

# *How to Accelerate Your Spiritual Growth*

## **An Invitation to Participate on a Volunteer Ministry Team**

Greetings! If, as you read this, you have just been a first-time visitor here, or if you are fairly new to our church, we welcome you! This church has an enormous amount to teach you about how to have the kind of life you want through applying spiritual principles.

A relationship with God, prosperity, health, quality of relationships, and inner peace are but some areas in which your life can improve. In learning spiritual principles, there are (as you might expect) two major aspects: The first is hearing, reading about, and studying these principles. The second is practicing their application.

If you are relatively new to this church (if you've been coming here for less than three months), we encourage you to let this be a time to receive through attending the services, classes, and functions of the church. When you reach a point where you recognize that your learning would be accelerated by more fully *practicing* the theories you are learning, we invite you to become a part of one of our Volunteer Ministry Teams.

A spiritual principle which operates in all relationships, families, and groups states: "You can receive *from* a relationship to the degree that you give *to* the relationship." What this means at the church is this: For all that is available to you here, much of it cannot actually be *given to* you. It can only be *claimed by* you through your giving to the church (time, money, prayers, service) and your participation in (not merely attendance at) its services, classes, workshops, and volunteer programs.

Here at Unity of the Keys, our first interest is in you - your desires and spiritual goals. Although this church must, of course, function as a business (we have expenses to meet and salaries to pay), and although it depends on volunteers (Ministry Team Members) to provide its services at the highest level it can, we recognize that, together, *we are* the church. If your volunteer service here serves *you* in achieving *your* life goals, it will also serve the goals of your spiritual family.

### **In deciding how you want to be involved here, here's what we encourage you to do:**

1. Take some time to visualize and write down all the ways you want to grow, and all the ways you want your life to improve during the next year. Include inner goals like a relationship with God, happiness, peace of mind, and a sense of security, as well as outer goals like prosperity, health, relationships, and career.
2. Refer to the list of Volunteer Ministry teams.
3. Ask yourself, "*In order for me to have the life I want:*
  - A. *What qualities in me would need to expand?*
  - B. *What is there in me which might need to be healed?*
  - C. *In what ways would I need to grow?"*
4. Choose an area of participation which will become an *Active Prayer*, a way to demonstrate your desire and support you in achieving your goal. (Our most powerful prayers are our everyday actions.)

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Before listing the opportunities to be of service at the church (tithing your time), we would like you to know that one way you can dramatically increase what you receive here is to practice tithing your income. We believe in, practice, and support financial tithing for two primary reasons: because of all we receive from this life-changing practice, and because it is a wonderful way to assure that the church we love prospers.

## Here is a list of our Volunteer Ministry Teams:

The Youth Education Ministry

The Ministry of Greeting and Ushering

The Bookstore Ministry

The Prayer Chaplains Ministry

The Buildings and Grounds Ministry

The Board of Trustees

The Finance Team Ministry

The Platform Assistant Ministry

Other (your idea)

The Social and Fellowship Ministry

The Music and/or Choir Ministry

The Audio-Visual Ministry

The Spiritual Social Action Ministry

The Prayer Ministry

The Office Assistant Ministry

The Fund Development Ministry

The “Green Team” Ministry

## What you can receive from serving here at Unity- in ANY capacity:

- You can practice seeing and treating yourself as the divine being you are by seeing and treating everyone you serve as divine (as if you had the honor of serving Jesus or Mother Theresa).
- You can experience the difference between *sacrifice* and *true contribution* by always including yourself as one of the recipients of your giving. As you do, you will teach yourself that *to give is to gain* and free yourself to extend God's love as much as you want.
- You can “get out of yourself” by being a part of a larger purpose and mission.
- You can claim ownership of this church.
- Friendships. Through serving together, we get to know each other more deeply than through almost any other means.
- An experience of co-operation and synergy (the whole is greater than the sum of its parts) from being a member of a team.
- You can learn to ask for and receive help when you need or want it.
- Also from being on a team, you can learn to celebrate differences and to value your own unique contribution.
- You can practice *relationships that work* by empowering your teammates and being empowered.
- You can practice seeing and loving all parts of yourself by seeing everyone on your team (and everyone you serve) as your mirror, and loving your reflections.
- You can claim your part in contributing to someone's life as his or her life changes for the better through their involvement with the church.

We will be happy to share with you more ways you can grow and support yourself in achieving your goals at our next one-hour Volunteer Ministry Orientation after an upcoming Sunday service.