

Transformation Experience

1 of 4 communications



This is the first installment of four (4) communications regarding areas important to our movement: Transformation Experience, Integration, Ethics Review System (ERS), Finances.

Over the past months, through various venues, there has been a range of opinions and, in some cases, misinformation and misperceptions about the integration proposal, ethics review issues, programs, finances, and leadership of your Unity Worldwide Ministries expressed. We feel it is critical to offer some factual information so our membership may make informed personal decisions on matters before us.

Transformation Experience Pilot Program

SUMMARY: The TE and Enlightened Leaders programs were created in response to the desire from the field for supporting our leaders and enhancing our leadership skills. They include a Pilot Program from which we hope to gain valuable insights for our churches on how to step into their next level of effectiveness. Enlightened Leaders is a program with 130 ministries where experts in the field of leadership share their knowledge with our leaders. Both programs are completely funded by grants and income from the participants.

The Transformation Experience (TE) Pilot Program was designed by a team that included volunteers from the field. Criteria for participation in the Pilot Program were not intended to be exclusive, but rather were established to ensure that ministries in the program were healthy enough from the start to withstand the deep, systemic transformation hoped for. The criteria included a minister and board agreement that during the program the minister would remain employed by the ministry, the church would be reasonably financially solvent, and that no building program would be launched. It requires the ministry to be willing to tithe 10% to Unity Worldwide Ministries, and that all board members tithe to their respective churches. It was understood from the beginning that a church would not continue the program if they did not continue to meet these minimum standards.

Any church could apply to be a pilot church, and those who met the criteria were placed in a lottery and randomly selected. The drawing was made publicly during the convention business meeting two years ago. This group of pilot churches is to be commended for willingness to participate in an untried venture so that all churches can eventually benefit from what they have learned. As a pilot, the group is limited. Once this program is evaluated, all churches will be given the opportunity to benefit from what has been learned if they desire.

Why would one want to engage the TE process? It gives a responsible voice to the people. It fosters a much greater sense of shared ownership, a greater awareness of the responsibilities and possibilities of a spiritual community. Our younger generations are requiring a greater voice and more meaningful participation and co-creation. The TE pilot is designed to develop effective ways to meet those expectations.

The Enlightened Leaders (EL) program is a separate program, although it is contained within the TE program. Over 130 ministers and ministries participate in the EL program as an excellent resource and ministry support.

The Transformation Experience program is independently funded through a grant by the John Templeton Foundation. In addition, the increased portion of tithes from both Pilot Program and Enlightened Leader Program participating ministries support direct program-related expenses.

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We are being called and guided to deliver Unity to the 21st century in a way that honors our founders and our history, yet calls us into a deeper, more challenging level of expression.

Our Unity message to the world is too sacred, too vital in these turbulent times, for us to be divided. We invite you into loving, compassionate conversation, honoring each other as we do so. We all want peace, harmony, respect and cooperation. Nothing is perfect. No system is perfect. No human being is perfect. Yet, we must all take our experience, whatever it is, and learn from it, moving forward in spiritual growth and manifestation.

There is an apt statement: **“Do not be afraid of tomorrow. I am already there.”** Where God guides, God provides.