



Thriving Churches and Centers Visionary Statement

Imagine a Unity ministry or center where there is more than enough—more than enough energy, creativity, enthusiasm, expertise, volunteerism, money—an abundance of inspired, committed Unity students of all ages and backgrounds who come together to worship, minister, support, serve and make a difference in the world.

Next, imagine an amazing partnership between credentialed and other leaders modeling self-responsibility, personal integrity, commitment to spiritual practice and prayer, and non-violent communication in such a way that others are inspired to take up meaningful roles in the life of the church—leaders cultivating and mentoring other leaders.

Consider what it would be like to participate in a center or church that is so clear about whom and what it has come here to be, that most of the community are actively bringing forth the shared vision of their future together. Not only are people involved, but they are learning, growing and transforming. And because of this, there is a welcoming spirit that goes beyond attraction—one that brings first-timers face to face with the mirror of their own divinity.

This is a glimpse into the foundation for Unity being the fastest growing transformational spiritual movement in the world. The framework for bringing the vision into reality is the "**Transformation Experience**"—a holistic approach to church development that focuses on raising consciousness, shifting culture, building community, and developing the organization.

Research reveals that thriving churches are fundamentally different from the traditional "pastor / flock" model of ministry. Differences include shifts from a minister-centered to a community-centered church culture; from ministers being perceived as family figures to ministers serving as spiritual coaches and mentors; from directive leadership to leaders developing other leaders; and from top-down governance to practices where every voice is valid.

These shifts represent an evolution in consciousness and leadership capability. The result is a more energized and prosperous organization aligned with our Unity principles and Association core values. This new model of ministry is linked to a bundle of programs, services, and methodologies that are the heart of the **Transformation Experience**.