



This weekend, UIL will welcome 15 new members in UIL's inaugural International Membership Weekend!

Some existing members joined the membership classes as well to refresh Unity's history, tenets and our commitments as members! For those who did not, we thought you might enjoy a refresher from the experience!

Always, we are honored by our shared journey.

CLASS ONE

History and Tenets

Unity has roots in the mental healing movement of the 19th and 20th centuries. Upon her diagnosis of tuberculosis, Myrtle Fillmore attended a lecture at which she heard those words which would become so central to Unity's emergence, "I am a child of God, and therefore I do not inherit illness."

She began to address her diagnosis through a series of practices, and with her successes came invitations to assist others in doing the same. From teaching to praying with others (both locally and non-locally) to correspondence teaching to printing to organizing as churches, the movement we call Unity arose through the unfolding work of Cofounders, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore.

Mr. and Mrs. Fillmore were studied in, and influenced by, varied faith traditions. They famously attended the 1893 Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago where they attended presentations by Swami Vivekananda. Beyond mental healing and world religions, Unity's formative influences include Christian Science, Theosophy, the European Unitarian movement, and the American Transcendentalist movement.

Upon her invitation to summarize Unity's teachings for Daily Word Magazine, Unity Cofounders' great granddaughter Connie Fillmore wrote "An Idea Whose Time Has Come." This article set forth the five tenets which remain intact today (re-languaged):

1. God—or Infinite Potential—unopposed and eternal, is the sole Creative Impetus operating in the universe and in our lives.
2. We—along with all life—are individualized expressions of this Infinite Potential.
3. Our Minds are the vehicles for the activities of this Infinite Potential.
4. Through spiritual practice, we can use our minds consciously, and for good!
5. Ours is to do just that!

All are encouraged to visit www.UnityWorldWideMinistries.org and www.Unity.org to better understand the breadth of our movement and its many offerings.

CLASS TWO

Core Teachings

Class two highlighted three core teachings: Healing, Prosperity and Prayer.

1. Healing

The Unity movement was different from many other teachings of the same era by its 3-fold approach that integrated the spiritual, mental and physical aspects of being. The Fillmores taught that the Spiritual controls the physical, but the physical is not to be disregarded or seen as less important. For example, Mrs. Fillmore stated, "It is a common error among us that we not exercise, rest, work, eat and drink as we should. ... Healing will come through taking the right mental attitude, and getting right down into the body and telling it the Truth; then following up this treatment daily with sensible and scientific living habits." (Healing Letters).

“All good healers will tell you that their best work is done by simply letting go of sense appearances and realizing that there is but one universal Mind, and that that Mind makes a perfect body for every man.” (Charles Fillmore, Talks on Truth).

However, all healing is ultimately spiritual healing, and may or may not result in a physical cure.

2. Prosperity

The first step is broadening one’s definition of prosperity. “True prosperity is not making money or putting out goods or developing property. It is determining what our souls require in order to cause them to unfold more of God; and then how to harmonize their expression with the needs of our fellow human beings so that all are benefited... Money success comes as a result; but there are other results that should be sought and rejoiced over even more than the financial returns.” (Myrtle Fillmore, Healing Letters).

All prosperity derives from recognition of the abundant universal supply. “The secret to achieving prosperity lies in so vividly keeping yourself centered in the inner focus of affluence [abundance] that you literally exude the consciousness of it. This ‘prosperity consciousness’ is not something you gain through repeating prosperity affirmations over and over. It’s getting yourself centered in the root of reality within.” (Eric Butterworth, Spiritual Economics).

Money is an expression of our intention, what we stand for: “Money becomes a currency of love and commitment, expressing the best of who you are.” (Lynne Twist, The Soul of Money: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Life). In this way, tithing to organizations that provide our spiritual nurturing, donating to charities that align with our values, or purchasing products made from ethical manufacturers becomes a deep spiritual practice.

3. Prayer

Unity uses “affirmative prayer,” prayer that declares spiritual truth. The goal of prayer is to shift our attention away from human circumstances and focus on our spiritual nature, our oneness with the Infinite. Denials and affirmations are powerful and complementary practices for transforming your life. Gratitude and appreciation are foundational to an effective prayer practice. “There is something about the mental act of thanksgiving that seems to carry the human mind far beyond the region of doubt into the clear atmosphere of faith and trust, where ‘all things are possible.’” (H. Emilie Cady, Lessons in Truth)

CLASS THREE

Bylaws and Policies

We studied the roles of Trustees, Clergy and Members and the responsibilities of each in sustaining a healthy ministry and in administrating a responsible 501 (c) (3) corporation.

We reviewed the bylaw requirements to maintain active membership,* the processes by which active membership might be relinquished and the many rights of membership.

We reviewed current (2023) policies including building uses, service animals, fundraising, privacy, media, bookkeeping, organizational tithing and disruptive behaviors.

*“An active member shall retain membership until it is voluntarily severed, or as long as his/her/their ideas and conduct are in accord with the qualifications specified in Section 3.01. For an individual to retain active membership, he/she/they must attend or otherwise actively support this church through prayer in addition to regular participation in service, classes, and/or giving during a fiscal year. The active membership list is to be updated each year by September 30th.”