

EarthCare Congregation Program

Certification Checklist

To receive recognition as an *EarthCare Congregation*, the ministry will identify how they have implemented each of the Path steps. Submit this Checklist, along with a brief description of the actions taken, to the EarthCare Team at earthcare@unity.org.

- Pray**—We have created a consciousness for EarthCare work through prayer.
- Vision**—We have formulated our vision through a covenant, vision statement or mission statement.
- Inspire**—We have maintained a sacred space for creation through Sunday services and special ceremonies.
- Learn**—We have sponsored educational activities within the church and within the community.
- Act**—We have completed the following actions, according to the attached explanations.
 - Conducted energy/environmental audit
 - Implemented recommendations of energy audit
 - Established recycling program
 - Minimized waste of water, paper, heating and cooling
 - Conserved water and landscape
 - Accepted new stewardship of local natural resource
 - Promoted awareness of the interdependence of Creation

Share—We have shared our ideas and successes within the congregation and the community.

Renew—We have periodically renewed, re-assessed, and celebrated our vision.

Special circumstances/reasons making it impossible to implement the following item(s) on the checklist (please describe):

The UCOH Earthcare Circle has a sustainability system in effect to honor our environmental resources.

The seven (7) aspects of UCOH's program are:

- **Pray**-Through prayer, the team intends to expand the consciousness of compassion for the Earth, and express gratitude for the natural resources that provide for a vibrant Church life. Team meetings open and close with prayer. "Earth Blessings, Prayers For Our Planet" is a resource for prayer leaders.
- **Vision**-Through the expression of caring focus, congregants and visitors to the Church will honor the resources and respect the conservation programs made available that affirm the guidance to reduce, reuse, and recycle. The UCOH Mission to put God first is expressed through our care of Earth.
- **Inspire**-We, as a Congregation, observe the leads that Spirit provides for presenting and implementing the Earthcare Congregational Program set forth by the Association of Unity Churches International.
- **Learn**-The Church provides a variety of learning opportunities to continue inspiring and informing the participants attending Church activities.
- **Act**-The UCOH Earthcare Circle will take proactive observance of the following areas: respect of energy use, responsible use of water, reduction of waste, and accept stewardship of a local natural resource.
- **Share** - The UCOH Earthcare Circle will maintain a history of the sustainability practices observed in the Church, and provide a quarterly update to the Senior Minister. Progress on certification will be reported to the Association through the mentoring program available. Efforts to inform the congregation of recent developments in sustainability will be ongoing.
- **Renew** - The UCOH Earthcare Circle will re-evaluate the action plan on a yearly basis.