

## Unity EarthCare Program Plants Seeds of Sustainability

The Unity EarthCare Team, a ministry team of Unity Worldwide Ministries, actively supports our movement's consciousness of spiritual interconnectedness between our human thoughts and actions and those of all our planet's inhabitants. The team has designed the **Unity EarthCare Program** to support Unity ministries in integrating an earth-oriented spirituality into their activities.

The program is based upon the **Path to EarthCare**, a seven-step process that guides each church community to discover what Spirit calls them to do to care for our Earth home. The Path includes the following steps:

**Pray - Vision - Inspire**

**Learn - Take Action - Share - Renew**

A ministry may choose any of three options:

- **Track A:** Adopt an **EarthCare Covenant**.
- **Track B:** Complete any three Path steps to achieve your **EarthCare Commitment**.
- **Track C:** Become certified as an **EarthCare Congregation** by completing all seven Path steps, embracing care for creation in every part of your ministry.

The tracks are designed to encourage maximum flexibility. Commitments range from the brief and intimate to perhaps a year-long journey and beyond. (For sample activities of ministries certified in each track go to the back page of this newsletter.)

Whichever track your congregation chooses, upon completion your ministry will receive a Unity EarthCare certificate around which you and your environmental team may create sacred ceremony. Your church or center will

also be acknowledged at future Unity conventions.



If you would like to invite earthcare into your ministry, please consider enrolling in the **Unity EarthCare Program**. Benefits include opportunities to exchange ideas with other ministries, a list of suggested activities, and ongoing support in your efforts to walk lightly on our planet home. Ministries who complete the program find becoming "earthcare certified" an inspiring accomplishment. Go to [www.unity.org/earthcare](http://www.unity.org/earthcare) or contact us at [earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org) to learn more.

*The Unity EarthCare Team has embraced a visionary goal: **Seeing 75% of our ministries in the United States engaged in basic sustainable living practices.** Completion of any of the three tracks of the EarthCare Program is our measure of success. If your ministry is actively caring for creation, you may have already fulfilled the steps for recognition! Let us know of your progress so you can be appropriately honored. We want to hear from you.*

### Track A Certified: Unity of Cedar Rapids

Unity of Cedar Rapids, Iowa has actively engaged in caring for creation for several years, but found that signing an earthcare covenant solidified their dedication to “live-our-consciousness.” Their covenant reads:

- 1) We acknowledge that all of creation is connected as one, and we hold great reverence for the interdependent web of all existence.
- 2) We envision a world that is ecologically responsible and sustainable.
- 3) We commit to actions that align us with oneness, and the interconnectedness of all.
- 4) We acknowledge our personal and spiritual commitment to this Earth Care covenant with Spirit to walk upon the earth for the greatest good for all creation.

*Adapted from “On the Ecological Journey” by Maya Ogren (Contact, Dec/Jan/Feb 2011, page 14).*

### Track B Certified: Unity of Windsor

Unity of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, is a smaller ministry that rents their meeting space, but that hasn't limited their commitment to earthcare! The ministry recycles CFL bulbs, ink cartridges, and pill bottles for Africa. They celebrate Earth Day annually with a sacred ceremony. In 2010 they gave everyone a magnetic copy of their EarthCare Covenant to put on their refrigerator, and planted flowers with the children around their rented space.

Unity of Windsor also sponsors events for their community. In 2009, in coordination with the Unitarian-Universalists and the CAW labor group, they held a bottled water forum that featured guest speakers and a drawing for energy-related prizes. Last year they hosted an “Awakening the Dreamer Symposium” at their facility, and handed out pamphlets, energy-efficient covers for water heaters, and energy-efficient showerheads at the Green Living Expo at Hospice.

### Track C Certified: Unity of Beaverton

Unity of Beaverton, Oregon's motto is “We are the ones putting feet to our faith.” Among their many activities are:

- Praying for the planet during Sunday service “Community Prayer” requests.
- Sharing eco-tips and affirmations in Sunday bulletins.
- Book studies on environmental issues.
- Hosting community events like “Focus the Nation” (conference on climate change) and the “Awakening the Dreamer” symposium.
- Sponsoring educational exhibits on sustainable living for Earth Day.
- Installing a new roof, fascia, and soffit to improve heating and cooling.
- Bringing a weekly farmers' market to the church.
- Coordinating with Waste Management to label dumpsters in Spanish to improve recycling success.
- Signing an agreement with Tualatian Hills Park & Recreation District to adopt a park.

#### Great Lakes YOU Adopts EarthCare!

Last fall members of the Great Lakes regional Youth of Unity team embraced EarthCare as their own! After creating a website, they spearheaded an EarthCare “Covenant Sunday” on April 3, in which six regional ministries and a few from outside the region adopted covenants to care for creation. The team also developed a presentation on the Great Lakes YOU EarthCare Program, which they are scheduled to present at the International YOU gathering this summer.

The YOU EarthCare team meets weekly via phone conference; afterwards, the call is open to any YOU who wishes information. To learn more, contact the YOU team at [info@youearthcare.org](mailto:info@youearthcare.org) or visit their website at [www.youearthcare.org](http://www.youearthcare.org).