

SPECIAL ISSUE

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*Jim Rosemergy
Unity Church of Truth
Spokane, Washington*

LIFE IS MORE THAN CONSCIOUSNESS

In twelve short years, Unity will enter the twenty-first century and undoubtedly be a leader in humankind's pursuit of dynamic, creative living and evolving spirituality. I believe we will demonstrate for the world a new source of power and energy. For centuries, humanity has consistently discovered new sources of energy and power. During the time when we were barely human, we could feel the power of the sun on our faces, but physical strength was the power of that ancient age. Then we found animals could carry our burdens, and we could ride on their backs. We witnessed the power of light "falling" from the sky as lightning and discovered fire and many centuries later, steam. In some areas of the world the steadfastness of the wind became a source of power, but for others rushing water turned the millwheels and grinding stones. Edison gave us electricity, and within a number of decades, a team of researchers unleashed the power binding the "parts" of the hydrogen atom together. What is the next source of power to be discovered?

It is the power of consciousness. In the twenty-first century, history will record that in the twentieth century the human race began to understand the relationship between thought and life experience. The archives will note that we began to pay homage to the belief, LIFE IS CONSCIOUSNESS and often filled our

minds with particular earthly events or possessions in order to experience them or have them. We discovered a mental science which we used to enhance our earthly experience. During this time, a curious belief was held by certain unique people. THERE IS ONLY ONE PRESENCE AND ONE POWER IN THE UNIVERSE, GOD THE GOOD, OMNIPOTENT. With this modern version of the Hebrew axion, THE LORD GOD IS ONE combined with the belief LIFE IS CONSCIOUSNESS, the twenty-first century was born and another truth was revealed. LIFE IS MORE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

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

Out of an awareness of our teaching/learning experiences, I conclude the three-part series of goals set (Parts I and II appear in April and May issues of CONTACT).

As a frame of reference for the awareness in which the Executive Committee worked as the Planning and Goals Committee in their April, 1987, session, I quote here from Jim Rosemergy's CONTACT letter as Vice-President which appeared last June:

"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."

Many of us have wit-



*Glenn R. Mosley, Ph.D.
Executive Director*

nessed personally and/or vicariously in the work of a colleague, the powerful impact a spirit-guided, God-centered, committed ministry can have, one that is truly about its "Father's business."

Whatever the numerical size of a congregation in order to impact a community, its denomination, or itself, it must be God-inspired and committed to Principle.

An essential tool in making a difference in following Spirit is the creation of an effective organization which utilizes the energy, time, and talents of as many committed people as are available.

It is also necessary to objectify the spiritual principles a group lives by insofar as possible so that what has already been accomplished truly is a launching pad for future development in terms of spiritual, financial, numerical, etc., growth.

As a reflection of the Association's and ministries' growth and development, the Planning Committee began with appropriate revisions to the Mission Statement.

"The mission of the Association of Unity Churches is focusing on the vision of unity by assisting Unity ministries in sharing with people everywhere the transforming principles as demonstrated by Jesus Christ."

MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

The members of the committee also developed an extensive listing of specific Strategy Plans under the five major organizational goals of:

VICE-PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*Maya Brandenberger, Ph.D.
Unity in Montreal
Montreal, Quebec, Canada*

On June 16, 1988, it will be exactly twenty years since I stepped off an airplane into a hot, steamy Kansas City night to live and study at Unity Village. I have had many experiences as a student, Unity School employee, field minister in both established churches and developing groups, Regional Representative, Executive Committee

member and now member of the newly created Unity Movement Advisory Council (UMAC). These experiences which have been full of living, both challenging and nourishing, and most definitely committing.

As Vice-President, I am sure I have had the not-so-unique experience of trying to determine what it is I want to write about in this coming

year—what central theme and what issues I want to focus on.

The theme developed in the process of being part of the creation of UMAC. These theme expressed itself in a letter I composed to European Ministers and Leaders who are facing unique and long-standing challenges, as an invitation TO COME UP HIGHER. A call to move beyond divisions and take the high road which allows ALIGNMENT yet respects our highly individual ministries.

In this spirit we at the Association of Unity Churches and Unity School plan a European Congress in the fall of 1989, our centennial year. It will be for all friends of Unity, and for ministers and study group leaders from the British Isles, Scandinavia, France and German-speaking Europe.

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A MESSAGE FROM CONNIE FILLMORE



Connie Fillmore
President
Unity School of Christianity

A favorite pastime among Unity students is to speculate about what Charles and Myrtle Fillmore would think, say, and do if they were alive today. I generally try to refrain from such musings, because it seems to me far more important to try to figure out what I think about something so that I can allow current guidance to direct me.

However, I must admit that this year I'm allowing myself to succumb to the temptations of wondering what my great-grandparents would think about this world-wide movement that their thinking spawned. Depending upon what particular situation I'm facing at the moment, I suspect that they would be 1) pleased, 2) amused, 3) prayerful, or 4) proud. Indeed, these are the very feelings that I have as I consider Unity's position in the world today.

I believe that the Fillmores would be pleased because the movement has grown so steadily and has helped so many people through the years. We have never lost sight of the fact that prayer is the basis for all that we do in Unity, and this has allowed God to guide us through the perplexing landscape of a changing world. Through the ebb and flow of world history—through war and peace, through feast and famine, through political, economic, and technological revolution—Unity has prayed, and prayed again, and prayed some more. We have prayed with anybody, about anything, at any time. We will continue to do so. I think the Fillmores would be pleased.

I sometimes think that they would be amused. I think they would find it amusing to see that Unity students sit for hours and discuss what Charles really meant when he talked about

Jesus Christ. I think they would be amused to see what struggles our movement has with its conflicting needs for structure and freedom, for a secure foundation teaching and the need to be open-ended, for an impersonal, absolute God and a loving Parent. They would be amused because they, too, faced these issues and struggled with them and then reached a point of knowing and release. They know, as we do, that the loving, infinite Spirit of God will always be available, no matter how we fret and fume.

I'm sure my great-grandparents would pray for the Unity movement. They would pray because they would see how much we need it. Today as always we need the guidance of God to help us in our decisions. We are facing our second 100 years of service to humankind, and we want to help as many people as we can. In order to know how to do this, we must pray. I am comforted to think that Charles and Myrtle would pray with us.

And finally, I trust that the Fillmores would be proud. I doubt that they would feel proud of themselves, for they were modest people. But they would be proud of all the friends and loved ones who have devoted their lives to Unity in some way. They would be proud of Unity ministers, and teachers, and Unity School workers, and Association workers, and all the people in our churches, and all the people in our study groups, and everyone who has ever shared a positive prayer with another for the good of the human race.

There is much to be proud of in Unity. We have accomplished a lot and helped many people during our history. In my mind's eye, I call forth the images of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. I see them smiling, laughing, and speaking a blessing. There is no death in Spirit, my friends. The Fillmores' love is as real today as it was when they walked on physical legs. I feel that blessing myself, and if you will open your heart, you will feel it, too.

We are one in Spirit with all who have gone before us, and with all who will come after us. So let us pause right now, give thanks, and celebrate the beauty and the wonder of this moment. There is no other time, and need not be, for the eternal now is truly glorious.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Cont'd from page 1

- I. Continue developing and evaluating programs that relate to the Association's defined purpose statement.
- II. Continue developing an operational structure which enhances existing or new human resources for the organization.
- III. Continue collaboration and definition of mutual goals with Unity School.
- IV. Develop an ever-increasing base of financial support.
- V. Develop effective public relations and marketing programs for the Association and for all ministries.

The Committee then identified the following strengths as a basis for developing of further strengths:

- Convention/Conference refinement and professionalism
- Current staff—individuals who get the job done
- Board and Executive Committee and the way they operate
- Growing number of ministries
- Less crisis management
- Better Youth Education curriculum
- School is improving and producing better trained ministers
- L & O reorganization and the SCOPE process refinements.
- Greater variety of types of ministries
- Active process of personnel evaluation at staff level
- Successful ministers and ministries: models and resources
- Management training—building a history
- Have come a long way in 2 years
- Resilience
- Rate of increase (9.1% in 1987; 8.0% in 1986; 1.1% in 1966-67)

In addition to the already-existing strength and the goal of the continuing development of them, the committee considered the following opportunities for Unity ministries into the 21st Century:

- Target baby-boomer population
- 20 million who live alone
- Day care
- Open churches that are bi-/multi-lingual
- Radio call-in and talk shows
- Image of the Association and ministries
- Move to increased electronic media

To meet these opportunities for growth, numerous goals, bearing from one-to-fifteen-year timeliness were established, accompanied by action steps with designation of which positions and/or committees are responsible for following through. They include: programs that foster deeper spiritual relationship during our meetings; addressing needs of single men and women in the field; continue developing ways of supporting ministers in the field; greater sense of connectedness among field ministries and ministers; continued developing of expansion programs; training and de-

veloping a resource pool of interim ministers; a program for banking to permit building funds and loans for member ministries and affiliates; a solid financial plan for raising funds for operating and capital projects; minister renewal; a retirement home or center for retired ministers; a committee to research and develop statements regarding New Age; and an Association retreat.

Resources required to fulfill those goals include all Association members, committees, and staff. The goals also include a self-supporting field lecture plan utilizing recruited ministers a week at a time, regionally; provision of increased facilities for increased economical products and services; use of liaison representatives as Goodwill Ambassadors for "happy house calls"; establishing an Overseas Ambassador's Task Force to continue developing a sense of community and global belonging with overseas ministers, and to provide overseas ministers official access to Association resources. Additional goal statements and action steps include the appointment of the Unity Movement Advisory Council to oversee the review of international ministerial policies and strategies; and creation of multimedia and video training tapes.

A complete update of the goals accomplished in the past year appears in the Association's Annual Report for 1987 on pages 14 and 15 of this issue.

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 Staff. 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.

warding to us.

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 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 of regular format issues of CONTACT, you will find printed holes for drilling or punching for easy notebook filing and/or BOLD PRINT titles for filing horizontally in folders.

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/Convention and remember to continue the sharing after you return home.

Again, welcome "home" to your "Unity family"!

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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.

PLACEMENT AND LIAISON



Joann Landreth
Placement & Liaison
Coordinator

Many of the Board members and congregants of member ministries of the Association of Unity Churches are totally unaware of the Liaison Policy governing the Association involvement in a member ministry. Because of the autonomy of the Association's member ministries, the Association is unable to involve itself in the activities of a member ministry unless the minister, the

representative can often be a great deal more objective in viewing all of the circumstances involved, seeing ways that changes can be made (both within the Board responsibilities and within the ministerial leadership), and visualize ways for order and harmony to be reestablished. The liaison representative can often see changes that have to be made to bring about the perfect solution to the problems the ministry is facing. The Board and the minister are so deeply involved emotionally that it is more difficult for them to see that right outworking.

How does the liaison process work? Following, I have listed the steps involved to implement the liaison process:

1. A telephone call is made to me in the Association office informing me of the problem.
2. I will share with the caller (if that caller is not a minister) that the majority of the Board must be requesting assistance, or the number of members required by the Bylaws must be requesting assistance through the Board.
3. Provided the requirements in Number Two have been met, I will call the regional representative for the ministry and together we will appoint a liaison representative.
4. I will then put the appointed liaison representative in touch with all of the appropriate persons.
5. The appropriate persons from the ministry and the liaison representative will arrange a mutually agreeable time to visit the ministry.

6. The liaison representative will meet with the minister, the Board, and another involved persons.

7. Following these meetings, the liaison representative will make recommendations in writing that he or she feels will bring about harmony and order, and a right solution.

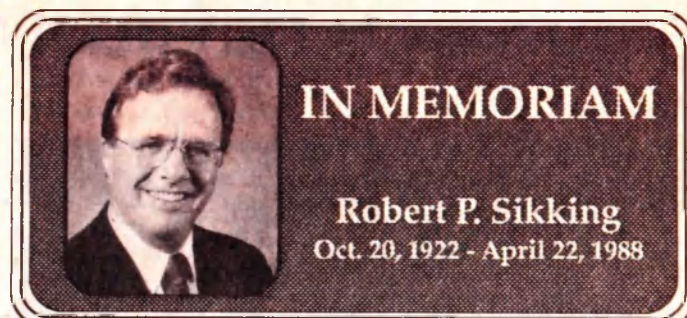
8. It is important for the ministry to implement the recommendations to assist in bringing about the right solution of any problem.

Again, if you are facing challenges, please give serious consideration to inviting in Association liaison assistance. I have seen the liaison process heal ministries which then begin to grow and become truly exciting, vital ministries.

The ministry is responsible for the expenses involved in bringing in a liaison representative. There are, however, trained representatives in each region. If at all possible, we send the nearest representative in order to keep the cost involved at a minimum. This is money well spent. If your ministry is totally unable to handle the financial responsibility, do not let that stop you from inviting a liaison representative. At times the region will pick up the expenses, and if the ministry and the region both cannot handle the financial responsibility, the Association will cover the expenses.

If you have any questions about the liaison policy and procedures, please feel free to give me a telephone call.

God bless you; we see each of the Association's member ministries whole and healthy: ministries filled with light, life, and laughter.



IN MEMORIAM

Robert P. Sikking

Oct. 20, 1922 - April 22, 1988

A giant tree has fallen in the forest. Yes, we know that life is forever--without beginning and ending--but the forest is changed because of the tree that grew there. It has also changed because that tree no longer stands against the sky.

Our Association of Unity Churches came into existence because of the need to organize and serve our Unity ministries. Bob Sikking was called back to America from England, where he had established Unity in Great Britain. We needed a strong leader to hold us together and he was our man--our first Executive Director from our founding in 1966 until March 1977. By that time I was working in the office as Director of Placement and in time I was appointed to succeed Bob.

Prior to Bob and the Association, our church affairs were administered by Unity School of Christianity. Suddenly we had to take care of ourselves--and for sure without Bob's dedication to Unity and his firm leadership we would never have quieted our self-interest enough to become welded into the Association. O, those first years were often stormy! We grew and strengthened and then Bob and his leadership style fell from favor and we had to experiment with several directions and directors until we could evolve into the fine organization we are today. All of us who lived and worked through those formative years know full well what a debt all Unity ministers owe to Bob Sikking.

Helen and I talked with Bob just a few days ago. He and Helen were prayer partners. He had been ill again his heart.

He had just been invited by his two daughters to come at their expense to visit in England. He was excited about that trip and even more by that expression of love from the girls. He was ambivalent about the trip he and I were planning to the Holy Land--he was concerned about his health. On Thursday he and a group of special friends were on a cruiseship to Mexico for a few days. He was having a grand time when he had a heart attack. He died in the ship's infirmary the next day without regaining consciousness.

The Sikking family is well known to all of us. His parents, one brother, and his sister are also Unity ministers. His father, Art, died some years ago and his mother, Sue, is retired and confined to a medical facility. His brother, Tom, and his sister-in-law, Betty, are co-ministers in Jacksonville, Florida, and his sister, Joy Turowski, ministers near Santa Monica, California. He has two other brothers, Art and James (Skeeter). He and his first wife, Vicky, loved raising their three children, David, Peggy (Little One), and Robin.

Bob served Unity in Santa Barbara from 1950 to 1956. He then went to England to establish the British Unity Headquarters. After serving our Association, he served Unity of Fort Worth, Texas, and replaced his mother upon her retirement at Unity by the Sea in Santa Monica, California. He was currently serving the Religious Science Church of Bakersfield, California. He loved that congregation dearly and they returned his love enthusiastically.

Bob talked to his brother, Tom, every week. He told his secretary, Sandy, that if anything should happen to him, she should call Tom and Stan. We shall miss him.

And we have so many memories, playing pool, birthday parties, leading our movement through crazy days, going to Catalina, playing cards, calling me "Buddy," celebrating his marriage to Beth, working together (especially with the lawyer in Los Angeles trying to reclaim Christ Church Unity), performing his marriage to Laurie, his introducing me to Art Petey that lead to getting my book published, his pipe, his love for his mother's paintings, his love for Charles King, Bob Owens, Carolyn McCoy, Grover and Betty Thornsberry, Jay Dishman, Bill and Grace Rose, Margaret "Muggsy" Conn, so many of us.

When he was a YOU'er on a rally to Louisville, Kentucky, he was surprised to remember being along a street "in another time all together." He "knew" all about a hotel in which he had lived just around the corner. To the amazement of himself and his fellow YOU'ers, they discovered the hotel to be indeed as he remembered. Whatever room he might be checking into tonight, I trust he remembers some of the love and light he shares in our hearts.

The forest is changed because he grew here. The emptiness is felt where he stood. We shall remember.

- V. Stanford Hampson
Palo Alto, California

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, MO 64063

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 (and photographs) for possible inclusion in next year's Conference edition of CONTACT.

Thanks for your interest and support. We look forward to hearing from you.



Barbara O'Hearne
Church Development and
Management Consultant

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD Qualities of a Good Leader

Throughout the country there are said to be 650,000+ nonprofit organizations in the United States. Serving in an important leadership capacity are the women and men elected as the board chairperson or president of the board. How this individual was elected to the position makes for interesting discussion, and often is an indicator of where the organization is in its development.

"...Why in the world would ANYONE want to serve on ANY kind of nonprofit board?"

This article will explore the things to look for in a good board president. A good beginning point is to examine reasons for board involvement.

WHY DO PEOPLE WANT TO SERVE ON BOARDS?

A question frequently posed to me as a management consultant is, "Why in the world would ANYONE want to serve on ANY kind of

nonprofit board?"

Happily I am able to respond with a variety of positive reasons. Altruism is high on the list. There is a strong desire to give something back to the church or the community that has helped the person prosper.

Enlightened self-interest is another reason. Through board involvement an individual has a chance to find out about career opportunities within an organization or to express leadership skills that may not be possible in a current job. Being able to put their interest, experience, and expertise to work in achieving the organization's vision, goals, and objectives is very satisfying to many board members.

"...to put their interest, experience, and expertise to work in achieving the organization's vision, goals, and objectives is very satisfying to many board members."

Many board members have a commitment to an organization because of personal involvement. People who have had positive experiences, for example, as a college or university student or pleasant childhood memories of camp, often make a commitment. They participate in alumni organizations and camping or scouting groups because they want to insure that others will have the same opportunities.

"Good board presidents are 'students of their organization.'"

There are a variety of reasons for saying "yes" that include guilt, recognition, peer pressure, social climbing, or a desire for business connections. However, these reasons often result in a lack of commitment to the organization.

Having briefly discussed various reasons *why* people are willing to serve on boards, how does the board make sure it will identify the best possible person to serve as the board president? The following list of characteristics and skills may answer that critical question.

Demonstrated Leadership Potential

The chairperson should be able to demonstrate a leadership capacity in all situations—routine board business and in times of tension. The board president is neither dictatorial, apathetic, or apologetic (these behaviors are equally counter-productive). He or she should have executive capabilities, patience, parliamentary skills, concern for fairness, and be an excellent communicator.

Know the Organization

Good board presidents are "students of their organization." They have studied the organization inside out and are well versed in all phases of the organization, its staff, the members or constituents, its problems, and its potential. They also have the understanding and knowledge of the many facets of a nonprofit organization.

Proactive Manager

The skilled board chairperson is able to understand and interpret the trends and issues that impact the organization. He or she knows how to plan in advance for changes that might effect the organization. Although he or she is able to handle crisis management when necessary, it is not a preferred style of leadership.

Internal Strength

Most board presidents will tell you they have had to live with some very unpopular decisions, talkative board members, and challenging people. The talented and skilled board president knows the negative result of applying personal and official pressure. On occasion board members may need to be reminded of their role as a board member and not the chief authority or sole voice.

"The board president is the key individual responsible for a well managed board."

Respect and Use of the Structure

Board presidents who do not work with and through the board structure are inviting disenfranchisement of individual board members and ultimately a dysfunctional committee structure. Policy consideration, adoption, and evaluation is a board function. Committees play an important role in researching and recommending appropriate policies or organizational direction. The implementation of that policy is the sole responsibility of the executive director or administrator.

Motivating and Creating a Team

Through ongoing communication, respecting each individual board member's expertise and needs, the board president motivates and instills activism. The time spent in formal board orientation and informal discussion with board members helps build the board into a

team willing to achieve the strategic plan of the organization.

A Manager with a Dream

The board president is the key individual responsible for a well managed board. He or she has the capacity to see beyond today and envision what the organization will be like in 5 - 10 - 20 years. This astute chairperson knows that all board members must be actively involved in articulating, creating, implementing, and evaluating that vision.

"...the board president needs to be an individual skilled in dealing with groups and very knowledgeable about people."

Leadership Responsibility

The board chairperson must carefully execute his or her role. The office of president is not a lifetime position. Each new chairman should be concerned about his or her successor. The board and the organization will suffer if the chairperson feels he/she is indispensable. Validity, effectiveness, and organizational growth demand changing leadership at the board level.

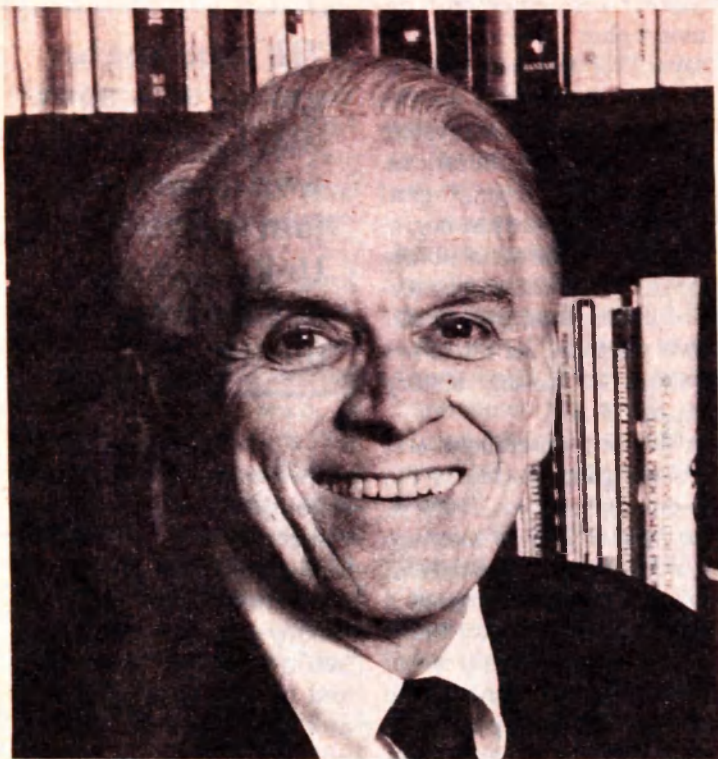
In addition to the skills and characteristics discussed above, the board president needs to be an individual skilled in dealing with groups and very knowledgeable about people. He or she insures that the board is accountable to the membership or constituents. He or she enjoys his/her position—most of the time—and is respectful of the organization's history and excited and enthusiastic about its future. The responsibilities and expectations of a board president is great—the rewards are even greater.

RESOURCES:

Arthur C. Frantzreb, "Governing Boards, Seven Things to Look for in A Good Chairman," *The Nonprofit Time*, October 1987.

LEADERSHIP CAPACITY IS A TALENT -- ITS USE, A SKILL

CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES



Dick Connor
Church Growth & Development Director

Last month I introduced the idea of vision by defining the term and contrasting a vision statement with a mission statement. The link between vision and values was made, and I gave you two value-developing phrases which can be used in articulating your church's vision in your church.

In this article, you'll receive more value-developing phrases, and I'll discuss the process for developing and communicating a vision statement for your church. I'll conclude with ideas for involving others in developing their vision statements for projects and programs.

Additional Value-Developing Statements

Here are more statements which you can use with your leadership team as you begin articulating the values that "drive" the church's operations:

Our visitors leave us feeling...

The purpose of every contact with a member/visitor is...

If the last five people who became members of the church were the only people I would ever again serve, I would...

When I can't fulfill my promise/commitment I...

When we are faced with inadequate performance...

We select volunteers by...

We assist volunteers to be more effective by...

We want everyone to feel welcome and stay connected with us. We do this by...

We are here to help provide the condition for personal transformation. We do this by...

We have an inner-directed desire to...

We wish to become the standard for... in (your location)

We serve and relate to each person as if they were our only member by...

We demonstrate by our own actions and rhetoric the way we wish the entire organization would operate. This looks like...

We seek to reduce the "that's not my job" response by...

Completing and discussing these phrases, and more if you desire, would be a good retreat agenda for your Leadership Team.

The best way to do this is to have each participant write his/her answers and then, using a flip chart, jot down the bits-and-pieces of the answer. The spirited discussions that follow will enable you to explore the deeper meanings and implications of adopting the value. It will also ensure that the final value statement is one that you will feel comfortable living and managing from.

The power within these statements when completed, articulated, and internalized, is they become the "way things are done around here." They become the internalized rules by which we hold ourselves and others accountable.

It's also important to communicate about the vision and value statements in ways that command interest, evoke enrollment and commitment, and provide for the empowerment of others.

Developing the Vision Statement

There are four broad areas for early consideration:

1. The "Givens."

Givens are the few largely non-negotiable aspects involved in every ministry. For most of us they would include adherence to Unity and other Truth principles, certain aspects of the worship celebration, etc.

2. "Give-And-Take" Items.

These are the other areas which are important to you and for which you want others' opinions. In handling these items you are saying, "Please give me your reactions and input so I can incorporate them into my notion of the vision."

3. The "Takes."

In effect, you are saying, "Here are some areas for you to consider and run with if they are important enough to you."

4. The "Others."

You are asking, "What other ideas do you have that need to be factored into our planning?"

At first glance this may seem to be a bit arbitrary. It doesn't have to be. In fact, it can be quite useful in opening up the communications among the minister and the leadership team. Many members of the leadership team have mentioned their frustration in not knowing what the minister really had in mind, where the boundaries were, and what was "fair game" for the members.

Remember, developing a vision statement is an evolving process. It is not dominated by anyone, but is a collective effort designed to create a "navigational North star" which will be used to guide the affairs of the church for a long time to come.

Once the qualitative data has been gathered and discussed, you are ready to produce a range of quantitative information.

The Worksheet provided in this article will enable you and your leadership team to surface ideas on a range of topics. Let's see how this can be used.

First, set a time frame at least 5 years from now. Some churches are using the year 2000 as their focal point.

Next, go within and "see" the church of the future. It might be helpful to see yourself flying over the church in a helicopter to get a sense of the size of the church and the setting in which it is located. Then, land the chopper and walk around the grounds, visit classes, walk the halls, talk with the people, etc.

Having done this, refer to factor 2 and determine how your spiritual focus is distributed. What percent of time and other resources are devoted to the existing congregation, and what percent is dedicated to communicating to potential members who are in your community?

Looking at the existing congregation you will have in this time period, what percent of the resources will be allocated within the four categories? List your answers in factor 3.

Now do the same for the potential members, factor 4.

Look now at factor 5 and again estimate the percentage of time and resources to be allocated to each of the "targets" of service and promotion.

When you have done this, identify the needs to be satisfied for each of the targets, and place your information in factor 6.

Next, determine how the needs identified earlier will be satisfied, factor 7. Allow yourself to be creative see how the needs might be met in the future.

Finally, estimate the numbers of each of the items listed in factor 8. Add others as you need to.

Congratulations! You are now well on your way to developing your vision statement.

VISION WORKSHEET

1. The time frame for the vision is

2. Spiritual focus

- Existing congregation
- Potential members

3. Existing congregation

- Spiritual needs
- Human hurts
- Special interests
- Fellowship

4. Potential New Members

- Spiritual needs
- Human hurts
- Special interests
- Fellowship

5. Who are the targets of service and promotion?

- Nursery
- Children

- Teens
- Young singles
- Young marrieds
- Families with children
- Single parents with children
- Never married
- widowed
- middle-aged
- senior citizens

6. What needs will be satisfied for each?

- Worship
- Education
- Fellowship
- Healing of human hurts

7. How will the needs be satisfied?

- Sanctuary
- Chapel
- Mailings
- Meetings
- Providing facilities
- Outings
- tapes
- Books
- Radio
- TV
- Others, such as...

8. Numbers of

- Attendees
- Members
- Programs
- Services
- Paid staff
- Volunteers
- Publicity events
- Book store

Coaching Others to Develop Their Vision

Finally, let's see what's involved in getting others to develop their vision for projects and programs within the vision for the church. There are three actions steps:

1. Ask them to pick an important project that they have energy about. What are the:

- Goals of the project?
- Possibilities of the project?

2. Ask them to complete the phrase, "I care about the project because...", and I am committed to it because..."

3. Ask them to define the "ideal" or absolute principle operating in terms of personal, spiritual and organizational concerns.

I hope this information is useful to you. If you have any questions, please call me--703-569-9131.

CHURCH GROWTH BY RADIO



Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put in your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. --Luke 7:38

CAST YOUR MESSAGE UPON THE AIRWAVES

by Michael Moran
Radio/Media Coordinator

I believe in tithing. The meaning and quality of my life improved dramatically when I started to tithe faithfully and I've seen the same thing happen to countless other people. Tithing works! It simply means putting your trust in God first and cooperating with the universal law of sowing and reaping.

So why do I use this space to tell you something that you already believe in and practice? Or do you? Consider this.

I've come to view the broadcasting of our Unity message as a tithe to our communities and the world. We teach tithing. We encourage our congregants to be unselfish givers. And yet many of our churches withhold the most precious gift we have to offer - the very thing that will have a lasting impact on our communities and world consciousness - the Unity message. . . "Christ in you, your hope of glory." We speak eloquently of the individual's responsibility to discover and unleash this transformative power. Then we tell them to share it with a hungry world and then to serve as a midwife for the truth in others.

"The Unity message does not belong to a select few who are 'ready for it'."

Rick Fields writes in, *Chop Wood, Carry Water*, "People are beginning to realize that if we are going to create a new society, then we must do so with the same values and integrity that we want to see incorporated in that society. Our work starts with ourselves, aligning our personal lives with our values, but it does not stop there. We must

take care to continue keeping our actions faithful to our values and then move out into society."

"Our ministry and responsibility doesn't end with the walls of our church. We have the responsibility to get our name and message out into the mainstream of society."

Our ministry and responsibility doesn't end with the walls of our church. We have the responsibility to get our name and message out into the mainstream of society.

When you have something that can heal and bless countless lives, such as our Unity message, it's "sinful" not to generously share it with everybody. At least to let them know its available.

Jesus instructed those who believed in and embraced his good news to take it beyond their comfort zones. "Go ye therefore into the world and teach the gospel to every creature." - Mark 16:15.

The Unity message does not belong to a select few who are "ready for it." The world has proved that it is more than ready for what we have to give.

The Unity philosophy was freely revealed to Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. Let's share it just as freely with the world as originally intended when they formed the first broadcasting department.

"We feel that the new department is a big step upward in Unity's great work of spreading Truth into every corner of the earth. The testimonials that we receive from people all over the country speak eloquently of the work that can be accomplished through radio. Ever alert for new methods, Unity

has welcomed this opportunity to improve radio service to its friends."

Unity News 1924

This past year I have come to more fully appreciate the Fillmore's faith, vision and dedication. They used every means, new and old, to share "Christ's glad message with the world."

Unity pioneered radio ministry, telephone prayer rooms, Western Union prayer requests. . . talk about faith filled visionaries! All of this cost a bundle of money, but they knew that if they paid the price to give it away, they would prosper. And prosper they did. Unity is

living testimony to their unselfish faith.

Jesus told us to share the light with others. With today's technology, we can do this like never before. Market researcher and demographer James Ogilvey says, "For the first time in history, the human species has a central nervous system called telecommunications. We have the technological ability and we are just beginning to gain the social ability to function as a kind of collective intelligence, setting our own purposes for ourselves instead of having history happen to us."

This is consciously and actively participating in the co-creative process. Think of the impact Unity's message could have on individual and collective consciousness if it were broadcast daily! What would happen if every one of our churches broadcast the message of love, peace, divine order, health, and abundance out on the airwaves? What would return to these churches multiplied many fold? What would happen if every one of our churches supported an effort to broadcast Truth internationally on a daily basis? How could that impact and accelerate the healing of our beautiful planet? We'll never know unless we (each one of us)

take the responsibility - pay the price - to feed our message into "this central nervous system" that touches virtually every citizen on earth.

"To continue to grow. . . as a spiritual force in this world, we must join together in Unity, and give our message to the world."

Are we just in the business to build more and larger churches? Or are we meant to fill hearts and minds with New Thought? Both of these worthy objectives will happen if we continue to freely and openly share our light and vision with the world.

To continue to grow and mature as a spiritual force in this world, we must join together in Unity, and give our message to the world. These are exciting times for the Association of Unity Churches. As Charles Fillmore would say, "We are pregnant with possibles!"

Please pray with us as we seek guidance and support in sharing the vision.

BENEFITS OF RADIO BROADCASTING

The distinctive voice of Charles has been sharing Unity's message via radio for many years. Charles needs no convincing when it comes to the numerous and varied benefits derived from radio broadcasting. He has had great success with his 60-second spot program in Tulsa and is quick to encourage other ministers to get "on the air."

"I have had previous experience with radio in earlier ministries where we have used other approaches than the 60-second spot, including a 15-minute "Unity Viewpoint" program, a live or recorded Sunday morning service broadcast, and 30-minute Truth messages or talks recorded in a studio. We are quite sold on these 60-second spots and propose to continue them. Incidentally, we do not favor the live or previous recorded Sunday morning service. Too often people choose to listen to the service in the warmth and comfort of their home, and our purpose is to attract people to the church and not give them an excuse to stay away.



Charles Neal

"The response to our programs in Tulsa has been steady and for the most part, very positive. We have received a steady flow of newcomers. . . two or three or perhaps a half a dozen a week at our Sunday services. They tell my wife Nancy or me online that they have come because of the radio announcements. The little messages intrigue them and as some have said, "they come to see the face behind the voice." It was clearly a new soft sell for a church in Tulsa and stimulated quite a bit of interest. Our own church members are delighted at the sophisticated publicity their church is receiving. For the first time in

its history, the church was full every Sunday throughout the summer and succeeding summers.

"In our last fiscal year, we spent about \$15,500.00 on radio, and received about \$8,500.00 in contributions earmarked for radio. From this you will see that the program has never been self-sustaining by direct contributions. But we have no doubt that it has paid off handsomely through the steadily growing attendance which has added substantially to our weekly offerings. Before we started radio advertising, the congregation was about 60 adults weekly. A year ago we started holding two Sunday services, and the smallest total number of adults to have attended services this year, that is in 1988, is 307. Our average for this year is about 340."

Tulsa Unity Church received the 1984 Templeton Radio Grant and has continued to broadcast. Charles says, "It is our firm intention to continue this program and we regard it as an expenditure that is as essential as light and heat.

INTRODUCING... [REDACTED]

CAROLYN CRAFT

The Radio Media Department is one year old. Our first year has been wonderfully busy and extremely productive. Thank you for your enthusiasm and encouragement.

years in the broadcast industry, I have decided to respond to the inner yearning to leave and become involved with Unity."

Carolyn went on to outline her successful and impres-

for the rest of that vision to unfold. This is just the beginning of something grand and beautiful.

I want to thank all of you for your faithful and continuing support for this depart-

I want to especially thank Debby Henry for her initiative in getting this department organized and running smoothly way ahead of schedule. She has spent hundreds of hours collecting scripts, transcribing tapes, answering correspondence and much, much more. Without her professionalism and follow-through, we could not have covered near as much ground.

Since August of 1987, I personally visited all seven of our regions and dozens of individual ministries conducting the Church Growth By Radio Workshops and studying existing radio programs. The workshop was well received and I'm pleased to announce that over fifty of our ministers went on the radio for the first time or resumed their broadcast efforts. Many more have informed me that they are preparing to "go on the air" in the very near future.

Many of you mentioned that a simple step-by-step "How To" media manual would be useful. One is being completed now that will be available within the next few months. This Church Growth By Radio Manual will answer many of your questions and assist the ministries in putting together an effective radio and media program.

We are investigating the feasibility of broadcasting the Unity message worldwide via powerful short wave radio stations. Many religious organizations, including Christian Science, are now buying these stations to reach out into the world. More and more ministers are joining in the efforts to share the Unity vision with the world. These are truly exciting times for our movement.

When I accepted this position as Radio Media Coordinator, it was understood that I might leave at the end of the first year to pursue a co-ministry with my wife Faith. After much prayer and consideration I have decided to do that. I assured Glenn Mosley that I would not leave until a person that was more than just qualified surfaced to assume this position. I had no sooner stated this when a letter crossed my desk from a professional broadcaster and Unity student named Carolyn Craft.

It began, "After nineteen

Unity message and I want to contribute where I can. Please let me know how I may be of assistance to Unity."

I knew that Carolyn was the answer to my prayer for "the perfect person" to take this new department on to its next higher phase.

Carolyn began consulting with the Radio Media Department in January and was hired as Associate Radio Media Coordinator on April 1, 1988. She comes to us highly recommended and brings excellent management skills, creativity, and a warm and fun-loving personality. She is a real asset to our Association.

She will assume the position of Radio Media Coordinator on June 15th, and I will become her Associate working on developing programs from the field. It is a win-win situation for all involved. Thank You, God, for answered prayer.

This has been an exciting and fulfilling year for me as Radio Media Coordinator. It is the literal outworking of a vision I had over a decade ago when I "saw" a marriage (or remarriage) between Unity and broadcasting. This union had a powerfully positive impact on world consciousness. I can hardly wait

sion, faith, and generous support.

Michael Moran

A WORD FROM CAROLYN

It is very exciting to become a part of the unfoldment of much effort and research effected over the past year in spreading Unity's message through broadcast. Spirit has profoundly impacted my life in guiding me to this juncture. In full acknowledgement of this, I enthusiastically accepted the position of Radio Media Coordinator commencing this June.

For twenty years I have enjoyed much success in most all aspects of the advertising and broadcast industry. On graduating from the University of N.C. in Chapel Hill with a BA in Radio/TV/Film, I entered the creative field of broadcasting. I progressed into marketing and sales and then spent many years in motivation/management of some of the most wonderfully talented people in the business. In 1983, I heard Eric Butterworth's lectures on Cosmic Law. They awakened in me a hunger for truth and my journey contin-

ued. The idea of incorporating my years of professional expertise with my desire to express my spiritual nature became increasingly important. And you know when heart prayer goes out, it is answered.

While working as General Manager for a radio station in Shreveport, Louisiana, I had the good fortune of meeting the Unity minister there, Nita Buckley. Nita became both a

in furthering the message of truth is boundless. There is a sense of vitality and vision within the staff of the Association which gives me a feeling of completion. The foundations of the Radio/Media Department which have been laid over this past year embrace the visions that I want to see continued: research for a national support campaign on radio, a networking hub for all ministers to share ideas

and glean information on local self-supporting programming, an international plan for the enlightenment of many students from all over the world.

On becoming acquainted with the visions of John Templeton for spiritual advancement in our future, I celebrate that I am now in a position to help contribute Unity ideas for spreading the message of Truth to the world.

Michael and I will continue to work closely together as we explore new ways to broadcast our Unity message.

Broadcasting is a very powerful source for tapping into universal consciousness on a personal one-to-one level. It is naturally compatible to Unity's message. I see blessings for all Truth seekers in the ideas set forth by the Radio Media Department to date. Many of these ideas, such as the National Image Campaign, will become a reality this year! Prosperity and abundance will be measured (as it has been already by many of you) in ways never before imagined. Expansion of these ideas are happening daily thanks to your contributions and support.

I look forward to meeting all of you in Orlando. I especially look forward to being all that I can be to each one of you as we do our part in adding Unity's light to the consciousness of the world.



Radio Media Dept. (left to right): Debby Henry, Michael Moran, Carolyn Craft.

friend and mentor. She sent me a copy of CONTACT in which an article written by Michael Moran on Church Growth by Radio impressed me. Something led me to communicate with him in the context of broadcasting and Unity. Immediately I discovered we shared many of the same visions and aspirations. This resulted in a meeting in January of this year at which time I began consulting with Michael for the Radio and Media Department. My answered prayer has led to this heart center of Unity Village and my new home in Lee's Summit. Now those years of broadcast sales, service, marketing, production, and management expertise can be put to really good use in spiritual matters.

My anticipation in working with the Unity ministers and teachers, together with Michael and the Association

JUST IMAGINE

In my conversation with God the imagining power of my mind is playing an important part. It receives divine ideas and in dreams and visions reflects their character in consciousness. Everything that is manifest was first a mental picture and was brought into expression by this forming power. Man is co-creator with God and whatever you form in the mind and have faith in will become manifest. - Charles Fillmore

Imagine. . . .

what would happen in your city and region if all Unity ministries there cooperated in the spirit of Unity with only one purpose in mind - to explore, support, and implement the most effective ways to share Unity's vision with every single person in your area. Imagine the impact!

Imagine. . . .

tuning in the top radio and television stations and receiving quality Unity programs that feature the creme de la creme of New Thought. Credible men and women on the cutting edge of religion, science, medicine, and psychology.

Imagine. . . .

hearing scores of people saying, "Oh, you're with Unity, where have you been all my life? . . . I love your programs. They've made a big difference in my life."

Imagine. . . .

each of our Unity Churches filled to overflowing with people hungry for Truth. . . . "I can't imagine where we'll put them all!"

Imagine. . . .

the Association of Unity Churches having to work overtime and expand just to keep up with the demand for new churches, ministers, teachers, services, and literature in your city or region.

Imagine. . . .

the Association of Unity Churches broadcasting our Truth message via powerful short wave radio stations into every corner of the earth twenty-four hours a day.

Imagine. . . .

Unity in Africa, Unity in Europe, Unity in South America, Unity in Asia, Unity in India, Unity in the Soviet Union, Unity in North America. . . all powerful affirmations!

Imagine. . . .

regular broadcast programs and spot announcements that encourage the acceptance of one another's religious and cultural differences without condemnation. "Behold how pleasant and good it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in Unity."

Can you imagine that!?



In a world that sometimes appears obsessed with appearance, power, influence and acquisition, it's refreshing to meet somebody who "has it all" and is unaffected by it. It's exciting when your path crosses that of another who leaves you with a higher, more defined vision of life's meaning and purpose.

By any definition, John Marks Templeton "has it made." The New York Times calls him the "dean of global investing." He controls a financial empire that exceeds 10 billion dollars.

The Templeton Prize For Progress In Religion is the most lucrative cash prize in the world. . . \$360,000.00 and is awarded annually to a living person who has been instrumental in widening or deepening man's knowledge of the love of God and thereby furthering the quest for the quality of life that mirrors the divine.

John Marks Templeton is a living testimony to what Jesus meant when he said, "He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." - Matt. 23:11-12

Mr. Templeton, are you optimistic about the future?

"Oh, Yes. That is a very good question, Michael. None of us are truly grateful or properly grateful for all the wonderful things that are going on. We're living in the most glorious period in God's ongoing creative process. Just in my lifetime the standards of living has quadrupled. . . not only in America, but worldwide. . . something that has never happened before, would have been undreamed of before. . . the fact that the gross national product of the world is now 200 times as great as it

was 200 years ago. . . and that is just a marvelous thing, and everywhere you look, you see these wonderful blessings that people are not properly grateful for. For example, the life expectancy now is twice as great as it was 150 years ago. The amount of money donated to churches and charities this year in America alone will be over 80 billion dollars which is more than was devoted to churches and charities in an entire century before this century. In terms of scientists, 50% of all the scientists who ever lived are alive today. Fifty percent of all that is known in the field of medicine was discovered in the last 20 years, and 90% of it discovered in the last 70 years. You can go on and on and on. Everywhere you look, we are living in the most wonderful bounteous period that God has ever given us. Not only that, but it seems to be continuing and accelerating. So the future looks glorious beyond imagining of human beings. . . even royalty could not of imagined the standard of living we enjoy today."

Man has continually searched to understand the nature of God and his relation with God. How do you understand God?

"Nothing exists except God. All else is temporary largely in appearance, possibly even an illusion. What is perceived by the five senses God has given us is so far from the underlying reality that we are misled into thinking the things that we see and touch are real. Science, more and more every month, is proving that reality is not what it appears to be. That's part of the subject of the book I wrote called, *The Humble Approach*.

*Tell me more about *The Humble**

A Visit With John Templeton

Approach.

"It means that no human being has ever known more than a tiny fraction of the infinity of God and, therefore, we should not think that we know all about God, and if we know so little, we should learn from what others think they know. Let me put it another way, Michael. Throughout the history of all religions, there has been a tendency for people to understand God in human terms, and thereby they have reduced God from infinity down to finite size, and have therefore failed to understand the size of the creator."

Mr. Templeton, you are Presbyterian and President of the Board of Trustees with Princeton Theological Seminary. You have also been a generous friend to Unity for many years. How did you first become aware of Unity?

"My mother was always a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and my father a member of the Methodist Church. We normally attended my mother's church. Like so many other people who belong to the what was once called the mainline churches, they need a religious philosophy in addition to that. So mother became interested in Weekly Unity about 1920, and therefore it was always in our home. I began to read it and, from that, of course, we learned about Silent Unity. I really didn't know much more than that until I went to one of your Unity retreats about 15 years ago."

You are one of the most successful mutual fund investors in the world today. As you look back, what would you identify as a key turning point in your life?

"A gradual effort to become better at thought control. So many people lead their lives by allowing their thoughts to wander aimlessly. It takes practice to learn to plant in your mind those thoughts that are useful and beautiful. That is a lifetime endeavor, and something that people are not born with usually. At some age in your education, you need to begin to make that effort. As you work at it through your life, you gradually become better, better at controlling, better at weeding out the negative and filling your mind up with beautiful thoughts."

When did you catch hold of that truth?

"I really think it was when I began to read Weekly Unity. I was about nine years old and I found that helpful philosophy there."

It is well known that you are a man of prayer. Would you describe your prayer life?

"Prayer of course is in many different forms and ways. Your pattern of thinking throughout 24 hours a day is a form of being in tune with the Infinite. Also, there are prayers for praise and prayers for supplication, prayers for guidance, there are many kinds of prayers, and I would say that everyone should try to learn as many types of prayer as they can."

Do you have a regular or scheduled prayer life?

"Yes and No. Most prayer should not be scheduled in my opinion. People should be praying in different ways very frequently and spontaneously, but at the same time, it is nice to have some time aside for formalized prayer which I normally do before going to sleep."

I read an article in Forbes where a man referred to your remarkable intuition for investing. How much does intuition play in your investments?

"Nothing, I hope. We try to be as common sense, as logical as possible. But we do before each meeting, pray for guidance, and I do think thereby we can think more clearly."

Mr. Templeton, if you could give just one piece of advice or one key to successful living, what would it be?

"Try to be a giver rather than a getter."

How do you define true prosperity?

"I would say it's usefulness or progress. Prosperity is not something that is static, something that is already possessed. Prosperity comes from progress toward useful goals. People are happy, useful and prosperous when they are using their talents to the utmost. If you are useful to people, they will want to do business with you."

What life accomplishment are you most proud?

"Probably the influence I think we are having on millions of people in all nations to realize that religion is progressive. By the program of prizes for Progress In Religion, we are helping people to think of religion as something that is rapidly growing, dynamic, infinitely varied, even more exciting than the new discoveries in medicine or science. We are hoping that there will be many research institutes in the field of spirituality. We are hoping that we can help people to make progress in understanding God and the love of God. . . and we do that by calling to their attention the marvelous original work that is going on in every faith. By doing that, people realize that what they learned in Sunday School is not the entire story and they need to learn more."

What person or persons, have had the greatest impact on your life?

"Jesus Christ. . . St. Paul possibly. . . I can't think of any others."

Mr. Templeton, earlier you said, 'the future looks glorious beyond imagining,' do you feel humankind shares that optimism?

"Oh, no, much more needs to be done. We need magazines like Unity that spread the Truth about our blessings, help us to be more thankful. There are many other magazines, radio programs, television programs, that are beginning to do the same thing, such as Robert Schuller and the new short wave broadcast for the Christian Science Church. . . many, many others. We need to do far more than we are now doing to help people to be truly grateful for and to understand their multitudes of blessings, and one of those things is Church Growth By Radio. What we need is to overcome what seems to be a flaw in human nature that people enjoy hearing about catastrophes. Therefore, most television programs and magazines, newspapers, build up their audience by telling terrible things, scandalous things, that leaves the impression that the world is going down when actually it's going up rapidly."

One last question, what gives you the greatest satisfaction?

"Trying to be useful and to radiate God's love and wisdom."

SUPPORT SERVICEhundreds of ways to help your church succeed!



Ron Tyson
Support Services
Coordinator



- Laypersons Convention
- Ministers Conference
- Friendship Sunday
- Welcome Kits
- Carpet
- Men's/Women's Groups
- Choir Gowns
- Church Promotional Materials
- Radio, Newspaper, TV Press Kits
- Pews
- Furniture
- Speaker Systems
- Paraments
- Electrical Systems
- Ministers Membership Package
- Church Signs
- Building Moduals
- Pianos & Organs
- Supplies
- Clip Art Book
- Stationery & Business Cards

The Support Service Department was established last year with the mission to find new and better ways to support the Association ministers and ministries.

This department is involved with many of the Association's Committees, helping them to package products and ideas that will support the overall mission of the movement. This support is both public and inner-related when it comes to creating new and useful products.

To enhance the public image, attractive stationery, business cards, and personal

note cards have been developed to support the local church. Computerized stationery is now being designed for churches using computers for correspondence.

A Press Kit has recently been developed to give the church an air of professionalism and acceptance. Cassette envelopes and radio and newspaper script paper are a part of this promotion.

Last year literature racks with four color "Welcome" brochures were developed to help the small and growing church expose Unity to the community. Roadside

signs are now in the process of development to help people find our Unity churches and centers.

New church signs are in the works, as well as customized furniture, carpet, pews, electrical fixtures, sound systems, paraments, choir gowns, pianos, organs...you name it. It is the goal of this department to fulfill any of the needs the church may have.

Your Support Service Department is dedicated to creating supportive materials for all churches, no matter what the size may be. While one item may not meet the needs of one, it may be just the sup-

port item another has been looking for.

When research and development work is done on a new item, three questions are asked: One, will it fill a need? Two, will it have the quality that will exemplify the high Unity standard? And three, how much will it cost? Because we are a relatively small Association at this time, there are times when quality and price are a factor. We are constantly searching for the best price break to meet the high Unity standard. If you have a direct contact with a manufacturer (not a manufacturer's repre-

sentative) who manufactures a commodity that would be useful to our churches, please contact the Support Service Department and give us the name, phone number and contact person. This will help us provide quality service at affordable prices. Like the TV add for FUNCTION JUNCTION... "You keep looking out for us, so we can keep looking out for you."

Profits from conventions, conferences, and inventory are reinvested in materials and supplies to support the field ministries through new and useful products.

EXPANSION CHOP SUEY A LA MODE

Tom Parker's books, *Rules of Thumb* and *Rules of Thumb 2* made me think, "Wouldn't it be fun to create a rules of thumb for ministry?" In expansion work, a mishmash of areas of ministry is encompassed. Although the expansion department's main focus is on growing new churches, expansion impacts and is impacted by all areas of ministry. I have decided to stir-fry a chop suey of tips, ideas, and rules of thumb and YOU have supplied me with the delicious ingredients! Gleaned from your experiences, ministerial school, seminars, books, etc., and from what you have shared, we serve Expansion Chop Suey A La Mode. Your dedication and nourishment has moved us forward as we continue to grow. The ice cream topping is the dessert the Association has received from your loving and faithful service to the Unity movement. We are grateful and invite you to share your rule of thumb so that we can serve seconds. Enjoy!

Building a Successful Ministry. Just love your people and then they will love you. This will end turmoil and heal any problem.

-Chris Chenoweth
Unity Village Chapel

Communication. Share with your board and congregation the challenges in the church, the needs, the solutions, and the joy of accomplishments. Your members of the church want you to succeed. Get them involved, it's their church.

-Gary Baebenroth
Unity Church, St. Joseph, MO

Emergencies. A way to guarantee an emergency to come up on a Saturday is to just wait until that day to prepare the Sunday message.

-Claudell Lafontant, co-minister
Unity of Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania

Volunteers. People are faithful to jobs when they know the importance of doing the job with excellence, and will do it well. You will be able to depend on them. This must be done with positive encouragement. Volunteers at the Church of Today in Warren, Michigan, come to church as early as 6:00 a.m. on Sundays. There are precise instructions as to how things must be done in order for the quality of the service to be maintained. Jack Boland sends thank you notes when a person has expressed an interest in becoming involved in the church (letter sent upon receipt of Service Guild Card); when a volunteer joins the service staff; a welcome letter is sent after four weeks of service; thank you notes to let your volunteers know that because of their service and dedication, the worship service went well; and a letter of thanks when the season for the volunteer has ended. (Sample copies of letters are available through the "Associate" computer).

Announcements. The fewer announcements the better. How you do announcements is important. The announcements should be geared for the entire group, and some churches find that having them done by a comedic-type person works.

-*"How to Plant A Church Seminar"*
Charles E. Fuller Institute

Happy Congregants. Congregants tend to be as pleased with their minister as he/she is with him/herself.

-Maurice Williams
Unity Southeast Church, Kansas City, MO



Telephone Call. It's worth a long distance call to the previous minister before accepting a ministry.

-Scott Sherman
Unity Church of Truth, Seattle, WA

Play. On the Sunday morning when you wish you could take the day off and go play, most of your congregation does!

-Elva Curry, Lic. Teacher
Excelsior Springs, MO



Top Three. The three most important facilities (in order) are: 1) the nursery; 2) the women's restroom; 3) the sanctuary. Be sure all present your best face.

-Lyle E. Schaller
Prolific author and authority on church growth and planning

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Environment. Parents look for the answers to, "What does this church have to offer my child(ren)?" They look for a safe, happy, clean learning environment. One ministry has a very powerful vacuum cleaner to use just before the children arrive and right after they leave. Parents are assured that their children are on clean carpet that gets cleaned regularly.



Sunday School Teachers. Have a good mix of male and female teachers. With so many single female parents, it is important for them to know that their children are getting some positive male interaction.

For the children. The minister's connection with the children is critical. When there is one minister, he/she can find time before or after the service with the children. The minister can take the first ten minutes of the service while the platform assistant does the opening and be with a class each week until every class has been visited.

Smell. A lot gets communicated by smell. Buy cans of aerosol spray and freshen the air before anyone arrives.

-*"How to Plant a Church Advanced Seminar"*

Rubber Stamps. Rubber stamps are difficult to read. Avoid using for return address on envelopes.

-Marianne Hill
International Children's Education Consultant
Association of Unity Churches

Being Real. You can only share one thing with your congregation that has any real meaning... yourself. So just be real.

-Jack Poole
Unity of the North Shore, Evanston, IL

Goals. If you don't know where you're going, you're bound to wind up somewhere else.

-Ed Golden, Minister of Administration
Unity on the Plaza, Kansas City, MO

The Sunday Message and Stories. Stories are the most powerful tool we have for getting at the roots of people's motivation.

-Janet Manning
Chairman of Communication Studies and Skills
Unity School of Religious Studies

Kleenex. Always have a kleenex in your pocket.

-Debbie Tyson
Program Coordinator
Village Vacation Retreats

Intention. There is only one goal in contemplative prayer... to be with God, to experience the presence of the Lord within us.

-Katherine Anderson
Unity de Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Patience. All things come to he who waiteth... if he worketh like heck while he waiteth.

-Adele Johnston
Valley View, Ohio

Empowerment. Start weekly groups to build friends, and provide support and empowerment.

-Arnold Patent
Author, seminar leader

Volunteer Coordinator. Most pioneer ministers think that they should hire a secretary first. It is first better to hire a volunteer coordinator that catches the minister's vision.

-Peggy Bassett
Church of Religious Science, Huntington Beach, CA

Recruiting Volunteers. Five ways to solicit volunteers in order of effectiveness, and in reverse order of the way most church assume it is to be done: 1) Face-to-face, 2) Phone call, 3) Letter, 4) Pulpit announcement, 5) Newsletter.

-Win Arn Growth Report

Poetry. New Thought poetry and bookstore items created by the Reverends Paul and Rani Auminimua, Center of Infinite Reflections, P.O. Box 84393, San Diego, CA 92138

Rule of thumb. There is always an exception to every rule of thumb.

-Sylvia Sumter
Unity School of Religious Studies
Communications Instructor

Budget. Never have those who pay the bills prepare the budget.

-Lyle E. Schaller
Editor of Creative Leadership Series

Historian. Keep historical records of the church (photographs) for anniversary, celebrations, commitment banquets, etc.

-Ferne Anderson
"Creating a Prosperous Church"
lecture, INTA Congress

People. People who mind won't matter, and people who matter won't mind.

-Bonnie Cozadd
Gerlaw, IL

COMMITTEES

Mission Statement. The mission statement should be written at the first meeting. Add one committee at a time.

-Jim Rosemergy
Unity Church of Truth, Spokane, WA

Numbers. A good working committee consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of nine people. Five is an ideal number. With five members, all participate; one absent member can be tolerated, but no one can be absent without being missed.

Length. Place an adjournment time on the agenda.

Stand-Up Meeting. Call a "stand-up" meeting to complete minor business items quickly. There seems to be a positive correlation between the comfort of the chairs and the length of the meeting.

-Adapted from "Committees Can Work"
by Dr. Kenneth Erickson.



Church Demographics. The group you normally attract is within five years of either side of your senior minister's age. Most of us will reach people like ourselves. As the minister ages, then younger groups can be the target for yet another church satellite. You could put these two churches right next door to each other and the people would not go from one to the other.

-Jim Dethmer
Workshop leader of "How to Get Your Church Off to a Quick Start"

THE ASSOCIATION ADOPTS



PUBLICATION FOR UNITY

from Rev. John Payne
Chairman, Vision Committee

What are the three most important guidelines for a mature, loving relationship? I still remember Charlie Shedd's answer presented to the conference body a few years ago in a seminar on relationships. His answer was the simple truth, "talk, talk, talk." Communication is the key to discovering and sharing the truth that sets us free to grow and make a difference with our vision for unity.

Recently the Association took a bold step toward greater communication and, consequently, empowered us to minister more effectively. At its January meetings, the Board of Directors voted unanimous approval to adopt Vision as an official publication of the Association of Unity Churches.

The purpose of Vision is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas about the Unity way of life and its impact in our society. Unity ministers, licensed teachers, students and seekers outside the Unity movement are involved in this exchange. The principles of practical, mystical Christianity provide a context for all discussions about personal and social issues in contemporary society. Vision is a networking tool for the entire movement, giving us the capacity to communicate with each other around real issues that impact our ministries and provide excellent opportunities to stretch our minds and clarify our thinking. As we "talk, talk, talk," and listen, listen, listen, we understand each other better; we work more closely with one another; and we share our message of unity in the world more effectively.

Vision is governed by a

committee of the Association which meets at least monthly to oversee every facet of publication. The committee works closely with the Association Executive Staff, and the newspaper's editors, staff, and volunteers to insure that Vision reflects the whole consciousness of our movement with professional integrity and a strong commitment to excellence.

The history of Vision is short, but its impact is already great. It began last summer in Puget Sound of Washington State as a networking tool for the Unity ministries in the area. In the span of a few months it has grown to include as many as three distinct sections: international, subregional, and local. Complimentary copies of the newspaper have been sent to every Unity ministry in the country. Response from the field, as well as from the Association's board of directors, has been enthusiastically supportive.

Copies of the international section are being mailed to many parts of the country. These sections provide an excellent cover for your local newsletter that visually unites your center with the entire movement. Closely networking subregions are beginning to respond to our Vision for Unity by developing their own Section B which provides a comprehensive list of classes, events and activities in their area. Five Unity centers in the Western region have begun publishing their local newsletter as Section C of Vision with the benefit of professional layout and graphics as well as potential reduction of net costs through advertising.

YOU CAN SHARE OUR VISION with an infinite number of possibilities. Here are specific ways to get involved:

1. Subscribe to Section A, the international section, at the current rate of \$.10 a copy.
 - a. Mail Vision with your newsletter and unite!
 - b. Share copies of Vision through your bookstore.
 - c. Include Vision in your newcomers packets.
2. Organize other ministries in your area to develop your own Section B. The Vision office will supply materials and training to help you get started.
3. Produce your local newsletter as Section C of Vision. The advanced planning necessary to meet deadlines will encourage thorough planning and upgrade most existing newsletters significantly. There is also the possibility of actually reducing the cost of producing your newsletter through local advertising.

For more information, contact John Seymour, Executive Director of Vision at 206-854-5291; or Debbie Henry, Vision liaison, at our Association office, 816-524-7414.

Vice-President's Letter Cont'd from page 1

On a recent vacation in Switzerland I had set aside time to define the issues and outline topics for the contact articles.

TO COME UP HIGHER had by now become a commitment in all that came before me as President and I found myself making a list of issues, central and essential, for myself and my function as a minister, and for Unity as a Movement.

As the list became rather extensive, I recalled doing

my first credo in Ministerial school; a long, complex, philosophical and psychological treatise of my intellectual, professional and religious journey. Thank God, this time a friend cut through the appearing complexity by posing a question: "On what points would you be willing to be so totally committed to that you would take risks to be categorized, challenged, rejected, and even killed for?"

I found his question (asked over a glass of lovely

French wine) rather sobering, even overly dramatic. Yet I also sensed its accuracy, knowing that the list would shrink to two or three essential points and become a true credo.

Yet during the following days I kept asking myself the question in regard to the various oints on the list. When racing down-hill on my skies in the midst of a heady, fun-filled and exciting moment, the question would suddenly pop up. I chose to

eliminate the point from the list if the response would not be 100%. I have always known that "my truth" has to stand when I rest in meditation or speak on Sunday as well as in the energetic movement of my daily living.

Back in my farmhouse, looking out over the Canadian snow-covered landscape, bleak yet mysterious, I am reading over my notes which now have shrunk to two or three truly essential points and I smile at the gift of

clarity and simplicity this second credo has brought into my day.

Friend, as you return from this time of renewal, fun, and input in Orlando, may I suggest you take time to make a list of your present commitments, eliminating all points except those with which you truly resonate in your heart, throughout your very being; for those two or three points truly are your message and therefore, empower you and what you teach.

UNITY LIGHTS UP THE WORLD

When you look at the lighted world map at the Association office, you see a light pinpointing the location of each Unity church. By far, the great majority of those lights illuminate the United States. Very few show up in other continents. The west coast of Africa is one big exception, more specifically Nigeria. Nigeria is covered with Unity lights.

When Charles Fillmore operated Unity's radio station, he would broadcast late at night when it was cooler and the signal would carry the farthest. Little did he know that his radio signal was bouncing off the ionosphere and skipping into Nigeria like a local station. The message was exciting, and the response to Truth was serendipitous. Today Nigeria represents Unity's most enthusiastic foreign ministry. There are literally thousands of Unity students and 17 Unity ministers.

It looks like the same phenomenon is happening now in Ghana, a neighboring country of Nigeria. (At present, there are only two Unity ministries in Ghana, a country about the size of Oregon with a population of 13,711,000 people.) There seems to be a spiritual thirst in Ghana for Unity's transformative Truth message. It started about two years ago when Joyce Kramer, minister of Unity of Tidewater in Virginia Beach, Virginia, received a letter from a young man named Joseph expressing his desire to grow spiritually. Somehow he had received a cassette tape which contained one of Joyce's lessons. The cassette bore the Unity of Tidewater name and address.

He was moved enough by what he heard to write her and request more information about Unity's teachings. Joyce sent him Lessons In Truth and her cassette series, "Practical Application of Les-



Joyce Kramer

sons In Truth." This enthusiastic young man started to spread the word about Unity and opened up a flood of interest from Ghanians hungry for truth.

Reading these letters will bring tears to your eyes and give you "God bumps." You can feel their passion for Truth coming through.

Pastor,

I became overwhelmed with joy when I hear those nice cassettes. . . The messages, especially the Divine Security and the Radiant Life For You are enlightening.

Madam,

I cannot help but thank you for your help for the needy to search for Truth. In this world of chaos, it is only the Truth that can set us free. To this end, I am humbly requesting for your biblical cassettes and reading materials. . .

My Dear Teacher,

I am very happy that your people are becoming interested in Ghana. As a fact, the spiritual awareness of the people of Ghana has taken a dramatic turn. You are doing a great work, many people have started to study Truth.

As you can see from the above, the Ghanians who write have an intense desire and appreciation for Unity's understanding of Truth.

Joseph has been sharing his cassettes and books in numerous places and the interest continues to spread quickly.

To date, Joyce and members of her congregation have answered 1,000 letters and mailed 840 packages containing

Continued on page 20

ON TAKING OUR LIGHT FROM UNDER THE BASKET

by Don Crooks

On Thanksgiving Eve I had the honor, as president of the Scottsdale Ministerial Association, to participate in an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service in which I led the following responsive reading: "God of the Universe, creative Source of all being, from You comes our blessings from day to day and from year to year. How great are Your love and kindness, O God!... The pattern of America is a blend of culture and religions from many lands, woven of threads from many corners of the world... diversity itself is the pattern of America, the very stuff and color of its fabric... to reap the full benefits of that diversity we should seek to know more about the experiences and qualities, hopes and achievements of the many kinds of people who have made America... Open our eyes, O God, that we may see your image in all and accept humbly and gratefully the gifts that each race, creed, and nationality brings to our American life."

When Glenn Mosley asked me to share some of my experiences in participating in community activities, the phrase from a song from "South Pacific" which goes, "I'm a cockeyed optimist" came to mind, and I guess I am that. When my wife and co-minister, Judith, and I started the Church of Today-

Unity in Scottsdale three years ago, we recognized the importance of becoming involved with the community. As the opportunities presented themselves we have done so. On recommendation of a congregant, I was invited to assist as chaplain of a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. I served there for a year. I was informed of the Scottsdale Ministerial Association and Judith and I started attending. From the beginning we were warmly accepted, which says something about the consciousness of the members of this group (I fully realize that in some areas Unity and women ministers are not so received). I decided to commit myself by attending

meetings and activities and was honored this year in being elected President.

Some scriptures came to mind that express some of the reasons I have chosen to become actively involved. Matt. 5:14,15 reads, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." and "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand and it gives light to all." Also, Psalms 133: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

I have always felt the desire for Unity to become involved in ecumenical activities. As Ephesians 4:4-6 states: "there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all."

Like many individuals who have discovered the Unity way of life, I searched for over 20 years before that discovery. I have been an active Methodist, Roman Catholic, Southern Baptist, Congregational, and Episcopalian. Over the years I have been baptized by sprinkling, pouring, dunking and with rose-petals (I have all the bases covered). With the discovery of Unity I found my spiritual home. What I have experienced is that more and more of the various denominations and religions are adopting the Truths that Unity stands for and I feel very comfortable in my interactions with all clergy, regardless of their persuasion.

The Scottsdale Ministerial Association has active participants from numerous Protestant denominations, fundamental, main-line and liberal, as well as Roman Catholic and Jewish clergy. Topics for meetings and activities focus around fellowship and such subjects such as "What You Have Always Wanted To Ask A Rabbi," "Financial Planning For Retirement," "How To Serve Our Community," presentations by the mayors of Scottsdale and Paradise Val-

ley, Bible topics presented by scholars, presentations by social agencies and activist groups, "Clergy Burn-out," "Russia and Glasnost," etc. Social events are planned as well.

The reason this group works so well is two-fold: First, dedication in communicating with colleagues through fellowship and the sharing of common interests. Second, service to the community through ecumenical worship services (Thanksgiving, Good Friday, and Easter Sunrise), offering invocations, etc., at public functions, and providing financial and physical assistance to the Social Services arm of the Scottsdale City government (Vista del Camino).

It is my belief that we can best serve Truth by practicing what we preach, by "walking the walk" in addition to "talking the talk." By identifying Unity to the community in a positive, socially-active manner, more and more individuals will become aware of who and what Unity Churches are and are not. By most of the our fellow Christians and our Jewish brethren, we are becoming recognized as the Christian spiritual way of life that we are.

I have learned through my activities as a part-time chaplain at a drug/alcohol rehabilitation center, through my contact with the local mayors and their administrations, and through joint activities with the Christian and Jewish communities of all types, that the basic message we share as followers of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore's version of practical Christianity, is truly a light that is readily accepted and assimilated into all areas of life.

We are going through an exciting breakthrough in the evolution of the Unity movement. I feel that we are now proceeding into a period of positive growth in all phases of our Unity calling. As we keep centered on living a life of service, we will experience the life of excellence we all desire.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Cont'd from page 1

THAN CONSCIOUSNESS. TRUE LIFE IS A CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD.

This revelation propelled us beyond mental science and a quest to enhance our humanhood and unleashed the power of God in our lives. This discovery changed our approach to spirituality. Actually, it brought us back in alignment with Jesus' teaching, *But seek first his kingdom... and all these things will be yours as well.* -Matthew 6:33. Prior to this time, there was an emphasis upon "using" spiritual principles to make certain, selected things happen. We, like the past followers of Jesus, failed to realize the kingdom is not of the earth. The kingdom is an awareness of the one Presence and one Power.

"When Jesus spoke of the new age, He said that we were not to look for signs to be observed."

MYSTICAL CHRISTIANITY

There is no need to wait for the twenty-first century before we begin to experience the idea that LIFE IS A CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD. After all, if, in truth, there is but one Presence and one Power, what else is there to be consciousness of other than God? I believe that our gathering in Orlando can be a prelude to this unique form of Christianity. Perhaps we might call it Mystical Christianity, for this way of life is centered in spiritual wakefulness and the desire for a closer walk with God.

"Let it be to awaken to the Presence of God which is our life."

When Jesus spoke of the new age, He said that we were not to look for signs to be observed. I suppose the reason He cautioned us in this way was because there are not outer signs proclaiming the new age. The signs are within us. Our desire to know God and to serve Spirit rather than have the Almighty serve us is a movement of mind and heart. Because we know LIFE IS A CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD, there will be much silence and stillness in the new age. We will awaken to the Presence and because any consciousness manifests it-

self as our life experience, there will be wonder and awe at the greatness of God.

Unity began in prayer, and to prayer it will return—not the prayer which asks God to do our bidding, but the prayer that is a consciousness of the Presence. In this state of awareness, there can be no asking, for we are fulfilled. If we are in God consciousness, for what would we ask? The field of our life is white unto harvest. The harvest is not yet of the earth, but it will be. It rests within us, and how it manifests itself is none of our business.

For twelve months, the theme of the Association of Unity Churches has been "A Closer Walk With God. A Closer Walk with One Another." Without taking thought, we have been in concert with a great surge of Spirit as we move toward Mystical Christianity. Our beloved Unity Movement is unfolding in marvelous ways. A gathering such as the Orlando convention is testimony to our commitment to God and to the God-ordained activity called Unity. I am sure while we are together, we will experience a closer walk with God and with one another. The true impact, however, of this "gathering" will not be known until we return to our homes and face one of the many challenges of life. Our initial reaction may be quite human, but the important thing to look for is our second response. Let it be to awaken to the Presence of God which is our life.

"Our desire for a closer walk with God and with one another is being realized."

As the Unity Movement prepares to enter the twenty-first century, let there be a renaissance of renewed commitment. Recall with me the excitement you felt when you first entered a Unity church and had your initial contact with a person who had dedicated his or her life to God through Unity. . . . Can you sense that excitement once more? May it be renewed this week as we "gather together in Unity." As I write this letter to you, I pause and consider the thousands of people making plans to come to the Association's 1988 Convention. Our desire for a closer walk with God and with one another is being realized. No yearning so pure could ever be unfulfilled.



200 YEARS OF UNITY: Pictured here are four Unity ministers at the January Mid-Year meetings. All four have been in Unity most of their lives and each turned 50 years old in the past few months—along with Robert Redford, Jane Fonda, Peter Uberouth, and Gary Hart. Congratulations Gene Sorensen, Bob Wasner, Stan Hampson, and David McClure.

WOMEN...IN THE MINISTRY

The following is an excerpt from an article entitled, "Women Explore Paths in the Ministry," published in the December 1987 issue of *The Texas Woman's News* (the article featured five women ministers in the Dallas, Texas, area):

Reverend Dorothy Curtis, the Unity Church of Dallas, conducts services alongside her husband and co-minister (Don Curtis). The 95-year-old denomination has always allowed women to be ministers.

"When we hear about a woman becoming a Methodist minister or that Baptists have accepted a woman minister, it is almost ludicrous to us because women have been allowed to do that in the Unity church since its founding," Curtis said.

Curtis said she believes that ideally a congregation should have male and female polarity which brings about a "beautiful balance." She has been co-minister with her husband the last five years.

"The Unity church believes in Father-Mother God," she said. "God is neither male nor female. God is both—all-encompassing."

Curtis does not consider herself a feminist, "maybe because I was never deprived of expressing myself," she said. "I have never felt put down because I am a woman."

"There is really no place for that in the pulpit," she said. "I don't want to threaten the men in my congregation. I treat my congregation as a whole. Men tell me how much my meditation sessions help them."

Curtis said she thinks both men and women are inspired by her example. She started out in the Unity church as a teacher and eventually began working in the capacity of a minister for ten more years. Curtis was ordained in 1982 by fulfilling the required school hours, passing the standard test to be ordained and giving a sermon in front of a board of examiners, she said.

"People come up to me and say they want to get into ministering and teaching," she said. "They are sometimes inspired, or uplifted, at the time and don't realize the changes they would have to make in their lifestyles."

"When a person devotes their life to God's work, it happens in your heart and you do it wherever you can," Curtis said. "It's a great loss when a church won't allow women to express their feelings of serving God."

(Excerpts taken from an article by Sheryl Collins, a Dallas-based freelance writer.)



Bette DeTurk, minister of Unity of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, with sons Larry DeTurk (left) and Charles DeTurk (right), and Steve Needham, member of the Social Committee, and son Andrew (far left).

A TIME OF CELEBRATION, JOY, AND SURPRISE

Reverend Bette DeTurk celebrated 25 years as a Unity minister. . . an exceptional event, which marked 25 years of dedicated service as minister of Unity of Dayton.

Bette was joined by 110 joyful souls at a dinner and dance held at the church on November 20, 1987. On this rare occasion, the congregation had been in their beautiful new center a year—an other reason to celebrate!

The center was beautifully decorated and butterflies

could be found everywhere. . . even the cakes were in the form of butterflies. Bette was presented with a special gift—a diamond pendant, uniquely cut in the shape of a butterfly. The gift was an expression of love and appreciation from a large number of the congregation and friends of Dayton's "Butterfly Lady."

Not too often is Unity of Dayton's minister at a loss for words; however, when her two sons, Charles and Larry,

arrived there were no words to convey her joy. Their visit was a total surprise to everyone. Their presence was a priceless gift to her which made the evening even more outstanding!

It was certainly a joy-filled, love-filled, abundant evening in many ways! Everyone there was lifted and inspired by the atmosphere present during this Silver Anniversary Celebration—WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME TO BE IN UNITY!

A UNIQUE MINISTRY

Harriet Fudge, ordained minister, serves as Associate Minister of Unity Southeast Church in Kansas City, Missouri, but declined its Senior Minister position. She responds, "My real ministry is in Kansas City, Kansas, as Chaplain in a drug and alcohol treatment center known as DRAG."

DRAG is composed of newly released prisoners from the Kansas State Penal Institution for men, Kansas Correctional Institute for Ladies and both City and County Jails. Harriet created this penal ministry. . . knowing it to be a divine idea from God. She proudly claims, "I love every minute of it." Her DRAG activities include: 1) Facilitate group therapy sessions (teaching the universal principles of life and living); 2) Teach spiritually-oriented group meditation and prayer techniques, and the difference between spirituality and religion; 3) Arrange for clients to get clothing; 4) Attend related special activities in the community; 5) Aid clients to successfully fit into the mainstream of daily living; and, 6) Hold weekly Sunday worship service.

Last summer Harriet re-

ceived a standing ovation at Unity Village as she told of the successful participation of her DRAG clients in the "20 Good Men" Volunteer Project. The project won the Presidential Volunteer Award and the DRAG clients involved went to Washington, D.C., for a presidential banquet. "This experience was the high point of their lives," commented Harriet.

On the matter of their educational progress she writes, "I find in working with these special people that they really learn from example. They tell me I serve as an inspiration to them, for with my busy schedule, I still find the time to continue my education and growth. They were my guests as I received my B.A. Degree from Ottawa College. Since then four have enrolled in Kansas Community College, three in Job Vocational Training School and a host of them working on GED's."

Harriet's most recent project is, "Habitat for Humanity," a program started by President Carter and his wife when he was in office. It is a nonprofit organization whose primary goal is to build affordable, energy-effi-

cient houses for sale at no profit/no interest to selected low income families who could not otherwise acquire decent shelter. When Harriet learned of this program, she offered both her services and the services of the "20 Good Men." She is an active, newly-appointed member of Habitat for Humanity Kansas City Inc.

In two short years her special ministry has received many blessings and great fulfillment. As to the future Harriet writes, "My plans for the near future, with the help of God, is to create a Unity Transformational Center. It will be a center for indigent probationers, parolees, treatment center discharges and anyone who has a desire to learn the universal laws of life and living. It will provide and serve the following: 1) A bookstore and learning center for the community. 2) Teach classes and give workshops provided by the Unity Movement. 3) Classes on addictions—AA, ALANON, N.A., and A.C.O.A. (Adult Children of Alcoholics). This is my project for life. I made the commitment of helping others when I became a Unity Minister."

Congratulations, Harriet, and thank you for the great work you are doing in this unique and important ministry.

1987 COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR

Mayme Watson, Licensed Teacher from Tucson, Arizona, has been selected as a recipient of the American Biographical Institute's 1987 Commemorative Medal of Honor.

The Commemorative Medal of Honor is a limited issue medal bestowed upon a select group of 175 men and women whose: 1) biography has appeared in one or more of the Institute's internationally-acclaimed biographical reference volumes. . . a collection of over fifty editions in print with twelve titles currently in progress; 2) achievements on local, state, national and/or international levels are worthy of documented recognition; and, 3) interest in and support of the American Biographical Institute's goals has helped the Institute recognize thousands the world over who might not otherwise be recognized.

"The conferring of this medal is one of the most significant observances of prominent individuals ever undertaken by the Institute. The Commemorative Medal of Honor has been struck to specifically honor individuals, such as Mayme, whose energies, sacrifices, abilities and ambitions help create better communities for all mankind.

"The names of all Commemorative Medal of Honor recipients will be listed in the forepart of all future biographical works published by the Institute, copies of which can be found on the library shelves of prominent individuals, businesses, and institutions of higher learning worldwide." (W. Crowell, Administrative Secretary of The American Biographical Institute, Inc.)

Congratulations, Mayme, and thank you for your efforts and contribution in making a better society for all mankind.



ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES®

Annual Report 1987

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 very close cooperation with one another.

The Association's mission is the establishing and maintaining of Unity Churches; it 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 800 ministries and study 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.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES

The Association of Unity Churches is a global network of ministries, ministers, teachers, and lay-persons 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 interde-

pendence 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:

- Through joint meetings with Unity School President and Vice-Presidents (Unity Movement Advisory Council) Association representatives coordinate mutually-recognized concerns and goals.

- Monthly communication through publication of CONTACT, Minister's Letter, and Vision newspaper.

- Church Development and Management training by Barbara O'Hearne and video

PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

- training tapes; availability by phone to answer questions and refer inquiries about Barbara's availability and the loaning of the training tapes functions as an effective deterrent to problems.

- Scheduling of Church Growth and Development Director (Dick Connor)--Again that voice on the phone is important to giving hands-on care and service.

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

- Biannual identification cards for ministers and licensed teachers.

- Provide information for Post-Graduate credits and courses; maintaining and delivering a full professional enrichment body of knowledge.

- 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.

- Media service, provides counsel on the developing of media and especially radio programs.

- Continually developing new support services for churches and ministers such as business cards, stationery, plaques, etc., that can be used for appreciation to board members and other volunteers.

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

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

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

- ting-edge articles for personal growth.

- 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 Educational Liaison Committee is respon-

sible for liaison between students and faculty.

DURING 1987

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, as our Planning Committee, has revised 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 1989. A highlight of goals and action plans accomplished in 1987 include:

- Unity Movement Advisory Council fully functioning. Seven Unity School and seven Association representatives meet two days, quarterly, to coordinate mutually recognized concerns and goals.

- Sponsoring publication of ministry-oriented national newspaper, *Vision*.

- Hired Church Growth and Development Director from pledges above regular tithe. After receiving Church Development & Management training, please call Dick Connor directly at 703-569-9131. Professional fees and expenses borne by the Association of Unity Churches.

- Ongoing Church Development & Management Consultant training with Barbara O'Hearne. Barbara schedules on a first come, first served basis; please call her directly at 816-531-3353. Professional fees and expenses borne by the Association of Unity Churches.

- Unity Training School of Puerto Rico created, focus & development plan in place.

- Southeastern Spanish Caribbean Sub-Region created, representative appointed.

- Southeastern English Caribbean Sub-Region created, representative appointed.

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

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

- Trained liaison representatives in each region.

- Feedback from field actively sought and acted upon.

- Created Radio/Media Department & hired Radio/Media Coordinator and Assistant.

- Refinement of Committee Commission Statements/Responsibilities.

- Operational Church Growth and Development Committee.

- Operational Computer Feasibility Committee.

- Church Growth and Development Director CONTACT article monthly.

- Church Development & Management Training CONTACT article monthly.

- Proactive, accountable Board.

- Distribution of revised church administrative policy manual.

- Performance evaluation structure; for Executive Director and management staff.

- Creative, cohesive, field responsive Education Department.

- Revised Youth Education materials.

- Established CONTACT as the "in-house" resources development journal for ministries.

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

- Operational Overseas Ambassador's Task Force

- Part-time Expansion Coordinator changed to full-time Expansion Coordinator.

- Developed full-time Support Services Coordinator and filled position.

- Operational Development Committee.

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 ministries and ministries.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES STAFF

Ministry Services Department - 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

Ann Coolidge
Receptionists

Cheryl Vestal
Graphics & Composition Specialist

Ron Tyson
Support Services Coordinator

Susan Eng
Expansion Coordinator

Michael Moran
Radio/Media Coordinator

Debbie Henry
Radio/Media Assistant

Fern Hunt
Word Processor

Dick Connor
Church Growth and Development Director

Barbara O'Hearne
Church Development & Management Consultant

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.

Bob Ellsworth, Ph.D.
Director of Education

Judith Sherman
Chairman of
Ministry Studies

Trish Robinson
Education Secretary

Joyce Culey
International
Youth Education
Consultant

Marianne Hill
International
Children's Education
Consultant

Karin Mosley
Education Assistant

Renee' Ruth
Clerk Typist

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

Joann Landreth
Association 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

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Association of Unity Churches is focusing the vision of unity by assisting Unity ministries in sharing with people everywhere the transforming principles as demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (*Executive Committee)

Maya Brandenberger, Ph.D.*
Unity in Montreal
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Jim Rosemergy*
Unity Church of Truth
Spokane, Washington

Edie Skalitzky*
Unity in the Rockies
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Joyce Kramer
Unity Church of Tidewater
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jack Boland
Church of Today - Unity
Warren, Michigan

Alan Rowbotham
Unity of Roanoke Valley
Roanoke, Virginia

Shay St. John
Unity Christ Church
San Francisco, California

Alan Stanley
Unity of Albuquerque
Albuquerque, New Mexico

William Cameron*
Miami Unity on the Bay
Miami, Florida

V. Stanford Hampson*
Palo Alto Community Ch
Palo Alto, California

Howard Caesar
Unity Ch of Christianity
Houston, Texas

William Kozy
St. Petersburg, Florida

Gene Sorensen
Unity of Livonia
Livonia, Michigan

Larry Swartz*
Unity of Tucson
Tucson, Arizona

Richard Barnes
Unity of Delray Beach
Delray Beach, Florida

Violet Assam
Unity of Trinidad & Tobago
Trinidad, West Indies

Colleen Lehnus
Unity Church of Today
Omaha, Nebraska

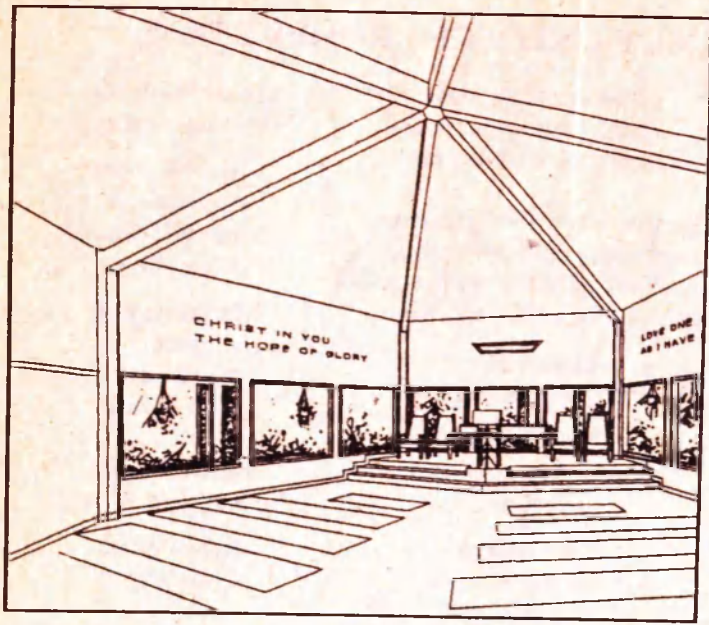
Bill Wilson
Unity of Eugene
Eugene, Oregon

Robert Hill
Unity Church of Culver City
Culver City, California

Nancy Neal*
Unity Ch of Christianity
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Polly Dozier
Unity of Anchorage
Anchorage, Alaska

Scott Sherman
Unity Church of Truth
Seattle, Washington



UNITY CHURCH OF PASADENA

The Unity Church of Pasadena recently moved into their new church. Ernest Milleur, minister, reports:

"In our new sanctuary, the congregation is surrounded on three sides by a beautiful garden that is open to the sky, screened from sky glare and sheltered from the outside world.

"This garden sanctuary is designed in the form of a hexagon. In the wall above the platform, the Unity wings are in full color in faceted glass. Vertical, jeweled, faceted glass windows are in the garden walls.

"The rear wall of the sanctuary is a folding panel wall. Beyond the wall is a large multipurpose room. This room may be used for fellowship, dining, or divided into Sunday School rooms. When the folding panel doors are opened, the entire space may serve as an overflow to the garden sanctuary.

"When a guest enters the foyer, they may either enter

directly into the garden sanctuary, enter the multipurpose room, talk to the church secretary at the information window, enter the church office, or enter the volunteer church work room.

"The minister's office is beyond the church office, and is adjacent to a garden atrium giving the office an ideal environment for counseling. A similar garden is planned off the Unity Reading Room.

"All of the church furniture, pews, and chairs are new. The building and site improvements are set off with beautifully-designed landscaping. Unity of Pasadena has been truly blessed and we are grateful to the skillful guidance that we have received from our award-winning church architect, Culver Heaton, F.A.I.A. and Associates.

We invite everyone to come and visit our new facilities at 3053 East Del Mar Blvd., Pasadena, and to enjoy it with us."

HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN

By Richard & Mary-Alice Jofolla, Licensed Teachers
Unity Center of Vero Beach, Vero Beach, California

"Fire!" is not a great word to hear someone yell, even if you're in a church. And that's just where we were when we heard it.

It was about 1:00 p.m. and we were anxious to begin our PRIME TIME seminar at the Unity Church in Flushing, New York. As we were sitting there waiting, someone ran up to us and warned, "You'd better move away from that window." No sooner had we asked why, someone yelled, "FIRE!"

It's amazing how that word can motivate. We were outside of that church in seconds. But that's where the fire was. Parked about 3 feet from the window we had been sitting next to was a car pouring out black smoke. The hood was up and the motor area was on fire and the fire was spreading quickly to the passenger compartment.

All of the people waiting for the seminar and all of the neighbors had gathered and were staring at the burning vehicle, feeling very helpless. The firemen had been called but where were they? The fire station was only 2 blocks away!

The black smoke began to pour even thicker as the flames shot higher. It was turning into a real threat to the church as more and more flames would lick at the side of the building.

The members of the congregation were mingling with the neighbors and everyone was getting quite concerned. With the firehouse just 2 blocks away, no one could imagine what was taking the firemen so long—it was an agonizing 20 minutes since they were called.

Finally, here they came. Sirens wailing, bells clanging, motors roaring, the fire

truck came charging around the corner with the grim-faced firemen aboard.

You would have thought that the cavalry had arrived to save the settlers—everyone began applauding! The serious faces of the firemen changed to bewilderment and then to self-conscious smiles.

They got right down to business, swarming over the burning automobile, spraying it with chemicals and within 3 or 4 minutes had it completely under control. More applause from everyone. This time the firemen all smiled back appreciatively. Some began to bow and wave and shake hands with some of the onlookers. One even curtsied!

As the last fireman was leaving the wreck of a car, everyone let out a final cheer. The fireman stopped, turned to his "audience," took off his hat and bowed deeply from the waist, sweeping his hat down in front of him like one of the Three Musketeers. Everyone laughed and cheered.

Then, like a magician seeking applause for his assistant, he turned to the car and swept his hat in its direction as if asking it to take a bow in acknowledgement of its contributions to the afternoon's activities. At this point the crowd went wild with more applause and laughter.

The festive mood was so pervasive that one fireman ran to the fire truck and returned with a camera. Firemen, neighbors, church members—perfect strangers until a short time before—spontaneously got together for a group photo. It was wonderful!

Isn't this a terrific example of what can happen when we

deal with people from our higher selves? On a lower, more human level it could be said that the people had a legitimate right to be angry and upset. After all, the firehouse was only 2 blocks away and the car was still burning out of control almost 20 minutes after they had called. It could easily have started a fire in the church. Of course they had no way of knowing that the firemen had been called away from the firehouse on a false alarm.

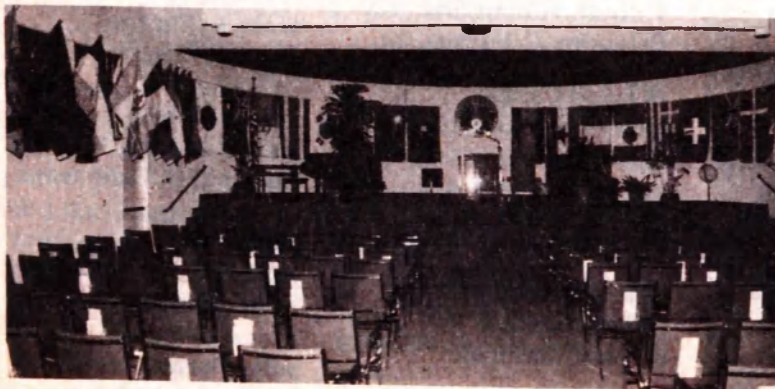
And how about the firemen? They were justifiably upset and angry at having to waste their time weaving their way at high speeds through New York city traffic just to answer a false alarm.

Yet, when they arrived at the scene of this fire, they were greeted warmly and with great respect. And the warmth and respect were so genuine and so openly displayed that the firemen could not help but be affected by it. And, of course, they responded in kind—even to the point of wanting to remember the occasion with a group picture.

There was something special about that day. Everyone felt it. We were witness to and part of a touching of souls, and we will never forget it. In that "now" moment in Flushing a few hundred souls joined each other in a very special way.

Big cities like New York can swallow us up, they can dehumanize us if we let them. But, even if we lose part of our humanity, we can never lose the core of our divinity. That is a gift we always have. It can't be exchanged, returned or lost. And it only needs a spark of love to be ignited. In this case, the spark came from a burning car.

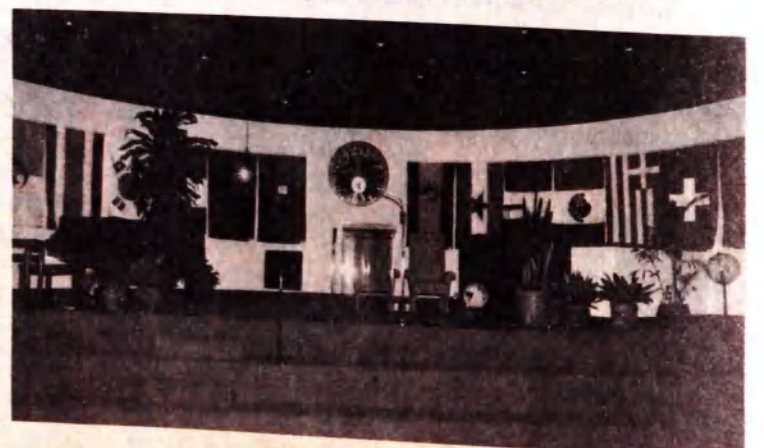
A UNIQUE IDEA!



Unity of Tucson, Larry and Mary Ellen Swartz, ministers, has begun a unique Peace Ministry. Larry reports, "Through our outward commitment to the idea of peace around the world, we began placing flags of various nations on the wall around our sanctuary. "We are adding flags every week through an 'Adopt A Country' program. Every week we pick a specific nation for the congregation

to focus on for a blessing of peace. A letter is sent to the Ambassador or leader of the nation informing him/her of our actions. We include a picture of their flag on our wall as well.

"The effect of this endeavor has been positive and our congregation also enjoys this special time of prayer."



SERVING GOD, LAW



While serving as minister of the Unity Church in Arlington, Texas, Linda Pendergrass is also serving her community in a unique way. The following is adapted from an article in the December 1987 issue of *The Texas Women's News*:

Linda Pendergrass has assisted in numerous drug busts, owned four motorcycles and spent Friday nights in a police patrol car in the worst area for crime in Dallas. All the while being the ordained minister at the Unity Church in Arlington.

"It's a weird combination," Pendergrass said. "I recognize that both spiritual and police work is disciplined. I appreciate the fact that discipline works if you use it."

Pendergrass said she has had a dream in her heart since she was seven years old to be in the ministry. Her conservative family thought it strange that a little girl imitated preachers after reading her Bible, she said.

"I received some tough criticism," Pendergrass recalls, "so I put my Bible in the drawer and it didn't come out until I was 28 years old. I became one of the Jesus people of the 60s. I would have been a great flower child, but was married."

After 18-and-a-half years of marriage and "acting happy and trying to go by the rules," Pendergrass divorced the "conservative man who played by the rules" and ventured out to do what she "had to do."

Pendergrass went from the Baptist church to the Charismatic church to no church at all. Then, while attending a funeral, she heard a Unity minister talking about things she believed in.

"This minister was saying things I thought only I believed," Pendergrass said. "I heard 'life's worth living,' and 'don't just go through life waiting to go to heaven.' Then I knew there was a way to fulfill my dream."

Pendergrass attended Unity seminary and was ordained in 1978 at Unity Village, Missouri. The church of which she is minister today started with a "5 people" meeting at the Ramada Inn in Arlington, she said. Today, her average Sunday congrega-

tion totals 300. The church is in the process of building a new sanctuary.

Pendergrass is the official ordained minister and the administrative executive and spiritual leader. Using her business degree from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, she has surrounded herself with a leadership team of 22 people to run the church.

"This ministry is autonomous spiritually," she said. "Our purpose is to create the space for people to be supported and nurtured on their spiritual journey. Unity teaches people spiritual principles and provides the space for them. We're very close and very much a team."

How does all this tie in with police drug busts in the East Dallas area?

"In 1983, I was civilian chaplain for the Dallas Police Department," Pendergrass explains. "I rode with an officer on patrol as often as I could. As a civilian, I wasn't covered by the department, so they told me I must not get into any action. I had a real problem with this."

Pendergrass said it started with a woman who had been trapped in her car on the highway after a hit and run accident.

"I couldn't leave her," she said. "I got into the backseat, put my arms around her and talked to her until the fireman came. The department said I could not do this unless I was 'in blue.' So, I said, put me in blue, and they gave me an application."

Pendergrass went through all the testing and procedures of becoming a police officer and succeeded even though it was believed she might not have been able due to being too sensitive.

"I found police work fun and challenging," she said, "and I rode patrol every Friday night until last spring. I requested the area of Fair Park and east Dallas because they saw the most activity."

"I admit part of me is a challenger," she said. "I am an achiever and find there is a place to learn and to give what skills I've got." The people of the Fair Park area had a bad picture of police officers. Pendergrass set out to change that.

Caretaker is another role she plays and "after the dis-

turbance is handled, the caretaker in me takes over," she said.

"We learned about a little boy who had started a fire between two buildings one night," she explained. "He wouldn't talk. Finally we learned his name and discovered he feared he would be punished, beaten up, at home."

"Later on, we discovered this boy had a gun and was pulling off armed robberies with another boy," Pendergrass said. The boy was recognized at the station. He had marks of abuse on his body, so he was directed to a social worker for help, according to Pendergrass.

Her love of motorcycles was indulged by going through a "250, a 400, a 650, and a Honda 750," she said. Recently, Pendergrass was driving her cycle down Interstate 20 when "a woman decided she wanted my lane."

Pendergrass was run off the road, thrown and hit by the flipping motorcycle, an accident that required he to have surgery on both hands including insertion of plastic parts.

"It's sad to say," she said, "but I am going to have to make a choice about police work and the ministry. If I do the spiritual and administrative things in the church the way I want to, I'll have to retire from police work."

"My church is alive and very exciting right now," she added. "I also have a family to think about (two children and grandchildren), so realistically I have to think, 'Maybe with plastic hands I shouldn't be doing police work.'"

(Taken from article by Sheryl Collins, a Dallas-based free-lance writer.)

ELECTRICAL WORK DONATED TO UNITY OF INDEPENDENCE UNLIMITED

The following is a copy of a letter received by Unity of Independence Unlimited, where Richard and Marilyn Rieger serve as ministers:

Gentlemen:

On December 28, 1987, Marvin M. Silvey, Jr., appeared before the Executive Board of Local Union No. 124, IBEW in the hopes of being granted permission to donate electrical work on your behalf.

This Executive Board, realizing the great value of your organization to our community, has granted this request. We believe, that in this manner, the members of Local Union No. 124 can convey their gratitude for your services to our community.

We extend our best wishes to you on your present endeavor, and ask that if in the future you find that additional electrical work is needed that cannot be done on a gratis basis, would you remember the members of Local Union No. 124, IBEW.

Also, enclosed please find a brochure of electrical contractors that employ our members.

Sincerely,

LOCAL UNION NO. 124, IBEW

James A. Beem, Chairman
Executive Board

UNITY OF SALINA PURCHASES CHURCH



Unity of Salina's Board President, Norva Meyer, signing mortgage contract for the facility at 901 Beatrice in Salina, Kansas. Also pictured, Helen Kalb, Treasurer; and Dan Meinhardt, Building Committee Chairperson.

Unity of Salina in Salina, Kansas, where Berthenia Banks serves as minister, recently signed mortgage papers for their newly acquired church.

Berthenia reports, "On March 10, 1988, we signed the papers that make the church building we had been renting our very own."

"We gave a down payment of \$11,000.00, \$5,000.00 of which was the gift we received last year through the Expansion Committee of the Association."

"We are so grateful for the Association's and the Committee's help in this wonderful manifestation for Unity of Salina."

RECRUITING AND RETAINING VOLUNTEERS IN YOUR CHURCH

by Helen Hampson

Volunteers are a vital part of an active, growing church community. It is important for us as church leaders to cultivate, nurture and appreciate the incredible gifts our volunteers give to our ministry. Ministers and board members need to consider creating a position in the church of a director of volunteers to train those willing to give of their time and to develop a volunteer program. The director could be a volunteer position; however, because of the time involved, it would be fitting to have this position be salaried.

For some reason ministers and congregations are reluctant about inviting the new people in the church to get involved. Studies show that it is important for new people to volunteer or to become a part of a subgroup within six months of coming to a church or it is easy to lose them from the congregation. There is no better way for new people to feel connected or to feel that this is their church than for them to get involved through volunteering.

"It is important for us as church leaders to cultivate, nurture and appreciate the incredible gifts our volunteers give to our ministry."

Consider the following ideas for recruiting and training so that you are able to involve your new participants and members.

RECRUITING

There are a number of different ways to recruit volunteers: an announcement in your monthly or Sunday bulletins, announcing from the platform on Sundays or weekdays, having a sign-up sheet on your bulletin board—these are all effective to a certain degree. Just as 70-80% of the people in a congregation find their way to a church because they have been personally invited, you will find the same to be true when it comes to volunteering. The most effective way to cultivate volunteers whether it be to stuff bulletins, to usher, to teach in Youth Education, or to water plants, is to personally ask them if they would enjoy volunteer-



Helen Hampson
Director of Ministry Service
Unity Palo Alto Community Church
Palo Alto, California

ing for a certain position. You get a terrific response when you ask an individual to volunteer—far better than putting something in your bulletin or even announcing the need at a service. Hand picking your volunteers helps you to get the right people in the right positions. It is important to have ushers and greeters who are friendly and outgoing to welcome people to services. You want Youth Education staff who love and care about children. Your bookstore people need to have a love and interest for books. There is a right job for almost everyone, but to have a dynamic volunteer program, it is important to have a good fit with the person and the position. Not only will your program be more effective, but your volunteers will feel right and excited about what they are doing. Then they will choose to stay.

"The most effective way to cultivate volunteers, . . . is to personally ask them if they would enjoy volunteering for a certain position."

Be specific and clear about the positions you have to offer. It is ideal to have written, well-defined job descriptions for each of the volunteer positions. The person cur-

rently doing the job is best equipped to write the description. He/She will be most aware of details of the position and the time involved. When another person takes on the position it will then be very clear what is expected of him/her.

Sell your volunteer program! Include in the job description the benefits to the volunteer and the approximate hours required each week for the job. Let it be known that it is a secure, loving atmosphere to work in and publicize your specific benefits. These might be that volunteers receive a discount on all books and free tapes of the Sunday lessons are available to teachers in Youth Education. Whatever you have to offer tell them about it. Be excited about the opportunities of volunteering at Unity, and you will discover that your volunteers will pick up on that excitement.

Be aware that working people want to volunteer. Often they don't have as much time to give. They often are not available during the day when the church is open so you may want to consider some flex hours. We have computer people coming in evenings to do work in our office. Many career people prefer to take short-term assignments. You may want to consider subdividing jobs for them. A working couple might very well enjoy co-chairing the annual church picnic with another working couple. That way they don't have all the responsibility and at the same time they

have the opportunity to become acquainted with another couple who are also excited about the Truth teaching. A career person might love to work in the bookstore for the Wednesday evening or Sunday service. Another might like the opportunity to work with others in the garden on a weekend once a month. Don't think the working person doesn't want to give. They do. We need to look at the changing trends in our society and their effect on volunteer involvement and adjust our times and jobs to these trends.

TRAIN YOUR VOLUNTEERS

Every volunteer position is important to the success of the ministry. Every volunteer wants to feel needed, important and that their job really matters to the successful operation of the church. It is vital that your volunteers are trained with clear guidelines and descriptions of the job, the number of hours required and the assurance that they have the right assignment for them.

"Be excited about the opportunities of volunteering at Unity and you will discover that your volunteers will pick up on that excitement."

Make certain that you are expecting your volunteers when they arrive. Have a desk or work place for them with the materials and information that they need for their assignment. Train them in what they are doing so they feel totally comfortable in the work that they have been given. When you have a volunteer hostess or receptionist, talk to them about the importance of greeting people with a warm, sincere welcome. Train them how to use the telephones, not only how to use the hold button so they won't cut someone off but also how to answer the telephone with a smile in their voice as they say, "Good morning, this is Unity Church." People calling the church expect that the person answering the telephone to know the time of classes and activities. Make certain they

are knowledgeable of events taking place during the week. Your volunteers will enjoy being involved at church if they feel confident in what they are doing. So much of that confidence comes with good training.

"Every church can cultivate volunteers and be stronger for it."

RETAINING VOLUNTEERS

Don't train your volunteers and then leave them on their own. Give them support and encouragement. Show sincere interest in them and what their interests are. Acknowledge them often with sincere compliments telling them how much they are appreciated. Buy the simple little "thank you" notes from a card shop and send notes of thanks and appreciation to them for the giving they do. Have coffee with them.

Make the volunteers part of your team. Build rapport and trust with them. It's good to let them be part of the inner circle. Let them know what's happening with the building or music program even before it is announced to the congregation. Share inside information with them about guest speakers, special decorations—whatever will make them feel a part of the team. Give them information that will be helpful to them. Engage them in joint projects with others. Have a volunteer of the month. Send them birthday cards and Christmas cards—any occasion cards. Plan an annual volunteer luncheon or tea to tell your volunteers thank you.

Every church can cultivate volunteers and be stronger for it. You will be committing people to your church through their volunteering in a meaningful way. Have an outstanding volunteer program. Start with a director of volunteers if you don't have one. Give your director this article. Call me for more information if I can be of service.

Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate in every corner of your church that your volunteers are alive, thriving and doing incredible things!

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

a network of spouses of ministers



Karin Mosley & Weaver Hess

Realistic-type television shows seem to be the most popular these days. Shows like "thirtysomething," "A Day In The Life," "Our House," and others show situations and events we can identify with. In this frame of mind, I present to you, "A Sunday In The Life of A Partner":

- 3:45 Jarred by alarm - turn off, rouse minister/spouse, go back to sleep.
- 6:30 Dog paces around bed, get up, let dog out. Go back to bed.
- 7:30 Alarm again. Get out of bed, drink rest of coffee made by minister/spouse. Feed dog, clean up "do-do" from new carpet.
- 7:32 Shower, get dressed.
- 8:00 Read paper, play with dog, rouse kids.
- 8:30 Hurry kids, clean pop off walls in dining room.
- 8:45 Scramble kids into car - check dog - get into car.
- 8:46 Get out of car, go into house find car keys, back into car.
- 8:50 Brakes fail on car, coast to church.
- 9:00 Arrive in church driveway.
- 9:02 Check out condition of the down spouts as approaching building.
- 9:10 Stop to remove broken branch from driveway. Take branch into church to burn in fireplace.
- 9:15 Clean fireplace.
- 9:17 Check coffee pots - unplug tea water and re-set circuit breaker.
- 9:18 Plug tea water into overloaded extension cord across the room.
- 9:20 Check sanctuary - remove floral arrangements - rearrange leaving out all eucalyptus.
- 9:40 Greet and hug organist. Shrug shoulders over bare arrangement.
- 9:41 Dust top of organ.
- 9:50 Check podium, remove last week's coffee cup (with green fuzzies). Set tape recorder, test microphone.
- 10:00 Fluff drapes at windows, fan away dust.
- 10:10 Read over bulletin. Circle typos to correct during announcements.
- 10:11 Wipe eyes from uproarious laughter.
- 10:20 Straighten hair, smooth clothing, remove soot from clothing left from cleaning fireplace - smile, breathe deeply and "swirl" into minister's study.
- 10:30 Kiss minister/spouse and bubble on about what a wonderful day, etc., (hold onto dog "do-do" on new carpet, kids having pop fight in dining room and brakes failing til AFTER the service. If it's Board meeting day, hold til much later).
- 11:00 Dust shoulders of minister/spouse and shout something like, "Let's get 'em!" Open door of study and process to front of sanctuary while smiling and singing, "I Am The Light Of The World."
- 11:01 Smile and support minister/spouse through lesson while thinking, "You &*(!, why are you telling THAT!"
- 12:00 Follow minister/spouse to foyer. Keep critical remarks til AFTER you leave church. Smile, shake hands with congregants and gently usher extremely good-looking person keeping your minister/spouse cornered out the door.
- 12:20 Check Social Hall - unplug coffee and tea water.
- 12:21 Check kitchen for loose fires and people - put out.
- 12:30 Kiss minister/spouse - promise lunch - leave church knowing minister/spouse will arrive home sometime before midnight.

You may or may not see yourself in this "light" day I have shared with you. Some of it sounds slightly familiar! In reflecting on the life of being a minister's spouse, a Partner in Ministry, there are times when it seems so insane and yet there

are times when nothing else could be better. In making our "role" a comfortable place in which to be, the realization has to come that we make of it what we will. It's our responsibility.

Reggie Mantei, Partner in Ministry from San Rafael, California, shares with us, "I see that it is difficult for many of us to keep our relationship with a spouse a PRIORITY.

The OUTER ministry appears to be more important. Yet, everything begins with me—here, now, at home. Peace, love, joy, health, illumination, fulfillment. The spiritual path is not OUT THERE, it's right here within me and within my home. When I can know peace, love, joy, health, illumination, fulfillment, being whole and complete with my partner,

then I am part of a powerful relationship AND have a ministry to share OUT THERE."

God bless you, real good! You are loved and heard. Write or phone: Partners in Ministry, Association of Unity Churches, P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063; (816) 524-7414.

Blessings of Love

The following are letters from individuals sharing high praise for selflessness and performance "above and beyond" the call of duty for their minister(s):

Dear Mr. Mosley:

For years now I have been an ardent supporter of Unity. The work you do there is truly outstanding.

In moving around the country we have attended several Unity centers—all a little different in their presenting of the Truth. Last year we moved to western North Carolina and started attending the center in Arden (I might add we also attend a Methodist Church which my husband likes). The services in Arden are really different. Chad O'Shea is different. . . but dynamic. Going to services on Sunday are not longer just religious, but truly spiritual and after attending and listening to him (Chad) the other places just don't seem worth going to at all. He lets you "feel" the presence of God and Spirit. He lifts you up until you just want to cry for you. I'm glad I found him in the mountains and hope he stays forever.

Thank you again for all that you and others do at Unity. It is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lemmons

P.S. We drive 50 minutes up to the Asheville area to hear Chad—and (it is) well worth it!

Dear Mr. Mosley:

We want you to know how much we love and appreciate our ministers, Tom and Edie Skalitzy.

Through their love and unwavering faith in God's goodness, they have pulled this church together and we already see the results. As I'm sure you know, Tom and Edie each contribute something unique in their own way; Tom has a wonderful, compassionate way with people and is the center and sturdy rock of the church; Edie opens our minds to new and exciting spiritual ideas with such eloquence. Everyone who hears her speak (especially the women of Unity in the Rockies) look up to her as a wonderful example on how to live.

Please ask Silent Unity to pray for Tom and Edie and Unity in the Rockies. We know that God has sent them to us and we're grateful!

God bless you now and always,

Jane Sehl Lott

Patrick Lott

SPARKPLUGS

Talk Topics and Sermon Starters from Unity publications.

This month:

Unity magazine
August 1988 issue

Unity magazine has been well-known as an item to collect since its beginning. We know this because we receive letters from subscribers who tell us of old issues in their files, persons requesting old magazines to replace lost issues, and those who write to tell us they have the original of an article we reprinted.

What we are leading up to is focusing your attention on a special collector's issue of Unity magazine. This is definitely one you won't want to miss! In fact, we suggest that you order several copies for files and lending purposes.

The August 1988 issue of Unity magazine is dedicated entirely to healing! The impressive list of metaphysicians represented by their latest works includes: James Dillet Freeman, Eric Butterworth, Thomas Shepherd, C. Norman Shealy, Carl Simonton, and others. These articles written especially for this issue, present fresh approaches to dealing with cancer, stress, attitudes, exercise, nutrition, agoraphobia, basic biblical teachings, and subjects that will move you to further study.

If you have not already noticed, Unity magazine, since the June 1988 issue, has been providing a new service by indicating the category (healing, Bible, etc.) of each article. This distinction is made in the table of contents as well as the heading of each article—all for your convenience.

Unity magazine is not only a topmost metaphysical journal; it is also a metaphysician's service manual ready to meet your needs. Unity magazine is making changes, but it continues Charles Fillmore's early purpose of bringing you newsworthy scientific and religious articles "devoted to Practical Christianity."

Unity magazine can be ordered by yearly subscription or individual copy from the Sales Department of Unity School of Christianity.

Thank you ministers, ministries, study groups, and lay persons for your contribution to the Association of Unity Churches. The love and faith you incorporate into your gifts make them special. We see the door opening for limitless outpouring of the abundance of Spirit into your lives and into your ministries. On behalf of the Association of Uity Churches' staff and Board of Directors, we are grateful.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES®

Statement of General Funds Operations Eleven Months Ended February 29, 1988

| INCOME-OPERATIONS: | Month | Year to Date |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Love Offering | \$ 62,001.06 | \$ 727,842.33 |
| Other Income | 4,314.31 | 27,969.19 |
| | 66,315.37 | 755,811.52 |
| Less: Tithe Transfer | 6,067.20 | 71,605.02 |
| | 60,248.17 | 684,206.50 |
| Gross Profit Materials | 6,306.90 | 49,331.17 |
| Total Income | \$ 66,555.07 | \$ 733,537.57 |
| EXPENSES-OPERATIONS: | | |
| Total Expenses | \$ 66,317.57 | \$ 689,880.42 |
| INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES: | \$ 237.50 | \$ 43,657.25 |

Unity School Contribution to the Association of Unity Churches Through Services Provided

Month of February, 1988 - \$ 7,544.96
Year to Date: \$79,734.43

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

UNITY LIGHTS UP THE WORLD Cont'd from page 11

ing over 4,700 tapes and 402 books and more than 10,000 other items of Unity literature.

Requests for "spiritual guidance" and enlightenment on the scriptures continues to pour in. Several ministers of congregations of more than a thousand are using Joyce's class tapes and Sunday lessons as part of their church services. These materials are being used by various congregations including Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist and others. Unity of Tidewater has received requests from over 200 religious groups and churches.

Joyce Kramer believes in

sharing Unity's message with as many people as possible. She says, "Literally thousands of people have already been affected by our ministry in Ghana. There is a great need as well as a tremendous desire there. We feel that God has led us to an important work in West Africa. We want to do everything we can to uplift and bless a country by helping change the spiritual climate."

Joyce is a veteran broadcaster, having produced a daily radio show in Virginia Beach called, "Dynamic Religion For Modern Living," for over twelve years. She is now making plans to broadcast the Unity message via Radio

Africa.

Joyce reports, "The program will reach millions of English-speaking people in Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon alone. A radio ministry to this part of the world seems to be a logical follow-up to what we at Unity of Tidewater are already doing. Radio is a great way to expand into a country so intently desirous of the Truth of Jesus Christ while struggling for its own self-identity."

"If we really believe that what we have to teach can transform the world, don't you think we should be sharing it? We simply haven't done enough. My feeling is that you give with no strings attached. I've told my congregation that we are here to serve. We give because what we have to give is a blessing to people."

The volunteer members of Unity of Tidewater, who call themselves "The Ghana Connection," have been able to meet the need so far, although they are pushing to keep up with the requests as Unity's influences increases.

"The Ghana Connection" has need of the following:

- Unity books and printed



"The Ghana Connection" volunteers.

materials, especially having to do with Bible interpretation.

- Old issues of Daily Word and Unity magazine are welcomed, regardless of the date.

- Tapes from other Unity ministers and teachers on Unity subjects.

- Tapes of Unity Joy Songs are very popular.

If you or your church feels led to assist Unity of Tidewater in sharing the Unity message with West Africa, you can send your materials and

support to:

Unity of Tidewater
The Ghana Connection
5580 Shell Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

All materials are sent free of charge.

Joyce sees this as another opportunity to give Unity to others. "We're not in the business of converting people, but we believe we're reaching out by being an attracting power through universal consciousness. Basically we are responding to the specific requests and needs of the people."



"The Ghana Connection" volunteers.

WHY UNITY URBAN SCHOOL?

Urban School Stresses Commitment



by Ruth Mosley, Director
Unity Urban Ministerial
School-Detroit, Michigan

WHY UNITY URBAN SCHOOL?

... Because it represents a vanguard of positive religious and social changes throughout the Unity movement.

... Because our School's work is to remediate inequalities and inequities in training and developing and placement of blacks and other minorities in the Unity Movement. It is well known that many blacks attend the suburban churches with little or no choice or effect in choosing the minister of that church. Therefore, it is imperative that the Unity churches or Unity Movement as a whole be educated to the necessities of developing black leadership to minister to the masses of minorities

who are joining the Unity movement daily.

... Because the Urban School is dedicated to placing and/or making available Unity throughout each Urban center. It is our desire to shed the source of light to the one who can benefit and be a catalyst in that community to cause positive change. Today, we recognize even more the necessity of the Unity church in the Urban center: 1) to meet and discuss the issues of the day; 2) to bring hope; 3) to create the right attitude of I can, I will, I am Love, I am Joy; and, 4) that the church is where the individual is.

... Because we are truly on a mission of love and determination. This makes us more determined to teach the Truth, help the sick, give encouragement to the mind, and bring about peace in the inner city.

... Because the "Spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon us;

because Jehovah hath anointed us to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent us to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

... Because the Urban Community shall be just as informed and aware as Charles Fillmore demanded of Unity when he and Myrtle founded it more than 99 years ago, when he stated: "All that any individual has ever expressed, or may express, is open to each one of us, because there is but one fount and we all stand as equals in His presence."

... Because it keeps all Unity in balance as to the nature of itself and that it is a child of God and Jesus Christ's work. We at the Urban School place God first and use His example in our laboratory of learning the greater meaning of helping self and developing others.

... Because the Urban School makes all of us handle a little more than we thought we could.

... Because the Association of Unity Churches had the courage to set up a pilot program to develop ministers and ministries for the urban dwellers.

... Because Charles and Myrtle Fillmore had the courage to create and develop Unity which offers hope to all.

... Because Westside Unity Church, Detroit, Michigan, had the love and resources to allow me to work with the urban ministers and their development.

Father Mother God I thank You for the Urban School.

THE UNITY URBAN MINISTER

by David Williamson



Being a minister in an urban setting is a challenging calling. An urban Unity minister certainly needs to have a strong enough commitment to God and Unity to take his/her ministry into the heart of the city, rather than avoid the city and the problems.

This minister is not afraid to engage in his/her work in the urban settings of all kinds. This minister needs to reside in the city, not outside of the society in which he/she serves.

This minister needs to be able to translate the programs, resources, congregation, and physical building to be of service to the community where the church is located.

The urban Unity minister needs to facilitate justice, integration, and equal job opportunity through Unity and the world. Much insensitivity, fear, discrimination, injustice, and prejudice still need to be honestly faced and overcome in the Unity movement as well as elsewhere in our society. The urban Unity minister needs to be a witness to serving Christ in the midst of the city and also of helping to raise the consciousness in Unity of what the ministry of Practical Christianity is really about.

The urban minister needs to realize that there are some old prohibitions in Unity that claim that social work, civil rights, social justice, equal rights, the peace movement, literacy, community action, urban restoration, etc., are not Unity's concern. These prohibitions must be considered as limiting to our service to urban ministries and Planet Earth. The urban Unity minister needs to work on these and more as part of his/her mission of relevance.

The Unity ministry in the city should not be just the detached, impersonal, aloofness that has often come to be paradoxically considered as

"spiritual" and "Practical Christianity." He/she needs to join in the life of the city in meaningful and relevant ways. This involvement needs to be beyond attending luncheon groups and socializing. He/she needs to be involved in ministerial and community action groups that make a difference in the many challenges in our large cities—drugs, crime, abandonment, education, poverty, jobs, literacy, housing, community organization, older people, racism, and a multitude of other challenges. These challenges need to be addressed in lessons and seminars, as well as doing what we can do to be part of the solution by involvement.

"This minister is not afraid to engage in his/her work in the urban settings of all kinds."

The excitement, possibilities, and diversity of the cities are not an arena that Unity, or any other church, should turn away from. Unity has much to offer to people faced with life in the city. If they have problems and needs, then that is our calling: to minister to their needs, to help people concentrated in the metropolitan areas (over 75% of the U.S. population) to live their possibilities of God-expression in wholesome community. If we respond that we do not want to go THERE because the area has "too many problems," then we had better reexamine what our calling to the ministry is about. We are called to go where the needs may be greater because that is where our Unity ministry can be most important and impactful.

What is "Urban Ministry?"

Urban ministry is an umbrella-type community ministry designed specifically to meet and serve the multiplicity of needs of those within the immediate community in which the ministry is located. It impacts greatly on the total community and is actively involved with all aspects of the community—ethnic cultures, religion, employment, health, welfare, crime, and education. It is universal and inclusive and is prepared to lead people wherever Truth requires, incorporating the wisdom, knowledge, background and understanding of the people the ministry serves.

—Rev. Mercedes Hill, Unity Minister

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEW SILENT UNITY BUILDING

A Word From John A. V. Strickland Director of Silent Unity

We are greatly inspired by the vision we now see from the western windows of the current Silent Unity building! We are seeing our new prayer home take shape. This new building is built of something more than steel, stone, mortar, and glass; it is a home built of love on a foundation of faith.

For two and one-half years, every day in Silent Unity we have prayer our expansion prayer:

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

We have used this prayer, not only for our own building, but for the upward expansion of the entire Unity movement.

"I didn't realize it was going to be so big! Look at all those windows!" These are the two comments I've heard most often when someone sees the new building for the first time. Yes, it is a large structure, and the windows make it a very light, attractive building on the inside, as well as on the outside. We are very pleased with the way it looks.

The new Silent Unity building fills an empty space on our campus, but more importantly, it fills a need we have had to grow in service to humankind. We are truly grateful to have been a part of this expansion. We are grateful to God and to all God's children who have participated in this project through prayer, contributions, design, construction, artwork, landscaping, or hundreds of other ways. We could not have done it without God and God's human workers.

We should also recognize the fact that the new home for Silent Unity means a new home for our wonderful education ministry as well. Through remodeling, the current Silent Unity building will become a first-class, modern education building. Our beloved Visitors' Chapel and Peace Chapel will remain as they are now (with just a little sprucing up) and the offices, which were built for Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, will be restored to their original look; everything else will be renovated. The new education building will contain classrooms, offices, and our superb metaphysical library. Having a separate building for education will enable the programs to be more flexible and create a greatly enhanced learning environment.

Yes, we have come a long way in 99 years. We are in a great position to kick off our 100th year in a few short months, and we are pleased to have a new Silent Unity building and a new education building to share with thousands of friends who will visit Unity Village in 1989.



Artist's rendering of the 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.*



Heavy construction equipment arrived at Unity Village early Monday, May 4, 1987, to begin work on the new Silent Unity Building.



After the two tunnels to the Administration Building and the present Silent Unity Building were completed, the foundation work for the new building was started.

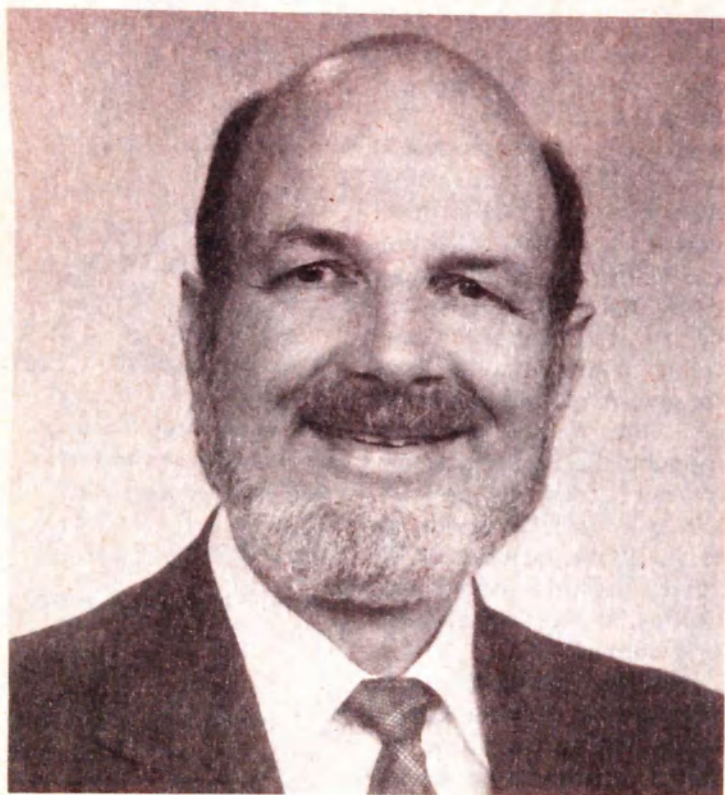


Silent Unity's "light that shines for you" will be expanded into an octagonal tower (above) which crowns the building at its northwest corner. The lighted tower will rise above the roofline and be clearly visible from Highway 350 and other buildings in the Village.



A view of the completed work thus far on the new Silent Unity Building.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWS



Bob Ellsworth, Ph.D.
Director of Education

SEEKING TO AND FRO

More and more we hear the question, "Where does Unity stand on... crystals, Tarot cards, numerology, astrology, channeled teachings, etc.?" Increasingly, people are writing and asking, "Is this Unity's way?" The "New Age" movement seems to be embracing practically everything. But how does our "New Thought" movement respond to these questions? To me these are important and exciting issues waiting to be explored. A dialogue is already beginning, and I feel excited to be a part of Unity at this special time.

"...we need to respect one another's views while attempting to identify the highest and best approaches to spiritual unfoldment."

Recently I was asked to teach *Lessons in Truth* in the Continuing Education Program of Unity School. I looked forward to emerging myself, once again, in the basics of Unity teachings. I found concepts in Emilie Cady's book that I had forgotten were there. Other concepts were seen in a new light. Fortunately, I misplaced my old *Lessons in Truth* books, and had to buy

a fresh, nonunderlined, no marginal notes copy. I say fortunately because had I found my old books, I would also have found my older ways of thinking about the material. Incidentally, I found my old books the next day, but by then I had gotten Spirit's message, "START FRESH!"

I believe that in approaching these questions about "What Is Unity?" we all need to START FRESH. I know people who, at the drop of a hat, will strongly support some approaches or teachings while strongly rejecting others.

But strong, automatic reactions to crystals or channeled teachings or whatever don't bring about helpful dialogue, and dialogue can bring a kind of clarity to issues that wasn't there before. We can learn from each other's experiences and inner guidance. I feel we need to respect one another's views while attempting to identify the highest and best approaches to spiritual unfoldment.

As most of you know, one of the major themes in Emilie Cady's book is, "There is in your own indwelling Lord all the life and health, all the strength and peace and joy, all the wisdom and support that you can ever need or desire. No one (or no thing) can give to you as can this indwelling Father." (p. 8). The primary cause of suffering, then, is the belief or sense of separation between us and

this indwelling Presence, this Lord of our Being.

Dr. Cady draws upon the teachings of Jesus when she reminds us that the prodigal son finally came to his senses and rose up (in awareness) to return to, or reconnect with, the indwelling Father. Note that Jesus didn't say "When you are suffering, go buy a crystal, or get a Tarot card reading, or an astrology chart done. Jesus seems to be teaching a principle, or basic guideline, for our spiritual unfoldment; and that is to direct our energy and thoughts and meditations to RECONNECTING TO THE INDWELLING LORD OF OUR BEING. A primary concern I have is that if we spend, or encourage others to spend, energy and time on "lesser" things we could delay or dilute taking the most direct means in reaching for wholeness. But what are basics, and what are lesser things?

My class in *Lessons in Truth* responded to the question, "How do crystals, astrology, tarot, etc., fit in with spiritual unfoldment?" The majority of the students felt that these activities are often stepping stones into Truth. They may not represent the highest spiritual practices, but they often lead the person into a greater realization of Truth. The class agreed that if a person becomes preoccupied with astrology, or whatever, then this can become a side trip (the main trip being the direct connection with the indwelling Presence of God).

"The primary cause of suffering, then, is the belief or sense of separation between us and this indwelling Presence, this Lord of our Being."

How about running to and fro, seeking for the right teacher or healer? Dr. Cady suggests that when we personally connect with the Spirit of Truth, the deep things of God revealed to us, "you will no longer run to and fro, seeking teachers or healers and rely solely on them for guidance." (p. 86). But she does say, "You will gladly let them help you reach the point where you will know that the living light, the living word within you, will guide you into all truth." (p. 86-87). What I sense Cady is saying is that teachers/healers can be

"Dr. Cady suggests that when we personally connect with the Spirit of Truth, the deep things of God revealed to us, 'you will no longer run to and fro, seeking teachers or healers and rely solely on them for guidance.'"

helpful when helping people connect with that ultimate teacher, the Christ within each and everyone of us.

"...Jesus as our teacher and way shower taught that there was something greater than he."

I've known people who will not take a major step without checking first with their outer teacher or getting a "reading" of some sort. If the teacher or guidance they receive helps them connect with the inner Lord of their being, then that would seem to meet the standard set by Jesus. But if the outer teacher becomes the source of wisdom, then I believe Dr. Cady's position would be that we may temporarily short circuit our patterns of spiritual unfoldment.

What about the teachings of Jesus as the ultimate outer teacher? I find it interesting that Jesus as our Teacher and Way Shower taught that there was something greater than He. "It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." (Jn. 16:7). Even the disciples and followers of Jesus needed to connect with their own inner Counselor rather than continue to rely on Him as Master Teacher. Jesus helps point the direction, but even He isn't to remain our ultimate source of wisdom. That source lies within each of us.

Each of us has followed a unique and special path in reaching for wholeness, and taken side trips and detours before connecting with our indwelling Father. I personally don't label anyone's path as right or wrong, better or worse. Like most of you, I have enjoyed light excursions into astrology, numerology, etc. I have found certain so-called channeled teachings to be very helpful in my spiritual journey, as have the sharings of various teachers and healers. The

teachings which have been most helpful to me are those that have reminded me that there is within me a divine Presence, the Source of all I need. Some activities/teachers, on the other hand, suggest, "I am the way, follow thou me." I know people who won't act before they throw the I Ching or get a reading, or consult with their guru. While these things may be embraced by the New Age, they may not represent the core of New Thought teachings which stress our connection with the indwelling Presence, our Lord and God.

How shall New Thought view the variety of teachings and activities that are often embraced by the New Age? Which are, or are not, compatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ and Unity? I don't know the answers, but I feel the question is a worthy and important one. The dialogue that is beginning can help us all to clarify the foundations of spiritual life. I don't believe it is helpful to label this or that approach or teaching as right or wrong, best or poor. But I do believe that certain standards can be agreed on by which to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of any teaching or approach. For example, one standard might be, "Does this teaching/approach help people connect with the Presence of their Indwelling Father?" Another standard might be, "Does this teaching/approach convey that there is but one Presence and Power in our life?" It seems to me that dialogue could establish agreed-upon standards. The strengths and weaknesses of any teaching or approach could then be examined in light of these standards. This, I believe, would be far more productive than categorizing or labeling various activities or teachings as "good - not good," "acceptable - unacceptable." This type of labeling can generate a lot of heat and divisiveness, but not much light.

The above are the thoughts of Bob Ellsworth and, hopefully, the Spirit within him—at least on April of 1988. Bob reserves the right for Spirit to change his mind.



Judith Sherman
Chairman of Ministry Studies

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

I am pleased to be writing a regular column in CONTACT magazine. It seems like I have been the recipient of much excellent information during the three years I have served as Chairman of Ministry Studies. My response to all I've learned has been, "How I wish I'd known this when I was serving in the field!" So this month we begin a potpourri of administrative hints which I hope you find helpful.

But FIRST, I want to publicly thank the Southwest Region for the excellent job they did in hosting our MEP class of 1988 on their recent class trip. We saw a variety of ministries in all stages of development. The ministers presented a tremendous variety of leadership styles. However all spoke candidly from their credo of ministry. The students were thrilled with the obvious commitment to the Unity ministry they felt on the part of the ministers and their congregations. They now prepare to enter the field more enthusiastic than ever about the ways they might serve and support people on their personal, spiritual journeys. OUR THANKS AND BLESSINGS TO ALL OF YOU!

Now, on to Church Administration. The best resource I have found from all the books I've read and seminars I've taken has been The National Association of Church Business Administration. (NACBA). This is a nonprofit corporation working to foster professional development, to provide vocational assistance and to serve the Christian church. Membership in this association is open to church business administrators, ministers and others in related fields (such as seminary professors of administration). The cost of membership is determined by the budget of your church. Membership entitles one to receive the "nacba LEDGER" published quarterly and the "NACBA-gram" which arrives monthly and includes brief articles such as "Expediting Your

Incoming Mail" and 1988 IRS information on charitable contributions.

July 17-22, 1988, NACBA will hold their annual convention in Denver, Colorado. "The Stewardship of People, Finances, Materials & Technology" is the theme with more than 28 eminently qualified people presenting. I would love to see some Unity people there. Maybe we could even hold a demonstration meeting during that time slot on Monday. The last two NACBA-grams have introduced the business managers from Unity of Seattle and Walnut Creek as new members.

I know you are ready for the address and phone number of NACBA. Here they are:

National Association of
Church Business Admin.
7001 Grapevine Hwy, #324
Ft. Worth, TX 76180
(817) 284-1732

One more thing, NACBA offers a "Certification Program in Church Business Administration." This is conducted through the continuing education program of five seminars throughout the country and involves attendance at two ten-day seminars, an approved research-action project which represents a responsible contribution to the field, three years' work as a church business administrator or minister doing the administration work with your other duties, and active NACBA membership. Thirteen topics are in the curriculum - multiple staff development, information systems management, financial management, legal and tax matters and time management to name a few. Where else can you get so much all at one time?

In future columns for CONTACT I will focus on specific areas of administration which will facilitate your important work and hopefully simplify your schedules. Until then, I hope you or the designee from your church will join me in NACBA.

LIGHT ON THE PATH Trish Robinson

"Living Creatively Within the Code of Ethics." When Bob Ellsworth came up with this phrase, I really liked it. I liked the sound, the rhythm of it.

Recently when I heard Bob say, "There are many Licensed Unity Teachers finding ways to live creatively within the code of ethics," I realized one of the reasons it sounds so pleasing to me is due to the beautiful meaning of it. The deeper my thinking goes with it and the more I examine what the sentence is saying, the more I feel stirred by it.

What an exciting challenge, what a joy-filled experience. What a wonder-filled question to pose to myself, "How can I CREATIVELY live within the Code of Ethics? How far out can I move the limits by not just living within the Code of Ethics, but LIVE CREATIVELY WITHIN."

What does it mean, this word LIVING? What does it mean, this word CREATIVELY?

Have you caught the excitement yet? How about the joy? We know joy is contagious. (Isn't it great to have some things to want to be exposed to so it can be "caught"?)

Consciously, or not, I

think we've all made a commitment to serve God. And we're Licensed Unity Teachers because we've chosen (made a commitment) to serve God as a representative of Unity. Right? What exactly does this mean? Well, to me, part of what it means is striving to live the Truth principles that Unity teaches, to be a "peace-maker," God-truster, taking responsibility for my actions and reactions and the results of the thoughts that I entertain, the attitude I choose to express at any given time, et cetera, et cetera. It also includes NOT attempting to do God's work, nor say how another should or should not.

And then along comes a phrase like, "Living Creatively Within the Code of Ethics" which will not let go of me until I have taken it apart, turned it upside down, inside out, and put it back together again. (I spent quite a while in the dictionary beginning with the familiar words "living," "creatively," and "within.") The phrase, "Living creatively. . ." I like the sound of it, the rhythm, and what it's saying to me. "Stretch! Come up a little higher! Do everything you're doing only more so." Thanks Bob. Bless Bob. And thank You, God. God bless God!



(If this phrase grabs you, like it has me, please share with me at least a part of where it leads you.)

Shared reminders from Trish:

- * "Harmonizer" - the best way I've found is to work on harmony with me, within me, and when I look OUT, everything is in harmony."
- * "We CAN support someone even though we do not always agree with them."
- * "Life is too serious to be taken seriously."
- * "Joy is a necessary life oil."
- * "We ARE blessed!" May we accept the best of the best."

METAPHYSICAL LENDING LIBRARY TO HONOR DR. HERBERT J. HUNT



Mario de Ferrari, minister of Chist Unity Church of Anaheim, California, has written to tell us that his Board of Directors has voted to honor Dr. Hunt by naming their already large lending library THE HUNT METAPHYSICAL LIBRARY "just as a small token of recognition for a life devoted to Truth and Unity."

Mario asked that we send biographical information for him to share in his newsletter, and we are pleased to share the following information about Dr. Hunt as given to us by Mrs. Fern Hunt:

Dr. Hunt was born in London, England, into a family who were faithful church-going people. They attended Methodist Chapel, and from the time Dr. Hunt was a small boy, he knew he wanted to be a minister. He was an excellent scholar and his love for books began in preschool when we won a book as a prize for work well done. His love for books and learning continued throughout his lifetime.

As a young married man he came to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, to fulfill his life-long dream of being a minister. His family and friends in England "tied" him to a challenging speech defect, and it was only after coming to Canada that he was able to overcome the difficulty and be free to become the teacher and preacher he longed to be.

His overcoming was complete and after attending the University of Toronto, he became a minister in the United Church of Canada. While still a young man he suffered a complete breakdown--mental, emotional, and physical. This is when Unity came into his life through the Weekly Unity magazine. He improved through applying the teachings and was soon attending a Unity class in Toronto. He was able to return to his ministry with the United Church, but continued to attend the Unity classes as well. When the leader of the Unity group decided to leave Toronto, he asked Dr. Hunt to take over the class. It grew steadily and it soon became evident to Dr. Hunt that he could not do both. He had to make a choice, and his choice was Unity. He founded the Unity Church that is still active in Toronto, and after completing all classes and requirements he was ordained as a Unity minister in 1941. He left Toronto for personal reasons and became a minister of several churches in the United States and once again in Canada--Detroit, Michigan; Spokane, Washington; and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

From Vancouver he was called to headquarters at Unity School of Christianity, Unity Village, to accept the position of Dean of Bible Studies. He served in this capacity from 1957 until the day of his passing in December, 1971.

Throughout his lifespan he thought of books not only as his "tools of trade" but as his most precious possessions and best friends.

ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN



Marianne Hill

International Children's Education Consultant

(Marianne Hill has been hired by the Association of Unity Churches as International Children's Education Consultant. With a background in Child Development and Administration of Children's Programs, Marianne graduated from the Unity Ministerial Education Program in June, 1987, and is a licensed Unity Minister. Marianne lives in Lee's Summit with husband Greg, son Eric, and daughter Suzanne.)

The Unity movement has a history of striving to minister to the whole person—spirit, soul, and body. Our ministries provide worship services that nurture the spirit. Classes are offered that provide education in Unity principles to nurture that soul awareness of our true, spiritual identity which, once this awareness has begun in consciousness, brings forth renewal and healing in the body. Many Unity centers offer sessions in aerobics or other physical exercises, or classes in nutrition to also bless and minister to the needs of our bodies.

This tradition of ministering to the whole person is an important concept, and no less so for our youth ministries. Even though in a young body, each child is a whole, created in the image and likeness. . . three-fold being; spirit, soul, and body.

Youth Education programs are an integral part of the ministry as a whole. Youth Education and Youth Ministry needs to nourish all aspects of its congregants. This means that within our youth programs must be found all of the elements that we would expect to find in the rest of our church community.

Beginning with the spiritual, opportunities for the children to experience worship need to be provided, both with the congregation at large and within the parameters of the Youth Ministry itself. Toward this end, the Youth Education Director and teachers need to be

aware that while they are creating the environment for worship, they are also teaching the children much about worship by their attitudes and the behavior they model in their own worship experience.

In ministering to the increasing soul awareness in our children, our youth education classes need to be planned and implemented with an awareness that not all children learn in the same way.

The Association of Unity Churches promotes the concept of whole brain learning in working with Regional Consultants and local Youth Education Directors. Whole brain learning is another way in which we seek to minister to the whole child by recognizing the individuality of each child. We recognize that while some children are primarily right brain learners, and learn faster and more effectively through right brain oriented activities, other children are primarily left brain learners, processing new information best through left brain oriented activities. These are both preferred styles of learning; however, to educate in a whole brain manner, each child needs to experience both types of activities. (For more information on whole brain learning, contact your Regional Children's Education Consultant, or you can call or write to me here at the Association of Unity Churches.) To be truly effective in promoting the learning process in children,

those of us involved in youth education need to be involved in our own spiritual growth. Our love of learning and of living the Christ-centered life will teach much to the children.

The last aspect of our inner trinity is the body. Ministering to the physical needs of children has its own unique concerns. The environment that we create for a worship and learning experience needs to be viewed from a child's perspective. What is the atmosphere of the room? Is it cheerful, loving, inviting? Does the feel of the room give the message, "Children are welcome here. This is a safe and loving place to be"? Pictures and wall decorations should be placed at a viewing level that tells the children, "These were put here for you to enjoy." Furniture should be of an appropriate size for each age group, and, of course, the room should be clean and safety oriented — providing handrails on stairs, non-slippery finishes on floors, and adequate lighting.

In preparing classroom and assembly activities, the attention span of each age level needs to be taken into account. Ministering to the physical involves taking the comfort of these little bodies into consideration, sitting too long in any one place can become uncomfortable for the smaller children.

Again, whole brain learning, which alternates between right brain and left brain activities, will help teachers prepare lesson plans that involve the children and provide variety, interest, and new experiences no matter what age level is being taught.

Serving in Youth Ministry is a unique and wonderful opportunity. It is important for each person serving in this capacity to remember that we are teaching people, not subjects. We are dealing with a whole being, and every aspect of that being needs to be nurtured and ministered to.

Each person involved in Youth Ministry is teaching his/her students by example through living and expressing the Christ within. As Youth Education teachers, we are perceived by the children to exemplify what the spiritual life is all about. In the hours that are spent in preparing to minister to the children, it is important for each of us to remember that our own times of spiritual renewal are vitally important, not only for our continued growth, but in making us effective role models for our children.

YOUTH EDUCATION NEW TEACHER RESOURCES

Available from the
ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES

Teacher's Handbook--Guidelines & Masters

Includes 23 masters of helpful suggestions for teachers. These masters can be reproduced and used to create your own handbooks for use in training Youth Education teachers.

Inventory #1714

\$15.00

70 Cues for Teachers

Filled with helpful information to assist teachers in creating positive learning experiences in the classroom. Wonderful resource for teachers' meetings or training workshops.

Inventory #1715

\$4.95

Essential Skills for Good Teaching

Identifies essential teaching skills and helps the teacher incorporate them into the classroom environment.

Inventory #1716

\$8.95

To order these (and other) resources from the Association of Unity Churches, use the order form provided in the new catalog; or you may call the Association at 816-524-7414 to place an order.

ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION REGIONAL CONSULTANTS

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COUNTLESS GIFTS

by
Joyce Culey
International Youth Education Consultant



Youth work has been a major focus in my life for the past fifteen years. During this time my personal and professional activities have greatly shifted and changed, but my commitment to, and belief in, children and teens has remained firm. It is not possible to list the countless gifts I've received over the years from youths, who so lovingly and openly allowed me—even if but for a moment—to be a part of their joy-filled days. As a result of their giving, I have learned so much about myself, about people, about living, about loving.

All of which makes "moving on" difficult. Although I cannot conceive a future uninvolved in youth work, it is time for yet another change. Three years ago this summer, I wrote an introductory article explaining my presence as a new staff member of the Association and how all my past experiences had led me to this position of service in youth ministry. This summer I find myself writing about leaving my comfort zone of youth ministry and the Association. How ironic, for in all honesty, I thought my "place in life" was finally assured! My, how the Universe must be chuckling, shaking its pattern of energy in gleeful bursts of colorful stars over my naivete.

And yet, how truly appropriate it is that change has arrived, for my perception of youth ministry has expanded

so very much from its old concept. Once upon a time my logical, concrete mind thought primarily in terms of curriculum, program planning, budgeting, leadership training, and the professionalism of youth ministry. My philosophy of life, based on the following quote, became a motivating force in my work:

Whenever you are to do a thing, though it can never be known but to yourself, ask yourself how you would act were all the world looking at you and act accordingly.

—Thomas Jefferson, 1785

As a result, my goals and dreams have been met, often way beyond my original understanding. Unity truly does have a children and youth ministry program to be proud of. The Association's purpose to provide resources for field ministry needs is continually being realized. In terms of youth ministry, we have an excellent network of resources available, simply awaiting your discovery! I am proud of and thankful for the work we have achieved together. It has been through your support, commitment, dedication, and willingness to give to and receive from our children and teens, that we are where we are. How exciting it is to know that this wonderful team—ministers, regional consultants, youth education directors, spon-

sors, teachers, parents, and youths—have bonded in the purpose of demonstrating Truth in our youth ministry work! It has been a result of that bonding that my concepts have expanded. Youth ministry has become much more than program planning, and has filtered into every area of my life. Our purpose of providing an environment in which the child/teen has the opportunity to learn about and express his/her Divine Nature, has been added to my philosophy of life. Everywhere I go, everyone I meet, provides me with the opportunity to learn more about myself while expressing that Divine Nature. Just as we—students and teachers together—have been learning to understand our feelings and to practically apply Truth principles in the youth ministry setting, the same continues to be true for me.

Whether or not my next area of service lies within the labeled field called "youth work" or not, I take with me all the gifts of giving. For you see, it isn't that youth ministry itself is so exclusively special. It is that feeling, bubbling up and spilling over in giggling laughter, of love and joy that makes the work so appealing. How thankful I am for the awareness that life is that feeling, simply waiting to be experienced by anyone—toddler, child, teen, or adult!

THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH OF UNITY

What Is It?

How Can It Support Your Ministry?
How Can Your Ministry Support It?

YOU - What Is It?

The International Youth of Unity (YOU), sponsored by the Association of Unity Churches, is a group of teenagers, ages 14-18, from Unity churches around the world. The Association is responsible for the coordination of the annual International YOU Conference and for the development of educational resources.

The purpose of the International YOU is: *to unify all young people who are seeking to express the indwelling Christ, in accordance with the principles of practical Christianity as taught and interpreted by Unity School and the Association of Unity Churches.*

The International YOU is divided into regions with a consultant hired by the regional ministerial board. The purpose of the regional network is twofold: 1) to unify all the chapters in the region by coordinating their activities and aiding them in their success and growth; and, 2) by complying with the stated purpose of the International YOU.

The chapter in the local ministry is the heart of YOU. The primary purpose of the local group is to provide opportunities for teens to learn of their divinity and how to express it in their daily lives. The chapter is:

- * an intricate balance of spiritual, study, service, and social.
- * under the direction of the minister (unless otherwise determined) who appoints at least one sponsor to work with the group.
- * taught by a teacher well versed in Unity philosophy (also appointed by the minister and is often the sponsor).

YOU - How Can It Support Your Ministry?

YOU provides opportunities for teenagers to develop a personal relationship with God through practical application of Truth principles. These opportunities help to build the teen's confidence in him/herself and his/her abilities thus strengthening the individual.

The Association of Unity Churches and the International Youth of Unity is available to support your YOU ministry in the following ways:

- * A full-time International Consultant is on staff.
- * Sponsors the International YOU Conference.
- * Maintains an educational inventory which includes curriculum, teaching aids, and resources.
- * Provides youth ministry training as requested both regionally and locally.
- * Provides annual youth ministry training for regional YOU consultants. Maintains a close working relationship to provide current information regarding resources and educational techniques.
- * CONTACT articles regarding youth ministry.

YOU - How Can You Support It?

YOU is best supported with your ministry's involvement. As local chapters form and become part of the international network, greater opportunities exist for ministering to our youth. In addition to your support at the local level, your involvement regionally and internationally is encouraged:

- * Become familiar with the regional activities being sponsored. Your support, whether financial or active participation in these events offers opportunities for growth.
- * The International Youth of Unity is also supported by your financial and active involvement. This may be through attendance at conference and/or training seminars, and gifts to the International YOU. These gifts are utilized in a variety of ways, including the development of new resources, travel expenses for the international youth officers, youth ministry training seminars, etc.

WORKING WITH THE EARLY ADOLESCENT

This seminar will focus on the developmental characteristics of the early adolescent. Included will be the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual aspects of this age group. A strong emphasis will be placed on Uniteen Program planning. Anyone interested in early adolescent education would benefit greatly from this overview.

Instructor: Joyce Culey
Association of Unity Churches
International Youth Education Consultant

When: July 11-22, 1988

Where: Unity School of Religious Studies Continuing Education Program - Unity Village, Missouri

Credits: 10 Elective Credits

YOUTH MINISTRY LENDING LIBRARY

The Youth Ministry Lending Library was established as the 1986-87 International Youth of Unity Service Project. Its purpose is to provide audio-visual resources on a variety of subjects to Uniteen and Youth of Unity groups.

What resources are available?

A variety of subjects are covered with videos, cassette tapes and books. Please see the list below for subjects which may be of interest.

How do I reserve library resources?

Call the Association of Unity Churches, 816-524-7414, and ask for the Education Department. Requests will be reserved on a first come first served basis.

Is there a charge?

There is no charge for borrowing library resources. However, you will be charged shipping costs for the resources sent.

How long may I keep a resource?

Library resources may be reserved for up to two weeks after receipt. A return deadline date will be established when your request is placed.

How do I return borrowed resources?

Please return all items by UPS Second Day Delivery. This will ensure its prompt return for others' use. You are responsible for the shipping costs.

How many items may I reserve?

Due to the limited number of resources available at this time, requests will be limited to one item.

What if a resource is damaged?

Should a library resource be damaged while in your care, a replacement charge will be invoiced.

AVAILABLE MATERIALS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY LENDING LIBRARY

VIDEOS:

"THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST," offers three discussion starter films on three of the biggest problems confronting teens today: peer pressure, love, and self-image.

- (1) "Face Value," is a provocative look at peer pressure that asks, "In succumbing to the pressure, am I really being accepted, or am I just dying to the person I was meant to be?" (10 minutes - Uniteen, Y.O.U., Adult)
- (2) "Heartburn" challenges teens to examine some common misconceptions about love, and to develop their own definitions of true and unconditional love. (10 minutes - Uniteen, Y.O.U., Adult)
- (3) "Eagle Beak" helps teens see that self-

image is often founded on wrong input that can work to make us our own worst enemy. (6 minutes - Uniteen, Y.O.U.)

"ONE IN A MILLION" is an excellent discussion-starter to help viewers discover personal significance and value in their own lives, and to stimulate awareness concerning the value of every human life. The video introduces Bobby who, hindered by a slight physical handicap, is tormented by self-doubt. (17.30 minutes - Uniteen, Y.O.U.)

"THE MASTER KEY" unlocks the door to self-understanding. Open the door and experience your unlimited potential. There are no words in this video--no one will tell you anything. On this journey of music and sight you communicate with yourself. The video opens by comparing scenes of stress in our daily lives to experience inner peace. (22 minutes - Uniteen, Y.O.U., Adult)

"THE MASTER KEY - A SYMPHONY OF SIGHT AND SOUND" unlocks the door to self-understanding. Open the door and experience your unlimited potential. There are no words in this video - no one will tell you anything. On this journey of music and sight you communicate with yourself. (22 minutes - Uniteen, Y.O.U., Adult)

"THE QUESTION" presents a balanced perspective that touches upon the emotional, physical, social, and spiritual aspects of suicide, thus providing the viewer hope and direction in dealing with this serious problem. Will Turner, a high school senior, dealing with his brother's suicide is faced with the question, "What is the meaning and purpose of life?" (36 minutes - Uniteen, Y.O.U., Adult)

BOOKS:

"HAPPY AND ALIVE" by Lori Misel, M.S.W., is a guide for all adults. This book offers a step-by-step guide to successfully dealing with children/teens by leading them with love around the fear, insecurity, depression, and self-destructive models many may be facing today.

"YOUTH HELPING YOUTH: A Handbook for Training Peer Facilitators" and "CARING AND SHARING: Becoming a Peer Facilitator" by Robert D. Myrick and Tom Erney, a leadership training program for youth. The leader's manual provides tips for developing a systematic and effective peer facilitator program. The student handbook offers a systematic approach for learning helping skills in working with other youth.

YOUTH OF UNITY SURVEY RESULTS

A subjective Y.O.U. needs assessment survey was distributed to ministers and sponsors. Results of ministers surveyed are below:

5 - Strongly Agree 3 = Neutral 1 = Strongly Disagree

1. Our Y.O.U. program adds energy, enthusiasm, and excitement to our church. = 4.84
2. Our Y.O.U. program has led to regular youth attendance. = 3.55
3. One of the strengths of our Y.O.U. program is our sponsor(s). = 4.37
4. The Y.O.U. program provides opportunities for spiritual and personal growth for our youth. = 4.45
5. Attendance at regional Y.O.U. events has strengthened our group. = 4.44
6. Adequate information is available regarding Y.O.U. sponsor qualifications. = 3.05
7. Adequate information is available regarding the function/role of a Y.O.U. Chapter. = 3.30
8. Y.O.U. Sponsor training is the responsibility of the local ministry. = 2.97
9. Y.O.U. sponsor training is the responsibility of the regional Y.O.U. Consultant. = 3.92
10. Y.O.U. sponsor training is the responsibility of the Association of Unity Churches. = 3.13
11. Adequate information is provided regarding the necessary components of sponsor training. = 2.54
12. Adequate curriculum is available for Y.O.U. = 2.86
13. The following areas should be included in sponsor training:
 - A. teaching skills = 4.57
 - B. youth leadership skills = 4.73
 - C. working relationship with the minister = 4.54
 - D. listening and counseling skills = 4.62
 - E. the role and function of the chapter = 4.51
 - F. chapter relationship with the region = 4.41
 - G. chapter relationship with Int'l. Y.O.U. = 4.38
14. My regional Y.O.U. Consultant supports our group by:
 - A. providing training workshops for sponsors = 3.74
 - B. visiting our chapter annually/semi-annually = 3.29
 - C. providing advance notice on regional events = 3.73
 - D. being available for consultation as needed = 3.74
15. The Association of Unity Churches can assist my Y.O.U. ministry by:
 - A. providing guidelines on sponsor qualification = 4.15
 - B. providing teaching resources = 4.53
 - C. providing guidelines for building/maintaining a stable Y.O.U. group = 4.34
 - D. providing youth ministry guidelines as part of the Association's Policy Manual = 4.29
 - E. providing curriculum = 4.66
16. Adequate information is available regarding youth ministry resources. = 2.97
17. The minister is responsible for supervising the local Y.O.U. chapter. = 3.62
18. The Youth Education Director is responsible for supervising the local Y.O.U. Chapter. = 2.70
19. The youth ministry program in the local church should include nursery through Y.O.U. = 3.58
20. The role of Y.O.U. sponsors should be filled by volunteers. = 3.79
21. Y.O.U. sponsors should be paid. = 2.58

Additions to the Youth Ministry Lending Library are made possible through tithes and love offerings to:

Association Youth Ministry Lending Library
Association of Unity Churches
P.O. Box 610
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-7414

*Together:
Making
A
Difference
International
Youth of Unity
1988
Service Project*

This year the International Team wanted everyone in Y.O.U. to be involved with the International Service Project and to feel that their efforts not only made an impact, but a difference in our world. So, I present to you the International Service Project, "Together: Making A Difference." This project invites every YOUer, Sponsor, and Chapter to get involved and will hopefully bring Y.O.U., your community, and your world closer together as one spirit. In June, 1988, each chapter is invited to improve some aspect of their community through volunteer work. This concerted time of giving will be happening all over the world. What better way to spread that Y.O.U. love, sharing, and enthusiasm but to those around us. Following is a list of ideas that could help your brainstorming process to choose a group project:

- * Take part in a community project such as a Ronald McDonald House, Students Against Drunk Driving (SAD), Students Against Suicide (SAS), Saying No to Drugs, etc.
- * Do volunteer work at a local hospital, nursing home, children's home, etc.
- * Visit members of the church who are shut-ins.
- * Volunteer your assistance in a local soup kitchen.
- * Contact your local Chamber of Commerce to find out what community projects are underway that your group could participate in.
- * Hold a fund raiser and donate the proceeds to a charitable organization.

You could select one of these or another of your choice that more directly addresses a relevant social concern or need in your community. Or, feel free to join in coordination with another chapter.

If you have any questions or ideas, feel free to write or call. Remember, no matter the size of your chapter you can make a difference.

Quincy Lawrence Allen, International President
2475 West Boston Blvd., Detroit, MI 48206 (313) 867-4128

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