

Inspire

Through prayers, songs and ceremonies, divine ideas will blossom into creative and meaningful expressions of caring for the Earth and creation. The Truth that God is everywhere present in Creation then becomes alive in people's minds and hearts, and translates into daily action.

Educate

Education is a key component to fully comprehend and understand the complexities and spiritual interconnectedness of environmental and social justice issues. Educating people to pray first and act upon guidance fosters unity and God-centered action.

Act

Right action will follow based on the needs and Vision of the spiritual community to care for the Earth and creation. The activities may be simple or complex, contained solely within the ministry, or reach out into the broader community. For a list of possible actions, refer to "Suggestions/Opportunities" at, www.unityworldwideministries.org/earthcare.

We encourage EarthCare Congregations to express their vision and creativity by adopting sustainable lifestyle practices. The actions of the ministry can be a model and encourage individuals to make changes in their personal lives as well.

Share

As ministries share their achievements within the spiritual community or beyond

through word-of-mouth, presentations, and news media is important for fostering the work within our congregations and the larger community, EarthCare's goals and accomplishments expand outward exponentially through connection and networking. Networking with other groups and programs reminds us that we are not alone in the task of caring for creation. By raising awareness of our common cause, we can unite our actions to care for humanity and the planet that sustains us.

Reaffirm

Every work has its seasons. There are ebbs and flows in EarthCare work. However, through ceremonies, rituals and simply pausing to reflect on an annual basis, enthusiasm and zeal for this sacred work is rekindled. It also provides an opportunity to reassess where the program has been and where it may lead in the future.



Please contact us at earthcare@unity.org for more details about pursuing these Levels or involving your ministry in EarthCare. You also may call Mike McCord, program facilitator, at 913.907.4061.

Rev. 03-13-19



A Ministry Team of Unity Worldwide Ministries

EarthCare Program *The Path to EarthCare*

Overview

The Unity EarthCare Team (UET) Vision, *All humanity lives in a spiritual consciousness that manifests as loving coexistence with all creation and care for our Earth home*, is guiding our movement's churches and faith centers toward a consciousness of spiritual interconnectedness between our own human thoughts and actions and those of all our planet's inhabitants.

The **EarthCare Program** guides congregations along the seven-step **Path to EarthCare**. There are three levels of certification:

- **EarthCare Covenant**
- **EarthCare Commitment**
- **EarthCare Fulfillment**

Congregations may be certified at any of the three levels. Each level has been designed to lead the congregation to increasing levels of commitment, from setting an intention with the Covenant, to accomplishing some meaningful actions in the Commitment program, to expressing EarthCare in all aspects of the ministry by completing all seven steps and eight actions of the program.

Regardless of the option chosen, it is important that the ministry leadership be

included in discerning EarthCare actions that are appropriate for the ministry.

We welcome questions that will help your congregation discern which components of the *Unity EarthCare Program* to choose. We are also available to support you in implementing those components. Please contact us at earthcare@unity.org.

Levels of Certification

Level A: EarthCare Commitment

Completing this level fulfills the **Prayer** and **Vision** Steps. Creating a covenant provides a statement of commitment to the EarthCare Program by the leadership of the ministry. An EarthCare Covenant is a sacred trust between the church community and Spirit, and should be adopted by the governing body as well as senior spiritual leadership. Although samples are provided on the website in "Suggestions/Opportunities," congregations are invited to be creative and discern their individual statements.

Level B: EarthCare Commitment

Level B provides guidance for church communities to demonstrate their commitment to realizing its EarthCare vision by completing **four steps and three of the actions** on **The Path to EarthCare (see below)**. (Two of the steps are achieved by adopting a covenant). Also describe the history, current status and future plans of the EarthCare program (e.g., Green Team) of your ministry.

Level C: EarthCare Fulfillment

This entails completion of **all seven steps** of the **The Path to EarthCare** and **six of the eight** action steps. Level C is a comprehensive approach to earth-oriented spirituality that touches the entire life of the ministry.

By completing the **Path to EarthCare**, a consciousness for EarthCare that includes both spiritual and practical actions is cultivated. It is our experience that by following this process EarthCare can be integrated into the life of the ministry in a way that is sustainable over time.

Here is the complete Action List:

1. Complete an environmental/energy audit.
2. Institute an energy/water conservation program
3. Recycle.
4. Waste Minimization (reduce, reuse, repurpose)
5. Conservancy of Natural Resources. (i.e. maintain a park, an area of highway, green area or participate in clean the stream programs).
6. Independent Web of Creation (Undertake actions that call for a renewed reverence & respect for all forms of life as well as the interdependent web of creation. As our consciousness comes into deeper alignment with divine mind, we more fully express the Vision of EarthCare.
7. Ecological Social Justice. Promote an environmentally just world that is free from oppression and discrimination

against people, and the inhumane treatment of animals.

8. Mindful Eating. Help restore or sacred relationship with the Earth, animals & all creation by raising consciousness that food choices are a spiritual practice that promotes care for both ourselves and the Earth.

The Path to EarthCare

A conscious strategy can help us achieve success in any undertaking. This 7-step Path recognizes spiritual commitment and visioning as essential parts of reaching our goals. Ministries pursuing a commitment to EarthCare would likely cycle through these steps many times as they proceed along their path.

Pray

Prayer creates a consciousness for inspiration, guidance and community. Prayer will guide your ministry to express its own unique vision of caring for the Earth and creation.

Vision

Vision defines the purpose, critical processes and goals of the EarthCare Program. This will lead to creation of an EarthCare Covenant. It may also include a vision statement and a mission statement to guide your ministry on the *Path to EarthCare*.

When developing a vision for EarthCare, the congregation may hold a prayerful dialogue by asking questions such as: "How do we perceive God?" "What is our relationship to God's creation?" "How can we be good caregivers of Earth?"