is governed by a twenty-one person Board of Trustees which meets twice a year, in January and June. The Executive Committee, comprised of members of the Board, also meets in April and September.

"As an international service organization dedicated to spiritual unity, the Association supports the interdependence of its members through prayer, communication, and the combining of energies and resources to serve humanity."

THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES

The Association of Unity Churches is a global network of ministries, ministers, teachers, and laypersons sharing the vision and aim of furthering the Fillmore tradition of "Practical Christianity" as demonstrated by Jesus Christ. While maintaining a viable central organization, the Association's larger purpose is to support the development of individuals through local ministries.

As an international service organization dedicated to spiritual unity, the Association supports the interdependence of its members through prayer, communication, and the combining of energies and resources to serve humanity.

Support services provided by the Association include administration of international Association affairs; licensing and ordination of ministers; licensing of teachers; consultation in liaison and creative projects; training and materials in youth education; media and communication of dynamic ideas; educational and inspirational retreats and conferences; placement and support of ministers; and other evolving functions deemed beneficial by the membership.

The Association is people in churches, centers, temples, and study groups around the world in spiritual fellowship spreading the universal Christ message of love in action.

WHAT THE ASSOCIATION DOES FOR YOU

Unity ministers, teachers, and churches are served in some way every day by the Association. It may well be the services are so routine that ministers and boards forget that operating their church would be vastly different if their church was totally independent of the Association.

The following services are among the many the Association offers its ministries:

-A free copy of the Yearbook and the Directory of Unity Ministries and Affiliated Study Groups.

-Biannual identification cards for ministers and licensed teachers.

-Post-Graduate educational programs for ministers, licensed teachers, and churches.

-Placement service for ministers desiring a ministry position or wanting to relocate, and for centers seeking a new minister. Available from the Association is a list of placement procedures that spell out exactly what is involved in the process of seeking a new minister. The Association works with each ministry and minister personally to insure open, orderly, and harmonious matching of talents and needs.

-Liaison assistance for each region. A call to the Association will put you in touch with the nearest Liaison Representative.

-The coordination of the move of ministers through a national moving agent.

-Policies for licensing and ordination of Unity ministers. These are handled by the Licensing and Ordination Committee and the Standards Committee.

-Licensing of Unity teachers.

-The development and coordination of youth education materials and youth education related activities. A Youth Education Coordinator is on staff and Youth Education consultants are available in each region.

"The Association of Unity Churches is a global network of ministries, ministers, teachers, and laypersons sharing the vision and aim of furthering the Fillmore tradition of 'Practical Christianity' as demonstrated by Jesus Christ."

-Materials and teaching aids, such as bulletins, Guidelines for Unity Board Effectiveness, and Service Manual, are available.

-The Association provides the following magazines and newsletters: CONTACT, and MINISTER's LETTER. These publications are published regularly and sent to ministers and ministries providing current information on the activities of the Association and the Education Department.

-Free literature from Unity School. Available to all member ministries and affiliated study groups, this literature helps advise and strengthen all Truth work.

-New study groups. An EXPANSION GUIDEBOOK, Outreach Packets I through VI, along with other expansion material is available to assist in developing new groups. An Expansion Coordinator is on the Association staff to assist these developing groups, and there are expansion representatives in each of seven regions: Eastern, Southeast, Great Lakes, South Central, Western, West Central and Southwest.

-Regional and National Conferences. Annual conferences are held in which ministers, licensed teachers, and delegates may participate. Post-Graduate Programs are scheduled at all regional and national conferences.

-A health care insurance program for ministers and employees of member churches. This program currently includes life insurance and medical coverage.

-Two different retirement programs.

-Representation on Ministerial Education Council (MEC) and Education Liaison Committee. MEC is responsible for ministerial education (training of ministers), and the Education Liaison Committee is responsible for liaison between students and faculty.

DURING 1986

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, as our Planning Committee, has identified goals which include:

-The continued development and evaluation of programs that relate to the Association's defined statement of purpose.

-The ongoing development of an operational structure which enhances existing or new human resources potential for the organization.

-The continued collaboration and definition of mutual goals with Unity School.

-The continuation of the present level of financial support and the development of new channels for additional program related revenue.

-The development of effective public relations programs and strategic marketing for all Unity ministries and for the Association.

The Executive Committee continues to review accomplishments related to the identified goals, and to prioritize, revise, and develop new goals and action plans for 1988. A highlight of goals and action plans accomplished in 1986 include:

-Unity Training School of Puerto Rico created; focus and development plan in place.

-Southeastern Spanish Carribbean Sub-Region created; representative appointed.

-Southeastern English Carribbean Sub-Region created; representative appointed.

-Operational Development Committee.

-Operational Marketing Strategy Committee.

-Operational Computer Feasibility Committee.

-Functioning Association of Unity Churches-Urban Ministerial School Curriculum Committee.

-Operational Lay Participation Task Force.

-Board performing planning and goal setting instead of crisis management.

-Continuing review and revision of Association Bylaws and Recommended Bylaws for centers in response to a vital, growing movement.

-Program specific staff accountability.

-Feedback from field actively sought. and acted upon.

-Refinement of Committee Commissions Statements and responsibilities.

-Proactive, accountable Board.

-Regional Minister Advisor pilot program underway.

-Creative, cohesive, field-responsive Education Department.

-Ongoing Management Consultant field training sessions with Barbara O'Hearne. Session options include:

Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members

Supervisory Skills Development

Planning and Goals

Strategic Market Planning

Barbara is scheduling trainings on a first come, first served basis; please call her directly at (816) 531-3353. Professional fees and expenses borne by the Association.

-Association of Unity Churches/Unity School Task Force (ongoing).

-Management Training CONTACT article monthly by Barbara O'Hearne began May, 1986.

-International Ministries Task Force created (ongoing).

-Existential Position defined (ongoing):

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Association of Unity Churches is to support Unity ministries in sharing with people everywhere the universal principles of Truth as taught and demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Association of Unity Churches is dedicated to supporting and strengthening its member ministries by providing human resources, administrative, and educational programs.

-The conversion of all finance recording systems to a comprehensive data system that effectively monitors financial resources and expenditures.

A great many organizational challenges and opportunities exist for the Association. Creating this yearly planning process ensures that the organization will continue to strive to define its goals in relationship to the needs of its member ministers and ministries.

STAFF

Office of Ministry Services--Carries out the policies of the corporation, is responsible for ministerial and board consultation, overall administration of operations, fiscal management of the corporation, coordinates the Expansion Program of Outreach Ministries and related study groups, and design of Association publications.

Glenn R. Mosley, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Martha Loehr
Executive Secretary

Chris Gaither, Sharon Poindexter, Lorraine Allen
Receptionists

Cheryl Vestal
Graphics and Composition Specialist

Susan Eng
Expansion Specialist

Marge Pool
Word Processor

Accounting Department---Supervises overall fiscal operations, handles compensation and benefits program.

Young Bae
Business Manager

Mae Beach
Accounting Assistant
Orders

Myra Moore
Accounting Assistant
Insurance

Education Department--Plans, budgets, and coordinates education programs, publications, and activities of the Association; serves as resource to field ministries regarding policies, educational goals, and programs; coordinates the Skill Demonstration Seminars and the Licensed Teacher Post-Graduate week; develops ministry studies curriculum; responsible for the overall planning, coordination and supervision of YOU Conference and youth educational services.

James C. Robinson, Ph.D.
Director of Education

Judith Sherman
Chairman of
Ministry Studies

Trish Robinson
Education Secretary

Ron Tyson
Conference Specialist

Joyce Culey
YOU/YAU Coordinator

Lisa Wissman
Youth Education Coordinator

Karin Mosley
Education Assistant

Placement/Liaison--Provides consultation to ministers and board regarding placement and liaison.

Joann Landreth
Associate Director
Placement/Liaison
Coordinator

Jody Smith
Administrative Assistant

Production & Shipping--Handles mailing, inventory control processing, and shipment of all orders.

Glenn Mosley, Jr.
Production/Shipping
Manager

Chris Palmarine
Shipping Assistant

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(*Executive Committee)

Richard Barnes*
Unity of Delray Beach
Delray Beach, Florida

Freida Olsen
First Church Unity
Nashville, Tennessee

Alan Stanley
Unity Center of Practical Christianity
Miami, Florida

William Cameron
Christ Church Unity
San Diego, California

Jim Rosemergy*
Unity Church of Truth
Spokane, Washington

V. Stanford Hampson
Unity - Palo Alto
Palo Alto, California

Larry Swartz*
Unity of Tucson
Tucson, Arizona

Albert Abdulky
Unity Church of Stockton
Stockton, California

Violet Assam
Unity of Trinidad & Tobago
Trinidad, West Indies

Pauline Beauregard
Unity Church of Descanso
Descanso, California

Maya Brandenberger*
Unity Church of Truth
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Howard Caesar
Unity Ch of Christianity
Houston, Texas

Bob Ellsworth
Unity of Vancouver
Vancouver, Washington

Robert Hill
Westside Unity Church
Culver City, California

Colleen Lehnus
Unity Church of Today
Omaha, Nebraska

Nancy Neal
Unity Ch of Christianity
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Marilyn Rieger
Unity Ctr of Independence
Independence, Missouri

Mayola SaltPaw
Unity Church of Inkster
Inkster, Michigan

Edie Skalitzky*
Unity in the Rockies
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Gene Sorensen
Unity of Livonia
Livonia, Michigan

William Kozy
Christ Church Unity
Augusta, Georgia

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES®
Statement of General Funds Operations
Eleven Months Ended February 28, 1987

INCOME-OPERATIONS:	Month	Year to Date
Love Offering	$ 67,974.84	$ 672,314.80
Other Income	1,083.54	$ 17,342.93
	69,058.38	$ 689,657.73
Less: Tithe Transfer	6,720.43	64,505.73
	62,337.95	625,152.00
Gross Profit Materials	6,151.61	54,135.85
Total Income	**$ 68,489.56**	**$ 679,287.85**
EXPENSES-OPERATIONS:		
Total Expenses	**$ 57,726.30**	**$ 672,852.27**
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES:	$ 10,763.26	$ 6,435.58

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Unity School Contribution to the Association of Unity Churches Through Services Provided
Month of February, 1987 - $ 5,710.33
Year to Date - $ 54,480.00

(Note: This contribution is a non-ledger item and does not appear on the AUC financial statement)

STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS & FUND BALANCE
Years Ended March 31, 1987, 1986 and 1985
(Unaudited Statement)

Revenues:	1987	1986	1985
Love Offerings	$734,093	$650,683	$580,733
Interest Income	9,045	9,000	20,830
Other	19,387	17,103	19,639
	762,525	676,786	621,202
Tithe Transfer to Expansion Fund	70,689	65,068	58,073
	691,836	611,718	563,129
Gross Profit on Sale of Material	63,186	71,321	49,659
Income Available for Operations	**$755,022**	**$683,039**	**$612,788**
Expenses:			
Salaries and Employee Benefits	$442,171	$407,255	$394,584
Travel	30,905	49,280	37,546
Depreciation	22,907	21,923	20,821
Other	76,389	44,647	39,760
General & Administrative	165,210	203,350	206,797
Total Expenses	**$737,582**	**$726,455**	**$699,508**
Excess of Income over (under) Expenses	17,440	(43,416)	(86,720)
Beginning Fund Balance April 1, 1986	**$168,814**	**$212,230**	**$298,950**
Ending Fund Balance March 31, 1987	**$186,254**	**$168,814**	**$212,230**

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Unity School Contribution to the Association of Unity Churches Through Services Provided
April 1, 1986 - March 31, 1987 -- $ 59,869.49

(Note: This contribution is a non-ledger item and does not appear on the AUC financial statement)

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR NEW SILENT UNITY BUILDING

Centered in God, assured by faith, and prospered by divine love, we boldly move forward to serve humanity by building Unity together.

Unity School employees, Unity ministers, Association staff, and special guests joined together on February 27, 1987, for the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Silent Unity building. **Connie Fillmore,** President of Unity School, opened the ceremony with a warm welcome to all; followed by **Charles Fillmore,** Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Unity School, and **John A.V. Strickland,** Director of Silent Unity. A slide presentation was featured, showing the history of the Unity Movement.

Dorothy Pierson, co-minister of Christ Unity Church in Sacramento, California and Chairperson of the National Steering Committee for Building Unity Together, participated in the ceremony and **Eric Butterworth,** minister of Unity Center of Practical Christianity in New York, New York was the special guest speaker for this event.

After the groundbreaking, a reception was held in the Unity Inn.

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Participants in the groundbreaking ceremony were: 1) John A.V. Strickland, Charles R. Fillmore, Eric Butterworth, Dorothy Pierson; 2) Unity School Board of Trustees; 3) Charles R. Fillmore; 4) Connie Fillmore; 5) **Glenn Mosley,** Executive Director of the Association of Unity Churches; and 6) **Larry Swartz,** President of the Association of Unity Churches.

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Friends joined together for fellowship and celebration after the groundbreaking ceremony.

The new building is expected to be completed by Fall of 1988.

The multilevel building will be located west of the Tower. Designed in a Meditarranean motif, the structure is C-shaped. The building will face east toward the Tower. The main entrance will be on the east side and flanked by a three-story north wing and a two-story south wing. There will be two additional entrances on the north and south wings.

The entrance on the south side of the south wing opens into an elegant two-story foyer. To the right of the foyer is the Silent Unity Healing Chapel. The chapel will have seating capacity for 350 people and will be the largest area in the new building. It will also be used for weddings, lectures, and other activities.

The Telephone Prayer Room will be located on the third floor of the north wing. Silent Unity's "light that shines for you" will be expanded into an octagonal tower which crowns the building at its northwest corner. The lighted tower will rise above the roofline and be clearly visible from Highway 350 and other buildings in the Village.

An arched glass vestibule will surround three sides of the beautiful inner courtyard. This graceful enclosure will serve as a public meditation area. Adorned with a fountain, the courtyard will be an ideal outdoor wedding site.

Additional plans include a full basement connecting two new underground tunnels to the Administration Building and the present Silent Unity Building.

The exterior of the building will blend in beautifully with the existing buildings in the quadrangle. Its majestic Mediterranean style; its red tile roof; its arches, fountain, and landscaping will greatly enhance the beauty and tranquility of Unity Village.

(Taken from the November, 1985, issue of Unity Village News, with updated revisions.)

We invite you to join us in putting

GOD FIRST

in all things and in using this prayer for the month of

JULY 1987

The prospering power of God enriches me with success, happiness, and creative living.

Unity School Prayer Group

We invite you to join us in putting

GOD FIRST

in all things and in using this prayer for the month of

AUGUST 1987

I am confident that the prospering power of divine love blesses me with success and plenty.

Unity School Prayer Group

AS I SEE IT

James C. Robinson, Ph.D.
Director of Education

Do you ever allow an idea to tease your mind? We know, do we not, that ideas have a life, an energy of their own. And once we make a conscious commitment to an idea, before long that idea will begin to use us and find expression through our *attitudes* and decisions.

One idea that has stimulated my thought processes is this: one of the dependable reoccurrences of my life is change. I do not ask that it be so (at time I try to build dams to control it, with but varying degrees of success); yet there it is. Just when I think I have it under control it will not be denied and the waters of change break through.

Change is inevitable, it is one thing I can depend on as being constant. Isn't that ironic? A common overstatement I've heard is: the only thing constant is change.

The Chinese have long recognized that change can lead to crisis. Yet in their wisdom they have combined two words to symbolize crisis: danger and opportunity.

As I visit regions and churches I am always energized by two experiences. The first is the being caught up in the dynamic changes taking place, sometimes out of "crisis." The second is the wisdom and enthusiasm of ministers and church leaders which find expression in grasping opportunity for a deepening of understanding of Unity and commitment to new goals and objectives.

We of the Education Department welcome change for all the "pounding of heart" it sometimes produces. In partnership with you we are pledged to use the energy of change in a constructive way, to commit ourselves to reasonable goals and objectives that will use us in ways that are supportive of you and your Unity ministry.

I am closing with an item I received from a dear educator friend. I think it speaks for itself.

3:33 p.m. January 28, 1986
on learning of the
SPACE SHUTTLE CRASH
an hour ago

Space exploration may develop the highest order of cooperation, mutual trust and real caring for one another -- a realization of the interdependence of each of us on the other, the ultimate concept of love -- each of us doing the very best s/he can to assure the success of an idea, a project, an undertaking, then trusting our lives to each other.

Space exploration may lead us to the ultimate Oneness of the human race, the touching of the face of God -- the finding of the God within.

Don Parker

Trish Robinson

LIGHT ON THE PATH

"One man's feast is another man's poison."

A carpenter has tools he uses and could not do his craft without them. An electrician may use some of the same tools as a carpenter uses. A plumber, mechanic, maintenance person may all use some of the same tools as an electrician and carpenter. Would an architect, house painter, musician use ANY of those same tools? Most professionals are very particular about the quality of the tools they use in their trade.

It occurs to me that there are a vast number of tools for us to use as "students and teachers of Truth" on our path (goal) to total awareness of our identity in God and God in us; the livingness of the "Father and I are one."

There is nothing wrong with the tools...People get into trouble when they lose sight of the goal and get CAUGHT-UP in the "tool." It will often be a very subtle thing and just as often be a deep-pit, chaotic trouble. Let me list a few of the tools. Tarot, Crystal Ball, Course in Miracles, Astrology, Channeling, and the list goes on. Some of the aforementioned tools have been used by me very beneficially, as have some that I have not mentioned. I pick some up frequently, others infrequently, while still others I have used once or twice, or not at all.

I have seen people get so caught up in the "tool" they are using; they forget that it is a tool and begin to act as though the tool were the ultimate.

I ask that we look at the tools we are using. How are they benefiting us? Are they really helping us to increase our awareness of God? Are they really helping us to achieve peace within?

The bottom line is: Are you using your tools or ARE YOUR TOOLS USING YOU?

Phenomenon, miracles, are happening all the time. Yet, when one persists in LOOKING for phenomenon, are they not also looking for someone or something to do the work FOR them?

My job is me!
Your job is you!
There are keys - there are tools
For us to use
No tool is wrong
No tool is bad
Long as we remember
A tool is JUST that!

Love and best blessings!

TIME TO GET BACK TO THE FUTURE . . . AGAIN

Lisa Wissman
Youth Education Coordinator

Summertime has finally arrived! The school year has come to a close and another quarter of Sunday school has been successfully completed. Whew! It's time to make our plans for those summer necessities--pool parties, picnics, family vacations, day camp and the many other fun-filled events we spend time daydreaming about all winter long. With all of these wonderful activities going on around us, it is sometimes difficult to project our thinking three months into the future to the time when Fall Sunday school sessions will begin. This is the time, however, when we must begin to formulate definite ideas for the upcoming year's goals, strategies to bring our goals about, and a concrete system of volunteer coordination. For some, the development of a volunteer coordination program can be almost mind-boggling if the "how-to's" are not clearly spelled out. This feeling of overwhelm is not an unfounded one.

The real key to developing an on-going volunteer program requires quite a bit of attention, energy, and work. By becoming aware of the complete picture, the Youth Education Director or Administrator is better able to not only meet the needs of the program, but do so without ending up frazzled. This means the mastery of the following areas:

* Understanding common problems in volunteer coordination.
* Varying recruitment techniques.
* Developing job descriptions for volunteer positions.
* Interviewing and placing volunteers according to ability.
* Providing adequate training for volunteers.
* Supporting and recognizing volunteers.

Let's begin by taking a look at some common problems which occur in volunteer coordination.

"The real key to developing an on-going volunteer program requires quite a bit of attention, energy, and work."

Too many goals. Unless a program development process is conducted by the Youth Education Director and the minister the goals are often so broad and vague that the volunteer can become caught in the middle. A lack of understanding regarding the goal of the program can lead to frustration and rapid turnover.

Lack of an adequate contract. This puts the volunteer in the position of working without clear direction regarding responsibilities. A concise yet specific job description outlining the duties of the volunteer will provide a clear path to follow.

Lack of leadership. Unless there is an appointed leader, the volunteer staff may experience a sense of separation. In most cases, the Youth Education Director is the leader for volunteers in the youth education program. This may be for nothing more than to answer questions, but it is a valuable role.

Lack of rewards or recognition. Although there are a few volunteers who prefer to remain anonymous, the majority want and need to feel needed and appreciated. The primary way to fulfill this need is through the development and implementation of a regular volunteer recognition program.

Lack of attention to group focus. Many volunteer groups are run without giving much attention to HOW the group works together. An excellent time for doing this would be at the monthly support meeting.

By becoming aware of these potential pitfalls ahead of time, it can serve as a guide in planning the upcoming program. Once youth education goals and strategies for implementation have been determined by the Youth Education Director and minister, the next question to ask is, "In what ways can volunteers work in the youth education program?" The number of volunteer positions will vary according to church size and goals but there are a variety of ways volunteers may serve: greeters; attendance helpers; information desk to answer questions of newcomers; clerical support; preparation of the environment; purchase of supplies; storytellers, musicians, etc.; bakers; coordinate or write monthly newsletter; write weekly announcements, etc. Each available position needs a written job description to provide the volunteer with a clear picture of the expectations being placed upon them. Each job description should include the following: title, name of supervisor, the description of duties/responsibilities, hours required, skills and/or training required.

RECRUITMENT TIPS

Recruitment of volunteers is an ongoing responsibility of the Youth Education Director. There are a variety of ways to successfully recruit volunteers.

"Unless there is an appointed leader, the volunteer staff may experience a sense of separation."

Personal Approach. This method offers the highest success rate. A personal invitation to be part of the youth education program offers a message of interest in the individual. The minister, board of directors and other volunteers can help in this process by offering names of possible people to contact.

Pulpit Announcement. An announcement from the pulpit is an effective way to recruit due to the audience size. Its drawback is the lack of a personal touch. To enhance the impact of the announcement, be creative with the presentation style. Use an object lesson, include the children, prepare a song or skit, wear a costume, etc.

Written Announcement. A written announcement advertising the need for volunteers can be placed in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. As with a verbal announcement, be creative to enhance the impact.

Display Rack. Take advantage of fellowship areas and free literature racks in the church. Advertise volunteer openings with attractive posters, flyers, brochures, etc. Be sure to list a contact person and telephone number.

Committee Announcements. Select one member from active committees in the church (i.e., Women's Auxiliary) to be an honorary staff member of the youth education program. Invite them to attend the monthly support meetings and encourage them to become familiar with the program and the volunteer staff. As they do so, they can become promoters of the program. Provide them with a list of open volunteer positions to be announced at their monthly meetings.

Welcome Packet. If the church provides a welcome packet to visitors and new members, include literature regarding the youth education program and volunteer opportunities. If such a packet is not used, check with the minister regarding the possibility.

Parent's Letter. Prepare a special Parent Information Packet with information regarding the youth education program and the activities children are involved in. Include in this packet a special letter of invitation to parents to become involved in the program.

Whatever recruitment approach is used, the important thing to remember is the need for constant recruitment. A combination of these various methods will ensure the regular advertisement of the program's volunteer needs. These are only a few possibilities for recruitment. Develop your own recruitment technique to fit your personality, work-style and comfort zone. Whatever is utilized, remember: recruit with enthusiasm; you are not begging for help--volunteering has many rewards; recruit regularly and with creativity; and develop an application form to be filled out by those interested in volunteering.

INTERVIEW & PLACEMENT

The recruitment phase has ended and several people have offered assistance in the youth education program. It is important to remember that it is not necessary to place every volunteer in the interested position. However, there is always a position for every volunteer.

With the information provided on the application form and an informal interview, the Youth Education Director will be more familiar with the volunteer and therefore better able to place him in a rewarding position.

The following are a few questions for the informal interview:

* What kinds of things do you like to do?
* What kinds of things do you not like to do?
* Why do you want to volunteer?

Continued...

* What do you expect to receive from this volunteer experience?

* What kinds of things are you good at?

* What frustrates or irritates you?

The second step in the interview process is to explain to the volunteer what the position requires. If an agreement is reached, the volunteer should receive a copy of the job description and information regarding the training process. This is also an appropriate time to discuss the overall program, its goals, and the benefits to the volunteer.

After the interview and before the training schedule begins, a nice welcoming touch is given with a written letter. You may consider developing a teacher contract to be signed at this time.

TRAINING

A volunteer that is well trained, nurtured and given the freedom to express the infinite Christ potential responds with secure, loving, creative interaction with both students and teachers.

Below are a few expectations of teachers which should be stressed in the training process.

The teachers will: enjoy being with the children; demonstrate an understanding of Unity principles in their lesson plans and activities; create a classroom enviornment which promotes self-understanding and is supportive, safe, trustworthy and unconditionally loving; be willing to make a commitment to the program--both in attitude and time.

The following outline is a suggested training schedule for new teachers.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

The Volunteer will:

OBSERVE for two Sundays in the area of interest. The volunteer's sole purpose is observation which will encourage reflection regarding their future role.

ASSIST two Sundays in the area he will be working. No responsibility is given in preparation of lesson; rather, the volunteer's role is to assist the lead teacher.

EVALUATE the observing and assisting experiences with the Youth Education Director. Were there areas of concern? Does the volunteer feel the need for more training? The purpose of this time is for the Youth Education Director and volunteer to reach an agreement regarding the volunteer's role in the program.

RECEIVE SPECIFIC TRAINING in the area of interest. Training is the responsibility of the Youth Education Director. It is suggested that training be designed to meet the needs of the volunteer and to also take into consideration past experience. For example, a new teacher with a teaching background may not need training in teaching mechanics. The same teacher, however, may be new to Unity and in need of class work regarding basic Unity principles. It is the Youth Education Director's responsibility to be aware of these types of situations.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATION
SUPPORT & RECOGNITION

It is easy to take volunteers for granted in the midst of the program's activities. It is important to remember, however, that without the support of the volunteers, many of the duties performed would be left up to the Youth Education Director and/or minister.

People who volunteer do so based on the personal fulfillment received. Those drawn to giving of themselves will do so where they feel comfortable, needed, rewarded and appreciated. Volunteers who are recognized for the service provided receive the message, "we care about you and appreciate what you are doing."

There are so many different and creative ways to recognize and support the volunteers in the youth education program. Following are a few ways to recognize the hours given:

Take part in NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK and use this time to have special activities to recognize the staff. As a part of this week, a possible recognition is participation in the annual Presidential Volunteer of the Year Award.

Take time to meet personally with the volunteers and express appreciation. Become interested and familiar with their lives.

Send a birthday card, Christmas card, etc.

Reimburse out-of-pocket expenses such as baby-sitting charges, special seminar fees, etc.

Provide volunteers with a discount in the church bookstore.

Select a "Volunteer of the Month" and place an article in the church's monthly newsletter.

Create pleasant surroundings for their planning time; provide a resource library for teachers to check out books.

Provide child-care service during monthly support meetings for those volunteers with small children.

Organize a pot-luck for the volunteer staff. Form support groups or plan time during which sharing can take place.

Plan special programs to recognize those who volunteer--during the worship service, at Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc.

List the volunteers in the monthly newsletter.

EVALUATION

An evaluation by the Youth Education Director and the volunteer is beneficial in the well-being of the program. Plan a definite time for such an evaluation with each volunteer at the time they are placed. This type of evaluation does require an openness on the part of the Youth Education Director as criticism and/or suggestions may be made to improve the quality of the program.

An objective evaluation of the volunteer by the Youth Education Director is also part of this process. Have the requirements for the position been met? If not, were there ways the Youth Education Director could have been more supportive to the volunteer?

Don't feel this needs to be done all at once. Pace yourself! Plan, organize, implement, have fun! By getting back to the future now, you are setting yourself up for success in the Fall. In our Unity of Purpose, we teach living in the present. As we lay the groundwork for the future, we allow ourselves the freedom to live completely and harmoniously in the present - right now!

Volunteer Coordination and many other administrative techniques for Youth Education Directors can be found in the NEW YOUTH EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S HANDBOOK ($16.75; Order Number 1351), available through the Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063.

REGIONAL YOUTH EDUCATION COORDINATOR OF THE MONTH:

GAILEN TWENTYMAN

Gailen has served the Eastern Region for 4½ years as both Youth Education Consultant and Youth of Unity Coordinator. She has worked at her local center, Unity of Roanoke Valley, Virginia, as Youth of Unity sponsor, teacher and director of their youth program. Aside from traveling, planning rallies and seminars for her region, she also works full-time for an optical fiber company, keeps books for a law firm, and pursues a Masters in business. Thank you, Gailen, for your loving dedication to Youth Ministry.

"DEAR MINISTERS . . ."

You are the cement that holds it all together. As the spiritual leader of your center it is your personal presence that speaks the strongest in showing appreciation and praise to your volunteers. They will always see you as the first focal point from which the recognition of their work should come.

As ministers, you understand all the behind-the-scenes work that is required in keeping the ministry fresh, flowing and rich with new ideas. The same demands are made on the teachers in their ministry to the youth in your church. We, the directors of your youth programs, need a few minutes of your time to encourage our teachers and volunteers in the youth programs. These people do not receive anything except thanks and praise from you and me, which is a very small reward for all they do.

Being alert to all the requirements already made on your time, we have compiled a list of ideas that are designed to increase communication between you and your youth leaders. Most of the suggestion should only take five to ten minutes on Sunday mornings. This five to ten minutes could mean all the difference in helping us retain our teaching staff from one season to the next. It is truly the little things that mean so much.

So, if we may suggest: a word of prayer with the teaching staff before you go to the podium; bringing the youth in at the end of the service for the Peace Song; schedule time once a month or quarter to visit with interested students after the service for an impromptu rap session (by all means, set a time limit for these talks); periodical lunches with teaching staff; minister prays in students prior to service (keep prayer short); minister does a walk-through in the youth department greeting the teachers; quarterly recognition of teaching staff to congregation (students enjoy seeing their teachers being appreciated); a gift certificate from the bookstore; list names of teachers who are working the program in church newsletter; youth program information in church welcoming packet--this information will be provided by the director; teachers receive a 35% discount from the bookstore; attend some of the extra curriculum activities held for your youth; participate with your director in teacher training sessions; director attends board meeting (not necessarily voting); publish a suggested reading list for the teachers to use in honing their skills and knowledge (a list drawn from your own reading experience); plan a youth Sunday with your teaching staff; have each new teacher make an appointment to talk with you prior to beginning their teaching season.

We hope that this letter has helped inspire some ideas of your own. As directors of your youth education we value the trust you have in us and we know that we all share the same goals for our center and church family, quality in spiritual growth.

These suggestions were offered to you on behalf of the youth leaders of the Eastern Region.

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS PROGRAM
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The purpose of the Religious Emblems Program developed by the Association of Unity Churches is to give young people in Unity a practical method to achieve a basic spiritual understanding of the Truths taught by Unity. Our goal is to support and recognize young people, in the presence of the church body, for their achievements and to provide recognition by all participating youth agencies.

The following children were recently honored for the completion of the GOD IN ME program:

Carolyn Hilton, Unity of Denver, Denver, CO
Sherri Bauer, Unity of Denver, Denver, CO
Cindy Sherman, Unity of Roanoke Valley, Roanoke, VA
Autumn Joy Williams-Wussow, Unity Church of Dallas, Dallas, TX
Jessica Ann Fleck, Unity of N.E. Tarrant County, Hurst, TX
Elizabeth Campbell, Unity of Tacoma, Tacoma, WA
Jonathan Campbell, Unity of Tacoma, Tacoma, WA
Danny Davis, Church of Unity, Westlake, OH
Christopher Mealey, Church of Unity, Westlake, OH
Jeff Grimes, Church of Unity, Westlake, OH
Steve Grimes, Church of Unity, Westlake, OH
Forrest Couch, Unity of Warren, Warren, OH
Jason Paull Greer, Unity of Tacoma, Tacoma, WA
Keith Edward Mazy, New Thought Church of Religious Science, Fort Worth, TX
Brendan Magee, Unity Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA
Michael Jay Sanders, Unity of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, MI
Marie Katheryn Newcomb, Unity of N.E. Tarrant County, Hurst, TX
Todd Robert Fleck, Unity of N.E. Tarrant County, Hurst, TX
Sonya Lynette Edmon, Unity of N.E. Tarrant County, Hurst, TX
Dylan Randolf Biles, Unity Church of N.E. Tarrant County, Hurst, TX
Aubrie Michelle Biles, Unity Church of N.E. Tarrant County, Hurst, TX
Kisha Bird, Unity Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA
Paul Bryan, Unity Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA
Moreh Salunek, Unity Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA
Endre German, Unity Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA
Christorpher Ruggere, Unity Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA
Michael L. Ellis, Unity Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA
Samuel Carroll, Unity Church for Today, Mountlake Terrace, WA
Jennifer Wingard Mackey, Calvary United Methodist, Harrisburg, PA

The LIGHT OF GOD emblem was recently awarded to the following young people:

Chris Mack, Unity of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, MI
John F. Pertuit, Unity Church of Christianity, Tulsa, OK
Arnold J. Bryan, Unity Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA
Jacob Matthew Wilhelm, Unity Church of Tacoma, Tacoma, WA
Christian Dickinson, Unity Church of Tacoma, Tacoma, WA
Cynthia E. Sherman, Unity of Roanoke Valley, Roanoke, VA
Jamie Magee, Unity Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA

Nancy & Charles Neal, ministers of Unity Church of Christianity, presenting the "Light of God" award to John Pertuit.

RESOURCES
AVAILABLE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES®

UNITEEN LEADERS' RESOURCE MANUAL. This resource manual is designed to offer the Uniteen teacher/leader with insight and knowledge regarding:

* Characteristics of the Uniteen
* Needs of the Uniteen
* Discipline
* Teaching Tools
* Social Events

It is also designed to assist and encourage the teacher/leader through the challenging, awkward times which sometimes arise when working with hunior high students.

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MORE TEACHABLE MOMENTS. This curriculum, suitable for children, teens, and adults, produces more teachable moments. This is partly achieved by developing awareness and skills in the areas of listening, feeling, mutual support, and constructive communication. Although the lessons do not speak directly of Unity principles, they are easily applied throughout.

Materials included are: Teacher's Manual, Red Velvet Heart (which is used to focus learning on the only person speaking--the one holding the heart), and the Original Heart Talk Book.

Inventory #2501 - $45.00

YOUTH EDUCATION DIRECTORS' HANDBOOK. The newly revised Youth Education Directors' Handbook has been published and is now available through the Association of Unity Churches. This comprehensive manual is filled with exciting ideas. It breaks down the sometimes overwhelming job of Youth Education Director into bite-size pieces, making it all very easy to swallow!

Some of the subjects presented are:

* Program Development
* Volunteer Coordination
* Preparing Presentations

Inventory #1351 - $16.75

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Please send _____ copies of MORE TEACHABLE MOMENTS (#2501, $45.00)

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Lee's Summit, MO 64063

DISTINGUISHED YOUTH SERVICE AWARDS

The Distinguished Youth Service Award is a national recognition developed by the Association of Unity Churches in cooperation with a number of national youth agencies. Its purpose is to acknowledge men and women, lay persons and ministers who have given their time and energies to the church and the spiritual development of the young people of Unity. The following adults were presented this award during the past year:

Charlotte Lilliedahl
Christ Church Unity
Springfield, Missouri

Genetha Merrell
Unity Church of Clearwater Valley
Lewiston, Idaho

Reverend Blair Tabor
Unity Church of Merced
Merced, California

Gregg M. Lowe
Unity Center of Positive Christianity
Woodbury, Minnesota

JoAnn Fuller
Unity of Tacoma
Tacoma, Washington

Caroline Kenyon
Unity Church of Clearwater Valley
Lewiston, Idaho

Joyce Culey
Youth of Unity/Young Adults/Uniteens Coordinator

"WHAT DO WE TEACH OUR YOUTH?"

It is a typical Sunday morning in an average Uniteen or Youth of Unity class. The young people begin arriving approximately ten minutes early and are gathering into laughter-filled talkative groups. The decibel level increases with each new arrival as friends greet each other with hugs, punches to the shoulders and arms, giggles and questions about activities. The teacher is busy preparing for class: notes on a table, arranging the chairs in a circle, dragging the chalkboard into position, frantically searching for chalk.

At exactly 11:00 a.m. the group is asked to sit down for class. This takes a few minutes as sentences are finished, a final shove or two is completed and so on. Class begins; prayer, collection of the offering, a few more minutes of sharing, announcements, and then the LESSON. It is at this point that a typical, average Uniteen or Youth of Unity class ceases to exist.

The question, "What do we teach our youth?" is one which brings many different responses. In many cases, these responses tend to be based on what the teacher believes teens should be taught. For the most part, these responses appear to fall in two categories.

The first is, "teenagers are dealing with so many issues in their lives that we must teach where they are." Issues such as drugs, alcohol, suicide, relationships, school, jobs, etc., are cited as proof. Lessons are offered focusing on these kinds of issues. The emphasis is on letting the teens share with each other, thus building a support group. This group then goes together to rallies, lock-ins, conference, etc., and is able to find acceptable social outlets. This approach does not, however, take into consideration the teens' interest in developing a spiritual life.

The second category teaches only abstract, absolute Unity principles. Time is not given to issues because in Truth there is only God and God is good. This approach does not take into consideration emotions, which play a large role in an adolescent's life.

Each category has value, but neither completely meets the needs of an adolescent. By focusing solely on issues, we cheat our youth of an opportunity to develop a spiritual foundation (a personal relationship with God) from which to live. By focusing solely on the abstract, absolute laws of Truth, we cheat our youth of an opportunity to get in touch with and understand their feelings which express who they are (indwelling Christ Spirit).

Ideally, the solution to this dilemma is to find ways to balance weekly lessons so that Truth principles are taught yet issues are also dealt with. This can be accomplished by:

* Basing all lessons on Unity Truth principles. Plan each lesson around one principle (you may spend several weeks on just one). We do not need to force these beliefs upon the teens; however, it is our responsibility to teach/discuss Unity principles.

* Taking the issues that the youth are dealing with and discuss how Truth can be applied in each situation. Use the Bible and compare stories and situations. What is the metaphysical meaning and how does it apply? Encourage the teens to try out these ideas and see if they fit. For example, are relationships an issue? A lesson on the livingness of the Christ Spirit within all people can establish the foundation of what Unity teaches. The story of Joseph being sold by his brothers into slavery and the metaphysical interpretation could be used as an easy transition into a discussion of ways to deal with emotions felt during interaction with others.

* Praying with your group. Role model the value and importance of prayer.

"A lesson on the livingness of the Christ Spirit within all people can establish the foundation of what Unity teaches."

Build in prayer time in the Sunday morning class and also encourage the teens to set aside time for personal prayer each day.

"What do we teach our youth?" now becomes an easier question to answer. We teach Truth, we teach practical Christianity, we teach prayer and meditation, we teach life. As our lessons unfold, we may not hear our youth say, "Hey, this stuff makes sense!". However, what we can be assured of is that our youth have at least heard what Unity's message is. Then, just as is allowed with adults, teens can begin to explore the message for its meaning in their own lives.

YOUTH OF UNITY AND THE WORLD PEACE MEDITATION

On December 31, 1986, at 12:00 Noon Greenwich Mean Time (7:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time) an undetermined number of people gathered in groups all over the world to spend an hour in prayer and meditation for World Peace. In addition, individuals who weren't able to join in a group spent the hour wherever they happened to be praying and meditating for World Peace. At Ft. Lauderdale Unity, a group of approximately 30 people gathered together for the World Peace Meditation. The Youth of Unity, our teenage youth group, hosted the hour in which everybody participated. Some of the time was spent in silent prayer and meditation, some was spent singing peace songs and participating in spiritual dancing and some was spent repeating positive affirmations aloud as we lit our peace candles. The most powerful part of the hour was the reading in unison of the World Healing Meditation. This is a meditation which had been distributed throughout the world and was being read simultaneously by people as far away as Moscow. The hour-long World Peace Meditation was an exciting opportunity for all the participants to join together and merge our collective energy into a powerful force for World Peace.

Following the World Peace Meditation several of the YOU members put their thoughts and feelings about World Peace on paper. The following are two of those writings:

THE TRAVELER
by Hamid Hunter

There was once a man who thought that he could solve all the problems in the world except one. The only problem he couldn't solve was how to achieve World Peace. This man traveled and traveled until one day he came to a hut in the woods. When he entered the hut he looked around and saw walls and walls of mathematic equations. As he walked around the hut he discovered a door leading to a room where an old man sat meditating.

The traveler asked the old man why he had all those mathematic equations on the walls of his house. The old man stroked his snow-white beard and answered, "They are the equations to achieve world peace." The traveler said that he didn't think world peace could be solved with mathematic equations. The old man replied, "Yes, it is possible, but I have encountered an obstacle. Before I can solve the equation for world peace each person in the world must achieve peace within himself."

PEACE, PEACE, PEACE
by Christal Brooks

Peace is the wind blowing softly across the ocean.
Peace is the light that shines within you and me.
Peace is being able to Love myself and others, even through challenges.
Peace is everyone living together; no rules or regulations.
Peace is sharing with your brothers and sisters.
Peace is the law.
Peace begins with me...and you...and him...and us... and them...
until everyone is involved.

YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The period of adolescence, or youth as it is commonly known, is the most critical stage in human development. It is a period of transition from childhood to adulthood. Relative from person to person, it is a crucial period in the personality formation of a child and a period during which significant changes and developments take place within the child. Development occurs in intellectual capabilities, interests, attitudes and adjustments, which lead to demands for independence, peer adjustments, vocational preparation, and for the development of a basic guiding philosophy of life.

The youths will be attempting to develop in the areas of maturity and brotherly love; their self-concepts becoming more defined as they are faced with the need for establishing an identity of their own by trying to provide an answer to the age-old question, "Who am I?" Moreover, the youths will be ascribing to more mature social roles, developing more complex interpersonal relationships with other people, particularly their peer group; becoming more competent in the areas of cognitive learning, thinking, and problem solving, more effectively; developing their own value system, beginning to think about career possibilities; further education, and beginning to become more a part of the community and society to which they belong. It is mostly at this period of transition and development that parents encounter a hightening rate of youth difficulties and conflicts in opinion.

This crucial point, as I see it, is when UNITY and its teaching is needed most in our lives. This is the exact period to shape our destiny. It is in view of this that Unity in Anambra State, Nigeria, introduced youth seminars, conferences, workshops, prayer meetings, and many, many other activities. This is the time to give them guidance that will lead them for life. This is the actual time we begin to have the glimpse and expression of this basic Truth that we are all spiritual beings, living in a spiritual universe, governed by Spiritual laws. If this basic Truth can be inculcated or imbibed in us it will help us to view life in a broader perspective. Do you think that any youth that reasons in this way (that he is a spiritual being) will go along to cause social maladies? The answer is an imphatic "NO"! Fellow youths, this is why Unity is great in our lives and affairs.

Friends, why don't we make the best we can out of our youthful minds and bodies so that we can achieve a better tomorrow.

Barnabas Iwuoha
Secretary General
Youth of Unity
Anambra State
Nigeria, West Africa

YOUTH OF UNITY—NIGERIA

The youths of Unity in Anambra State, Nigeria, have joined together and established an organization known as "Youth of Unity Movement Anambra State," Nigeria.

The aims and objectives of this group is as *follows:*

* To entertain, inform and educate through music, prayer, drama, studies and lectures.

* To prepare the youths for a better tomorrow.

* To coordinate and assist the young people of Unity centers in the State so that they can achieve their various objectives.

The following persons were elected during the conference held December 20, 1986:

President
Obasi Kalu Nzere

Vice-President
Chici Okeke

Secretary General
Barnabas Iwuoha

Vice-Secretary
Emmanuel Okeke

Financial Secretary
Sunday Nwosu

Treasurer
Samuel Nwosu

Provost
Harrison Nwajagu

Vice-Provost
Nneamaka Onuorah

Pub. Secretary
Samuel Ikwuagwu

Vice-Pub. Secretary
Monica Udeh

Organizer
Igbani Oziomo

"REFLECTIONS"

Scott Hammel
International President
Youth of Unity

Hello all of you wonderful people. As I am reflecting back on our year together and my year as an individual, one feeling comes to heart--completion. I am complete with my purpose. I am complete and at peace. This year has brought me many, many small reminders of Truth, and a few great awakenings. I say awakenings because´ these big lessons I have "learned" are not new. They were with me all the time, I had to just open my heart and rediscover their Truth in my life.

The first lesson, or Truth, I was to uncover is that conflict is a necessary and important part of growth. I experienced many conflicts during the course of this year with school, friends, and even Y.O.U. At first I tried to avoid the situation, but I only created more inner strife. Eventually, I realized that I wouldn't ever grow to my inner potential if I didn't face the people in these situations *with my honest* feelings and an open mind to their feelings.

The next lesson that I became aware of was that change is the only constant part of our world. We are changing our views and feelings in each moment in our search for the Truth. Change is a part of everyday life. We have only to be open and receptive to change to find happiness. Sometimes this means doing things we really don't like to do, like letting our good friends go or experiencing the death of someone we love dearly. When Tim resigned from his position as International Coordinator, my response was to resist that change and not look at the new opportunities given to us. I then realized that this change was a necessary part of his growth and mine. It's similar to cleaning out your closet. God cleans out his closet through change in order to make room for the new.

I feel that the greatest lesson I have learned so far from Y.O.U. this year, and actually every year as a Y.O.U'er, is to be myself and to be true to the person or being that I really am.

I really am a beautiful child of God and I can do whatever or be whoever I choose. If someone had told me that someday I would be International President, I would have laughed. But as time progressed and my closet was filled with beautiful friends, a trip to the Soviet Union, and a sense of strength, I was led to run for something that has changed my life. I am so thankful that I chose this path in my life and that God has given me his gifts of love, life, and happiness. I was explaining to a friend of mine one time how I felt about my life experience this year and I replied, "I know that when I chose to take this path I was making a choice between two roads that led to the same destination. There was no right or wrong choice; only the knowledge that I would be divinely led to fully express my good as a spiritual being in this experience." I know now that this beautiful path has led me through flowers and thorns, through green grass meadows and thunderstorms, and I am a better expression of my true God-self for all of it.

I want to thank you, the Y.O.U'ers, for giving me your love and helping me through the storms and thorns of my life. You have touched me without even knowing your gift. You gave me hope when I was astray, and light when I was blinded by my own darkness. Thank you for being you. All of you. I love you.

"THE YEAR IN REVIEW"

Heather Carlson
International Second Vice-President
Youth of Unity

As I write it has been a year since the Soviet trip. If someone would have told me then that I would be part of the international team, working with Scott Hammel (also on the trip) and some guy named Mike McSurely, I would have checked to see if it was April Fool's.

Today as I look back over the past year I realize that I have grown a great deal and have made some life-long friends. After being elected to the office of International Second Vice-President, I had the chance to create new opportunities for my own office. I decided, since it is my main duty, to open communications on three levels.

The first is between chapters in different regions. The goal is to lend support and give ideas as well as providing a pen-friend to be met at conference. The sister-chapter project is the result. To date, there are twenty-two wonderful chapters participating.

The second is between the chapters abroad. Communications through letters is opening the channels to bring at least one African delegate to Conference this year. I am excited by the opportunity they give us by sharing their culture.

The third is communication between the regional teams and the international team. In the past, I have heard regional officers sharing ideas and results from their rallies. They wished they could have heard them before they were out of office. This is where the "Keep In Touch" newsletter comes in. Its purpose is to keep regional officers, coordinators and the international team "in touch" with new ideas. It also serves as a support for the entire team.

Planning for Conference, writing for CONTACT and attending rallies are among the other opportunities and responsibilities this office offers. This year has been one of the most challenging and rewarding I have yet to experience.

YOUNG ADULTS OF UNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The Young Adults of Unity program has gone through many changes in recent years. In order to plan resources, programs and teaching materials which adequately meet ministry needs, your assistance is requested. Please complete the following questions and return by **August 1, 1987,** to: **Joyce Culey, YOU/YAU/Uniteen Coordinator, Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063.**

1. Is there a need for a Young Adults of Unity program?

   Local ____ Yes Regional ____ Yes National ____ Yes

   ____ No ____ No ____ No

2. What age group constitutes a Young Adults of Unity?

   ____ 19-25 ____ 19 +

   ____ 19-35 ____ other

3. What is the purpose of a Young Adults of Unity program?

   Local:

   Regional:

   National:

4. Is there is a need for a specialized College Campus Ministry Program?

   ____ Yes ____ No

5. What activities should contitute a Young Adults of Unity program:

   a) at the local level?

   b) at the regional level?

   c) at the national level?

6. Is there a need for regional staff to coordinate Young Adults of Unity activities?

   ____ Yes ____ No

   If regional staff is needed, would the positions be:

   ____ Volunteer ____ Paid

7. What contribution do you visualize the national staff (YAU Coordinator) making to the YAU Program?

8. In your own ministry which has been successful:

   ____ YAU organization

   ____ Specialized interest groups (singles, parenting without partners, etc.)

9. If you were to plan programs would you plan based on:

   Regional: ____ age group commonality (i.e. 19-25) ____ specialied interest

   National: ____age group commonality ____ specialized interest

Comments: (Use separate sheet, if necessary.)

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Spiritual Characteristics of the Uniteen

* IDEALISTIC ATTITUDE:
  --project onto teachers
  --want to be involved in life
  --look to Bible and Unity Truth
  --unable to deal with pain
* SEARCH FOR GOD'S MEANING:
  --ask the BIG questions
  --frustrated with life
  --don't know where to turn
  --need reassurance
* SEARCH FOR CHRIST WITHIN:
  --want to try, yet afraid
  --concerned about peers
  --want to do more for others
  --express doubts and fears
  --want to learn more
  --want to experience more

Uniteens are extremely idealistic and sometimes have super-human expectations of the adults around them. They are constantly searching for their identity and are watching, listening, and questioning in order to know what it must be like to be an adult.

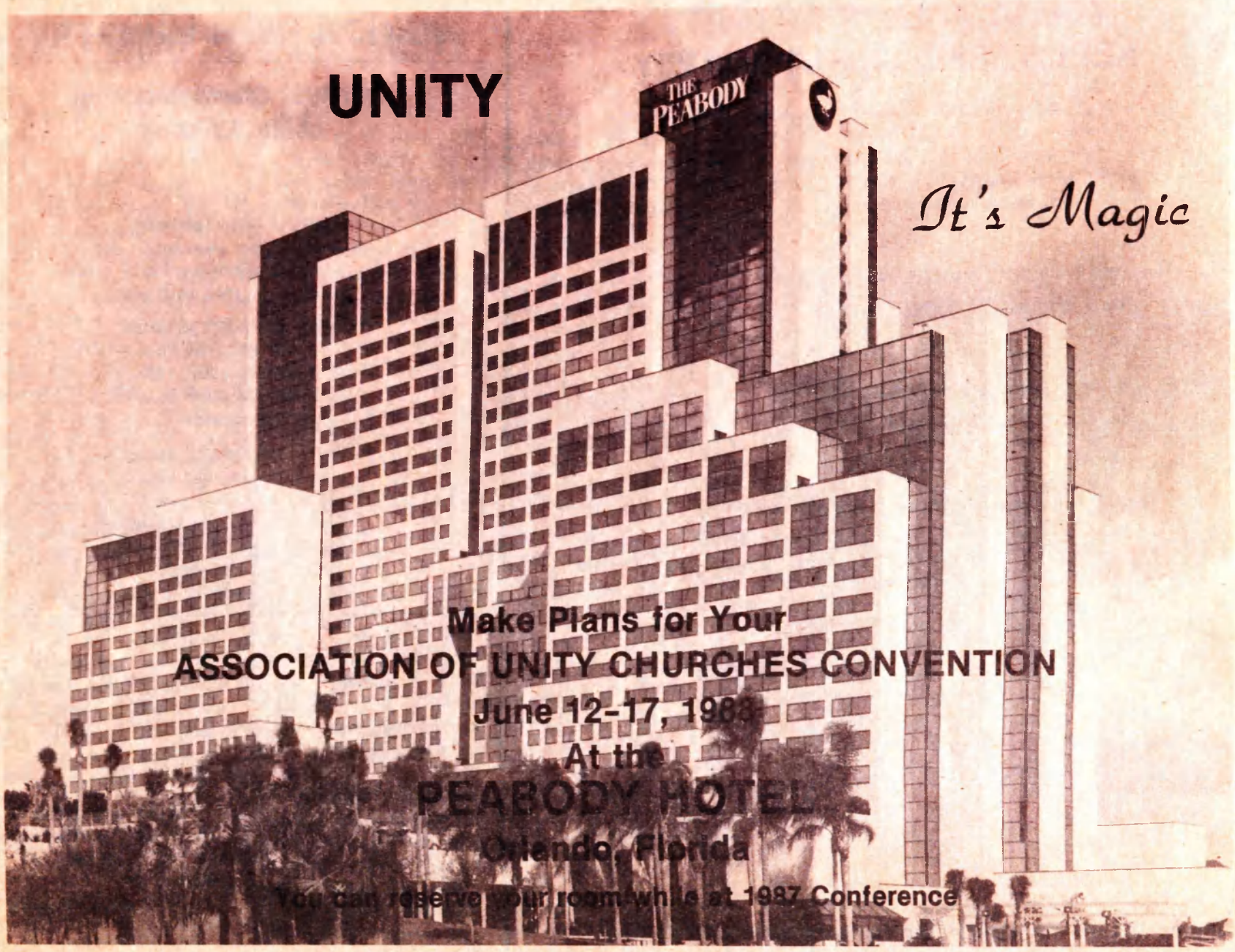
They are quick to hide the fact that they don't know everything and often avoid subjects by pretending not to care. However, the truth is that Uniteens are sincerely trying to make sense of their world. To the idealistic pre-teen prejudice, pollution, the threat of war, divorce, acts of violence, and starvation are very perplexing issues. They begin to ask themselves "How can a God exist when these things are everywhere?"

They are searching for meaning and answers to questions about a world that is full of contradictions and inconsistencies. They are asking the same questions that we are often asking ourselves and thus we sometimes feel frightened or unsure of ourselves because in this area we do not have all the answers. And yet they respect us because we represent the closest thing to God for them and we are helping them to see that God is within them and that life is indeed meaningful and full of faithful purpose.

"If we are certain of the truth for ourselves, we will allow it for others..."
Charles Fillmore

The provision of a balanced program for Uniteens (spiritual, social and service) offers the opportunity to explore and live Truth principles with friends and family. Unity on the Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri, has an active Uniteens group (approximately 25 junior high students). In addition to Sunday morning classes, officers are elected to help coordinate monthly activities. Past events have included ice skating, attending the theatre, raising money for a VCR machine to show educational programs to children of mothers in a residence home for abused mothers, and lock-ins. Below, for your program planning use, is a schedule of a recent Uniteen activity (Lock-in Retreat) at Unity on the Plaza:

5:45 - 6:00 p.m.	Arrive
6:00 - 6:45	Taco Bar Dinner
6:45 - 7:15	Getting To Know You
7:15 - 8:00	"HIGH ENERGY"
8:00 - 10:00	Heart-To-Heart-Activities, Games, & Sharing (Based on More Teachable Moments Curriculum, see page 20 for information.)
10:00 - 11:00	Ice Cream Sundae Bar
10:00 - 11:00	T-Shirt Memories
11:00 - 12:00	Potpourri & Poster
12:00 - 2:00 a.m.	Movie & Games
2:00 - 7:00	Sleep?
7:00	Rise and Shine-Breakfast
9:00	Ready for the World (Go Home!)



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