

EarthCare Connections

Fall 2011

Twelve New EarthCare Congregations!

Congratulations to the following recently Certified **EarthCare** congregations:

Track A, EarthCare Covenant

- Unity of Medina, Medina, Ohio (Great Lakes Region)
- Unity of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan, (Great Lakes Region)
- Unity of Louisville, Kentucky (Southeast Region)
- Unity of the Keys, Key West, Florida (Southeast Region)
- Unity of Medina Life Enrichment Center, Medina, Ohio (Great Lakes Region)

Track B, EarthCare Commitment

- Unity Way Church, Vista, California (West Central Region)
- Unity of St. Petersburg, Florida (Southeast Region)
- Unity of the Keys, Key West, Florida (Southeast Region)

Track C, EarthCare Congregation

- Peace Unity Church and Holistic Center, Clarkston, Michigan (Great Lakes Region)
- Unity of Tampa, Tampa, Florida (Southeast Region)
- Unity of Prescott, Arizona (Southwest Region).

Five "EarthCare Covenant"

congregations were inspired by Covenant Sunday, an innovative campaign spearheaded by the Great Lakes YOU EarthCare Team. The first Covenant Sunday was held on April 23rd and more are planned. ***We're going to inherit this planet someday,*** says Ben Georgoff, regional YOU communications officer. ***I truly believe EarthCare is part of the mind shift that will bring this planet peace. Will you support our future?*** For more information about the Great Lakes YOU EarthCare Team, go to www.youearthcare.org.



Matthew Long, Senior Minister of Peace Unity Church of Clarkston, Michigan, proudly displays the certificate recognizing it as a **Certified EarthCare Congregation**. Peace Unity consistently offers prayers for the earth, water, air, living creatures and all creation in the meditation segment of its Sunday services.

Thus far in 2011, the number of Certified **EarthCare** Congregations

has more than doubled, a sure sign that the three year old program is rapidly gaining popularity throughout Unity Worldwide Ministries.

Changes to the EarthCare Program

In Unity **EarthCare** Team's ongoing efforts to make the **EarthCare** Program easier to understand and better meet the needs of all types and sizes of congregations, several changes have recently been made.

Congregations may now substitute one of the steps of the Path to **EarthCare**, or one of the activities under the Take Action Step, with one that speaks more directly to their congregation. We've also expanded the types of actions that can be undertaken under several steps on the **Path to EarthCare**.

The seven steps on the **Path to EarthCare** are as follows:

Pray Vision Act Inspire
Learn Share Renew.

Congregations may choose any of three levels of commitment towards completing the **Path**, from setting an intention through adoption of an **EarthCare Covenant** (Track A), to accomplishing three meaningful Steps of the Path through the **EarthCare Commitment** (Track B), to expressing **EarthCare** in all aspects of the ministry by completing all seven of the **Path's** steps in the **EarthCare Congregation** (Track C). Following review and approval, the congregation will be recognized by UET through issuance of a Certificate

of Completion. The ministry also will be acknowledged on the UET website.

The **EarthCare Program** gives ministries a great deal of flexibility to determine the level of involvement with **EarthCare** in which they feel most comfortable, whether or not they own their own facility. Ministries that initially choose Tracks A or B can commit to and complete Tracks B or C at a later date. For more information, go to

www.unity.org/earthcare

or contact us at

earthcare@unity.org.

EarthCare Mentoring

Want to network with others who are on the Path to EarthCare?

Want to learn about creative programs, ideas and activities to help your congregation integrate an earth-oriented spirituality into its ministry, such as sponsoring:

- "Have a Sustainable Christmas" and a "Christmas Card Swap Shop."
- "A Deeper Shade of Green," in which the names of affinity groups within your church congregation are colored different shades of green and promoted on a display board depending upon the level of their environmentally friendly practices.

Then, contact Kathy Harwood Long at long.Kathy@sbcglobal.net, and ask to join the next mentoring conference call on November 19th, 12 noon Eastern time zone, by calling 712-775-7300, pin #477265.