



# Education Links

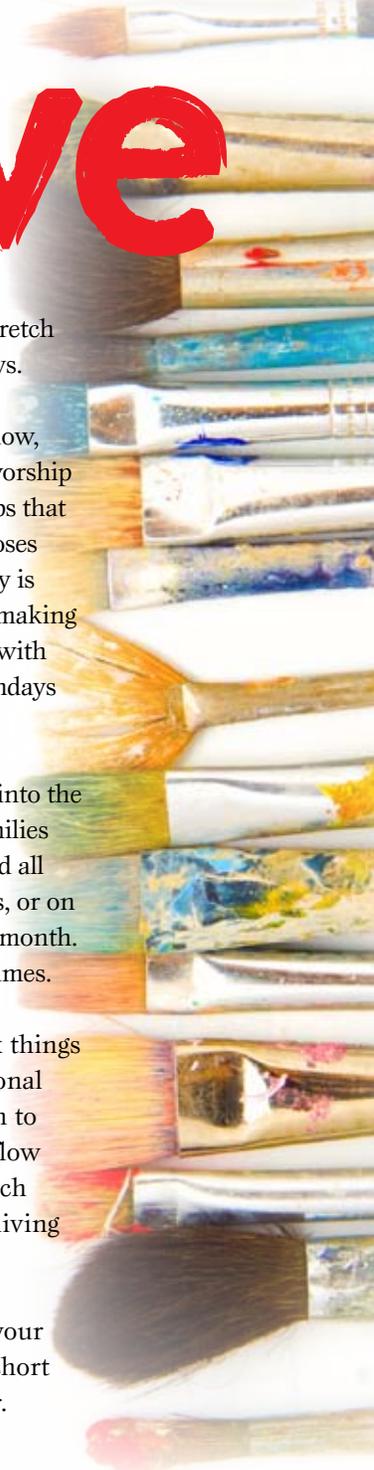
Inspiring, motivating, guiding Unity Churches to enhance and expand their ministries with children, teens & families

[www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org)

Volume 16, Issue 2

Spring 2009

## Be Creative



by Kathryn Kellogg  
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator

Summer is traditionally the time when families travel, kids go visit grandparents, and the weather practically begs those with tents and cabins to spend time at the lake. It is a time to relax, kick back, and enjoy the simple pleasures. This usually means sporadic attendance in youth ministry for both our kids and teachers.

This summer, however, there may be more families staying home and looking for something to do so why not involve them in something fun? Create a different experience for Sunday mornings or add a day camp (or Saturday camp or evening camp or ...).

For Sunday mornings, take a break in your regular curriculum and try a fun 12 week special theme. You can do the 12 Powers—one for each Sunday; or recreate a hillside or Palestinian village and present 12 stories or parables that Jesus told. If you love water, capture the kids' attention by exploring the sea/fish stories in the Bible, like Jonah and the whale, casting the nets, Jesus walking on water, etc.

You can also purchase great themed curriculum like *Lumindorf* (based on the Harry Potter books), *The Journey to Oz*, and *Jungle Safari* created by Rev. Diane Venzera. These can be ordered at [www.dianevenzera.com](http://www.dianevenzera.com). Or take one of her summer camp curriculums, *Jungle Safari Spirit Camp*, *Supernova*

*Spirit Camp*, or *Amazing Creation Studio* and stretch the 3–5 days out for a whole summer of Sundays.

If there is one month when your attendance is low, then maybe that month you invite families to worship together while the teachers take a break. Perhaps that month is movie month where the minister chooses four family films and talks about how each story is active in our lives today. Another idea may be making the first Sunday of each month Family Sunday with fun music, story, and treats. These are great Sundays to invite friends to come and join the fun.

Day camps are another great way to get people into the fun of summer. Day camps are great if your families live close. However, if your families are scattered all around the city, then have camp in the evenings, or on three consecutive Saturdays, or one Saturday a month. There is no end to how you can create special times.

This is a great summer to be creative and mix things up. Bring classes together or set up the rotational centers or invite others from the congregation to share their talents or ...? Let your creativity flow and see how creative you can be and how much fun you can have. And, when you're a child, living consciously in Spirit is all about having fun.

Please let us know how you end up creating your summer. Send us your ideas, pictures, and a short write-up to share with everyone for next year.

Education Links is a publication of the



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## Summer Programs

### Be Creative

Do something different for the summer.

### Summer Camps

Five camp curricula to consider.

## Resources

### Subject Release Form

When using children's/teens photos for assorted media

### Do You NGU?

Free resource to get started.

### Navigating the Web

Finding your way through the new website.

### Stimulus Sale

Clearing our inventory shelves of books and curriculum.

### Regional Education Services Consultants Directory

## Events

### Regional and National Trainings, Workshops, and Retreats Calendar

### Child/Teen Ministry Week

### IYOU Peace Ambassador Training

### Spirit's Light 7th Annual Children and Teen Ministry Conference

page

1

4

6

7

8

9

11

10

12

15

16

Content

## Hello Dear Ones,

Have you had a chance to see the February/March 2009 issue of *Contact* magazine? *Contact* magazine is a publication for Unity ministries that provides timely, practical information for Unity churches, and the above mentioned issue is all about youth and family ministry. Thank you for all the contributions that came in from so many of you. Take a look at [www.unity.org/association/publications/contactMagazine.html](http://www.unity.org/association/publications/contactMagazine.html).

Working on *Contact* magazine spurred us on to re-imagine *Education Links* and to create a new look and format to serve you better. Together with our in-house Creative Team, Bernadette, Kris, Jane and I are excited to announce that the next issue, *Education Links Fall 2009*, will be rolled out with a new look and new features.

Look over the following areas and see where you can contribute with articles, pictures, ideas, and more. Whenever you do of one of these areas, capture it in words and pictures, and send it on to [kid@unity.org](mailto:kid@unity.org). We want lots of pictures. (A Subject Release form is included in this issue.) Hint: 200 words is approximately half of a page; 400 words—one page. It goes fast! (Check word count in MS Word under File/Properties/Statistics.)



Thank you ahead of time for sending all your articles, ideas, and pictures. This is going to be an amazing resource for everyone.

Kathy

Starting in the fall issue there will be regular columns for:

**Shining the Light:** Highlighting a youth and family ministry in one of our Unity churches. The feature will include pictures and information about the program with what they do best and their growing edge. (400 words)

**What's Happening in Your Region?:** Pictures and short descriptions of events or activities in your region.

**Q & A:** Taking questions from those of you doing the work, and having one of the regional education consultants answer. (200-300 words)

**Living Truth:** Real-life examples from or about children/teens illustrating how they used a Unity principle in their life. (200 words)

**Opening the Bible:** Exploring a Bible story for the teaching value and metaphysical meaning geared at a children's and teens' level. (400 words)

**Sacred Safety:** Reminders and tips on best practices for policies and procedures. (200 words)

**Spiritual Social Action:** Walking our talk to serve others including events, activities, and learning opportunities for service. (200-400 words)

**Spiritual Parenting Resources:** Sharing ideas and resources for supporting spiritual development in the home. (200 words)

**Volunteer Tips:** Sharing ideas for recruiting, training, and maintaining amazing volunteers. (200 words each)

**Idea Bin:** Ideas for lessons, activities, events, etc. for youth and intergenerational ministry. (200 words each)

**Classroom Clues:** Mini-training on how to enrich or expand our skills in youth ministry. (200-400 words)

**Featured articles on the theme:** Exploring the 12 Powers through lessons, activities, events, ideas.

**Fall 2009** order, zeal, renunciation/release (due by May 1 to [kid@unity.org](mailto:kid@unity.org))

**Winter 2009** life, faith, love (due by June 1)

**Spring 2010** strength, wisdom, power (due by Sept. 1)

**Summer 2010** imagination, understanding, will (due by Nov. 1)

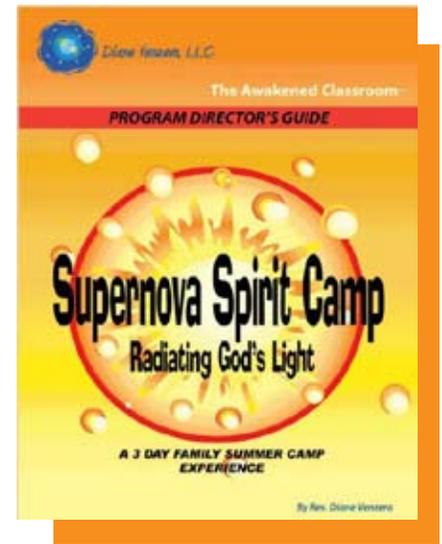
# Summer Camp Curriculum

I have chosen five summer camp curricula for you to consider for your ministry. Three are Unity and two are from more traditional Christian denominations. I highly recommend using Unity summer camp materials because of the solid Unity principles and Unity culture already built into them and the very reasonable costs. However, the two non-Unity camps were added because they covered themes that are not available through Unity, but have value. You will have to “unitize” the theology which means some rewriting and the costs are higher, but give them a look. If you have any questions, go to the websites or give me a call at 816.434.6869. —Editor

## Supernova Spirit Camp: Radiating God's Light

### 3-Day Unity Family Camp Adventure

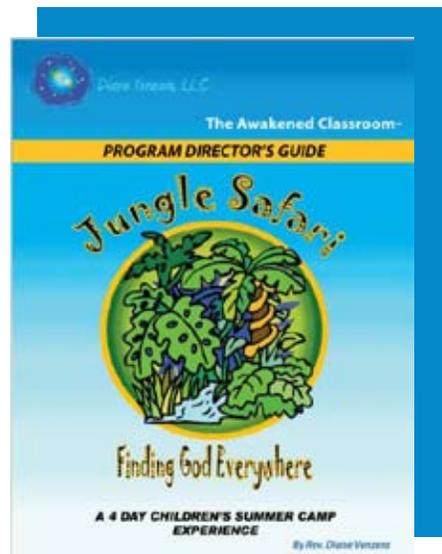
Want to have fun this summer by exploring space—the divine spark, within you? Rev. Diane Venzera has created this space adventure complete with everything you will need (instructions and lessons) to make it happen. Designed for families yet adaptable for just children, ages 4–14, this curriculum package includes four guides—one each for program director; opening, closing and food; arts, games and sciences; and the drama and storytelling—that prepare you for all kinds of spiritual discovery and fun. There is even a CD with the forms to help you put together the best summer camp ever. For more information and ordering, go to [www.dianevenzera.com](http://www.dianevenzera.com).

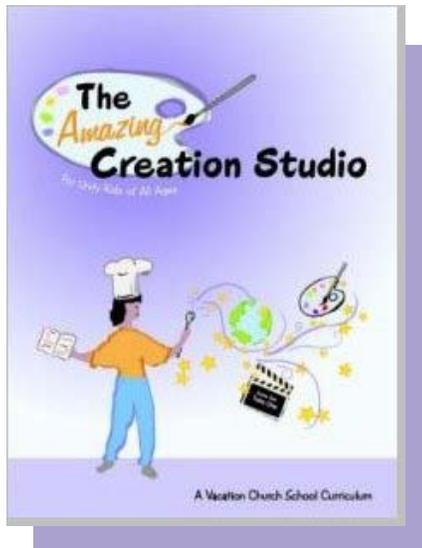


## Jungle Safari Spirit Camp

### 4-Day Unity Bible-based Spirit Camp

This curriculum explores how you can find God within everybody, everything, and in every experience. Written on the rotational model, there are a variety of activities and experiences for each day. Includes manuals, forms, flyers, and advertising. This is an expanded version of the Sunday morning curriculum. For more information and ordering, go to [www.dianevenzera.com](http://www.dianevenzera.com).





## Amazing Creation Studio

### 5-Day Unity Camp of Creativity

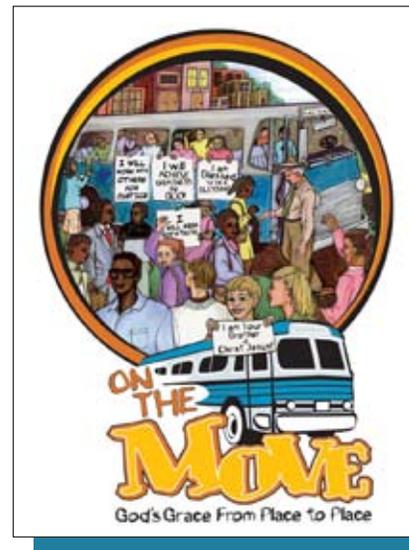
Developed on the rotational model, this curriculum encourages creativity and building relationships. The creative process as taught through the creation story helps the campers find their own unique ways of expressing their creativity, and then provides opportunities to explore those gifts. The different studios are: Lights ... Camera ... Action; Awesome Art Adventures; Fabulous Food with a Flair; and Adventures Around the World. The week ends with a presentation of all the creations on the last day of Amazing Creation! This curriculum is also adaptable to use for Sunday mornings. Available through [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org) in the Shop function (item BA6856).

## On the Move

### 5-Day United Methodist Camp

“On The Move is a unique, heritage-based, multicultural curriculum focused on how God’s spirit gave momentum to the Civil Rights Movement in different places, drawing the people of God towards greatness through blessing, justice, truth and reconciliation.”

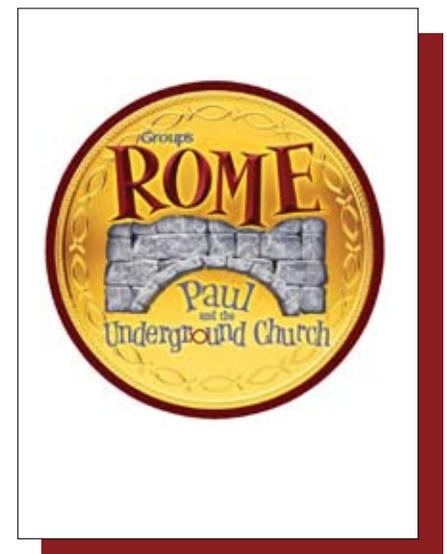
Each day is based on a Bible story, memory verse, affirmation, and heritage place/event. Leader books and craft kits are available. Go to [www.VBSShowcase.Cokesbury.com](http://www.VBSShowcase.Cokesbury.com) for more information.



## Group’s Rome: Paul and the Underground Church

5-Day Camp (can be used for families as well as just kids)  
Mainline Protestant

“Families meet Paul and early Christians from the Underground Church....become apprentices in a variety of hands-on marketplace shops, play high energy games and visit with Paul who is under house arrest.” This is similar to Group’s Jerusalem Marketplace. The five themes are based on Paul’s writings about God’s love—is a gift, changes us, God’s always with us, save us, and is worth sharing. For more information, go to [www.VBSShowcase.Cokesbury.com](http://www.VBSShowcase.Cokesbury.com).



Please note that all quotes are from the VBS 2009 Showcase catalog from Cokesbury.

# Subject Release Form

(To be signed by any recognizable person within a photograph, slide or video.)

I, the undersigned, do agree to waive all rights and /or residual payments for the use of my name and/or likeness of me however created, as well as reproduction in any form, with or without alterations or omissions by the ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL, and/or those contracted by them, for use in any promotional or resource material produced by the Association of Unity Churches International without limitations or reservations. The Association will not include names of children under 11 years of age unless essential to the use of the publication. Information provided below will be used only to verify permission.

Subject's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unity Center \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Subject's address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Subject's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature if Subject is under 18 years old.

**Note:**

Please return this release to:

Association of Unity Churches International  
Attn: Education Links  
PO Box 610  
Lees Summit, MO 64063

# Do you NGU?

(Next Generation Unity)

## Be a part of the Association's strategic goal:

To cultivate the spiritual development of young adults, we establish 100+ sustainable Next Generation Unity (NGU) groups and ministries by September 30, 2012.

Not sure where to start?  
Want to grow the group you already have?

**NGU<sup>3</sup> is for you!**



**NGU<sup>3</sup>: Evolve, Support, Serve**  
is a toolkit for creating NGU groups, and is now available for free by contacting Rachel Simpson, Youth Adult Specialist, at [ngu@unity.org](mailto:ngu@unity.org).

**To find out more** about NGU and this resource, visit our website, [www.unity.org/ngu](http://www.unity.org/ngu)



# Navigating the Web

Have you explored our “new” website at [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org)? Unity School of Christianity (Unity Village) and the Association of Unity Churches International have combined their individual websites into one. The address is the same for us but now the site provides information about both organizations—events, activities, education, and more—and is constantly being updated for better service. With so much information, however, it takes a tad more navigation to get where you want to be.

Starting on the home page, [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org), the below instructions will aid you in moving between the pages.

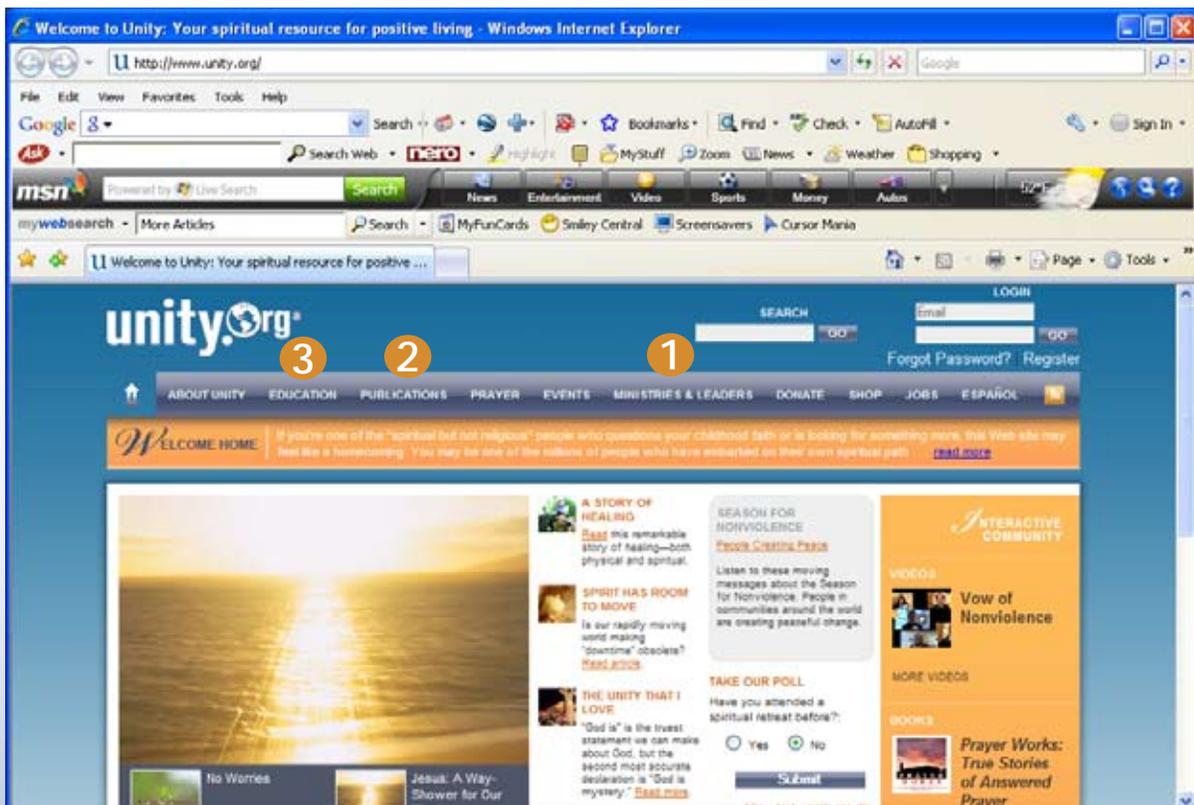
**1** To find the youth ministry pages, click on the upper tab **Ministries and Leaders**. Right under it is the tab for **Youth and Family**. Click on that and it opens to the page with links to curriculum, sacred safety,

regional consultants, children’s ministry, teen ministry, the IYOU website, *Education Links* archives, and religious emblems. This page is in the process of being updated for greater ease in finding the different resources available.

**2** You can access *Education Links* and *E-Link* by clicking on the upper tab **Publications** and scrolling down to **Materials For Ministries**. Here you can sign up for *E-Link* and view or print any of the past e-newsletters.

**3** Youth ministry can also be accessed if you click on the upper tab **Education**. In the first section, there is a link to the youth ministry pages.

If you have any trouble finding what you are looking for, please contact us at [kid@unity.org](mailto:kid@unity.org) or [cwriter@unity.org](mailto:cwriter@unity.org).



Association of Unity Churches International

# Stimulus Sale on Curriculum and Children's Book

Drastically reduced prices from April 1-June 30!

## Children's Storybooks from \$2-\$10

A wide variety of quality books originally priced between \$3 - \$15, now priced lower than new at Amazon. Titles include *Old Turtle*, *In God's Name*, *The Sunflower Parable*, *House for Hermit Crab* and more.

## Vintage YOU Pins

Formerly \$6.00 each, NOW ONLY \$1.00  
At this price, you can buy enough for everyone in your YOU group!

## Curriculum Deals

These "oldies but goodies" are a must-have at these prices.  
*Metaphysics of Wonderland* \$2.00  
*Chicken Soup for the Soul, 2nd Helping* \$5.00  
*Learning About Myself in the Old Testament A, B, C* Complete set for \$30 or \$15 ea.

## Buy 1 for \$10, Get 1 Free

*Children on the Quest Parts 3 & 4* (includes index)

For a complete listing of items and prices, go to [www.unity.org/curriculum](http://www.unity.org/curriculum)

To order: Call the order desk at 816.434.6813



# Regional & National Trainings, Workshops and Retreats

Please go to the regional website listed in the consultants' directory for more information.

## 2009

- May 2 South Central: Children's Ministry Training for Nebraska, Colorado and Denver area
- May 26-28 Corporate Youth Director's Forum, River Forest, IL
- May 28-30 7th National New Thought Children & Teen Ministry Conference—"SHINE ON..." River Forest, IL
- June 21-26 Northwest: Unitreat (Uniteens), Cispus Center, Randle, WA
- June 21-25 Southwest: Kid's Camp, Camp E.L.K., Wrightwood, CA
- June 21-26 Southwest: Uniteen Summer Camp, Camp E.L.K., Wrightwood, CA
- June 24-28 Great Lakes Official YOU Rally
- June 26-28 Eastern: Youth Ed Directors' Retreat, Bangor, PA
- June 27-30 Northwest: Kids Camp (YOU Service Project), Camp Waskowitz, North Bend, WA
- July 3-9 Southwest: YOU Summer Connection: UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA
- July 19-24 Peace Ambassador Training for IYOU, Unity Village, MO
- Aug 2-7 Child/Teen Ministry Week, Unity Village, MO
- Aug 9-13 Northwest: YOU Rendezvous, Vernonia, OR
- Sept 12 Great Lakes: Youth Team Leadership Training for Uniteen Leaders, YOU Sponsors & Youth Directors, Unity Northwest Church, Des Plaines, IL
- Sept 12 Southeast: Youth Team Training for Directors, Uniteen Leaders, YOU sponsors, Orlando, FL
- Sept 19 Southeast: Youth Team Training for Directors, Uniteen Leaders, YOU sponsors, Center for New Beginnings, Dahlonega, GA
- Sept. 19 South Central: Directors, Uniteen & YOU Leaders Training, Dallas, TX
- Oct 2-4 Southeast: Fall Uniteen Retreat for Uniteens & their adult leaders, Camp Weed, Live Oak, FL
- Oct 10 South Central: Uniteen & YOU Leaders Training, San Antonio, TX
- Oct 16-18 Northwest: YOU Retreat, Camp Waskowitz, North Bend, WA
- Oct 23-25 Eastern: YOU Fall Rally, Camp Tockwogh, MD
- Nov 6-8 Northwest: Fall Unitreat (Uniteens), Cispus Center, Randle, WA
- Nov 6-8 Great Lakes: Fall Unitreat for Uniteens & Leaders/Chaperones, Ingleside, IL, contact Eileen Patra

# Regional Education Services Consultants Directory

The Unity ministries in the United States are divided up into seven regions. In each region, there are educational consultants that support and enrich the spiritual development of youth and all those who serve them. Below is information on how to contact the consultants in your region.

(C) Children—for those serving infants through 5th grade

(U) Uniteen—for those serving grades 6–8

(Y) Youth of Unity—for those serving grades 9–12

CSE—Certified Spiritual Educator

LT—Licensed Teacher

## Eastern

Contact information at: [www.ERChildTeenMinistry.org](http://www.ERChildTeenMinistry.org)  
Jane Harden (Y)

## Great Lakes

Contact information at: [www.greatlakesunity.com/consultants.html](http://www.greatlakesunity.com/consultants.html)  
Rev. Diane Venzera (C)  
Eileen Patra, CSE, LT (U)  
Jo Horn, CSE (Y)

## Northwest

Contact information at: [www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org). Click on Programs, and then Youth.  
Rev. Penny Gruver (C)  
Rev. Jackie Green (U, Y)

## Southeast

Contact information at: [www.seunityyouth.org](http://www.seunityyouth.org)  
Steven Butler, CSE (C)  
Michele Senac, CSE, LT (U)  
Carolyn Renfro, CSE, LT (Y)

## South & Central

Contact information at: [www.scucaregion.com](http://www.scucaregion.com)  
Click on Youth & Family Ministry.  
Marygrace Sorensen, CSE, LT (C for both; Y for South)  
Joanne Burns, CSE, LT (U)  
Lisa Yelenick (Y for Central)

## Southwest

Contact information at: [www.swunity.org](http://www.swunity.org)  
Jacquie Hardesty (C)  
Rev. Mark Fisk (U, Y)

## West Central

Contact information at: [www.westcentralregion.com](http://www.westcentralregion.com). Click on YOU and YE Website  
Shirley Barbula (C)  
Jerry Sharp, CSE, LT (U, Y)

**For ministries with young adults and Next Generation,** go to [www.unity.org/ngu](http://www.unity.org/ngu). The regional consultants for this ministry can be found by scrolling down the page.



## Facilitators

Rev. Kathryn Kellogg, CSE, LUT  
Children's and Family Ministry Coordinator

Rev. Jane Simmons  
International Teen Ministry Coordinator

Rev. Diane Venzera, CSE, LUT  
Great Lakes Regional Children's Consultant and  
Executive Director of Spirit's Light Foundation

Bernadette Swanson, LUT  
Curriculum Writer/Editor

## Comments on the 2008 Child/Teen Ministry Week

"Unbelievable amount of **information**  
about everything!"

"I am so glad I came. It's the happiest/most  
fulfilled I've felt for a long time. I am going  
back **excited and renewed to  
minister to our kids.**"

"It was truly an awesome experience—far  
**beyond my expectations.** I am  
grateful for all I discovered."

**Open to all** who minister to children and teens. Whether you are a youth ministry director, a volunteer, a minister, or a congregant wanting to know more about youth ministry, this week is for you.

**A** 40-hour **integrated study** exploring:

- Faith development and how young people create their image of God
- Life issues and using Unity principles to thrive
- Use of story as a foundational tool for spiritual growth
- Supportive church environments for youth ministry
- Sacred safety practices for facilities, programming, and staffing

## August 2-7, 2009

Starting on Sunday evening, August 2 at 6:30 pm and ending on Friday, August 7, at 5:30 pm.

**Class Fee** \$400

### For more information,

see our website, [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org) (go to Ministries & Leaders, then Youth & Family) or contact Kathryn Kellogg, Children's and Family Ministry Coordinator at [kid@unity.org](mailto:kid@unity.org) or 816.434.6869.



## Reading before you arrive:

*Youth and Family Ministry Guide* and *Uniteen Program Guide*. Other reading assignments will be sent when registration is received.



## Logistics:

This week is facilitated by the Association of Unity Churches International and held at Unity Village during the “C” session of the Spiritual Education and Enrichment Program.

## You will need to:

**1 Register for the class:** Fill out the registration form and mail to the Association with the fee, attention: Kathy Kellogg.



## 2 Reserve lodging:

- **If you choose to stay on grounds at Unity Village** there are a variety of accommodations available including the historic motel or the new Spiritual Life Center. You may also choose to have single or shared accommodations. Room pricing usually includes meals. **For further information contact SpiritPath, Unity reservations at 866.348.6489.**

\*If you are looking for a roommate, please contact Kathy for suggestions.

- **More information about area lodging can be found at [www.unity.org/areainfo](http://www.unity.org/areainfo)**

## 3 Reserve airport transportation

If you need transportation to and from the airport, please see our website at [www.unity.org/areainfo](http://www.unity.org/areainfo)



# Class Registration

Child/Teen Ministry Week

August 2-7, 2009

Name (Mr. Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone  Home  Work  
 Cell  Church \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Church City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Church website \_\_\_\_\_

Area currently working in:

Children  Uniteens  Teens  Director

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Years of experience in the above area \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently:  Seeking certification as a Certified Spiritual Educator (CSE)

CSE  LUT  Minister

Will you have a car available during the week?  Yes  No

Are you staying at Unity Village?  Yes  No

**Method of Payment: (\$400 class fee)**

Check (Payable to Association of Unity Churches Intl)

MasterCard  Visa  Amer Express Total to be charged \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

exp. date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ CID # \_\_\_\_\_

Name as appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**For Office Use:**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Received \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reference # \_\_\_\_\_

Processed by \_\_\_\_\_

Fund **52**

**Enclose course registration and fee**

**mail to:** Association of Unity Churches International  
Attn: Kathy Kellogg  
P.O. Box 610  
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

**or fax to:** 816.525.4020



**Questions, call:** 816.434.6869

# New Youth of Unity Event Replaces Conference

The focus of our yearly International Youth of Unity event has now become leadership training intended to build capacity of our youth in becoming our future leaders. This event is part of a program of development, designed to promote leadership skills and deepen spiritual practice for youth and sponsors. This component is the first step of a prayerful leadership track, which will equip youth and adults to be active **ambassadors for peace**. The training will include spiritual, mental and emotional preparation for national and international service. While retaining many of the elements of conference, the focus of this training will help prepare attendees to become Peace Ambassadors beginning with their families, churches, communities and moving outward to regional, national and international spiritual social action.

Registration is \$500 until May 11 and \$530 from May 12–June 19. Registration includes training, meals and lodging from **Sunday, July 19 to Friday, July 24**. Our accommodations are limited to 140 participants who meet the qualifications specified in the registration documents so please register early. Participants are accepted on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to attend, please **submit registration documents found at: [www.unity.org/iyou](http://www.unity.org/iyou)**.

register now to attend the



Association of Unity Churches International's newly-developed YOU event!

## Peace Ambassador Training

July 19-24, 2009  
Unity Village, MO

Music by

LeRoy White



and Mark Welch

# Nationwide *Summer Events*

## ■ Spirit's Light Foundation's 7th National Annual Children & Teen Ministry Conference

Thursday, May 28, to Saturday, May 30  
Dominican University, River Forest, IL

Spirit's Light Foundation focuses on the support, enrichment, and education of our youth and family ministries. This year our conference will focus on practical tools to use in the classroom no matter what age group you work with; resources for working with children with special needs; and how to create a wonderful support team for your youth and family ministry. For more information and registration, go to [www.spiritslight.org](http://www.spiritslight.org).

## ■ International Youth of Unity Peace Ambassador Training

Sunday, July 19, to Friday, July 24  
Unity Village, MO

Coming from the new IYOU vision and mission created last year during the Appreciative Inquiry Summit, this event supports teens and adults in bringing peace to our world, one heart at a time. Registrations found at [www.unity.org/iyou](http://www.unity.org/iyou). For more information about this event, see page 15 of this issue.

## ■ Child/Teen Ministry Week: Putting It All Together

August 2-7  
Unity Village, MO

This is an amazing week for networking and exploring how to create an environment that nurtures spiritual self-discovery in our children and teens. Credit available for those seeking to become certified spiritual educators or licensed teachers specializing in youth and family ministry. See pages 12-14 of this issue.