

Unity Worldwide Ministries
(aka Association of Unity Churches International)

Contact

Vol. 43, Issue 2

June/July/August 2011

Experiencing Transformation

Lessons We've Learned—
Are You Ready to Transform?

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An Expression of a Divine
Idea

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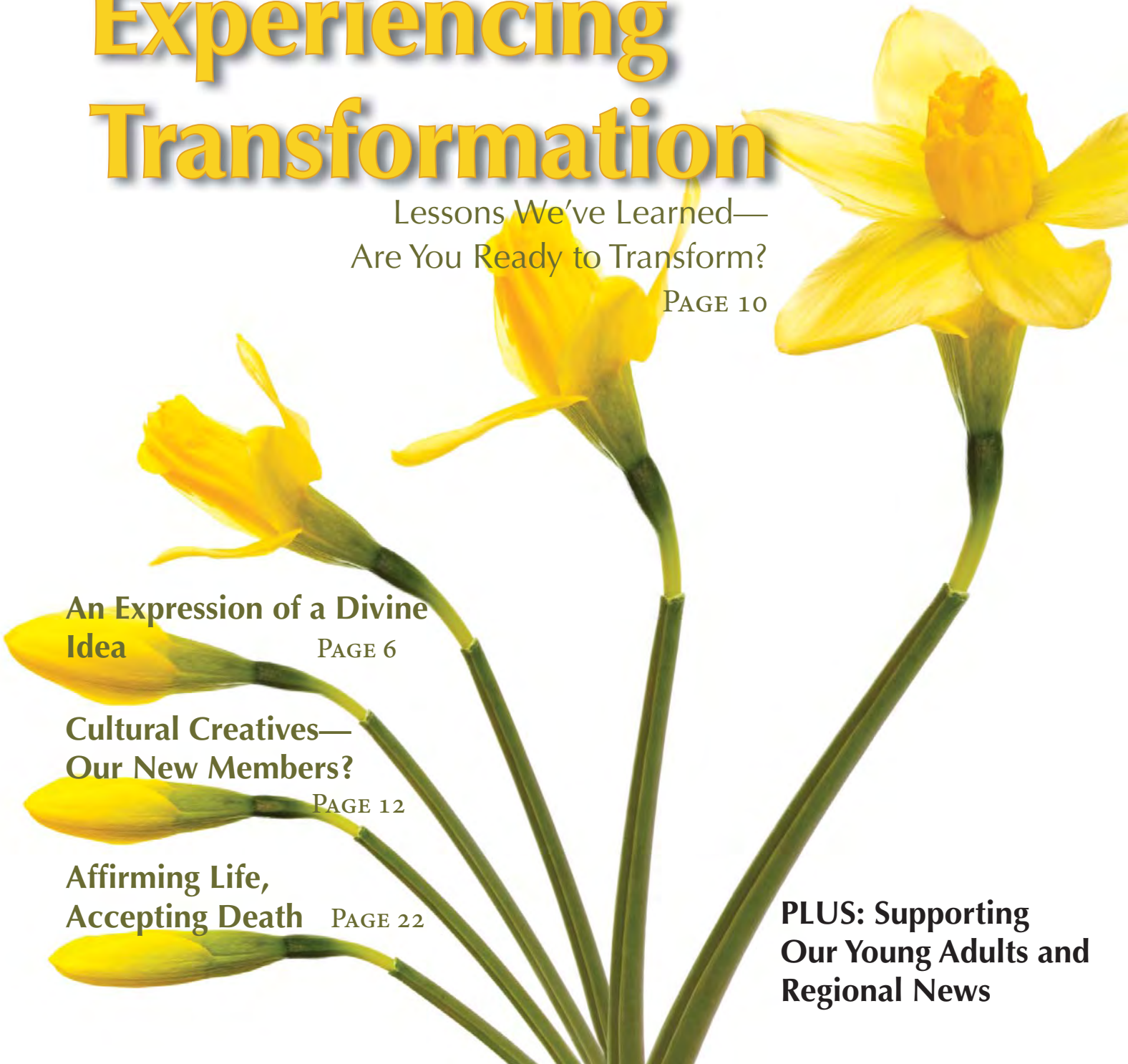
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**PLUS: Supporting
Our Young Adults and
Regional News**



Contact

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EDITORIAL PURPOSE

To support thriving Unity leaders and ministries by providing timely and practical information.

For a free subscription, contact Debbie Allen at Unity Worldwide Ministries: debbie@unity.org.

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Feedback

I especially appreciated, and so did my board, the reminder that the “key to long-term ministry is spiritual renewal time.”

Dear Editor,

I send a short note to thank you for your recent issue of *Contact*. Of course, our board and our leaders within our community often discuss the helpful articles that are published by Unity Worldwide Ministries. Your recent articles, by Rev. Howard Caesar and Rev. Bob Marshall, both longtime Unity ministers, offered systematic spiritual applications for ministry. Howard’s information (concerning the practical steps one may take for a name change) was the basis for a lively discussion with our board. Bob’s article, concerning his insights from 38 years of field ministry, was touching and motivational. I especially appreciated, and so did my board, the reminder that the “key to long-term ministry is spiritual renewal time.” I always look forward to the next issue, which always offers exciting news from the field and home office, and gives me practical applications for ministry. Our *Contact* reminds me of the Good. It reminds me that we are one, and that at ordination I affirmed my oneness with all Unity ministers.

Love and Blessings,
Rev. Pat Williamson

Have something to share with readers? Send your comments to kris@unity.org.

Letter to James Trapp, CEO of Unity Worldwide Ministries

Dear James,

Enclosed is a check for \$500.00 to help kick off new abundance for Unity Worldwide Ministries. We will also commit to an additional \$100.00 per month over and above our normal monthly tithe to help make up this temporary deficit. We have a fund for outreach and I decided that, in addition to our regular monthly tithe, Unity Worldwide Ministries will also be part of our outreach efforts.

Unity Worldwide Ministries is the touchstone of the Unity movement. Our church benefited from your services when we went through a change of ministers several years ago, our music team sparkles because of the inspiration of your music conferences, our children benefit from your wonderful youth materials, and our church is doing well during this economically challenging time because of information gleaned during our conventions. Whenever I have called there has been someone to give support and answer my questions. I can’t imagine being out here all alone in the field without the resources you make available. We tithe because we know it’s important to give back where we have been fed.

With our check also come our prayers and the held vision of a strong, vibrant, solvent home office leading us into our new identity as a powerful spiritual force in our world.

Love and blessings for all you do,
Rev. Jan Little

Letter From the Editor

by Kristen Preud'homme, kris@unity.org

As I was standing in the foyer of my son's school, I watched a sea of little humans hurrying to catch their buses. For a moment, my mind began to perceive each of them—not as children, but rather as the Presence of Divine Being who courageously agreed to come to earth and live a life full of many experiences. Being after Being came through the foyer, each eager to be what they've come here to be.

We are so courageous to come to earth in little bodies that transform daily, our spirits full of hope for the journey of life ahead. We've bravely approached each day building our strength and abilities. Let's take a moment and recognize how the younger you has emerged and transformed into who you are today. Each of us is still on a journey of spiritual transformation. This transformation leads us to the fullest expression of the Divine Being we can become.

This issue focuses on the ever-evolving transformation of our spiritual journey. Read through the following pages about transformation in youth ministry and learn about teen scholarships and how you can support young adults going to college. Find ideas on how your spiritual community can continue to transform through reaching new members (Cultural Creatives), offer Location-based Services, increase revenue through snail mail and support transitions through chaplaincy.

And ministry is more than doing—it's also being. Take a moment to read about our emerging possibilities in the perspectives of three attendees at our January Forum. Discover more about how individuals and communities are transforming through the consciously created Transformation Experience.

Emily Cady coached us in transforming into our fullest expressing of Divine Being:

It is time for us to awake[n] to right thoughts, to know that we are not servants, but children, "and if children, then heirs" (Rom. 8:17).... We have come to a place now where our search for Truth must no longer be for the rewards, it must no longer be our seeking a creed to follow, but it must be our living a life.... Every right thought that we think, our every unselfish word or action is bound by immutable laws to be fraught with good results.... We must rather seek to be the Truth consciously, to be love, to be wisdom to be life...

Lessons in Truth, p. 8-11

In each of you, I see courage, hope, strength, joy and peace. As we continue to focus on what is right, good and true, we will continue to transform to the fullest expression of our Being.



An Expression of a *Divine Idea*

by David McArthur

Over the last five years, your board of trustees has met many times with the trustees of Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village. We discovered a deep desire in both of our organizations to create a united energy to carry our transformative Unity message to the world. Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village has gone through extensive changes, and most of its board members are Unity ministers; a number of them have been chairs of our Unity Worldwide Ministries.

The desire for a united organization was expressed within our organization very strongly in 1999 when we held our Future Search Project. It was affirmed again at the healing congress several years later and strongly expressed in the survey conducted for our branding identification

work. In that survey both Unity congregants in general and the 329 ministers and students surveyed supported integration of the organizations. With the boards in agreement on the concept of integrating our organizations, your board began exploring what we felt Spirit was calling us to be as the Unity movement. We explored those ideas with our regional conferences and at our January meeting. We experience strong support for integration and at the January Forum a vision of a united organization serving the Unity movement was expressed as a strong and passionate desire.

The leadership of our two boards has been meeting in order to find a form of governance that would serve the united movement. At our 2011 Unity People's Convention we will be choosing whether or not to go forward in creating a united Unity organization. We will also have an opportunity to respond to the governance that will have been suggested by the joint boards. Because this year's vote is only confirming a concept and a direction, a "yes" to our going forward will only be the beginning. Over the coming year, we will need lots of help and participation in addressing the many details that will let us take

two very different organizations and create a new one that will be responsive to all of the needs within our movement.

If we are guided to say "yes" and empower our organizations to go forward, we know that Spirit will bring forth the wisdom and vision to create an organization that will powerfully and effectively serve our ministers, congregants and ministries—and ensure that the world beyond Unity is uplifted by our work. I invite you to prayerfully consider whether Spirit is now calling us to focus our united spiritual energy through a single organization committed to our entire movement. Is Unity, united at every level, an expression of a Divine Idea whose time has come?



Unity Worldwide Ministries' Chair David McArthur (left) with Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village's Chair Howard Caesar.

Supporting Our Young Adults

As They Venture Out Into the World

by Rachel Simpson

Graduation season is upon us. Many teens who are a part of our communities will be launching into new adventures in the coming months. This is a time of radical transition for many of our new young adults. They are leaving the structured world of high school, YOU and parental rules to head for college, military service, moving out or being an “adult” living with their parents. I have heard many people say that young people have to go and explore the world in this time, and while I agree, I believe they can explore and still have a spiritual support system.

Social media has brought us far in the quest to stay connected with each other as we move about the country and world, but there is still more that can be done as a spiritual community to intentionally support our young adults as they venture out into the world. Here are some of the ideas I have shared with leaders over the years:

Daily Word subscriptions—Members of the congregation can be asked to sponsor this effort.

Gift of a book—There are many great Unity publications about our teachings and how to have a great life. Be sure to choose something that is a lighter read than the textbooks that are about to take over a college student’s life.

Adopt a grad—Invite members of the congregation to adopt each of your grads, committing to send encouraging e-mails, cards and care packages to those who have moved far away and to the ones still nearby.

“Where are they now” bulletin board—Include a picture of recent grads, contact info (if they agree), updates on how they are doing and prayer requests. This could also be used for members of the community who are away serving in the military. Whenever people on the board visit they get to know that their community still is there for them.

Welcoming committee—For every member of your congregation who is moving away from your city, find out where they are

going and send a letter of introduction to the minister in the new city. If you receive notification of someone moving to your area, ask someone to reach out and welcome them. If it is a young person who may not have transportation to church, make sure they know who to contact to get a ride.

Retreats—Be sure they have information about upcoming regional NGU retreats, the YOU reunion and Next Generation of SEE (Spiritual Education and Enrichment) week at Unity Village this summer. Consider offering financial support for them to stay connected to Unity through these transformational events.

SEE classes—Personally invite your teens and young adults to SEE classes. Invite congregants to cover the cost of registering their credits. (SEE credits are valid for 10 years and can be extended for teens.)

Invest some time and thought into honoring these new adults’ time in your community and supporting them in their new role as adults. They will be able to look back and say, “My spiritual community, Unity, really supported me through the time of change and growth.” Isn’t that what ministry is about?

Rachel Simpson is a consultant for Next Generation Unity and can be reached at rachel@unity.org.



What Is the Transformation Experience and How Can Our Ministry Benefit?

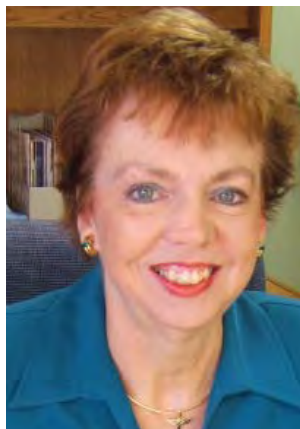
by Deborah Frownfelter

As we planned and began the Transformation Experience, we at Unity Worldwide Ministries committed to share with you what we are doing and learning in the project. The articles in this issue of *Contact* about the Transformation Experience are one of the ways we are following through with our commitment to respond to your requests for information about what we are learning in the program that you can begin to use in your own ministry now.

Purpose

Ministries everywhere are looking at what is needed to thrive in a postmodern world. The Transformation Experience is a proactive program to meet the challenges of the postmodern world with vitality and Spirit-guided creativity.

The overall purpose of the Transformation Experience (TE) program is to develop and enhance the leadership capacity of Unity ministers, licensed teachers, board members, and lay persons, as well as the organizational effectiveness of Unity ministries. The intended outcome is to increase member ownership and involvement in Unity ministries and equip credentialed and lay leaders to work together to create vibrant spiritual communities that embody Unity principles and transform lives.



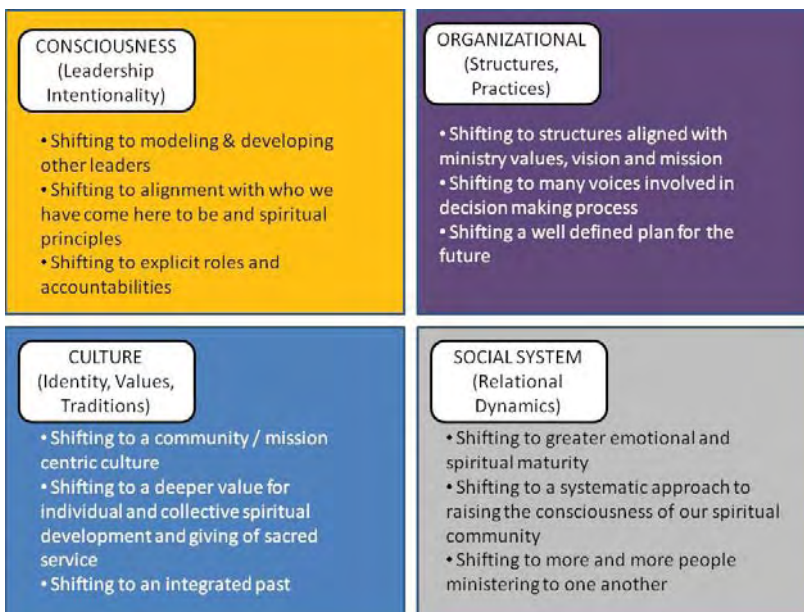
Overview

The Transformation Experience consists of the three-year Thriving Ministries Pilot Program, in which 12 Unity ministries are voluntarily participating, and the Enlightened Leaders program in which over 100 additional Unity ministries and 18 individuals are participating.

In this issue we focus primarily on what we are learning in the Thriving Ministries Pilot Program.

The three-year Pilot Program is a whole-system approach based on the Thriving Ministry model. It is designed so that all the “parts and pieces” integrate into a whole system and everything vibrates with a “holy hum.” The Pilot Program is a field test for shifting to a new paradigm of ministry. Through the pilot we are learning how to scale program elements to different size ministries and how to most effectively facilitate key developmental shifts in four different “quadrants” or aspects of ministry, as illustrated on page 9.

The total income for the Transformation Experience comes from the John Templeton Foundation grant monies plus the increased portion of tithes from the Thriving Ministries Pilot Program and Enlightened Leaders Program participating ministries. We make every effort to ensure that program costs do not exceed this income.



- Evolutionary councils—conscious conversations and mapping what is
- Spiritual gifts identification process and system to integrate into service opportunities
- Sacred service culture and system
- Creating and leading successful ministry teams
- Ongoing spiritual development process and roadmap
- Ongoing leadership development process and roadmap
- Welcoming culture and system
- Assessments to discern which elements are the next step for your ministry
- Additional Enlightened Leaders modules and materials
- Opportunities to connect in community with other transforming ministries
- Advice on what is essential for sustained transformation

All options will reflect what has been garnered from the field testing and measurements provided by the generosity of those in the pioneering Pilot Program ministries.

In addition, the ministers in the current Pilot Program are looking forward to mentoring and assisting others in successfully moving through the process, challenges and opportunities of TE. We will also have experienced consultant guides who have been working with the Pilot Program ministries available to support you.

We invite you to read the other TE related articles in this issue of *Contact* for ideas on how you can begin to prepare yourself and your ministry for your next level of thriving and transformation.

An ordained Unity minister and licensed Unity teacher, Deborah Frownfelter is vice president of Education, Leadership and Ministry Development at Unity Worldwide Ministries' home office. She has extensive experience in education, leadership and organizational development, teambuilding, and coaching leaders. She can be reached at doe@unity.org.

How Can I Benefit From What Is Being Learned?

Some of the proven program elements of the TE Pilot Program are available to you right now, if you are feeling called to engage with them.

- Enlightened Leaders Season 1 DVD/CD set which includes all videos and customized materials
- Enrollment in Enlightened Leaders Season 2
- Thriving Ministries dinner and TE-related keynotes and workshops at the Unity People's Convention
- Four Whys process for creating or renewing vision, mission and core values along with future planning
- Art & Practice of Living with Nothing and No One Against You
- Q Process Facilitator Training and Certification
- Spiritual Intelligence Assessment (SQi) and coaching

What Can I Expect in the Future?

Currently we are praying into and considering possibilities for the next wave of TE. With sufficient funding, we intend to have a number of options available for taking your ministry to its next level of thriving:

- Another cohort of ministries experiencing a multi-year whole-system process based on learning from the current TE Pilot Program (this is dependent on obtaining renewal of the John Templeton Foundation grant or other major funding source)
- Additional modules of Thriving in Unity
- Guidebooks for major program elements, including:
 - Integral board training



Experiencing Transformation

Lessons We've Learned—Are You Ready to Transform?

by Cyndi Swall

Transformation in the world happens when people are healed and start investing in other people. So, it may not surprise you that our Transformation Experience (TE) Pilot Program communities quickly recognized the importance of supporting their leaders in personal spiritual maturity before diving into the deep end of the tasks necessary to transform a church culture. The most powerful contributor to success in any positive, structured change is paying homage to who you are “being” in the experience, not just focusing on “doing” the activities required. The awareness that inspires a community to embody and reward the deep meaning of their core values is a critical foundation for the biggest shifts to occur. That’s easier said than done, but you can’t skip this step and expect sustainable growth.

Whether you are considering the Transformation Experience for your ministry or just knowing that your community is ready to take its own next step into fuller potential, you’ll benefit from this advice we’ve collected from your colleagues in the field. Truth is: you’re in transformation whether you’ve formalized the process or not. Nothing is static. We are either in growth or decline at all times. So, while we may take comfort in the familiarity of our experience in our spiritual community, it’s important to keep asking: Are we thriving or surviving? You don’t have to look far for evidence of either. The good news is that you have a choice.

We want to share some really helpful tips from those ministries currently navigating the excitement and challenges of their own transformation:

- Don’t expect instant results—deep shifts often take place disguised as chaos and rarely happen on your timeline.
- While the senior minister remains responsible for all aspects of his or her ministry—s/he needn’t do everything. As s/he empowers others, opportunities open for people to step into service at all levels of the ministry.
- As Above/So Below—acknowledge the role of all leaders to develop themselves both spiritually and professionally in order to hold a higher resonance field for the whole.
- Over-communicate—to everyone about everything—at multiple times and in different ways. Just because you said it doesn’t mean they got it!
- Holding leaders accountable for raising the “collective consciousness” allows everyone to be spiritually nourished in the community, rather than being focused on the burdens of managing the work.
- Deeply examine the stories you tell yourself about how to run a ministry and what’s possible for your community. How accurate are they?

Truth is:
you’re in
transformation
whether you’ve
formalized the
process or not.

- Make use of all the tools available to you. Such as Art & Practice of Unity With Nothing and No One Against You, etc.
- Although significant change happens from the top, be sure to get buy-in from the congregation if you expect global support.
- Rather than focus on what needs to be fixed, soar with your vision and build from there (think Appreciative Inquiry).
- Finally, don't try to do this alone! There is something about an outside influence—someone who can be part of the process without becoming enmeshed—that becomes a powerful agent for change. Unity Worldwide Ministries has a number of trained consultant guides to support you through any shift you are seeking to make after the conclusion of the Pilot Program.

If the concept of taking on anything else (on top of “doing church”) is feeling a little overwhelming right now, consider starting small and taking on one developmental shift at a time. In assessing where you are and where you want to go, honor the things that you're doing well. Look for the good and celebrate often! Yet always stay open to even greater possibility. The pay-off for conscious growth will reveal itself as a more engaged, committed community, enhanced relationships with one another and dynamic, inspired leadership. It will no longer be a question of how to market your spiritual community for broader appeal because people will seek you out with one intention: to “have what you're having.” Thriving ministries are the direct result of making the decision to be one, then committing to a mindful process toward that shift.

James Trapp has a vision for the Unity movement—to become universally recognized and for our principles to reach out and heal the planet. There has never been a time in Earth's history when the Unity message has been more important. Transforming yourself and your ministry is no longer optional, because transformation isn't an event or a program—it's a way of being. It's a lifestyle. It's our future. This is the time....and we are the Ones!

Cyndi is an executive coach, leadership consultant and highly requested keynote speaker. Cyndi is also the project manager supporting your Unity Worldwide Ministries' Transformation Experience.



Fact or Fiction?

The Transformation Experience

Fiction

The reason Unity Worldwide Ministries is in financial difficulty is because most of the tithe income is spent on the Transformation Experience.

Fact

Total income for Transformation Experience is from:

- the John Templeton Foundation grant monies
- The increased portion of tithes from both Pilot Program and Enlightened Leader Program participating ministries.

We make every effort to ensure that TE program costs do not exceed this income.

Fiction

The Thriving Ministry model diminishes the role of the senior minister.

Fact

The senior minister's role as spiritual leader is honored and remains the key role. As other credentialed and lay leaders are equipped and empowered to serve through their own gifts and calling, the minister is able to focus on his/her own areas of strength, passion, and calling, making ministry even more alive and exciting.

Fiction

The Thriving Ministry model does not have a proven track record.

Fact

The Thriving Ministry model is endorsed by Ken Wilber. The processes and programs designed to support the implementation of the Thriving Ministry Model are based upon proven principles and practices from other fields.

The generous pioneering ministries participating in the Transformation Experience Pilot Program are providing the opportunity to field test, measure, and give feedback so that we can provide others with what successfully supports thriving ministry. Several ministers in other denominations have contacted Unity Worldwide Ministries and are excited about learning and implementing this leading edge model.

Cultural Creatives

Our New Members?

by David Ridge



Every Unity ministry has, in its immediate neighborhood, a large and emerging group of people who share the values taught by Unity. These potential members of your spiritual community compose between 15 and 20 percent of the American population. According to several surveys of religious participation in America, nearly half of their respondents consider a “higher power” to be part of their lives but are religiously unaffiliated. If you could connect with a small fraction of this unaffiliated group who share our values, how large would your congregation be? What programs could you offer? What effect would your ministry have on the attitudes and conversations in your greater community? In Living Water Unity’s case, we estimate over 5,000 of these unaffiliated individuals who share our values reside in our five-mile service area. Our challenge, as with most Unity ministries, is “How do we connect with them?”

Described by Paul Ray and Sherry Ruth Anderson in their book, *Cultural Creatives: How 50 Million People are Changing the World*, the Cultural Creatives (CCs) have been identified by the Unity Identity Project as Unity’s most receptive potential audience. Arising from the activist movements of the 60’s and 70’s—the human/civil rights, feminists and environmental movements and their associated groups—the CCs share a set

of common values (see sidebar). While few CCs can claim to have been involved in those movements, most CCs trace the development of their values to the influence those movements have had on them. Engaging the CCs in our ministries does not require we change who we are or what we teach. We just need to let them know we share their values!

Ray and Anderson emphasize that the demographic profile of the CCs closely mirrors the U.S. population, with the exception of education; CCs tend to be better educated than the population in general. Notice that the values shown in the sidebar match what most Unity ministers teach of personal empowerment and social responsibility. You can likely identify many people in your ministry that embody these values. Understanding the motivations and decision criteria used by the CCs will provide insight into what to offer and how to structure your programs. You enhance your programs for those already present and ease the introduction and integration of the CCs into your community.

Perhaps your ministry already has:

- small group programs oriented to building communities of like-minded individuals,



- social action programs focused on the environment and community programs,
- volunteer opportunities within the greater community for people to express their passions,
- integrated series of classes to enhance people's understanding of their connection with the Divine and with each other,
- positive, open and inclusive teachings with which many people can identify, and
- an emphasis on personal empowerment and responsibility.

If not, these are important to consider as your development team focuses the efforts and resources of your ministry.

As we embrace our new Unity identity, we also have the opportunity to share our successful experiences as we attract the CCs to our ministries. Email me with your questions and descriptions of your successful programs and activities at livingwaterunity@comcast.net. A follow-up article will draw upon your feedback.

For a synopsis of Unity-relevant characteristics of the CCs found in Ray and Anderson's book, visit <http://tinyurl.com/4sdjwyr>. You may add your comments or relevant quotes from the book in this document. Please follow the instructions for updating and commenting at the beginning of this document so we all may be blessed by your insights.

David Ridge is senior minister at Living Water Unity in Arvada, Colorado, Livingwaterunity@comcast.net.

How many of these values do you share with the CCs?

- ☐ Love of nature and deep caring about its preservation and natural balance
- ☐ Desire to see more action on the planet-wide issues of global warming, poverty and overpopulation
- ☐ Active in supporting important causes
- ☐ Willing to pay higher taxes or spend more money for goods if that money goes to improving the environment
- ☐ Heavy emphasis on the importance of developing and maintaining relationships
- ☐ Heavy emphasis on the importance of helping others and developing their unique gifts
- ☐ Volunteer with one or more good causes
- ☐ Intense interest in spiritual and psychological development
- ☐ See spirituality as an important aspect of life but worry about religious fundamentalism
- ☐ Desire equity for women/men in business, life and politics, and concern for, and support of, the well-being and freedom of women and children
- ☐ Want government to focus more attention and resources on education, community programs and environmental sustainability
- ☐ Unhappy with the divisiveness of the political left and right, optimistic about the future
- ☐ Want to be involved in creating a new and better way of life
- ☐ Concern for how big business generates profits by destroying the environment and exploiting poorer countries and disempowered individuals
- ☐ Dislike the emphasis placed on consumerism and "making money"

According to Ray and Anderson, if you share 10 or more of these values, you're likely a Cultural Creative.

Disaster Response as Ministry

by Robert H. Barnes

How might Unity become a visible force to bring practical, spiritual comfort and healing to people at the worst times of their lives? Might disaster response be a valid Unity ministry?

For information on what other spiritual communities are providing, one good resource is Christian Disaster Response at www.disastercenter.com/agency.htm.

The answers, of course, lie within. Begin with a dialogue to determine the extent of your congregation's commitment to such a ministry. Then consider what distinctive offering you might bring to the disaster response table. On one level, Unity principles and practices are perhaps the most valuable contribution. On another, I suggest you ask some questions.

Might your facility serve as a temporary shelter? Might you provide spiritual support and/or an open door, spiritual safe haven? Do you have a volunteer corps of folks to "muck out," chain saw, house and/or train incoming disaster volunteers?

If you have a local chapter of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), learn what other resources have already been identified in your community. Also try your local American Red Cross and ministerial alliance organizations. For information on what other spiritual communities are providing, one good resource is Christian Disaster Response at www.disastercenter.com/agency.htm.

Find a local Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Homeland Security, or Emergency Management person, and ask "what gaps currently exist in disaster response in our community?" When I last asked, I learned of the need

for trained advocates willing to walk traumatized folks through the maze of agencies and services for which they might be eligible for assistance.

Your own disaster preparedness is also advisable. What disasters might be most likely for your community—floods, tornadoes, earthquake, hurricanes, forest or wild land fires? And then consider those less likely—a downed airliner—hazardous materials spill, local shooting at a school, mall or other public location. There may be some for which you are not equipped to respond, so set some limits as to what you are willing and able to provide.

For "natural disasters," I suggest that you consider the needs of your own congregation, particularly the elderly, homebound, and those without transportation. How would you locate dispersed members, and what communication plans are in place? What are the limits of your building's insurance? Are you protected against water and wind damage, for example? Some Gulf Coast churches were denied coverage if they had only one type of insurance. Where do you store your church's financial and other vital records?

Imagine the human challenges a disaster creates, determine your resources, your talents, where your passion lies, and make a plan.

Robert H Barnes, MDiv, can be reached at graceunlimited.net@gmail.com. Additional disaster resources are at www.GraceUnlimited.net.

Anti-Bullying Project

by PUSD's Faith-Based Round Table

by Jan Chase

March 2011 was filled with a city-wide interfaith anti-bullying campaign in Pomona, California. The superintendent of Pomona Unified School District started a faith-based roundtable last spring. I began inviting my local interfaith friends—Baha'i, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus—to the table with predominantly conservative Christians. The Jews, Bahai's and Muslims came. In fact, the principal of the K-12 Islamic school, Dr. Haleema Shaikley, came with other Muslim friends. When they asked us to create a project to see if we liked working together, we came up with a very comprehensive anti-bullying campaign. The City Council of Pomona presented proclamations for an Anti-Bullying Week and a month of Bullying Awareness.

We worked together to choose and write content for presentations to 3rd graders at assemblies. Skits were written and filmed with local 3rd graders acting out these skits. A video was produced. A three-hour training was put on for all 41 presenters by the school district's psychologist. Materials were collected and packaged for each school at the City of Knowledge Islamic School. Diverse teams of presenters presented 45-50 minute assemblies in 33 schools in one week: 29 PUSD schools, 2 Catholic schools, and 2 Muslim schools. Eighteen Muslim seniors

were trained and at least 12 actually were on assembly teams. The response of 3rd graders, teachers and principals has been very enthusiastic and they are asking us to return and do other grades.



At the same time as this was going on, another team was working on an art contest for grades 1-12 around 12 themes involving moral values. There were over 350 entries and on March 29, about 400 participants gathered at a Pomona school for a reception for the principals, teachers, children and parents in the video and art contest, and the round table participants. I would say that half of those there were Muslim and half of the art contest winners were Muslim. It was overwhelmingly gratifying to see Richard Martinez, our superintendent of schools, awarding prizes to such a diverse group and to see the veiled principal Haleema speak to the assembly.

I am finding that my interfaith work is a way to meet and connect with those of different faiths but that the deeper work comes then by inviting them into the community work we are doing.

Jan Chase is senior minister of Unity of Pomona, California, janhoshin@aol.com



A group of third graders for the anti-bullying assemblies.

1899

1929

Our Heritage Informs

Read about three forum participant's experience



Excitement, nervousness, and curiosity were swirling around within me as I embarked on my flight from Newark, New Jersey in January. These are just some of

the feelings I was experiencing that are associated with journeying into a new life experience. I was on my way to my first forum at Unity Village as a lay leader serving on Unity Worldwide Ministries' Board of Trustees.

During the barren, bitterly cold month of January, seeds of possibilities were sprouting within the meeting rooms of the Spiritual Life Center as our facilitator, Doug Krug, masterfully led those who had gathered through exercises that would help capture a vision for Unity. Spirit's presence was palpable, for as small groups began to share their thoughts with the group at large, common themes rippled throughout the room. Although numerous ideas emerged, the desire for Unity World Headquarters and Unity Worldwide Ministries to come together working to answer the call to love and serve the world during such rapidly changing and challenging times, generated a joyous and enthusiastic call to action.

As the forum came to a close, the boards from both organizations were engulfed in a sea of love as all joined in prayer to show appreciation, support, and commitment to the work before us. I was filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude, humility, and dedication—knowing I have been given a sacred opportunity to serve.

—Angela Denton



When I first came to Unity Village many years ago it was stunning. My parents' lives had been changed once they found Unity and as children we noticed the difference. Unity Village was an oasis of beauty. Just stepping onto the grounds we felt the sacredness of prayers being spoken for a different way of being, of putting God first and knowing the still, small voice inside

was a constant source of wisdom and guidance, no matter what the outer appearance may be. The grounds were beautiful and people from all around the world came to share ideas, learn more about each other, and simply be.

The Village Chapel was packed, with Jane and Sig Paulson as ministers. My parents ran the retreat program for fifteen years and we were blessed to have many spiritual leaders come to our home to share ideas, food and laughter. May Rowland was still the head of Silent Unity and we shared wondrous times of prayer and celebration that remain with me today. I call this time the Camelot years because the joy I experienced as a teenager watching the movie, with its beautiful cast and wonderful songs, reminded me of Unity Village.

During those years, everything was exciting and people were spilling all over the beautiful grounds. People's lives were



1949

1969

1989

2009

Our Future

transformed, and in gratitude they came back whenever they could to experience the sacred grounds and the consciousness of prayer and meditation. We heard the powerful messages of unlimited possibilities, of healing, of abundance and the flow of divine ideas. I heard amazing talks by leading spiritual leaders of the time.

I watched many of our great ministers as they came on grounds to attend ministerial school, their eyes filled with joy and enthusiasm. Unity was a radical movement at that time and I loved it for that. We stood for practical Christianity and I loved the encouragement to take action on my dreams, vision and intention.

I love Unity even more today. I love the harmony being found between science and spirituality. I love learning all the ways we can communicate even more effectively with each other. I know it begins with me being clear about who I am and being willing to dismantle beliefs that separate me from knowing my oneness with God and every sentient being. It is exciting to be a part of creating a new story that will be told through the years, and to leave a legacy for future generations. I am willing to dance on the edge, knowing it's all God and so all is well.

—Carla McClellan

This year's Forum had a vibe going on like I had never experienced in such a Unity gathering. There was pure excitement, openness and a true sense that those who were there wanted to progress forward, even if we were not necessarily clear what forward meant. There was a consensus weaving among us that the time was at hand to do something bigger, better, and more progressive than we have ever done and we were ready to do it. I love this kind of



willingness because it literally empowers me to dream larger, to think more outside the box that others may have created, and to be open to hearing the thoughts and visions of those who are older, younger, quieter, and even louder than another. As I looked around the room I was amazed at how colorful and different and yet so alike we all are. Unity in Unity was right before my eyes, and I was deeply moved and extremely proud to be a part of this movement. I knew that this was the creative process at full throttle and transformation was unfolding.

There are those who love to share the stories of what was, and some of those stories are incredible to hear for those of us who are the newer generation in the movement. The days of Charles and Myrtle, May Rowland and James DilleTT Freeman mesmerize me when Dorothy Pierson brings them so vibrantly to life. Or, when Carla McClellan tells of what growing up on the grounds of Unity Village was like, and dinners in their home with spiritual innovators such as George Lamsa and others. I could listen attentively for hours.

There is something very sacred about honoring our past and this newer generation. I believe, we understand just how important this is to our future. Kelly Isola at one point in the closing of the forum stood up and shared that we are ready to create a new story in our history and that it is time that we stop talking about doing these wonderful things, and actually begin to do them. Her comments received great applause and support from everyone in the gathering. As one of the younger ministers active in ministry, I can't wait to see where we are heading and the powerful work that is taking place and will take place in the days ahead.

—Jamie Sanders

Ken Wilber Applauds the Transformation Experience

by Gary Simmons

Jane and I recently had the awesome experience of meeting with Ken Wilber at his home in Denver, Colorado. The meeting came on the heels of a two-hour phone dialogue where Ken and I discussed my formulation of an integral model of ministry and its implementation in Unity Worldwide Ministries' Pilot Program. Ken was eager to learn firsthand how the Pilot Program was unfolding saying, "this is the first intentional effort to bring forth a second tier [enlightened] organizational paradigm congruent with integral theory." What Ken found so unique and groundbreaking about the model and the Transformation Experience (TE) was its whole-system approach to organizational development that is aligned with spiritual principles.



Ken shared that, to his knowledge, no one has come as far in mapping a developmental pathway to second tier organizational structure and practice. He was impressed with the emphasis on leadership development as the foundation of a thriving ministry.

Ken explained that moving to any enlightened perspective requires not only a movement toward greater spiritual maturity, but also an actual leap in consciousness. This leap is not possible unless the church's leadership is actively engaged in spiritual practice and shadow work. "The need for shadow work is a

message that you would have to convey to your ministries if they are to grow spiritually. It is impossible to fully actualize second tier

imperatives without the church's leaders leading the way in this [shadow work]."



Ken Wilber

I shared how each ministry in the Pilot Program has an Art & Practice Ambassador trained in facilitating a 21-Day aware-apy activity called the Q Process™—a methodology for shadow work—and how this has equipped leaders to differentiate between issues that arise from the organization's pain body and their own shadow material.

Prior to my visit with Ken, I sent him a video of a training module I created for our TE consultant guides on how shadow work can lead to greater organizational coherence and integrity. The module is called Integral Wizardry™ and helps community leaders to work consciously with issues and embrace challenges as evolutionary forces rather than problems to resolve. Here's what Ken said:

I saw the video you sent where you were addressing the importance for people to allow discomfort and not run away from it—because, actually the discomfort is pointing toward where work needs to be done. We need to look at it, embrace it, be aware of it and work with it. When we do that, it's not a bad thing—in a sense, sort of a Geiger counter—when it goes off, this is where the gold is, the good stuff. Shadow work is really one of the most fundamental things an individual has to take into account in order to be able to grow, really at all.

Ken was impressed with three elements of the Transformation Experience.

First, the developmental goals and milestones are clearly defined and informed by a coherent integral map of ministry development. In each of the four quadrants—leadership consciousness (UL), church identity and culture (LL), community dynamics (LR), and organizational structures, practices and systems (UR)—is an integrally informed protocol for facilitating stage shifts (refer to graphic on page 9 of this issue). Ken emphasized the importance of educating the community about spiritual and organizational development. “When individuals just study any developmental map—any of them—it actually accelerates their development. So just learning that there are developmental stages for the organization, as well as for the individuals within them, gets them moving.” Ken thought that the teaching of psycho-spiritual stages of development should be a part of what a ministry offers its community that would lead to a more

mature congregation. “A function of the church should be to show how the mind develops and evolves, and invite people to get involved in the process,” he added.

The second element of the Transformation Experience that pleased Ken was the effort to facilitate organizational transformation via the Enlightened Leaders Program and the movement toward integral structures and organizational practices. I shared with Ken the elements of our Integral Board Training module that is being introduced to the Pilot Program ministries and emphasizes the importance of explicit accountabilities and requisite structures, and how this emphasis creates greater coherence and congruence between the leadership and the spiritual community. Ken noted that whenever leaders become conscious and intentional about the quality of the resonance field that they embody, they naturally aspire to align in greater integrity with best practices.

The third element emphasizes shadow work as foundational to spiritual growth and maturity. Ken was quite articulate regarding the importance of teaching about the stages of human development and making shadow work a part of the community's practice and culture.

Ken's generosity of time and personal support has been gratifying to me and a blessing to Unity Worldwide Ministries and the Transformation Experience.

Gary Simmons, Th.D. is an ordained Unity minister and co-founder of The Q Effect, LLC and serves as an outside consultant to the Transformation Experience. drgarysimmons@gmail.com.

A function of the church should be to show how the mind develops and evolves, and invite people to get involved in the process.

—Ken Wilber

IYOU Dream Seed Scholarship Is Rooted in Love

by Deb Hill-Davis

At the 2011 annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration, the Unity Institute Student Association (UISA) received a love offering during the lunch program. This love offering was the inspiration of the MLK planning team and will support a deserving teen in attending the International Youth of Unity (YOU) Conference at Unity Village this coming August 2011.

When the planning team first met in November 2010, I asked if a love offering was received during the MLK Day program at Unity Inn. Hearing that it had never been done, I proposed that UISA initiate this as a scholarship for YOU.

The total amount raised combined with the same initiative on the Sunday before MLK Day at the "Bessie Coleman Story" was in the neighborhood of \$900! This is enough to fully support two teens in attending International YOU this summer at Unity Village.

To be eligible for a "Seed," teens are required to write an essay about Rev. Martin Luther King's famous speech and describe

how YOU and Unity have helped them realize their dream. According to Jane Simmons, there are already teens who are planning to participate. The recipients will then share their essays at the IYOU event, "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the NOW," being held August 1-6, 2011.

If you choose to contribute to this scholarship fund, please send a check made out to Unity Worldwide Ministries, with IYOU on the memo line, to: Unity Worldwide Ministries, PO Box 610, Lee's Summit MO 64063.

Deb Hill-Davis is a second-year Unity Institute ministerial student and member of the MLK planning team. She may be reached at davdesigns9@msn.com.

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Great Lakes YOU Sparks Inter-generational EarthCare Project

by Linda Stalvey

The passion, energy, and idealism of youth met the intensity, wisdom and experience of the adult on a bus ride from Great Lakes Fall Unitreat. By the end of the ride, Ben Georgoff, regional YOU communications officer, and Chuck Holman, Great Lakes EarthCare coordinator, planted the seed and grew a sapling for the Great Lakes Region YOU EarthCare Project.

In less than six months, this dynamic twosome developed a structure to ensure education, expansion and continuation of an EarthCare project rapidly crossing the boundaries of the Great Lakes Region.

Ben now adds the responsibility as executive director of youth EarthCare to his regional YOU office. "I read a lot about volunteer structure and management before developing our structure. It has certainly helped a lot." Organizationally, Ben's box resides under Chuck's, but the bond formed by these two talented and devoted individuals cannot be put in a box.

The YOU EarthCare team consists of Angelina [Anja] Cousineau from Appleton, Wisconsin, director of coaching; Hannah Princic from Chesterland, Ohio, director of program development; and Ben Greaves from Kalamazoo, Michigan, director of media. Each teen interviewed for the position and committed to six to twelve months of service. At six months, the project will be re-evaluated.

Ben hosts a weekly conference call for YOU members interested in developing EarthCare within their chapter and



Great Lakes Fall Unitreat.

spiritual community. Prior to the call, his core team meets to plan and discuss needs. A YOU website, www.youearthcare.org, went live at the end of March. Ben moved the site to greengeeks.com—a green server that promotes itself as 300% wind powered. Facebook also has a Great Lakes Region YOU EarthCare group.

The Great Lakes YOU EarthCare team spearheaded Covenanting Sunday, a ceremony related to Track A of the Unity EarthCare Program. The first Covenant Sunday was held on April 3rd, and more are being planned. Approximately ten churches participated, including a few spiritual communities from outside of the region.

Ben anticipates a rapid move toward national and international growth of the project. He is scheduled to present at International YOU. In April, Anja and Hannah presented at Spirit's Light Foundation with Chuck. Ben has already introduced the project at sub-regional YOU events. After June rally and graduation, he will remain as executive director of the Great Lakes YOU EarthCare Project, to ensure the initiative is solid.

"We're going to inherit this planet someday," says Ben. "I truly believe EarthCare is part of the mindshift that will bring this planet to peace. Will you support our future?"

Linda Stalvey is a member of the Great Lakes Region EarthCare Team. For further information visit www.greatlakesunity.com/earthcare.



Affirming Life, Accepting Death

by Chaplain John Connor

Just this morning, a hospice patient of mine died. I'll call her Chris. When Chris was admitted to hospice, two doctors agreed that if her disease followed its normal course, she would likely die within six months. She lived for three more years.

When my mother came under our hospice care, I thought she'd live two more years, but she passed within a month. There isn't an exact science to predicting the end of life. James Dillett Freeman, in *The Story of Unity*, reports that Charles Fillmore was so thorough in his "denial" of death that at Myrtle's passing he said, "It is not our custom here at Unity even to mention the visits of the 'last enemy'..."

You cannot affirm yourself out of death. That said, I can readily say that I have seen (as many in Unity have) situations in which death looked very close, and then change occurred and some improvement manifested. My concern, though, is that as a movement that is oriented to the "positive," we can inappropriately turn away from the reality of death, turn away from the reality of what a dying person is going through, and what their loved ones are going through.

Hospice chaplaincy specifically, and ministry at the end of life in general, is a ministry of acceptance. This includes accepting the dying person's beliefs without trying to change them; accepting the coming "transition" for the person, their family and friends; acceptance by the person of his or her self, choices, and life.

There can be such beauty and tenderness, as walls come down and the whole circle of people involved can risk letting their love out, letting their tears out, even letting their laughter out. It is sweet and amazing to me how readily people can laugh: I've been at the bedside of a patient who died minutes earlier, and asked the family to tell me about him. Many times a quirk or an endearing trait of the person who has passed is recalled by their loved ones, and laughter blossoms at memories of the deceased's stubbornness, or how he loved shopping, or the quirky trinkets he collected.

What do people want at the end of life, and how can we serve them?

As mentioned above, acceptance is a big piece of the puzzle. As we talk—yet mostly listen—to our congregant, we can affirm what is good and loving and adventurous in them. We can do this without "correcting" them for having negative thoughts, or anger, or hurts. A woman or man at the end of life has little use for platitudes—they want to keep it real; real feelings, real sharing, and sometimes real quiet. Just being. There is a powerful urge to talk to fill the space, but silence can be wonderful, too.

Dying folks want their loved ones near.

It's observable anecdotally, but also through research, that a high proportion of terminally ill people can "hang on" for major events at the end of their life:

A woman or man at the end of life has little use for platitudes—they want to keep it real; real feelings, real sharing, and sometimes real quiet. Just being.

a wedding, a birth, the arrival of a far-off son on leave from the military. I ministered at the wedding of a young woman with cancer who declined very rapidly. At the rehearsal the night before, she could barely stay conscious in her wheelchair. But the next day, she stood up for a minute and said "I do." Twenty-five hours later I was there at the hospice when she died, tearful but happy for her that she got to marry the man she loved in the wedding she'd planned.

My own sister Nadine passed away last May under the care of Odyssey Hospice, where I work. Much of my professional knowledge and insight did not serve me, when it was my own family member. It wasn't until her doctor mentioned hospice that she was really ready. I barely had the courage to even mention hospice to her. I'd recommend to ministers and licensed teachers that if you have a loved one who is dying, you let someone else be the spiritual "provider." You can just be

the son or daughter who is dealing with your feelings.

Dying people want prayer.

Pray in the moment spontaneously with the patient. Also, pray the Lord's Prayer with them (assuming they are Christian). Amazingly, even people with fairly advanced dementia will often be able to verbally join in on the Lord's Prayer, and the spiritual and emotional comfort it brings is poignant to everyone present.

John is a professional chaplain, with four certified units in Clinical Pastoral Education, and is also a licensed Unity teacher, john@reverendconnor.com.



Fish Tales

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Tithing to Our Source

Unity Center in Leavenworth is a small congregation—but big on Principle.

by Kathryn Kellogg

Three years ago, this spiritual community purchased their first building and excitedly moved in. Dreams of what this facility could mean for them and the greater area fueled hope and anticipation. A partnership with a local organization meant that the mortgage would be easily handled.

Then the partnering organization had to step out, and changing economics began to affect the ministry. The community began to experience problems meeting monthly expenses and would borrow from the next month's income. The salaries for the minister and musician were decreased and even though members wanted to tithe, there wasn't any cash left over.

That didn't stop this ministry. Cheryl Tellefson, the board president, reminded everyone of the story of Elisha, the woman with the pot of oil. The woman had lost her husband and the creditors were going to take her sons into slavery to pay the debt. Elisha said to the woman, "What shall I do for you? Tell me what do you have in the house?" (2 Kings 4:2) Cheryl asked the group, "What do we have in the house, in the church?" What they had was the building and they begin to offer the facility for free or a nominal fee to nonprofit groups. One of these groups was a Spanish-speaking congregation looking for a larger meeting place.

Unity Center then created a new prosperity affirmation and studied *The*

Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity by Edwene Gaines. In six months, not only was Unity Center doing better, but so was the Spanish-speaking congregation. With monthly bills being paid, the group stepped into their next financial goal: tithing from the gross.

The next question was, who do we tithe to? In the past, the tithe had been split between Unity and local organizations. However, the ministry already gave to the community through use of the building and participating in holiday bell ringing, food campaigns, etc. Why not give to the organizations that exist so that the ministry can exist? What if we tithed to those organizations whose sole purpose is to make sure Unity Center thrives?

Today, Unity Center in Leavenworth tithes to Unity Worldwide Ministries, Unity School of Christianity, and the South Central Unity Church Association. The blessings continue to unfold for this spiritual community as they continue in their gratefulness for "daily bread" and hold high their dreams and vision of a center that opens minds, hearts, and the doors of its facility.

Kathryn Kellogg is the children and family ministry coordinator at Unity Worldwide Ministries and senior minister of Unity Center in Leavenworth, Kansas, kid@unity.org.



What's Working for Love Offerings and Snail Mail?

Jamie Sanders

In my seven years as the minister at Unity of Pensacola we have achieved some pretty impressive accomplishments. The ministry has taken great strides to not only spiritually empower the people who attend our services, classes and events, but we continue to move forward on the restoration of our 107-year-old building. As any minister knows, marketing skills are imperative to promoting and creating energy around your ministry and its success. One of the most strategic ways of doing this is found through the art of communications.

While many churches are getting onboard with social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook, and finding it quite useful in their promotion work, some have found it necessary to maintain the use of their newsletter to be a huge part of communicating upcoming events. Online newsletters have become quite popular in today's world of computer/techno-savvy ministries and to the conscious online users.

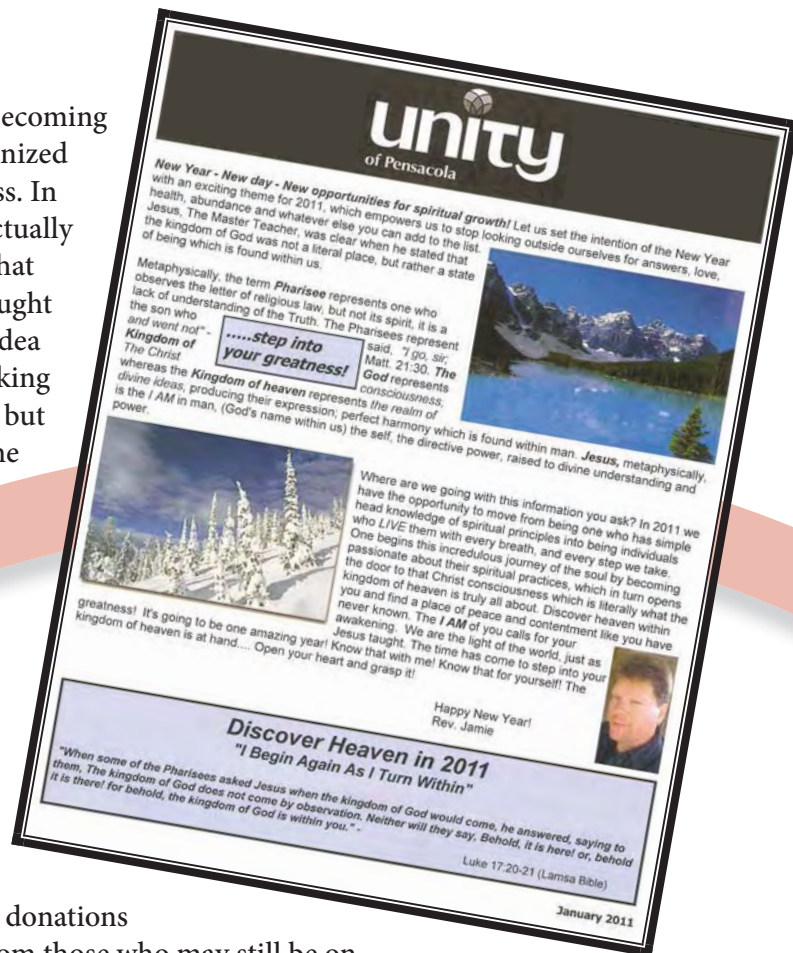
We attempted to save money on the production, printing and mailing cost of our hardcopy newsletter. We thought that if we uploaded the contents to our website, people would find it more accommodating to access the monthly publication at their convenience. Should they desire a printed issue, they could print a full-color or black-and-white version easily. In theory we thought we were being creatively

thrifty and becoming more modernized in the process. In reality, we actually discovered that what we thought was a good idea was not working in our favor, but rather just the opposite.

Unity of Pensacola's newsletter contained within each issue a self-addressed love-

offering envelope for donations and tithes from those who may still be on the mailing list and not attending our services regularly. Most months the gifts that came in from those envelopes paid for the full production of the newsletter and then some. Once the newsletter went online, we became keenly aware that not only did those love offerings vanish, but suddenly attendance to services and special events did as well. Immediately the newsletter went back into full production with envelopes and the snail-mail reactivated. Printed newsletters do require more time and money to produce, but the use of both printed and online communication, social networking sites and word-of-mouth are priceless to the success of any organization and ministry.

Jamie Sanders is senior minister of Unity of Pensacola, Florida, jamie1118@aol.com.



It's All Consciousness!

The Art and Practice Experience in the Pilot Group Ministries

by **Rima Bonario**

The Transformation Experience focuses on supporting the Pilot Program ministries in taking the next evolutionary step into a thriving model of ministry. Every organization is made up of individuals, and the capacity and consciousness of its leaders has particularly strong influence on the capacity and consciousness of the organization. It has been said that the capacity of the organization reflects the capacity of the leaders.

The importance of evolving individual consciousness cannot be overstated. In fact, supporting the individual in evolving consciousness is at the very heart of spiritual community and the Transformation Experience. For this reason The Art & Practice of Living with Nothing and No One Against You and its 21-day practice called The Q Process™ co-created by Gary Simmons, Th.D and Rima Bonario M.A is now a key component of the Pilot Program.

The process weaves together the latest research emerging from neurobiology, developmental psychology, and quantum

science with the wisdom of the world's mystical traditions to offer a powerful path to personal evolution.

Growing Up Human

Despite our best efforts, no human environment can fully and unceasingly reflect the Divine truth of our children back to them. Some environments come close, while others fall woefully short. It is now widely accepted that childhood's earliest years are the most impressionable, but the emerging field of interpersonal neurobiology suggests that it may be even more important than once thought. The convergence of several key factors has led to this conclusion:

- Young children are so deeply dependent on their caregivers for survival that parental response to their attempts at communicating needs is critical. Infants often display trauma responses even during relatively small lapses in need fulfillment.
- Young children have not yet developed the ability to think abstractly, so everything is interpreted in concrete terms. They are still differentiating



themselves from their caregivers and consequently everything that happens is seen and felt by the child as deeply personal and “about them.”

Early experiences may continue to haunt us, even after years of conventional therapy because the unconscious limiting beliefs we picked up early on actually create associated neural architecture that, when triggered, inhibits the ability to make the conscious choices that align with spiritual principle. The Q Process™ helps participants understand and reflect on their biology (how the brain and perception works) and their psychology (how they create meaning) to uncover unconscious, limiting patterns of thought and behavior set in motion in childhood still operating by default.

Transcending the Past

As individuals and communities become aware of these hidden beliefs and ingrained neural firing patterns they can be transformed and released. Congregants, leaders and even the organization become free from old hurts and incomplete and erroneous perceptions that keep them from manifesting their greatest good.

Research by Dr. Daniel J. Siegel and others suggest that our evolution can be fast-tracked if we develop a mindfulness practice that allows us to become aware of physiological and psychological patterns. Mindfulness can be defined as “a way of being,” a practice of being in “moment-to-moment nonjudgmental awareness,” of consciously “taking a second look at our first impulse, thought or reaction, and as a “practice or path of healing.”

The Mindfulness Center in Southern Maine identifies the five core skills of mindfulness as:

1. Clarifying, setting and reaffirming intention: What am I practicing?
2. Cultivating a witnessing awareness: developing meta-cognition, state awareness, and practicing outer non-reactivity while witnessing the inner landscape;
3. Stabilizing attention: staying focused, placing attention on your intention;
4. Strengthening self-regulation: settling negative energy intentionally, bringing the whole brain back on line; and
5. Practicing loving kindness: calming the inner critic and self-judgment, practicing nonjudgmental awareness and kindness and compassion for yourself and others.

The Q Process™ integrates these five principles in a 21-day structured reflection tool to reframe triggering experiences. The 21 days are made up of three (3) seven-day phases. Phase One focuses on critical thoughts or discordant behaviors that may have been directed outwardly. Phase Two focuses on any critical thoughts the participant has directed inwardly (self-criticism, self-judgment) which trigger shame, anxiety, etc. from old firing patterns. Phase Three follows both internal and external triggers into the past to find a memory associated with the pattern and uses a meditative visualization to loosen its emotional associations allowing the neural firing pattern to shift.

In the spring of 2010, Pilot Program ministries selected an individual to attend a week-long training to become a licensed Art & Practice (A&P) Ambassador for their communities. The training provided them with grounding in the interdisciplinary spiritual and scientific core of the A&P course and the 21-day practice. They returned home and began offering ongoing classes to their community—often starting with ministers, boards, staff, and volunteer leaders. So far the impact has been nothing short of profound.

Continued on page 29

Unity Books Launches *Messengers*

Unity Books publishes its first contemporary adult novel, *Messengers*, to boldly address the urgent spiritual questions of our time

During a long airline flight last fall, Unity President and CEO Charlotte Shelton reached into her bag for reading material. She pulled out something she had received, unsolicited, in the mail from an author she'd never heard of. She was "hooked" from page one and, in record speed, she read the entire book.

"Right away, I knew this was a book that would speak to and resonate with many in the Unity movement and beyond," Charlotte says. "It's deeply relevant for the global challenges of the 21st century."

A departure from Unity Books' spiritual self-help, education and inspiration titles, *Messengers* is a novel of comparable magnitude to *The Da Vinci Code*. The fictional story is told by protagonist Jake Daniels. At the novel's opening, just before Jake's SUV collides head-on with a moving truck, a mysterious woman appears and saves Jake's life. A formerly nonreligious person, Jake believes the woman is an angel—and he becomes driven to find out why she intervened. Jake becomes obsessed with learning more about angels, evil and the very meaning of existence.

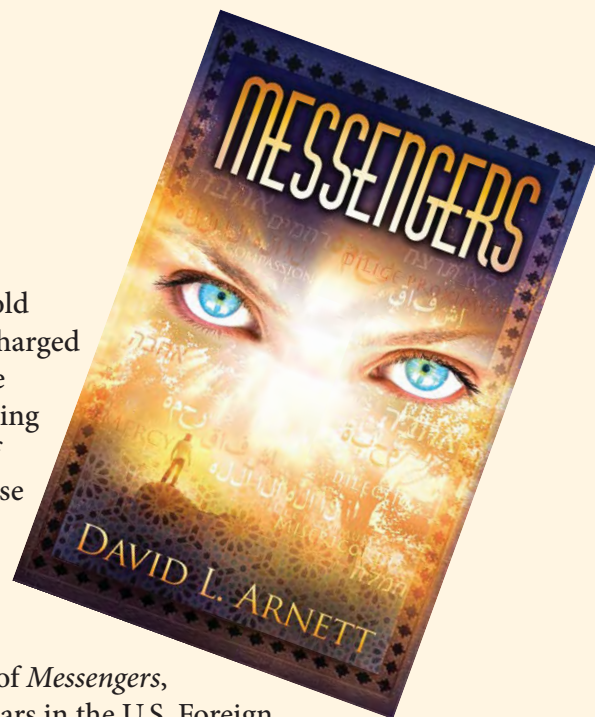
Through myriad consciousness-altering experiences, Jake finds the truth that unites all spiritual traditions. In the novel's

climax, Jake takes a bold stand at a politically charged public gathering, as he fully embraces his calling to prevent the clash of civilizations and reverse the violence and hatred of the post-9/11 world.

David Arnett, author of *Messengers*, spent more than 30 years in the U.S. Foreign Service representing the U.S. government in a variety of diplomatic posts around the world, including Turkey and Japan. He currently devotes his time to writing and lives in Sedona, Arizona.

"David is a wonderful writer who has deep appreciation of all the world religions. He reminds us that in order to achieve a peaceful world, we must find a way to create peace among seemingly diverse religious paths," Charlotte says. "This book deeply affected me, and I believe it will have special appeal to readers with an affinity for angels, near-death experiences, and political intrigue. The book reminds us of the infinite power of love, mercy and compassion."

Messengers will debut at the Unity People's Convention, June 15, 2011, in Overland Park, Kansas. Books will be available in the bookstore at convention, online at www.unitybooks.org, or by calling 1.800.669.0282 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (CT) Monday through Thursday.



Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village is a partner organization to the Unity Worldwide Ministries. It provides education, prayer through Silent Unity, and publishing of *Daily Word*, *Unity Magazine* and other materials.

Art & Practice Experience

Continued from page 27

Here are a few reflections from one ministry's leadership team on how The Art and Practice of Living with Nothing and No One Against You and The Q Process™ has transformed their lives and their community.

A Powerful Awakening



In the beginning I wondered if the Art and Practice of Nothing and No One Against You was just another personal development class with a fancy name. However, being patient, I came back for another week—still nothing was really singing to my soul. Then we did an exercise where we wrote about something that bothered us. Being a long-time Truth student I felt I was handling things pretty well, so I decided to go along

with the exercise. Giving it my best shot, I went deep into my heart and wrote something down.

As I progressed through the questions something interesting began to happen. I started feeling emotions that led me to places and ideas that seemed to have no connection to the original statement I'd written. I saw myself as a child having a conversation with my father. He told me how it wasn't realistic for him to spend the time and money to sponsor me to become a professional golfer because I was a woman, even though I had the talent to succeed. I was devastated. He proceeded to sponsor and mentor a young man who did succeed in becoming a pro.

At that moment in time I formed the belief that "only men were able to excel in certain professions." From then on I became an over-achiever, proving I was good enough to receive recognition for my achievements. I had never thought that about myself, and right there in the classroom I had an "Oh my God" experience.

What an insight! It opened up a whole new world to me. I saw how this affected my relationship with my husband, children and people in my work place. It was an amazing awareness of how I created stress in my own life as well as those around me. All those years I thought I was doing what was best for everyone, never realizing a deep wound in my childhood drove me.

The Art and Practice workshop and 21-Day Q Process™ is a powerful awakening if one can go deep into their heart and allow it to happen. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have such simple, wonderful tools to bring peace in my life. I would recommend this class to everyone. I am a prime example at 69 years young of, "you're never too old or smart to learn." The important part is to give yourself time, be patient, dig deep and stick with it.

—Darce Blakely, Unity of Panama City, Florida

A New Tool

The first thing that drew me to *The Art and Practice of Living with No One and Nothing Against You* was the unusual, if not a bit awkward, title. "Hmmm, I wonder if this is like the sequel to *The I of the Storm?*" However, the Q Process™ is more than just a book—it teaches a way to reach deep into the heart and truly "unpack" all the tangled yarn we have spun from our "stories."



For me, the Q Process™ is unique; masterfully laying the foundation for self-transformation through the development of the "Q" card. The card exercise grounded me in knowing what I am striving to be. It gently guided me through "enemy territory" and led me to embrace what my life is showing me needs to be healed. It not only took me through many dark, deep places where the healing work was to be done, but gave me tools for dealing with the issues I found there.

At the beginning of the 21-Day Q Process™, my first worksheet was on the subject of my resistance to doing the worksheets! I discovered an underlying belief that I was victim to not having enough time to get everything done. The process itself helped me to surrender to it, a move I do not regret!

The worksheets took me from dealing with "enemies" outside myself, to dealing with the "enemy" being myself, and finally to rewriting my stories. The process took me to very deep places, helped me realize my "now" experience is based on my perspective; changing perspective changes my life experience. It trained me to use the steps as I found myself triggered by day-to-day encounters. —Susan Hettick, Unity of Panama City, Florida

For more information on The Art & Practice of Living with Nothing and No One Against You, visit www.theQEffect.com.

Regional News

South Central

Unity of Oak Park invites you to attend a week of Spiritual Education and Enrichment (SEE) classes at our center in Oak Park, Illinois, from Sunday, August 7 through Friday, August 12, 2011. Unity ministers from the Chicago area will teach four day classes and two evening classes. Reduced rates are available if you register by Friday, July 15. For a course schedule, registration form and further details, please access the brochure posted on our website: unityoakpark.org. Please call Unity of Oak Park at 708.848.0960 or email us at unity@unityoakpark.org if you have any questions.

Submitted by Terry Lund, from Las Cruces, New Mexico. From the youth ed director:

I just had to share what happened [recently]. This is an example of why Unity is the only place for me and Patrick. When Patrick got out of tae kwon do, he and a friend were running around playing. His friend's mom and I were chatting. The boys walked up and Patrick was holding a hypodermic needle! My friend and I freaked out and I began to tell them about the danger of touching those, about drugs, about diseases that could be on those. On the way home, Patrick broke down crying and was upset about it for awhile. As I was making dinner, Patrick was pacing around and agitated. He then said "I'm gonna go meditate, Momma. I'm so worked up, that's the only way I'll calm down." We have a meditation corner in our living room with a cushion, candle and beautiful art of prayer hands. He was totally fine after that! This is one of the many reasons I love Unity.

Hugs, Dee

In Memoriam: **Mike Hutchison**, Unity minister from Round Rock, Texas;

West Central

Unity of the Redwood, Eureka, California, sponsored a prosperity project for World Day of Prayer. According to Nancy Only, spiritual leader, it was based on the "Lifting Detroit in Prayer," that Renaissance Unity in Warren, Michigan, did last year (see article in the December 2008/January 2009 issue of *Contact*). Letters were mailed to about 140 churches, and dozens of local service organization, asking them to join Unity of the Redwood. There were radio interviews, press releases and a paid radio commercial. Everyone was asked to spend the 21 days prior to World Day of Prayer holding the thought for our county's prosperity. Whatever their persuasion, they were asked to think positively. On World Day of Prayer, all were invited to join together at noon for prayers and refreshments. In the time involved, one of the local mills was reopened and a dairy association was put back in business. Both of these events mark important economic opportunities for the area—Spirit was very busy in ways we may never know. There are plans to do it again and it is expected to grow in time. If you are interested, you can reach Nancy at 707.444.8725, or by email info@unityoftheredwoods.org.

In Memoriam: **Ralph Grzecki**, Unity minister from Riverbank, California.

Great Lakes

The **Unity Urban Ministerial School (UUMS)** celebrated 32 years of service in Detroit with an anniversary and graduation banquet on May 6. "During the past 3 decades we have provided education and training for over one hundred ministers serving churches across this nation," stated Ruth Mosley-Hall, Unity minister and founder of UUMS. James Trapp, president of Unity Worldwide Ministries, conferred ordination to four graduates.

In Memoriam: **Mildred Collins**, Unity minister from Plymouth, Michigan; **Ruth Harders**, Unity minister from LaGrange, Illinois; **Erica Trantham**, Unity minister from Chicago, Illinois; **Andrea Johnson**, licensed teacher from South Bend, Indiana.

Southeast

In Memoriam: **Dorothy Curtis**, Unity minister from Miami, Florida; **Sallye Wannamaker**, long-time Unity minister from Jacksonville, Florida.

Calendar of Events



June 13-17

Unity People's Convention, Overland Park, KS;
contact Kim Shawd, kim@unity.org

July 10-16

Child/Teen Ministry Week; contact Kathy Kellogg at
Kathy@unity.org

July 25-30

Sound Connections, Unity Village, MO: contact
Richard Mekdeci at Richard@unity.org

August 1-7

International Youth of Unity Conference,
Independence, MO; contact Jane Simmons at
Jane@unity.org

August 7-13

SEE Week at Unity of Oak Park, IL; unity@
unityoakpark.org

September 12-15

Ministerial Program Admissions; contact Cecelia
Holman, credast@unity.org

September 12-15

Admissions; contact Cecelia Holman,
credast@unity.org



info for ministers, licensed teachers, youth ed, and music

Unity Worldwide Ministries is enhancing our e-newsletter format to help you link with all of our resources in a quick, efficient and interesting manner. The new format will launch in the fall of 2011.

Financial Statement

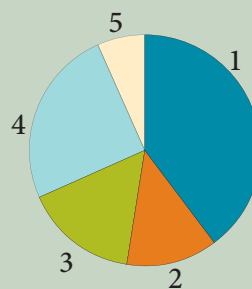
FOR THE PERIOD OF
10/1/2010 TO 4/30/2011

	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)
Love Offerings (Undesignated)	\$ 1,161,493	\$ 1,665,595
Love Offerings (Designated)	229,768	53,908
Grant Incomes	193,875	223,563
Program Incomes	54,658	338,077
Total Revenues	\$ 1,639,794	\$ 2,281,142
Less: Tithe Paid (on undesignated donations)	(113,806)	(163,522)
Program Expenses	(1,063,066)	(1,614,314)
Support Expenses	(455,599)	(528,327)
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,632,471	\$ 2,306,163
Increase from Operation	\$ 7,323	\$ (25,022)

As shown on the financial summary, your Unity Worldwide Ministries (AUCI) shows \$7,323 profit for the first seven months in this fiscal period. When excluding the Convention registration of \$127,133, the deficit of our general fund is \$(119,810), with a monthly tithe income shortfall of \$75,139.

Tithe support from our member ministries, ministers and teachers is significantly important for us to continue the ministry services we provide for you. We appreciate your ongoing financial support.

WHERE DOES OUR MONEY GO?



- 1) Education, Leadership and Ministry Development (608,500)
- 2) Minister & Ministry Services (224,372)
- 3) Communications (264,705)
- 4) Administration/Building (421,088)
- 5) Tithe (113,806)

DOES OUR ASSOCIATION TITHE?

10/1/2010 — 4/30/2011

Unity Institute	22,761
Silent Unity	18,209
Unity	22,761
Unity-fm	11,381
Subtotal Unity	\$75,112
Urban Ministerial School	11,381
International New Thought Alliance	3,414
Association for Global New Thought	5,690
Academy for Peace of Costa Rica	6,828
Unity of Montego Bay	11,381
Total	\$113,806

What's Working in --- Youth and Family Ministry?

by Bill Englehart

Five years ago we had one Sunday school teacher and about 20 children. It was time for a new paradigm, yet we consciously made no attempt to grow the youth ministry until we had a new program in place where the youth and our families could truly be served with excellence. Our intention was to develop an engaging youth ministry that was not limited by prior experience and customs. We went outside the box and challenged old assumptions along the way. We now have 132 youth and 90 families.

There are many aspects to the program that seem to work well:

- paid teachers operating on a professional basis and volunteer parents who assist those teachers;
- assigning parents their dates to help, on a six-month schedule;
- having monthly family activity potluck evenings, and monthly teacher meetings;
- beginning our five classes with structure—prayer, meditation, joy-songs;
- arranging activities for kids with their teachers outside of Sunday church—e.g., movies, bowling;

- having fundraisers—e.g., The Great Jewelry Sale—so that the children take part in contributing to the spiritual community;
- each quarter having all the classes meet together with an emphasis on older and younger kids connecting; and
- teachers all praying together before classes on Sunday mornings.

What kind of results are we experiencing now? The teaching staff is stable and experienced, and parents seem to enjoy helping out. It gives them a chance to see what the children do on Sunday mornings.

People are excited about the youth and family program and we're currently working together on innovations; for example designing a family book lending library. The 10 teens in YOU (Youth of Unity) are very enthused. They are creating our first Kids Kamp for the younger children this summer. They are consistently attending the West Central Region retreats and are holding the light for the younger Uniteens coming along behind them.

We are blessed to have Pat Palmer, minister and director of youth and family ministry, lead this ministry and clearly live her passion which is youth education. Our success in growing this ministry is truly an example of what can happen when one has the right person in the right job.

Bill Englehart is senior minister at Unity in Marin, Novato, California. He can be reached at Billenglehart@unityinmarin.org.



Bill Englehart with Pat Palmer



You can connect with us on Facebook link to:

www.facebook.com/

UnityWorldwideMinistries

UnityPeoplesConvention

TrappismsByJamesTrapp

YouthofUnity

NextGenerationofUnity

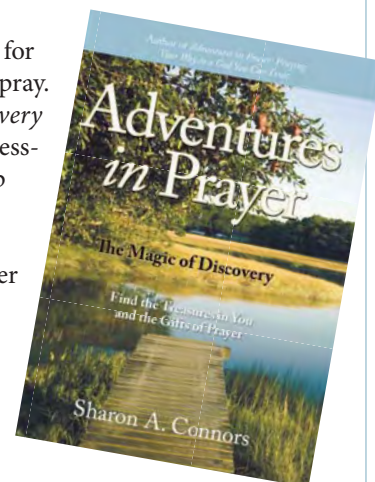
The-Transformation-Experience

A book that will capture the minds and hearts of 9–12 year-olds

Rev. Sharon Connors has written a book for kids on the power of prayer and ways to pray. *Adventures in Prayer: The Magic of Discovery* offers kids the most effective way to successfully handle the challenges of growing up today—PRAYER.

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The Connecting Power of Location-Based Services

by Ogun Holder

What is, and has always been, the best advertisement for your spiritual community? Word-of-mouth. Nothing beats personal recommendations and invitations from your members to bring in new attendees. So what do you get when you combine word-of-mouth advertising, social media, and rewards? That would be Location Based Services (LBS). LBS like Foursquare, Gowalla and Facebook's new "Places" feature are among the fastest growing tools in the social media world. Users check in to a location on their GPS-enabled smart phones and their location is shared with any friends they choose to connect to. Users can choose to share their check-ins on their Facebook or Twitter feed, letting an even broader audience know that they are dedicating at least the next hour to spiritual growth at your spiritual community. Depending on which service they use, they can earn points and rewards for check-ins, earn a title or badge or complete a challenge.

These may seem like small percentages until you consider that Foursquare, the most popular LBS, has gained over six million users worldwide since its creation in 2009. Foursquare awards points for check-ins, encouraging friendly competition. Users earn virtual badges at events or for regular check-ins, and the person who checks-in most to any venue is awarded the title of "mayor." Businesses are using Foursquare to attract customers by offering discounts or special perks for frequent check-ins.


How could spiritual communities use GPS-enabled social media like this? Perhaps offer a bookstore discount upon check-in, or a free service CD for frequent visitors or for mayors. More importantly why should your church use this? As our world continues to evolve technologically and people become increasingly mobile, ministries can be a strong spiritual presence by speaking the same language. Social media tools like LBS combine the worlds of technology and community so congregants can share your spiritual community with their own personal networks; a low-pressure, yet highly visible way congregants can tell their friends where they find a spiritual home. And that will hopefully be a catalyst for conversations and bringing in new visitors.



You can connect with Ogun Holder at www.ogunholder.com. Learn about Foursquare and set up a special for your community at <http://join.4sq.com/ogunholder>.

A recent study from the Pew Research Center reported that:

- Seven percent of adults who go online with their smart phone use a LBS
- Eight percent of 18-29 year olds use LBS significantly more than other adult age groups



Jessica Best is the marketing director at Emfluence Interactive Marketing.

Long-Term Care Insurance Now Available for Unity Ministries

The board at Unity Worldwide Ministries has worked to offer a Prudential Long Term Care Insurance (LTCI) policy at a discount. Long-term care is the type of assistance people need to perform normal daily activities such as eating, bathing, dressing, and transferring. Long-term care needs typically arise as part of the normal aging process, but can also be due to an injury or illness, or due to a cognitive impairment, such as Alzheimer's disease.

We unanimously recommended this Long Term Care Program as a missing essential ingredient to the menu of programs available to Unity ministries within the United States. The discounts available simply make an excellent program more affordable and it is an essential tool to financial planning for retirement.

**—Allen Moss, Chairman
Benefits Ministry Team**

Discounts may apply to the following eligible people, if they are between ages 18 and 79 and in satisfactory health:

- Credentialed, licensed or grandfathered ministers who are members of Unity Worldwide Ministries (aka AUCI).
- Ministers who are paid by associated Unity churches.
- Employees of Unity Worldwide Ministries and associated Unity churches, if the employee works at least 36 hours per week.
- The following relatives of people who would qualify according to the above three bullets: parents, grandparents, siblings, children over 18, aunts and uncles and corresponding in-laws.

Take advantage of 1, 2 or 3 options listed below:

1. To apply or request a customized quote contact Bill Bins at billb@targetins.com or 913.403.5820.
2. Read additional information on common questions at the Unity Worldwide Ministries website: www.unity.org/pension and scroll down to find Long-Term Care FAQs.
3. See a presentation regarding your Unity Worldwide Ministries long-term care insurance policy at <http://my.brainshark.com/Unity-Worldwide-Ministries-Long-Term-Care-Insurance-Program-808288739>.

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P U L L E D B Y A
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Detroit Marriott at
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Detroit, MI

