

Sample EarthCare Covenanting Ceremony

This sample Earth Care Covenanting ceremony is made available for those ministries wanting to take a step in consciousness that leads the congregation into a sacred agreement to express God Love as care for creation. Some Unity ministries have considered this to be an annual event in the life of their community.

This is one church's Covenanting Ceremony. It was submitted by Linda Stalvey from Unity of Medina, OH. There are infinite variations on the theme. The Unity EarthCare Team offers this as a support for fulfilling Track A of the Unity EarthCare Program. For additional ideas and resources, please go to unity.org/earthcare to click on link to "Certified Unity Churches + Covenants", or greatlakesunity.com/Earthcare.

Purpose: To allow congregations to make and honor a commitment to Earth Care. This ceremony provides emphasis to some aspect of the planet earth and/or care of her. The Native American tribes, with earth-centered religions, provide a wonderful basis for a Covenanting Ceremony. The following ceremony will be used by Unity of Medina and is based on the four elements.

The weekly program will explain that service is to honor the congregation's commitment to Earth Care and is not typical service. Brief announcement prior to start of service will proclaim the same to provide setting for visitors and others who may not have been aware of Earth Care efforts.

1. Unity of Medina's Joy Sacred Dancers will start the service by dancing into sanctuary holding representations of the four elements (earth, water, fire, air). Each element will be placed on a table in full view of the congregation.
Music used: The Earth is Our Mother
2. Music for the service will be provided by Douglas Bluefeather ... Native American flute.
3. *Daily Word* will be chosen to reflect an aspect of Earth Care; example: Sunday, April 22, 2007, *Daily Word*: Stewardship.
4. Post-meditation song will be Deep Peace. Joy Dancers will dance.
5. Message
6. Post-message: Intergenerational acceptance of Earth Care covenant. Each of the grades will participate in a mini-commitment statement or presentation developed by Sunday school teachers.
7. Large copy of Earth Care Covenant will be posted prominently in church to be signed by individuals within congregation. Representatives of each segment of church family will sign during ceremony; example: Minister, board, students, volunteers, attendees. Covenant will remain posted to allow all individuals to sign at their leisure.
8. A portion of collection will be tithed to earth care related nonprofit.
9. Peace Song: Joy Dancers will dance within the circle, blowing bubbles in celebration.