Intergenerational Ministry—
When All Celebrate as ONE

Intergenerational: between, among, in the midst of or shared by different age groups
Ministry: using one’s personal talents and gifts to serve others

Intergenerational ministry is not new. However, in today’s culture of segregating the different age groups, we forget that the greater the diversity of an ecosystem, the greater chance that system has of surviving times of stress. There is something about blending the wisdom and patience of the elders with the rambunctious joy and energy of young children that calls God into greater expression. Young adults and empty nesters, though their circumstances may be different, both seek a deeper understanding of the One.

Whether it is our similarities or our differences that bring us together, intergenerational ministry provides us with a forum to transform lives, to generate hope, and to embrace a greater part of ourselves. It supports the diversity that is needed to strengthen our community and promotes a greater realization of the I AM that binds us together.

Intergenerational ministry could be defined as “… transformational relationships: connecting elders and young people and all ages in-between; finding common ground, mutual interests, and places where we ‘fill each others’ gaps’; building a warm, healthy community. Sometimes, these things can only happen by intentionally creating the appropriate conditions. Other times, it is simply a matter of intentionally recognizing the possibilities in an existing environment.” —Jennifer Griffin-Wiesner from Generators: 20 Activities to Recharge Your Intergenerational Group

Marygrace Sorensen, South Central Unity Region Children’s Education Consultant, grew up in Unity and remembers this: When I was younger than six, Stan Hampson was our minister. Each Sunday our parents would sign us in, and then we’d all sit together in the sanctuary—all 8 of us! Service would start with a prayer and joy song, which we all loved. Stan would then have the children come forward and sit around him. He gave a 3-5 minute mini-lesson (often an object lesson), then would ask us and the adults a question. The adults would smile and sometimes chuckle at what we said and sometimes we’d tilt our little confused heads at what an adult had said. Stan closed with a synopsis of his point and all the adults would sing “Walking in the Light” as we children went to our classes with our teachers. I cherish those times. I felt special and loved by everyone in the church, and I got a taste of speaking in front of people! To me, that’s an ideal intergenerational activity.
You are invited
to submit news, articles, ideas and photos for publication by January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

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Intergenerational Ministry—When All Celebrate as ONE
Intergenerational Ministry promotes a greater realization of the I AM.

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Make a conscious choice to include all ages in services and events.

Intergenerational Unity Bible Study
Teaching Bible on a simple level makes it easier for everyone.

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Children and seniors enjoy a special gift.

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Photography Release
When and how to use a photography release form.

New YOU Curriculum!
New lessons for Youth of Unity.

A Must-Have Book for Parents and Spiritual Educators
Teachers and parents: Build a spiritual foundation for your children.

Ministers and Directors Rejoice!
New Youth and Family Ministry Guide is essential resource.

What’s Happening

Spirit’s Light Foundation, Inc. Presents...
4th annual New Thought Children, Youth and Family Ministry Conference

Child/Teen Ministry Week
This is the place to be for youth ministry directors, ministers and volunteers

Spiritual Education and Enrichment Retreat
Spiritual enrichment retreat for the whole family.

Places to Go, Much to Learn
A look at Regional and Association events.
Inviting Everyone Into the Story

I love the stories in the Bible, especially the Old Testament stories dealing with families: the founding stories of Adam and Eve, Noah and his sons; the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph; Moses and the kings Saul, David and Solomon. All of these stories are deep and rich within themselves, but if you take a step back, you will notice one thing. Each generation helps move the story forward. Each person in their time brings the people of God closer to the realization of their true relationship with the One and prepares the way for a certain carpenter to break the world open with the truth that “God and I are one.” There are so many stories in the Bible about children who were called by God to serve or whose childhood is shared with us so we can see how God worked in their lives to bring them to a greater realization of Truth. The Bible isn’t about people who just appeared as adults and then disappeared. We read of generations and generations of people of all ages and all situations.

This issue of intergenerational ministry is designed to help deepen and enrich our stories as a people of God unfolding into a greater realization of our Oneness. We do that by inviting everyone into the story—all ages, all abilities, all situations of life—so that we might learn from each other and help to move the story along. There are prophets among us of all ages; teachers and scribes; kings and carpenters. This issue is about looking at the different ways to invite our ministries into that rich mix.

Thanks to all the churches, ministers, and youth directors who sent in their stories to share and to help us percolate more ideas for our own ministries. Thanks to Rev. Diane Venzera for sharing her credo of Ministry as Education that reminds us of ways to prepare for intergenerational worship and more.

Blessings,
Kathy

Your Articles are Needed!

Next Issue! Summer 2006

Special-Needs Children

Articles Due: April 30

Do you have something to share about ministry for, by or with special-needs children and teens? Who are our special-needs children? What are the opportunities for worship and ministry that we are able to offer this population of our congregation? How do we set up the youth ministry classroom or meeting space to support their success? What do we need to know about inclusion and safety for these folks?

Merry Christmas!

Articles Due: May 30

Yes, you read it right! We are putting together a resource issue on Advent and Christmas! We would like to fill it with Christmas programs, books, songs, activities, ideas for events, etc. and have it back out to you by the middle of summer. Please send us pieces that you would love to share and that, if copyrighted, you have permission to share with a greater audience. Lists of books or websites are welcome too. Ho, ho, ho! Let’s share some holiday Spirit.
The Joy of Intergenerational Ministry

by Rev. Sandra R. Hymel
Unity Church of Christianity
Chesterland, OH (9/94-12/04)

This vision of ministry grew from the teachings of our Way-Shower, Jesus the Christ, whose whole life demonstrated inclusiveness, even at risk of crucifixion itself. This concept of intergenerational ministry took a while to catch on as most traditional churches departmentalize their communities with groups such as: singles/elders/young adults, yes, even toddlers, Uniteens, and YOUErs. Though certainly these criteria are necessary for educational approaches, in life itself everyone, all ages, are teachers and students, each bringing their own wisdom to living experiences.

First of all, I tried my best to be intentional about using varied ages and sexes during church services, especially for special readings: Sundays in Advent—presenting metaphysical interpretations of scripture surrounding the season and lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath; Candle Lighting Service; and presenting of the Passover Meal. Special reports from the children were presented at the end of Sunday Services, after which we sang all the children into the sanctuary. On the first Sunday of each month, a different child presented their Offerings collected for the previous month. These were blessed in front of the whole congregation.

A senior member conducted Arboretum Tours periodically, and all ages coordinated overnight campouts on our grounds. The property was in a country setting with woods and a hill.

Several annual events incorporated all ages working together:
• Animal Blessing in October (video available)
• Holy Hilarity Sunday (There Is Joy After Taxes)—held the Sunday following tax day in April. Children of all ages presented a couple of upbeat tunes on kazoos, while everyone joined in singing.
• Mardi Gras Pot Luck/Talent Show—no prizes were given. Everyone felt free to present their own “party piece” and were totally supported by each other (video available).
• Summer Solstice outdoors in June
• Flea Market in August, during which all helped to donate items, set up, sell, and clean up
• Thanksgiving Service followed by a covered dish dinner. Adults and children shared that for which they were most grateful and were encouraged to look at even not-so-comfortable things that may have helped them to grow in consciousness.

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Intergenerational Unity Bible Study

by Valerie Mansfield
Youth & Family Ministry Director
Unity of Louisville, KY

During our October 2004 Youth and Family Quarterly Meeting, several families shared an interest in a Bible Study class for youth. As we brainstormed, it was decided that we would offer an intergenerational class, since the adults have a great interest in learning more about the Bible. We discussed having the class at homes or some other designated site, but decided for risk-management reasons we would offer the class at church. The class was set on Wednesday nights, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We offer an area for families to bring in brown bag dinners to eat before class.

During the class we study the Bible both literally and metaphysically at the level of a 6-year-old. The curriculum we are using is Learning About Myself Through the Old Testament, which we purchased from the Association of Unity Churches International. We are using the New Revised Standard Version Bible. The curriculum for youth makes the class more interesting for all ages with crafts and games.

A highlight year was when the whole church focused on the 12 Powers: all ages focused on a Power a month. Sunday Service lessons and Sunday School teachings focused on that same power and the color was used everywhere around the church, and those who had special roles to play tried to coordinate the color in their clothing.

We also celebrated the “passing on” of several members of our spiritual family. We celebrated together the lives they had shared with all of us and embraced the love we felt as grief in the moment.

As I reflect on the 10 years shared as a spiritual community, I have a heart filled with gratitude for all of it!
Responding to the Call

Dear Ministers,
What does intergenerational ministry look like to you? How do children and teens interact with the adults in your church? When? Where?

The next issue of Education Links is all about intergenerational ministry and how that might look in a Unity church. What is successful and what isn’t. We’d like to hear from you about programs, events, activities, etc. that have worked for your ministry, and if you have any special tips on what pitfalls to avoid, we’d like to hear those, too.

In the Fall of last year, I sent out the above e-mail. I figured that if you wanted to know about intergenerational ministry in Unity churches, you had to go to the source. Thank you to all who responded. It’s great to hear about what is happening in the centers, and I hope that the following will spark some more ideas.

Kathy

Unity Chefs, Experiencing Bible Stories, Sharing Talents

I am thrilled you asked. We do four things that have made a huge difference towards bringing the generations together. The first Sunday of the month, the children tithe of their gifts and talents to the church community by making food for after the service. They have done lots of wonderful things, such as vegetable pizzas, high-tea sandwiches with varied tea flavors, caramel apples, chocolate-covered strawberries, tiered flavored pudding, fruit bars and pies, etc. Between their “work,” they have a short lesson, often being a special story with a practical moral. At the time we started doing this, there was not a consistent after-service snack. When the first Sunday was scheduled each month, the adults were more willing to handle the other Sundays. It is a heart-warming experience to watch the children as they serve the adults, as they are filled with the gift of giving and accomplishment!

We sometimes create big projects, such as having the children experience the parable about sitting in a boat while Jesus walks on water. The Uniteens made a boat and oars out of cardboard and were so excited about the project, they wanted to come into the children’s class to shake the blue sheets (water) which were under the boat and flick the lights on and off to emphasize the frightening storm. Since we had three classes, this took the whole hour. Everyone loved it.

What to do with the four 5th Sundays each year? Well, since Unity people are amazingly talented, we invite people from the congregation to help out on a one-time basis. This has been very successful. One person wanted to have a piggy bank for pocket change which could go towards the children’s program. So, every child made a piggy bank out of baby shoeboxes using lots of available supplies (foam, wooden, sticker pigs), pink paint and construction paper, and wiggly eyes and pink pipe cleaners for the tails. The topic: Tithing.

Other examples: storytellers told learning stories and then helped the children co-create a fun, spiritually-oriented story together; the YOUers taught the children YOU songs.

At the end of the service, all the Rainbow Circles kids and Uniteens come into the sanctuary while the congregation sings “Walking in the Light.” The YOUers who are already in the service also come forward. Each group briefly tells what they did that Sunday or previous Wednesday night. The congregation looks forward to hearing what the children/youth have to say.

Fun-d raising is another topic unto itself where adults help the kids raise money for regional teen activities and events.

Kate Peppler, past Children’s Ministry Leader
Unity of the Valley, Burnsville, MN

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Open and Close Together,
YOU Lead Service

We have the children with us for opening prayer, welcome, our mission/vision statement and a song (which we call motivational moment). Then we bless them and they go off to classes as we sing “Go Now in Peace.” They usually return to sing the Peace Song with us, depending upon their schedule.

We also have them provide our special praise at times and holiday activities, which will take the place of the lesson at least once a year. The YOU also provide one service a year with the topic or theme coinciding with the ongoing theme in adult services, or one that is cleared with their sponsor and me.

The YOU also have many fundraisers where they greet and serve the congregation, such as ice cream socials and after-service lunches. Everyone enjoys these times together.

Thanks for asking. I believe that the children should be visible.

Blessings,
Rev. Nancy L. Purcell
Unity in the Seven Hills, Lynchburg, VA

Sharing Unity Experience

In my former church in Charleston, we had social events in which children and adults interacted quite often. I always encouraged the children to participate and the families to bring them. We conducted a Children’s Sunday in which the children (mostly older) were invited to share their Unity experience. That was in place of the sermon, which was condensed to about ten minutes. The program was primarily done by the Sunday school teachers and director with my assistance. It was packed full and one of our best services.

The children handed out the bulletins and special favors on Mother’s Day, too. The children were given special attention on many occasions and encouraged to ask questions.

Rev. Brenda Mays-Gurnee
Charleston, West Virginia

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Carousel Party

At Unity in Spokane, each year we rent the carousel in our Riverfront Park on a Sunday evening for two hours for a truly intergenerational event. The rental cost is paid by the church so the event is free. We have many young families that attend, grandparents bring their grandchildren, and our YOUers and Uniteens look forward to it each year. Even our Single’s Group (ages 45-65) has it on their calendar, and there is great competition among the youth and adults to see who can grab the most rings and successfully get them into the clown’s mouth. The Uniteens spend that Sunday afternoon making sweet treats that they sell, along with water and sodas, at the carousel party as a fundraiser for their other activities. It is a wonderful, relaxed party atmosphere and many just come to watch the fun being had by all ages.

Rev. Jackie Green
Youth and Family Minister
Unity in Spokane, WA

All-Ages Clown Ministry

One of the most successful intergenerational ministries I’ve experienced/facilitated/initiated is Clown Ministry. In the previous ministry I served, we had, at one time, 20 “clown ministers” ranging in age from 80 to 4 years old—children/Uniteens/YOU and adults. It was an outreach ministry that went out to local nursing homes and hospitals. It was a great way to connect with the larger local community. We also served at the local hospice for their Good Grief Days (for children who had siblings who had died.) We were annually invited to the Special Olympics and other community events. It is a creative, fun, playful way to connect all ages of your congregation in service. The family that plays together stays together!

This is taken off my website, www.Planetaryplay.org.

What a Clown Ministry can do for your church community:
• Healing ~ reawaken the child within all of us; an opportunity to play (some of us never learned to play in childhood and don’t take time to play now); a way to heal through play
• Education ~ Clowns have a special way of making learning fun for youth and church school. It’s for children of all ages.
• Worship ~ Clowns add a light touch to worship services and can create a dramatic element in the portrayal of scriptures.
• Community ~ an excellent way to serve the community. A clown group can visit local hospitals, schools and other churches. It puts your Unity church on the map!

This seems so timely with Unity’s Noble Purpose Project for 2006 “Planetary Play Day”!

Blessings and HUGS!
MarciahMello
Rev. Marciah McCartney
Co-leader, Unity Light Center
Baldwin, KS
Great Lakes Intergenerational Ministry

by Kathryn Kellogg and Diane Venzera

Last fall at the Great Lakes regional meeting, an afternoon and evening was devoted to intergenerational ministry. It was facilitated by Diane Venzera, Great Lakes Children’s Consultant; Pat Anderson Williams, Great Lakes NGU Coordinator; Keith Mitchum, Director of Operations at Unity of Louisville and an NGUer; and Kathryn Kellogg, Association of Unity Churches International Children’s Ministry Coordinator. This time was devoted to supporting ministry leadership in considering and creating a worship service that was designed with everyone in mind.

During a two-hour workshop, ministers, licensed teachers and youth directors explored spiritual community that consciously creates opportunities for the generations to come together as one family. The discussion started with the importance of intergenerational ministry. In days gone by, everyone worshiped together but, now that we know more about developmental needs, we have separated out the young from the old. However, young people need to see and be with the elders as a whole community of faith. They need to know what “big church” looks like, to experience the parts of a Unity worship service. They benefit from being surrounded by “the village.” And the village benefits from the youth. Their hope and faith increase, joy is present, and trust builds.

First we divided the participants into age groups within the church including infant to 2 years, preschool, elementary age, middle school age, high school, adults, elders, and grandparents. The groups discussed the developmental needs of their group and the kind of activities that they would like to participate in on Sunday morning.

Then we regrouped and created new groups that represented different parts of the worship service, such as: music, meditation, lesson, prayer, ritual, ushers/greeters. The participants of each of the new groups were multi-aged, composed of one member of each of the previous age groups. For example: Each new group had members that represented: adults, teens, children, elders and grandparents.

Each of these new groups was put in charge of creating their part of the service, such as meditation, with the instruction that it had to be something that would work for all ages. Having learned the song “Human Rainbow” by Ed Tossing, the groups decided that this theme would be the common focus for the service. Once each piece was created, that group decided who would be the presenter and how it would come about.

That evening the worship service was given. Here is the order of service:

**Greeters/Ushers**—Beautiful programs and people of different ages greeted us as we entered.

**Music**—Gaia (with Ed, the featured musicians at the regional conference) created a multi-aged choir and they taught us to “sign” the first song (“Human Rainbow”), which created active participation. Later in the program, Renee Morgan Brooks performed an amazing soulful solo of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” This was wonderful because it was music that appealed to all ages.

**Meditation**—Designed for all ages.

**Message**—Rev. Tom Wendt gave the talk. Tom used illustrations that young children could relate to and sought out the young ones in the congregation to check in with.

**Ritual**—Near the end of the service, there was a ritual that invited everyone to participate and provided an opportunity to move around.

This was a powerful service. What we had created in the afternoon through our minds and hands flowed through the hearts that were there that evening. It reminded us of how powerful a time it can be when everyone comes together in Unity.
Imagine beginning a Sunday or midweek service with the lighting of trinity candles by a youth, an adult, and a senior. This is not unusual at Unity Christ Center (UCC) in Suwanee, Georgia, where each of these age groups represent about a third of the congregation. Intergenerational programming is a conscious choice here so the task of creating programs that appeal to all ages has become a Board and community focus.

**Services**

Once a month, a Sunday Service is devoted to a family message and to music that appeals to all ages. Everyone, no matter what age, remains in the hour-long service that is designed with a special message for the young people. The YOU (Youth of Unity, usually grades 9-12) act as ushers and greeters. Youth and seniors also assist through the expression of music, prayer, meditation, poetry or story. A birthday blessing is also a part of this time.

The midweek service is a new addition to UCC programming and led by Allison Mann, Associate Minister and Youth Director. The Creative Director, Dana Shultz, supports this effort by providing music with a wide appeal from drumming to congregants’ original pieces. Together these two connect the children’s and adult activities by generating a message where children can explore spiritual themes during the family-friendly message. The children might be constructing a bridge while adults are crossing theirs metaphysically through meditation and message. The children are as much a part of the service as the adults and help lead affirmations, blessings, offerings, and music.

Regular creative publications of *Reflections*, a church newsletter, include creative works by all age groups. Regular talent searches open to all ages provide a way to create intergenerational services at UCC.

**Summer Programming**

One summer program, Sizzling Summer Sensation, offered classes to adults and children for a week of evening fun and spiritual growth for all. Some classes were age-specific and others were for “kids of all ages” like reflexology, T-shirt design, photography, swing dancing, watercolor, treasure mapping, visioning, love my body, sounds of silence, and outdoor adventure challenge course. The experience of working with toddlers to young adults was heart warming. In teen to adult classes, one witnessed the admiration of the elders grow for the young talents, and the youth showed a willingness to listen and to learn from their elders.
During the summer months, the youth send invitations to adult members asking them to attend one of their classes to answer a puzzling truth question. Adults attend the classes and lead Heart Talks on pressing issues. This has proven to be one of the best promotions for our youth program ever. Once the adults come into the youth classes, they become captive audiences and want to keep coming back. This is a great way to open dialogue between the generations.

**Youth of Unity-Led Programming**

The YOU offered an adult retreat where the family groups (small discussion groups) were led by YOUers. The elders of the church have never been more honored than to be in the presence of these young masters.

The YOU also offered a lock-in for the Uniteens to help prepare them for moving up to the next youth level. The YOU decided that a greater impact would be made by demonstrating the YOU experience rather than by simply talking about it. The result? All the Uniteens are hooked and now have an experience to look forward to and models to aspire to become.

The YOU and youth groups have also been influential in planning center-wide events such as the World Day of Prayer and Season for Nonviolence.

**Events and Activities**

Family Fun Nights are also a big hit at UCC. Themed events provide non-competitive fun for families while teaching spiritual truths. These can be offered at holiday times or for events like the Season for Nonviolence in the spirit of the Olympics.

Some of our best-attended events include a tailgate party for July 4th, the annual Halloween Carnival, Christmas Cast Party, and Egg Hunt for all ages. Whenever an intergenerational event is planned, a crowd shows up.

**Unity Christ Center**

At UCC where *Love Is the Center*, embracing God’s love by honoring diversity whether it be through different paths to God, through creative thought and expression, through experiences of different generations, or through cultural expression, allows us to better recognize the divinity in each of us.

We are so grateful for the leadership of Rev. Steve and Mary Bolen and Allison Mann who provide the spiritual community where this practice is possible. Through their family and intergenerational ministries, we are growing our center from a program one to a corporate one.
At Unity of Phoenix, we have a program that is called the Valentine Connection. Each year our seniors and children sign up to participate. The children come together for an evening of preparing all sorts of different crafts to put into a valentine basket. The parents (who are also a big part of this process) call the senior that their child is matched up with and make arrangements for a meeting so that the children can give their senior their basket.

This is such a special gift that the children take such pride in giving. We even have some seniors that have done it for many years and come back each year and even request children that they have had in the past.

The Valentine Connection’s mission is “to create an intergenerational program that connects children and seniors of our community in a relationship of sharing and caring; and to open the opportunity for all participants to have a greater experience of God.”

Thanks,
Megan Shepherd
Unity of Phoenix, AZ
Challenge Adventure Activity
For Use With Intergenerational Groups

by Helen Vaughn Marshall, CSE
Uniteen Sponsor, Unity Christ Center, Suwanee, GA

Toss–a–Name
Materials: 3 or more easily-tossed balls or other items

Form groups of about 8-10 people, and stand in an informal circle. A leader introduces the game by saying his/her first name, and then passes a ball to the person on his/her right or left. Each person says his/her first name and continues passing the ball to the person beside them who says his/her own name until the ball is back to the leader again.

The leader then calls out someone’s name anywhere in the circle and throws the ball to him/her. That person catches the ball and says, “Thank you, _____.” The second person calls another individual’s name, etc., until everyone has had a chance to catch the ball once. The ball then returns to the leader again.

Repeat the above sequence and see if the group can go faster. Then the leader asks the group to predict how long they think it will take to complete the sequence, adding penalty time for drops and mistakes.

Step Up the Challenge
When this has been completed, the leader starts the first ball using the same order or sequence of players as before, and then starts a second ball in the same sequence. Continue to predict the time, and process how the time could be shortened. Add a third ball toward the end of the game just for fun. Names and balls are flying about so rapidly that the group usually ends with everyone laughing.

Continue rounds as the group brainstorms how to shorten the time: change their order in the circle to speed up the sequence? pass all items at once? cluster everyone’s hands on all items in a pile while they shout names and thank-yous?

After the activity, take time to process:

A. What?
Reflection and Generalizations/Focus on Facts
What just happened? What did we do? What behaviors were observed? Did the group solve the problem? Who did what jobs? Who actively helped? Were the rules followed?

B. So What?
Interpretation and Examination
How did it feel for you? How did you work together? How did you solve the problem? What do you think you did to help the group or to hold the group back from completing the activity?

C. Now What?
Application
Now that we know______, how are we going to ________?

Unity Principle—There is only One Power!!!!!
Ministry as Education
Consciousness and Skills

By Rev. Diane Venzera
Unity of Oak Park, Oak Park, IL, and Executive
Director, Spirit’s Light Foundation, Inc., an alternative Unity
ministry focusing on training and empowering adults working with youth in ministry

When I think about the ministry that I will someday create, it causes me to first think about the person I am becoming—because who I believe I am will set the course for my ministry. On the outside, I appear to be a Licensed Unity Minister in my third year of the Field Licensing Program. Who I am on the inside is just beginning to be revealed on this dark, difficult, wonderful, empowering, soul-searching journey.

We are asked, on a quarterly basis, to explore and describe our beliefs concerning different areas of ministry. Our topic for this quarter was Ministry as Education Consciousness & Skills.

Since I am in a somewhat unique position of not being the Spiritual Leader or Senior Minister in my church, I have had a difficult time knowing what it is I do believe. But, when the topic of education came up, I had a sudden awareness that if I am willing to put aside what I think education is and what I think ministry should be, then what my heart wants to create is revealed.

What I have come to understand is that I am an educator first, a minister second. In my ministry, we do not so much teach as we “draw forth.”

- The origin of teach means to “to give instruction.”
- The origin of educate means to “to bring out.”

My purpose is to be a catalyst for positive change and to empower children and adults to draw forth all the wisdom and knowledge that is already inside and to apply it to their lives. We gather together in community and create an environment that empowers them to listen to their own inner teacher, that encourages them to share their gifts, and then values their contributions to the ministry. The vehicles through which this is done are Sunday morning inspirational messages, Youth Ministry programs, seminars, workshops, and weekly classes. It is also done by our example of living in Truth.

It all begins with a consciousness of knowing (both for children and adults). As Myrtle Fillmore said: [Our] mission…is not to entertain the children [people] but to call them out. To be always entertained is to be dwarfed and dependent. To be ‘called out’ is to follow the harmonious law of the soul’s unfoldment.

Who meddles with the rosebud? What fingers are deft enough to pry open that marvel of folded beauty? We are wise enough to leave it alone to follow the glad law of its own unfolding.

But our children! Have we dealt as wisely with these buds of marvelous possibilities? Have we always remembered that they, too, must quicken and unfold through the innate law of their own genius?

continued on next page
We call forth that inner genius by creating an environment that invites our inner wisdom into the process. We come from the belief that we are not here to fill the minds of our congregants with knowledge, information and ideas, but that we are here to be an example of the power found in living the Truth we know. When we set our intention to be a joint exploration of Truth, we create programs, classes, talks, etc., that speak to the heart of everyone. Once we connect with the heart, we are on our way to an awesome journey.

Connecting with the heart requires us to create a space that feels safe enough that the participants can let go of the concerns of the material world and make that inner connection. This is done by making sure the space is environmentally friendly, visually pleasing, and filled with friendly, welcoming faces. Think back to a time you entered a new classroom or even the first time you entered a Unity Ministry. What was it like for you? Did you feel welcomed and wanted? Knowing that your presence was important did a lot to help you feel as if you were, or could be, a valued member of the community. It opened your heart to the possibility of new experiences.

Once we have the attention of the heart, we must also engage the mind. It is so important to understand that there are many ways that people take in and process information. If we are stuck in using only one method, such as lecturing, we will not reach a good portion of our community. Howard Gartner has identified eight ways that people learn.

They are:

- **Linguistic**: The intelligence of words that is expressed both orally and written. People with this intelligence learn by listening, reading, writing and talking. Ways to engage this intelligence are:
  - Tell them something—give instructions.
  - Read a story.
  - Engage them in conversation.

- **Logical**: This is the intelligence of scientific ability, reasoning and logic. People with this intelligence like to sort through data in order to figure things out. They like to solve puzzles and are very curious about life. Ways to engage this intelligence include:
  - Pose a question about life but don’t provide an answer.
  - Invite them into a discussion of a new concept.
  - Help them to see the logical outworking of “Divine Order” and the “Creative Process.”

- **Spatial**: This is the intelligence of pictures and images. People with this intelligence love to create and express their ideas in visual images. They are not satisfied to just “hear” what message you are trying to get across. They must also be able to “see it” in their mind’s eye in order to understand it. Ways to engage this intelligence include:
  - Include PowerPoint presentations with words to songs, key points and ideas posted.
  - Be descriptive in your speaking. Help them “see” what you are talking about.
  - Use video, photographs and other visually stimulating ideas to get your ideas across.

- **Kinesthetic**: This is the intelligence of the body. These people need to move frequently. They also need to have a physical experience of what you want them to understand. Let them “try out” any new idea or concept. Ways to engage this intelligence are:
  - Be animated in your speaking.
  - Change the pace of your speaking or let people move around.
  - Encourage them to “feel” the idea or concept in their body. This way they will be more easily able to identify with it.

- **Musical**: This is the intelligence of tone, rhythm and timbre. People with this intelligence are very sensitive to all sounds. They pay attention to the tone of voice and to the feeling inspired by the music in the room. Ways to engage this intelligence are:
  - Vary the quality of your speaking voice.
  - Make sure all the music selected matches the tone of the message.
  - Allow the music to be the message.

*continued on page 16*
• **Interpersonal**: This is the intelligence of social understanding. These people are very social. They like to interact, talk together, and figure things out together. They pay attention to facial expressions and voices and try to interpret people’s moods. Ways to engage this intelligence are:
  — Invite people to work in small groups.
  — Initiate group discussions.
  — Provide social opportunities.

• **Intrapersonal**: This is the intelligence of self-knowledge. These are the people who are self-directed, enjoy working or being alone, and who are especially interested in exploring their inner world. Ways to engage this intelligence are:
  — Allow time for silence and reflection.
  — Show them that they always have a choice—no matter what the situation.
  — Use informal conversation rather than calling on them.

• **Naturalist**: This is the intelligence that is nature-based. These people love to be involved in nature and love to be outdoors. They understand that all answers can be found in the natural world. Ways to engage this intelligence are:
  — Use nature analogies.
  — Allow them to see outside.
  — Relate the natural order of the universe to the principle of Divine Order.

Each time we set foot in a classroom or stand on the podium ready to speak, we must consider these ideas and incorporate as many of them as we can into our presentations. If we are uncomfortable with some, then it is our responsibility as educators to come to a greater understanding of them. My primary intelligences are spatial, intrapersonal and linguistic. My weak points were naturalist and kinesthetic. I had to work hard in order to incorporate my weak points into the presentations but it is worth it as I am able to reach more people now.

Once you understand the eight different intelligences, then it becomes necessary to incorporate all of them into your presentations. You could create a Sunday service that is a combination of all the intelligences by beginning with music. Music sets the tone for the whole service and also helps you to change the direction of your message. It helps people connect directly with their heart. The words could be posted or printed on handouts for all to see, and the order of service would also be included. You draw people together by inviting them to welcome and greet one another, and you allow times of silence and meditation to speak to the heart of the intrapersonal people. Fill your message with stories, poems or metaphors that invite the listener to connect with their own inner voice and to draw their own conclusions. Don’t answer every question—leave lots of spaces for “figuring out.” Also allow time for movement by including a ritual that each person can be a part of. This also helps to provide a physical experience of whatever you are talking about. Finally, fill the room with beautiful flowers that please the eye and the heart of every nature lover.

My next step in designing an experience that enriches everyone is to use the *Living Curriculum* philosophy because it gets to the heart of the matter and attempts to engage everyone in the process of revealing the Truth within. This philosophy seeks to create common ground through story or experience, to enter into a specific discussion on that story, to move the theme out into our personal experience, and then to offer a way to express or explore the ideas in our own way. This process draws up from within us all that we need to know in order to apply those Divine Ideas more fully in our lives. I use this process whether I am presenting a Sunday message, facilitating an adult class, or working with children. It lends itself easily to metaphysical Bible interpretation and gets people engaged in conversation and exploration.

Unity is a Bible-based ministry following the basic teachings of Jesus the Christ. Jesus is our Way-Shower and elder brother. By following the wisdom found in His teachings, we solve our own life’s dilemmas. All of the stories found in the Bible are illustrations of our own life’s journey and this is why the *Living Curriculum* philosophy works so well. It helps people to understand that there is a positive direction to take and that all of those answers lie within them. For example, in the story of Jesus calming the storm we hear:

> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

—Mark 4:35-45

continued on next page
As we explore this story through the *Living Curriculum* philosophy, we see in the disciples doubt and fear because of the storm that is raging around them. They have forgotten that the Christ sleeps within them. All they have to do is to become aware of it and they will tap into a power that will keep them safe and keep them tethered to the solid ground of Truth that no storm can move them from. We can go on to explore the idea that, when difficulties come up in our lives, we have the choice to act from our Christ nature and to create that peace within, or we can act from our disciple nature and react to the outer events of our lives. It is empowering, to both children and adults, to know that at any time, in any moment, we have the power to choose how to react to life. In addition to exploring the story and how it shows up in our lives, we include Universal Principles in every learning experience. If I were working in a classroom setting, I would invite the participants to experience the difference in what turmoil feels like and what peacefulness feels like. They are then invited to choose which they prefer. People will naturally be drawn to what they need to lead full and empowered lives.

So, all teachings in this ministry are designed for self-empowerment and for the community to work together to discover their gifts. The next step is to provide opportunities for the members of the community to share their gifts and to know that they are valued. This is true no matter what age you are.

Unity offers many paths in which to be of service. The Spiritual Education & Enrichment Program (SEE) is one path. This program is a collection of classes and experiences that lead to personal growth and conscious evolution. You can complete this program for your own personal experience or you can move on to the Licensed Unity Teacher path and serve more fully in your ministry. My experience is that it is so much more than just classes to explore. It invites you into a real examination of your life and asks you to make peace with your past and to grow in ways that you never imaged you would or even needed to. I truly believe that people who are actively involved in exploring their consciousness are more willing to share their gifts with the rest of the community.

Participating in the SEE program provides many opportunities for our community members to get involved. We have an Adult Education coordinator who sees that we offer the classes that assist the students in completing the program, provides for other requirements, keeps the records, and offers support and encouragement. Having an organized program is essential to its success.

So, by putting Universal Principles into action, living the Truth we know, creating a sacred environment and empowering people, we create a community of loving, confident, committed people, and our ministry continues to grow and flourish. As you can see, by creating experiences that draw forth our inner Truth and knowledge, all are blessed.
The more we recognize the Divine potential within each child and teen, the more we realize the importance of creating Youth Ministry programs that give them a chance to explore all they are meant to be.

This Conference is designed to excite, educate and empower all who participate.

So, come join us for this exciting adventure.

Registration Prices:
This year the price includes all activities and all food except for travel & lodging.

3-Day Conference (Thursday Evening through Saturday Afternoon)
Includes: Thursday: Opening Ceremony, Reception w/food & Celebration Service
Friday: Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Seminars of your choice, Special Events & Banquet
Saturday: Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Seminars of your choice & Closing Ceremony

Full Conference Fee—$175.00

Please contact us for more information:
www.spiritslight.org mail@spiritslight.org 708-785-7566
A conference brochure with more information, event pricing and workshop descriptions is available from Rev. Diane Venzera.
Contact her at: consultant@glrkids.org or 708-785-7566
Youth & Family Ministry

Whether you are a youth ministry director, a volunteer in the Uniteen classroom, or a minister wanting to know more about youth ministry, Child/Teen Ministry Week is the place to be! This is a week of learning, sharing, and networking with others. It is meeting youth leaders from around the country who hold a vision for ministering to and with our Unity young people in greater ways. There will be singing, dancing, and a lot of fun!

Starting on Sunday, July 30, the week is a 40-hour integrated study covering child and teen issues, exploring how the whole child develops, and creating experiences and opportunities for their spiritual life to flourish. We’ll explore curriculum and how to create a lesson together, as well as how to create a learning environment. Along the way, we will create friendships and support systems.

Open to all who minister to children and teens

Cost for Classes Only
If you choose lodging off-campus, your registration fee is $370. Fees are to be paid at the Reservations office at Unity Village (follow the green line). A $100 deposit is required at the time of registration, with the balance due upon arrival. Refunds are available only until the first class begins.

Cost for Classes and Accommodations
(fees subject to change)
When staying at Unity Village, your tuition, registration fee, lodging expense, and meal costs are combined: $599 per person per session for a shared cottage room and $695 per person per session for a shared motel room. A $100 deposit is required at the time of registration, with the balance due upon arrival. Private rooms may be available at additional costs of $100 for a single motel room or $80 for a single cottage room.

To register for Child/Teen Ministry Week:
Child/Teen Ministry Week is a 40-hour integrated study designed and facilitated by the Education Department of the Association of Unity Churches International but is held at Unity Village. These two organizations are related but separate. Therefore, there are different parts to the registration process.

To register for this class there are three steps.
Step 1. Fill out the class registration form provided on page 21 and send to Unity Institute. Unity Institute is the education branch of Unity (formerly known as Unity School of Christianity) and maintains the records for credit classes.

Step 2. If you wish to stay on grounds at Unity Village, fill out the room reservation form and send to Unity Reservations. If you are staying off-grounds, you may contact kid@unity.org for a list of hotels in the area.

Step 3. Fill out the information form and send it to the Association of Unity Churches, Attn: Children’s Ministry. This form lets us know that you will be with us for the week and helps us better prepare for you.

All fees for class are paid to Unity at the Reservations Office: 816-251-3540 or toll-free 1-866-348-6489. A separate love offering for the Association of Unity Churches will be taken sometime during the week.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Kellogg, Children’s Ministry Coordinator at the Association: kid@unity.org or 816-524-7414.
Spirit’s Light Foundation, Inc. Presents…
Celebrating Spirit in All Its Expressions

4th Annual New Thought Children, Youth & Family Ministry Conference
May 18, 19 & 20, 2006 at Unity Church of Oak Park, IL

Program Overview
Each workshop will be divided into 3 categories:

Youth Director—Workshops focused on the specific needs of the Youth Director and how to create programs that serve all ages.
- Essentials for Youth Ministry Directors
- Youth & Family Ministry Mentoring
- Energize Your Youth Ministry Volunteers

Teen Ministry—Workshops focused on creating classroom experiences that deal specifically with the needs of teens,
- Embracing & Enhancing the Teen Experience
- Creating Sunday Morning Piazzas With Your Teens
- Who Will Take Care of the Uniteens?

Children’s Ministry—Workshops that explore different types of programs that work well for younger children.
- Advent—Epiphany
- The Hem of His Garment—Bible Study
- World of Wonder—Rotation Curriculum

All Ages—Teaching methods and topics that can be used in any classroom.
- Spiritual Parenting
- Bringing Prayer to Life
- The Living Bible

Special Events...
Thursday, May 18, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
Mystery Weekend—Empowering an Experience of Spirit

Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 pm
On the Wings of Peace—Celebration Service

Friday, May 19, from 7:30 to 10:00 pm
Banquet & Musical Presentation: “One in Spirit”

All-Conference Presentations...
On Saturday, May 20, we will have an opportunity for you to share your gifts with the conference body. If you are interested in participating, fill out the information on the registration form. We are looking for 8 people to make a 10-minute presentation on something that works well in their Youth Ministry.

Roundtable Discussions:
Set up in the “World Café” format. World Café Conversations are an intentional way to create a living network of conversation around questions that matter. A Café Conversation is a creative process for leading collaborative dialogue, sharing knowledge, and creating possibilities for action in groups of all sizes.
For SEE Summer Session C Child/Teen Ministry Week
July 30–August 4, 2006

Unity ID# ____________________________
(SEE assigns)

Name (Mr. Ms.) ____________________________
(Please circle)

Street ____________________________ Apt. ________
City ____________________________ Zip ____________
State ____________ Zip ____________
A.M. Ph: ____________ P.M. Ph: ____________
E-mail ____________________________

Have you previously registered for classes under another name or different address? If so, please list here:
__________________________________________

In case of emergency, contact ____________________________
Phone ____________________________

I am staying in Unity accommodations.  q Yes  q No
I have taken extension courses in a Unity ministry for credit in SEE.  q Yes  q No
I plan to graduate this session.  q Yes  q No
Leadership Development Program  q Yes  q No
Spiritual Development Program  q Yes  q No
I intend to apply to Unity Institute (MEP).  q Yes  q No
(Suggest courses that apply to prerequisites for UI)
Do you have a bachelor’s degree?  q Yes  q No

Mail to: Spiritual Education and Enrichment
1901 NW Blue Parkway
Unity Village, MO 64065-0001
ph: (816) 251-3535
fax: (816) 251-3555
email: SEE@unityonline.org

For SEE Summer Session C Child/Teen Ministry Week
July 30–August 4, 2006

Name (Mr. Ms.) ____________________________
(Please circle)

Street ____________________________ Apt. ________
City ____________________________ Zip ____________
State ____________ Zip ____________
A.M. Ph: ____________ P.M. Ph: ____________
E-mail ____________________________

Do you smoke?  q Yes  q No
Vegetarian?  q Yes  q No

Motel:  q Single  q Shared  Cottage:  q Single  q Shared

My roommate will be ____________________________
Please Assign a roommate  q

**Transportation from ($42.50 each way):
 q Airport  q Train Station  q Bus Station
**Arrangements must be made 72 hours in advance.
Call toll-free 1-866-34-UNITY (1-866-348-6489)

A room deposit of $100 is required in advance and $75 is refundable if cancellation is made in writing at least four weeks before the first day of a SEE session. If cancellation is made less than four weeks, $50 will be refunded. The balance is due upon arrival at Unity Village.

All major credit cards accepted.

Please charge my account as follows:

Visa  MasterCard  Other ______________

Name ____________________________
Card Number ____________________________
Card Expiration Date ____________________________
Signature ____________________________

Mail to: Unity Reservations
1901 NW Blue Parkway
Unity Village, MO 64065-0001
ph: (816) 251-3540
Toll Free: 1-866-348-6489
fax: (816) 251-3556

Mail to: Association of Unity Churches
Attn: Kathryn Kellogg
PO Box 610
Lee’s Summit, MO 64063
ph: 816-524-7414
fax: 816-525-4020

Circle area currently working in:
Child  Uniteen  Teen  Director
Other ____________________________

Years of experience in above area: ____________________________

q Seeking certification as a Spiritual Educator (CSE)

Will you have a car available during the week?  q Yes  q No

Are you currently:
q CSE  q LUT  q Minister

More information on page 19!
What is NGU?
NGU is an acronym for Next Generation of Unity. This group serves our young adult population between the ages of 18-35. NGU groups call their meetings Local Connections.

What is a Local Connection (LC)?
Local Connections (LCs) serve as a spirit-centered meeting space, independent of the congregation, for young adults. It provides opportunities for deeper spiritual connection with peers. Local Connections enable Unity’s young adults to grow a spiritual community with peers and to also participate in Sunday services and other congregational activities.

What does a Local Connection do?
Many Local Connections participate in a wide range of activities. Some of these activities have included: meeting before a special event at church to attend together, meeting at or hosting a coffee house, holding a small book study group, and water rafting. The group may also wish to meet right before service on Sunday to enter together as a group.

What resources are available?
The Local Connection material is a guide that can help you set up a Local Connection group for your young adults. This material can be downloaded from our site at www.unity.org/ngu/resources.html.

Curriculum
The small group ministry books published by the Association of Unity Churches International provide Unity-based lessons. Each book contains seven lessons geared for a 90-minute session. The titles include: Creating a Life of Prayer, Trusting the Process of Change, Knowing the Truth About Healing, Meeting Myself in the Bible, Proving the Power of Principle, Living an Abundant Life, and Creative Living.

How do I find other young adults?
Currently we have 17 groups that have formed around the country. To see if there is a group near you, contact Rebecca Avery at you@unity.org. You may also want to link up with the cyber community at www.ingu.org.

How are the regions set up for NGU?
In the United States, there are seven ministerial regions. Four regions have a Coordinator organizing NGU events and growth for their region:
Eastern: Betsy LeBard easternngu@gmail.com
Great Lakes: Pat Anderson-Williams glngu@yahoo.com
Northwest: Nick Muncie-Jarvis northwest.ngu@gmail.com
Southeast: Tiffany Emitt chicatiff@aol.com

What events can I attend?
Some regions will host weekend events twice a year. Any young adult from any region can register for events, even if you do not have a Local Connections in your area. Events are posted on the website at www.unity.org/ngu/calendar.html or you can contact the regional coordinators about upcoming events. The International Next Generation of Unity event will be June 22-25, 2006, in Atlanta, GA.

Does our group need to affiliate with a church?
Yes. In order to be recognized as an official Next Generation of Unity group, an approved Unity ministry must support it. Churches who wish to register their group may do so by contacting Rebecca Avery at 816-524-7414 x 327 or you@unity.org. Groups that have registered with the Association can request an extra copy of Education Links newsletter. Groups will be added to our mailing list to be notified of upcoming events and special announcements, and to receive the newsletter.
Unity Youth and Family Ministry—
Three Levels of Excellence

The Association of Unity Churches International provides three programs of study leading to credentialing for youth and family ministry.

For the Classroom
The Certified Spiritual Educator (CSE) program is a spiritual course of study and certification. It provides a consistent base of knowledge and skills necessary for effectual and ethical excellence in Unity youth and family classroom ministry. Details of this program are in the Education Links Summer 2005 issue or on our website, www.unity.org/education/adult-srv-yth.html.

For Leadership in Youth and Family Ministry
The Licensed Unity Teacher Specializing in Youth and Family Ministry (LUT) is a spiritual course of study and licensure. It provides a consistent base of knowledge and skills necessary for effectual, ethical excellence in Unity youth and family ministry leadership. The curriculum builds upon the CSE program, adding the administrative and pastoral care components for youth and family ministry, as well as deepening understanding in Unity principles and teachings. For more details, see below.

For Unity Youth and Family Minister
The Field Licensing Program provides a path for those seeking ordination in youth and family ministry as a Youth and Family Minister. This program is an individualized course of study helping to round out the candidate for full ministry, while at the same time specializing in youth and family ministry. For more information, go to www.unity.org/edu_adult.html for the Field Licensing Handbook.

Intergenerational Resources

www.congregationalresources.org
Partnership with Alban Institute and the Indianapolis Center for Congregations.
(Click on Worship for the section on Children and Worship.)


Generators: 20 Activities to Recharge Your Intergenerational Group by Jennifer Griffin-Wiesner, Search Institute, 2005.
Thank you for your interest in our Licensed Unity Teacher Leadership Development Program, which is a partnership between Unity Institute at Unity Village and our Association of Unity Churches International.

Because the focus area of Youth and Family Ministry has different requirements than the focus areas of Adult Education, Administration and Pastoral Care, you are encouraged to read the requirements carefully.

The program for Licensed Unity Teacher focusing in Youth and Family Ministry consists of 4 steps.

**Step 1** The **Certified Spiritual Educator Program** is offered through the Association of Unity Churches International. The program requirements are included in *Education Links* Summer 2005 or on our website (see p.23). This step can be worked on at the same time as Step 2 but must be completed before applying for Step 3.

The **Psychological Written Test/Interview** is given to Youth and Family Ministry Candidates either during Child/Teen Ministry Week or the CSE Intensive.

**Step 2** The **Spiritual Development Program** (formerly Personal Development Program—CEP) consists of 25 ten-hour classes (250 hours—to be earned within a 10-year period). This program affords Unity students the opportunity to learn Unity basics through these foundation classes. The classes may all be taught in your local ministry or region by a Unity minister, a Licensed Unity Teacher, or by attending spring, summer or fall sessions at Unity Institute’s **SEE Program** during Weeks A & B. Contact the registrar at Unity Institute (816) 251-3535 for this information.

**Step 3** The **Leadership Program** consists of:
- **12 ten-hour classes** (120 hours) during Unity Institute’s spring, summer or fall Week Cs (3) offer Licensed Unity Teacher Candidates leadership training. Contact the registrar at Unity Institute (816) 251-3535 for this information.
- A **60-hour Practicum** that is “hands on” learning in your home ministry. (See Practicum Requirements on p. 26.)
- **40 hours of Specialty Courses/Classes** (See Specialty Course Requirements on p. 27.)

You may apply for the leadership program after you have completed the **Certified Spiritual Educator Program** and **120 hours of Unity Institute’s Spiritual Development Program**. Send a Letter of Intent to our Association’s Children’s Ministry Coordinator. (See III, Requirements for Licensing on p. 25.)

**Step 4** The **Skills Demonstration Seminar (SDS)** is a three-day intensive sponsored by our Association of Unity Churches International. (It is not the same as the SDS for the other focus areas.) This final requirement to become a Licensed Unity Teacher is held once a year after Unity Institute’s Summer Week C. It provides the Licensed Unity Teacher Candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills, to network by sharing information, and to learn more about their role as a Licensed Unity Teacher in Youth and Family Ministry. (See Skills Demonstration Seminar, after the Specialty Courses on p. 27.)

Leadership Program Candidates who have completed 3 Week Cs will be given the **Association’s General Written Test** at their SDS.

The **Psychological Written Test/Interview** is given to Leadership Program candidates if: (1) they have not taken the test/interview before; or, (2) the time between their credentialing as a Certified Spiritual Educator and the completion of LUT requirements is more than two years. Please complete the Psychological Test Application (a blue form) and send to the Association’s Children’s Ministry Coordinator. Be sure to indicate that the focus area is Youth and Family Ministry.

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Continued on next page
Youth & Family Ministry

Requirements for Licensing as a Unity Teacher (Youth and Family Ministry only)

I. Complete the Certified Spiritual Educator Program offered through the Association of Unity Churches International.

II. Complete 120 hours of Unity Institute’s Spiritual Development Program course work affiliated with Unity Institute.

III. Meet with your minister to discuss your interest in the Leadership Program. Following this, send a Letter of Intent co-signed by your recommending minister to the Children’s Ministry Coordinator of our Association. State completion of 120 hours of SEE, name your Focus Area as Youth and Family Ministry, and request an Application Packet for the Leadership Program.

Upon receipt of your Letter of Intent, an application packet of information will be mailed to you containing a Focus Area Application (yellow form), Questionnaire, Practicum, Specialty Courses, Skills Demonstration Seminar (SDS) and Psychological Testing information/application (blue form).

IV. After receiving your Leadership Application Packet, complete the Focus Area Application (yellow form), Questionnaire, Psychological Testing Application (blue form) and including a photo, send to the Children’s Ministry Coordinator at our Association.

V. The Association’s Children’s Ministry Coordinator will send Confidential Evaluation and Competency Forms directly to your recommending minister.

VI. Before starting the Leadership Program, graduate from Unity Institute’s Spiritual Education and Enrichment Program (SEE).

NOTE: All credits earned for the Leadership Development Program must be accrued after your Leadership Development starting date, which begins upon graduation from the Spiritual Education and Enrichment Program (SEE). Only one certification in a Focus Area may be earned at a time. Previous experience in any other Focus Area will not exempt you from participating in the entire program.

VII. Complete the Leadership Program’s Practicum Requirements and Specialty Courses/Classes for the Youth and Family Ministry Focus Area. Keep your minister advised of your progress. All candidates must plan and facilitate a 10-hour teacher training illustrating the 5 Basis Unity principles, 12 Powers, or other agreed-upon subject matter. Review your lesson plans with your minister.

VIII. Send to the Children’s Ministry Coordinator the Skills Demonstration Seminar (SDS) Application (included in the application packet), with completed Practicum and Specialty Course paperwork 3 months prior to SDS attendance.

IX. Ask your minister to send your Minister’s Confidential Evaluation and Candidate’s Competency Forms to the Children’s Ministry Coordinator 3 months prior to your SDS.

X. Attend SDS. Take and pass a general Written Examination and Psychological Written Test/Interview given by the Association’s Education Staff and psychologists. (See Step 4 in the prior section for psychological test/interview requirements.)

XI. Be recommended for licensing to and approval by the Board of Trustees of our Association of Unity Churches International.

XII. The entire time frame from attending SDS to licensure as a Unity Teacher takes approximately 3 months.

continued on page 26
Practicum Requirements for Licensed Teacher Specializing in Youth and Family Ministry (YFM)

1. Certified Spiritual Educator
You must have successfully completed the Certified Spiritual Educator program.

2. Experience
• Must be 25 years of age or older.
• Have one year of experience as children’s and teen ministry director or serve as an assistant to the director with a high level of responsibility for at least one year.

3. Unity Events
• Organize, implement and document one intergenerational event (not to include a holiday event).
• Attend and document two regional or international Children’s, Uniteen or Youth of Unity ministry events.

4. Book Reviews
Select two books to review and submit written book reviews. Topics would include areas of youth and family ministry, parenting, children’s or teen issues, spiritual development of children, etc.

5. Teaching
Plan and facilitate a 10-hour teacher training illustrating the 5 Basic Unity Principles, 12 Powers, or other agreed-upon subject matter. This training is for adults (or parents) who work with children or teens.

6. Administration
• Create and submit a packet of administrative forms needed on a Sunday morning.
• Create and submit a needs-assessment tool for YFM department including projections and evaluations.
• Plan and submit a year calendar (curriculum, events, meetings, etc.) for YFM, ages infant to 18 years.
• Prepare and submit a yearly budget for current YFM.

7. Minister’s Letter of Recommendation
Includes candidate’s understanding of Unity’s teachings, its purpose, structure, and resources. He/she has the ability:
• to relate to individuals as a youth and family ministry specialist.
• to demonstrate character in keeping with the role of a youth ministry leader in adherence to the Licensed Teacher Covenant Code of Ethics.
• to function in the role of a Licensed Unity Teacher with emotional maturity, integrity, a spirit of cooperation, and to integrate theory with practice.

Note: Minister mails a letter of recommendation and Minister’s Evaluation/Candidate’s Competency forms to the Children’s Ministry Coordinator no later than 3 months prior to Candidate’s SDS.

continued on next page
Specialty Courses and Skills Demonstration Seminar for Youth and Family Ministry

Specialty Courses are not part of your Practicum Requirements. They are 40 additional contact hours/credits of classes, workshops, or seminars. Licensed Unity Teacher Candidates in Youth and Family Ministry are required to attend them in order to fulfill Unity Institute’s and our Association of Unity Churches International’s requirements for graduation from the Leadership Development Program. This is a prerequisite for licensure as a Licensed Unity Teacher.

The purpose of the Specialty Courses is to afford candidates more in-depth instruction and training in the Youth and Family Area of Focus. These courses will be provided as an extra day after each Session C. Candidate is to contact the Children’s Ministry Coordinator 3 months before attending to see which of the below will be offered at each C Session.

**One-Day 8 hrs**
Historical context of childhood and adolescence
Development of youth and family ministry in Unity
Rituals and ceremony

**One-Day 8 hrs**
Risk management
Volunteers and staffing

**Two-Day 16 hrs**
Family systems and pastoral care
Ministry with and for families/parents
Tools for crisis
What Unity has to say to families

**Correspondence 2 hrs**
Structure of Unity as regional and national associations

**Correspondence 6 hrs**
Credo Paper

**Skills Demonstration Seminar**
The Skills Demonstration Seminar for Youth and Family Ministry is a three-day intensive where Candidate demonstrates:
- Skill in presenting a teachers’ meeting
- Knowledge of risk management through case studies and sharing circles
- Discernment of responsibilities in leading youth and family ministry
- Knowledge of Code of Ethics and Unity Principles
- Ability to give and accept feedback
- Listening skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Ability to think on one’s feet
- Ability to use more than one method to teach/facilitate
- Ability to interact with others

Candidate will present a teachers’ meeting that includes:
- 30 minutes of training teachers/sponsors in a particular area in youth ministry (Principles, Bible, prayer, values, learning styles, dealing with life issues, etc.) Be sure to use learning activities that engage different intelligences.
- 3-5 minute meditation
- Time for questions and feedback from the group and evaluators
- Time for candidate to respond to feedback

This SDS seminar needs to be arranged with the Children’s Ministry Coordinator since it is only offered when a candidate is ready.
Dear Churches!

Anytime you use pictures of children in any public forum such as your newsletter, PowerPoint, flyers, etc. you must have them fill out a release form. There are many ways to accomplish this:

- When you have a picture you want to use, go back to the family and have them sign one.
- Have the children and parents sign on the day you are going to take pictures.
- Include a release form on your medical/activity form.
- Have the families sign one and keep it on file for a specific length of time.

Here at the Association we love to receive pictures of our youth ministries to use for Education Links and other opportunities, but we need the following release form to accompany the pictures. You can download it from our website: www.unity.org/education/SubjectReleaseForm.pdf. A version of this form is also in the new Youth and Family Ministry Guide. See p. 266 in Chapter 19 “Forms.” It is in Microsoft Word on the CD that accompanies the guide.

Subject Release Form
(To be signed by any recognizable person within a photograph, slide or video.)

I, the undersigned, do agree to waive all rights and/or residual payments for the use of my name and/or likeness of me however created, as well as reproduction in any form, with or without alterations or omissions by the Association of Unity Churches International, and/or those contracted by them, for use in any promotional or resource material produced by the Association of Unity Churches International without limitations or reservations. The Association will not include names of children under 11 years of age unless essential to the use of the publication. Information provided below will be used only to verify permission.

Subject’s Name ________________________________________________________________

Subject’s Age (if under 18) _____________________________________________________

Unity Center _____________________________________________________________
(include City, State)

Subject’s Address __________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip _____________________________________________________________

Phone Number _____________________________________________________________

________________________________________ Date ______________

Subject’s Signature __________________________________________________________

________________________________________ Date ______________

Parent’s signature ALSO if Subject is under 18 years old.

Note to Unity Center
Please return this release to:
Association of Unity Churches International
Attn: Curriculum
PO Box 610
Models of Worship
Different Ways to Design
Sunday Morning Worship

- cAAc: Adults and children together
- AA cc: Children leave before meditation & talk
- AA cc: Together during the Summer
- AA cc: Together every other Sunday
- AccA: Worship together in children’s setting
- cc: Children only

What is your model?

Adapted from Children’s Ministry Magazine, May/June 2005
Y.O.U. Curriculum Creation: A Christ-Centered Process of Heart and Mind

by Rick Youmans
Youth Director and YOU Sponsor,
Unity of Fort Myers, FL

I was invited to be a part of a team brought together in April 2005 by Anna Andes, the Association’s Curriculum Development Consultant. We met in a 4-day workshop for the purpose of writing YOU lessons. When I arrived at the Association of Unity Churches’ building, I met my fellow workshop attendees. After a few brief discussions, I knew I was in a room full of talented and knowledgeable people who cared deeply about the teenagers who are the Youth of Unity (YOU).

The creation process itself was unique from the start because it began by looking at the needs of the YOUers, not what we thought they should know. We listed all the particular issues that YOUers face and prioritized them, looking for various groupings so lesson books could be created around particular themes. Ideas flew for hours as giant poster board-sized papers became filled with issues that needed addressing, possible lesson activities and corresponding source materials. The brainstorming went on until many of these poster papers, with multi-colored thoughts scribbled in each of our various handwritings, surrounded us awaiting the writing of these lessons.

Then we broke into two groups of four each working toward a particular lesson book. We discussed for a brief time exactly how we would go about writing each lesson and then headed to various parts of the building to write in teams of two. We wrote for many hours at a time, but it seemed to pass quickly because we all wanted to create as many rich lessons as we possibly could in the time we were together.

We came back into the large group a few times to check in and to offer suggestions to any writing pair that needed an activity or reading to convey a particular thought. Finally, we reached the end of our time together, with many lessons completed and yes, homework. Everything that we created was gathered by Anna, blessed and given to Mary Knight. Mary puts this information into its final form and maintains contact with us to work out any additional details.

I left Missouri with an appreciation for the creation process that we used, feeding off of each other’s strengths, and foremost, addressing the issues that matter to the YOUers. I also left with a great respect for all of the people involved in the workshop. The group was bonded by purpose and each of the participants gave to this event from their heart and mind always centered in their Christ Self.

Even when we went to dinner in the evenings, the discussion was lively and enlightening and we always seemed to end up talking about how to make Unity and the experiences for the people and teenagers in Unity the best possible. My life has been enriched by being a part of this team, and I now have a different perspective on curriculum writing than ever before.
New YOU Curriculum!
Authentic Relationships will Transform Your Teens

We are excited to be able to offer new curriculum for our Youth of Unity! *Authentic Relationships* contains eight interactive lessons for 14- to 18-year-olds that focus on relationships between God and self, and self and others. The lessons explore how to make choices that reflect our true self; how to attract and create healthy friendships; how to communicate with parents in a way that promotes understanding; how to move on after betrayal, change and loss; and how to maintain a sense of self in a romantic relationship. The final lesson celebrates the blessing in every relationship. *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul III* is a required resource.

Our next book of YOU lessons will be on Unity basics. Check the next issue of *Education Links* for the publication date.

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**6960**  **Authentic Relationships**  **$14.95**

**Required Resources**

**6970**  **Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul III**  **$12.95**

More poems and stories of life, love and learning by teens, about teens and for teens. Topics include relationships, friendship, the power of love, family, lessons, tough stuff, overcoming obstacles, self-discovery and growing up.

**Optional Resources**

**1368**  **Joysongs, Joysongs, Joysongs**  **$8.50**

**6914**  **5 Basic Unity Principles wallet card**

each $0.30, 100 for $25

**6921**  **Prayer for Protection poster**  **$3.50**

Note: Shipping and handling will be added to all orders.

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To order, call the Association of Unity Churches International at 816-524-7414, or visit our website, www.unity.org. Look under Shop.
A Must-Have Book for Parents and Spiritual Educators!

by Anna Andes, Ed.D., LUT, CSE
Curriculum Development Consultant

Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children’s Spiritual Lives
by Karen Marie Yust
Jossey-Bass—an imprint of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Real Kids, Real Faith is a book that I’ve read recently that really excites me. The author is a pastor, teacher and mother who asks the question, “How can parents be intentional about building a spiritual foundation for the children’s development?” The book discusses:

• what faith is and isn’t and the capabilities of children at various ages in their understanding of God and faith,
• how we, parents and teachers, can create a spiritual world for children to inhabit at home and in the religious community,
• the art of religious storytelling,
• the value of silence and stillness,
• how children make sense of religious concepts, and
• ways we can support children in the development of a dynamic spiritual life.

I read this with my yellow highlighter in use and could not put this highly readable book down.

I can see directors offering a class on spiritual parenting using this book as required reading. Teachers would also gain much insight from reading this. The book could also provide educational resources on “Tips for Parents” in church newsletters. You might even want to suggest it to your bookstore manager. For a much more detailed review, look up this book on Amazon.com and read the customer review!
Let’s Communicate!

The Youth and Family Ministry staff at the Association of Unity Churches International would like to create a way to communicate with youth directors and others through e-mail on a regular basis. We want to develop a short “E-Link” that contains timely information and sharing among all who serve children and teens in their spiritual growth. If you want to join this group, e-mail debbieallen@unity.org at the Association with the following information:

Subject: E-Link
Add me to the E-Link list.
E-mail address
Name
Home address
Cell or home phone
Church
Church location
Church responsibility

Spiritual Education and Enrichment Retreat (S.E.E. in the Field)

Wimberley, Texas

Coming June 25-30, 2006, Unity Church of Wimberley is proud to host a Spiritual Enrichment retreat for the whole family! Enjoy a whole week of Spiritual Development classes to fill your mind and lift your spirit! A separate Unity-based youth program will be offered for the children of attendees.

Located just 45 minutes from Austin, and one hour from San Antonio, Wimberley is the perfect place to renew your spirit and expand your mind in the heart of the Texas hill country.

For more information go to www.unityofwimberley.com or call us at 512-847-6587.
# Places to Go, Much to Learn

## Regional Events 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>For</th>
<th>Regional Contact</th>
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<td>YOU</td>
<td>Lisa Yelenick</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
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<td>Sponsor One-day Training</td>
<td>YOU</td>
<td>Lisa Yelenick</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Teacher Training</td>
<td>YED, Teachers, Sponsors, Leaders</td>
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<td>Marygrace Sorensen</td>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
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<td>Bi-Regional Rally</td>
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<td>Bruce Verkruyse</td>
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<td>Girl Power—Workshop for Young Women</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Official Rally</td>
<td>YOU</td>
<td>Jo Horn</td>
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<td>Kids Camp</td>
<td>YE/Uniteen</td>
<td>Penny Gruver &amp; Jackie Green</td>
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<td>YOU Summer Connection</td>
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<td>Carolyn Renfro</td>
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<td>Summer Connection</td>
<td>YOU</td>
<td>Mark Fisk</td>
<td>Santa Barbara, CA</td>
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<td><strong>West Central</strong></td>
<td>Contact your Regional Consultant for upcoming events</td>
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### Association & National Events 2006

- Next Generation of Unity Conference—June 15–18
- International YOU Conference—July 17–22
- Child/Teen Ministry Week—July 30–August 4
- Certified Spiritual Educators Intensive—August 5–7
# Regional Education Services Consultants Directory

(C) Children • (U) Uniteen • (Y) Youth of Unity • (YA) Young Adults of Unity • (NGU) Next Generation of Unity

## Central & South

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Consultant Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central &amp; South</td>
<td>Marygrace Sorensen (C)</td>
<td>8006 Carmel Circle, Houston, TX 77095</td>
<td>(832) 528-9464 (Cell) <a href="mailto:unity_yfm_specialist@yahoo.com">unity_yfm_specialist@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Vacant (U)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>Lisa Yelenick (Y)</td>
<td>3650 S. Dahlia St., Denver, CO 80237</td>
<td>(303) 758-7056 (H) <a href="mailto:anadalu2@earthlink.net">anadalu2@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South YOU</td>
<td>Bruce Verkruyse (Y)</td>
<td>2811 Sieber Dr., Dalworthington Gardens, TX 76016</td>
<td>(817) 460-3741 (H) <a href="mailto:sceu@sbglobal.net">sceu@sbglobal.net</a></td>
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## Eastern

<table>
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<th>Region</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central YOU</td>
<td>Betty Hanbury (C)</td>
<td>305 Overhill Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073</td>
<td>(540) 382-3627 (H &amp; Fax) <a href="mailto:bhanbury3@verizon.net">bhanbury3@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South YOU</td>
<td>Judi Venturini (U)</td>
<td>197 Main St., Emmaus, PA 18049</td>
<td>(610) 965-2533 (H) (484) 892-4120 (Church) <a href="mailto:revjudi@ptd.net">revjudi@ptd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South YOU</td>
<td>Jane Harden (Y)</td>
<td>1865 Laurel Mountain Dr., Salem, VA 24153</td>
<td>(540) 375-3191 (H) <a href="mailto:jaharden@adelphia.net">jaharden@adelphia.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South YOU</td>
<td>Betsy LeBar (YA)</td>
<td>PO Box 80, Claryville, NY 12725</td>
<td>(845) 430-4350 (H) <a href="mailto:easternngu@gmail.com">easternngu@gmail.com</a></td>
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## Great Lakes

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<th>Region</th>
<th>Consultant Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Consultants</td>
<td>Diane Venzera (C)</td>
<td>325 S. Harvey Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302</td>
<td>(708) 785-7566 (Cell) <a href="mailto:consultant@glrkids.org">consultant@glrkids.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Eileen Patra (U)</td>
<td>423 South Kenwood Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48067</td>
<td>(248) 399-4689 (H) <a href="mailto:uniteens@glruniteens.org">uniteens@glruniteens.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes</td>
<td>Jo Horn (Y)</td>
<td>31360 Tamarack Apt. 5105, Wixom, MI 48393</td>
<td>(248) 926-1126 (H) <a href="mailto:jhorn56@sbcglobal.net">jhorn56@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes</td>
<td>Patricia Williams (NGU)</td>
<td>PO Box 1054, Downer's Grove, IL 60515</td>
<td>(630) 886-2024 <a href="mailto:glngu@yahoo.com">glngu@yahoo.com</a></td>
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## Northwest

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Consultants</td>
<td>Penny Gruver (C)</td>
<td>2082 S. Laurel St., Port Angeles, WA 98362</td>
<td>(360) 452-7953 (H) <a href="mailto:kidsnwunity@yahoo.com">kidsnwunity@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern</td>
<td>Jackie Green (U) (Y)</td>
<td>11115 E. 29th Ave., Spokane Valley, WA 99206</td>
<td>(509) 928-0896 (H) (509) 838-6518 (W) <a href="mailto:jackienwyou@comcast.net">jackienwyou@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Jackie Green (U) (Y)</td>
<td>11115 E. 29th Ave., Spokane Valley, WA 99206</td>
<td>(509) 928-0896 (H) (509) 838-6518 (W) <a href="mailto:jackienwyou@comcast.net">jackienwyou@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Nick Muncie-Jarvis (NGU)</td>
<td>9914 SW Conestoga Dr., Beaverton, OR 97028</td>
<td>(503) 524-4030 (H) <a href="mailto:northwest.ngu@gmail.com">northwest.ngu@gmail.com</a></td>
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## Southeast

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Consultants</td>
<td>Holly Gerrell (C)</td>
<td>10800 Kilcrease Way, Tallahassee, FL 32305</td>
<td>(850) 421-3338 (Fax) <a href="mailto:kids@seunityyouth.org">kids@seunityyouth.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Michele Senac (U)</td>
<td>10809 Catron Rd., Perry Hall, MD 21128</td>
<td>(410) 335-3956 (Fax) <a href="mailto:uniteens@comcast.net">uniteens@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Carolyn Renfro (Y)</td>
<td>4574 Alder Dr., Port Orange, FL 32127</td>
<td>(386) 304-5255 (H) (386) 304-5286 (Fax) <a href="mailto:seyou@bellsouth.net">seyou@bellsouth.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Tiffany Emmitt (YA)</td>
<td>1448 Cherokee Circle, Sevierville, TN 37862</td>
<td>(865) 989-9916 (H) <a href="mailto:chicatiff@aol.com">chicatiff@aol.com</a></td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Consultants</td>
<td>Jacque Hardesty (C)</td>
<td>2220 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista, CA 91915</td>
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**A special thank you!**

To all the contributors of this project, we are so grateful. Your willingness to share your wisdom and time to the outstanding content of this *Youth and Family Ministry Guide* is deeply appreciated. The very experienced directors who contributed are: Robin Clark, Director of Youth and Family Ministry (YFM), Unity on the River, Amesbury, MA; Kathryn Kellogg, Children’s Ministry Coordinator; Valerie Mansfield, YFM Director, Unity of Louisville, KY; Joanne Burns, YFM Director, Unity Church of the Hills, Austin, TX; Jacquie Hardesty, Southwest Region Children’s Ministry Consultant; Marygrace Sorensen, South Central Region Children’s Ministry Consultant and Anna Andes, Curriculum Development Consultant.

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