

# Finding our Future: Developing Spiritual Leadership in Unity

## Unleash the Power of New Leadership in Your Ministry



Who do you know that is ready to take that next step on their spiritual journey and unleash the Spirit within through service? Conscious connecting with congregants as a means of movement toward leadership opportunities is an exceptional way to equip them for further growth and service. As ministers and leaders in the spiritual community, you have the perfect viewpoint to call forth the leadership gifts of others. A word of encouragement from a minister

or other leader in the spiritual community can make all the difference as congregants contemplate what next step will support their personal spiritual evolution.

In addition to supporting congregants on their spiritual journey, ministries will benefit from increased attention and intention on expanding leadership. Thriving ministries are aware of the ongoing need to open opportunities for individuals to step into leadership within their spiritual community and consciously act to encourage leadership growth in congregants. The spiritual community will be deeply enhanced by ensuring a wealth of enthusiastic and capable leaders, whether in sacred service as team leaders, small group facilitators, or board members, or other areas within their individual gifts and interests.

What makes a good leader in Unity?

- Knowledge and active demonstration of Unity principles and spiritual teachings
- Sincere desire to continue personal spiritual development
- Good communication skills, willing and able to speak truth compassionately
- Willingness to develop and demonstrate leadership skills
- Heart of sacred service
- Coming from a place of being first then doing

People who take classes and provide sacred service within the spiritual community are already primed to step into increasing leadership. We also encourage you to create the intention of identifying and working with some “fresh faces” by inviting them to participate in new ways.



There is no single path for leadership development in Unity. Opportunities to develop leaders within your spiritual community include:

- inspiring and encouraging youth leadership,
- offering and encouraging participation in Spiritual Education and Enrichment (SEE) classes,
- participating as a ministry leadership group in the Association's Transformation Experience Enlightened Leadership Development program.

### **Inspiring & Encouraging Youth Leadership**



When we think of leaders we often think of adults, yet our youth have so much to offer. Working with the YOU sponsors to discern ways that the youth can provide sacred service is important. Even more essential for their development and the continued growth of the spiritual community, is to provide our youth with support, encouragement, and authentic opportunities to serve in meaningful roles.

There are a number of ways that our YOUers can begin to attain SEE credits. The yearly International YOU event, Peace Ambassador Training, is part of a leadership development program, leading our youth to international service eligibility, and may be taken for credit. If a youth attends a class being taught by a licensed Unity teacher or minister, they may be able to take it for credit if the class has been approved. Simply work with Unity's Dean of Spiritual Education and Enrichment, Paul Hasselbeck, to establish credit for your program.

### **Becoming a Licensed Unity Teacher**



Unity licensed teachers (LTs) can contribute to the spiritual community in many meaningful ways. LTs support and expand ministry programs by teaching SEE classes for credit at their local church (which in turn develops other leaders), and by assisting with youth ministry, pastoral care and prayer chaplaincy programs, or administrative duties.

Becoming a licensed teacher requires a sponsoring minister. The role of the sponsoring minister is to be a mentor for the licensed teacher candidate as well as an evaluator of the candidate's teaching skills, interaction with the congregation, and readiness for a leadership position in a

Unity church. The sponsoring minister continues in this role even after the candidate is licensed. The licensed teacher serves the Unity spiritual community in accordance with the mission and vision of the Unity spiritual community and at the direction of the minister. The sponsoring minister must be an ordained or licensed Unity minister.

The focus areas available for LT study are:

- Administration
- Adult Education
- Pastoral Care
- Youth and Family Ministry

Additional information is available on [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org) under the Ministries and Leaders tab or by contacting Shirley Kennedy, Licensed Teacher Coordinator, [lrc@unity.org](mailto:lrc@unity.org), or by phone at 816.524-7414.

### **Developing as an Enlightened Leader**

If your spiritual community's leadership team is ready to exponentially increase your capacity to develop leaders within the congregation, consider enrolling in the Transformation Experience's Enlightened Leaders Program, starting fall 2009. For more information, see [www.thetransformationexperience.org](http://www.thetransformationexperience.org), then contact Shannah McAleer at [leadership@unity.org](mailto:leadership@unity.org) or by phone at 816.524.7414.

### **The Future of Unity: It's in Your Hands!**

"The single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them."

— John C Maxwell

*The 17 Irrefutable Laws of Teamwork* (2001, p.185)



No matter how you choose to step into leadership development, know that you are making a critical contribution not only to the lives of those you inspire, and to the spiritual community in which you serve, but also to the future of the Unity movement as a whole. This in turn serves our world.