

BRIEF HISTORY Unity of Inner Peace - Marquette, MI

Jan, 2008

- ORIGIN OF UNITY MOVEMENT:

The Unity Movement began in the late 1800s, and was started by Myrtle and Charles Fillmore. The Unity School of Christianity was part of the New Thought Movement, which also included Christian Science & Science of Mind. Unity's Headquarters grew & developed just SE of Kansas City at Unity Village, MO. New Thought included the recognition of the essential divinity in human beings, and the connection of each person to God, or Universal Mind. A summary of **The 5 Unity Principles**:

- (1) The recognition of God - The Good, as the Ultimate Reality, above all else.
- (2) Each person is a spark of the divine.
- (3) Everything began first in thought - - thought creates our reality.
- (4) Prayer & Meditation create a profound & direct connection with God-Mind.
- (5) For these ideas to be meaningful in one's life, one must apply them.

- ORIGIN OF UNITY IN MARQUETTE:

In 1986 Rev Ruth Singer began the Unity Church of Inner Peace in the Marquette area. Ruth was a graduate of the Unity School of Christianity Ministry School at Unity Village. Rev Ruth bought a church Bldg which served also as her Apt, and she headed Unity for about 14 years. She retired at 62 years of age and left the area in March 2000, selling the building (her source of monetary savings).

- HISTORY SINCE YEAR 2000:

Since 2000 we've simply called ourselves Unity of Inner Peace, and since August 2000 we have been at the Fed. Women's Clubhouse, 104 W Ridge, Marquette. We have not had an ordained Unity-trained or formally designated minister, however we are still affiliated with the Unity School of Christianity. We tith 10% of our collection every month to a good cause, one-half of this (10%) amount going to Silent Unity at Unity Village. We also donate a book or CD to the PW Library each month.

Unity has succeeded because people attend services regularly, have volunteered to be Board Members, plan & lead services, speak in church, lead & do the music, play instruments & sing, lead meditation & prayer, plan & do the newsletter, plan the annual & monthly spiritual substance, plan & lead special services, get & schedule speakers, do spiritual counseling, plan & attend retreats, offer their homes and camps for retreats & meetings, read books and donate them to the library, lead book studies & Course in Miracles studies, contribute money, keep the books & pay the bills, create & update the website, do secretarial/admin functions, and write articles for the Newsletter and for outside publications.

We've had a great variety of speakers over the past 7 years, many speaking on the inner life, their healing specialty, or on a spiritual theme. We stress that the inner life of a person always eventually manifests in their outer life. We've kept the 5 Principles that Unity uses. Because we are such a diverse group of people, we feel it's important to keep open lines of communication. Here at Unity of Inner Peace, we end service with "**THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS WITHIN ME**". This summarizes our thought. To contact us; Telephone: (906) 226-2045, Email address: info@unityofinnerpeace.org Our website address is www.unityofinnerpeace.org - or try Googling: unity of inner peace marquette

BRIEF HISTORY Unity of Inner Peace - Marquette, MI

ORIGINS:

In 1986 Rev Ruth Singer began the Unity Church of Inner Peace in the Marquette Area. When Ruth began the church, she was a recent graduate of the Unity School of Christianity Ministerial School in Lee's Summit, Missouri. The Unity movement was begun in the late 1800's by Myrtle and Charles Fillmore. They along with a number of other people are considered as leaders of the spiritual New Thought Movement which flowered in the late 1800's - early 1900's. New Thought recognized the essential Divinity that exists within human beings and the connection of each person to God, or Universal Mind. It also affirmed some ideas: (1) we control our own lives, (2) our thoughts create our reality, (3) silent (surrendering) prayer provides a connection to God, and (4) the importance of actually putting these into practice. One can "put into practice" the Unity ideas by consciously living and applying Unity's 12 Mind Powers. This is very basic and exciting stuff - especially when one begins to realize one's true (divine) nature, and then experiences positive life changes as a result.

For most of the 14 years that Rev Ruth ran the church, she owned the church building which was on Bluff St. in Marquette. She paid for the building with her own (limited) funds. Rev Ruth nurtured the church and Unity ideas for many years when times were tough for the church - membership was small and bills had to be paid. When she sold the building in the fall of 1999, Unity met temporarily at a local motel conference room for about a year and then began renting the Federated Women's Clubhouse on Ridge St where we currently meet. Ruth retired in March 2000. She currently lives downstate.

TRANSITION:

Just before Rev Ruth retired, she appointed one of the church members - Dr Beth - a Licensed Unity Teacher, as the "spiritual leader" of Unity. After a couple of months, we (the Unity members) said we would prefer to be our own spiritual leaders and in May 2000 we began having services with either outside guest speakers or Unity members as the main speaker. In 2000 we also changed our name to Unity of Inner Peace, as we were no longer considered a church by Unity HQ in Lee's Summit Missouri. Because of our small size and the fact that we don't have an ordained Unity Minister leading our group, we are considered a Study Group.

PAST 4 YEARS:

Over the last few years, our service has evolved to the point where we still follow the rough outlines of a Unity Service, but with our own touch added. Over the past few years, many people from Unity of Inner Peace have given the gift of their own "spiritual story" or have led discussion groups on various topics. Also, we have had many outside speakers who have spoken on various topics. Some speakers have given a lesson, some have talked about their healing specialty or their chosen area of service to humanity, and some have spoken about their own spiritual life & experiences.

UNITY BOARD:

We currently have a 7-member Board which meets once a month and provides guidance, and scheduling for Unity. All members are regularly encouraged to attend the Board Meetings.

UNITY OF INNER PEACE OF MARQUETTE HISTORY

Written in 1989 by Barbara Dupras

Unity of Inner Peace has just celebrated its 3rd year of existence. Our traditional Easter "brunch" at a local restaurant (after the service) was originally enjoyed by a handful of members sitting at one table. The 2nd year we needed 2 tables joined together. This year we've had to reserve a room to hold the 50 people who signed up for it! The growth this church has experienced is as exciting as the story behind how it all started 3 years ago.

Marquette is the largest city in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan located on the shores of beautiful Lake Superior. Due to the extreme weather in the winter and the location, Marquette is a fairly isolated community. Due to the isolation, Marquette is also fairly conservative and "behind the time" in many ways (which to some people regard as an advantage). So, to introduce New Thought into this type of consciousness appears to be a real challenge. But challenge is what Reverend Ruth Singer thrives on. The story of how Ruth successfully pioneered this church is truly a shining example of how spirit works "behind the scenes" bringing everything together in divine order at the perfect time.

Ruth originally came from the Detroit area of lower Michigan and worked as a dietary manager in a hospital in Detroit. Through situations she experienced in her life, she was led to Unity and became involved in West Side Unity of Detroit. She always had a fondness for the UP since as a child her dad would take her and her sister to the UP when he went hunting. Ruth also owned some property in the UP which she would visit. Spirit guided Ruth to send a letter to AUC donating her property for the purpose of starting a Unity church on it. AUC responded stating

they would gratefully accept the property but could not guarantee that a church could be started on it. Then the words strongly came into Ruth's consciousness – "YOU DO IT". Ruth entered Oakland Community College but would wrestle with this statement for the next year.

Although there was no Unity Churches in the UP at that time, there was a small Unity study group that met once a week at a family home in Ishpeming, 5 miles west of Marquette. There were around 8 or 9 people that attended regularly. Through a period of 2 years two families from the group moved down to Unity Village in Missouri. Through time there remained only 2 people from the original group in Marquette. They were Barbara Dupras (myself) and Carol Schwemin. We talked about ideas to start up a new study group in Marquette. We even excitedly planned to attend the nearest Unity service 3 hours away in Cheboygan Wisconsin!! Months and months passed and try as we did to start a new group nothing ever worked out.

MICHAEL
JANISON

To back up in time about 3 years or so, Ruth finally decided to pursue ministerial school and enrolled in the Urban Ministerial School in Detroit. For 2 years she attended Oakland Community College, worked full time and attended the Urban Ministerial School. After that period of time she quit her job of 25 years, sold all her things, sold her home, even gave away her precious dogs and moved down to Unity Village in Missouri to finish her last two years of ministerial school.

During the last year, she was asked to give a talk on Prosperity to the workers at Unity Village. During her talk she did mention her plans to pioneer a church in the UP on her property in Manistique. According to divine order, two people in the audience just happened to be from the families who moved from Ishpeming to

Unity Village. After the talk they did meet Ruth to let her know of interest in Marquette for a Unity church. You can imagine the excitement when Carol and I received the letter from Ruth expressing interest in starting a church!! This happened when we were unsuccessfully trying to start another study group.

Ruth came up to Marquette in March of 1986 and after meeting with us made plans to start a church in Marquette instead of on her property. Ruth finally moved up to Marquette after her graduation in June of that year and found a perfect apartment on Fisher Street. Within a few weeks she was holding Unity services on Sundays in a chapel at the Veterans Facility across the street from her apartment. We began Masterminding for a new church home.

Within a year, Unity of Inner Peace had its own church home. The church has an apartment in the back which is also just suited for Ruth's needs. In our second year in our new church home we have a thriving Course of Miracles class once a week, prayer service, Sunday service, Sunday School and a pancake breakfast once a month.

Some of our long range goals are – constructing a new church home, developing a retreat center and also creating a student exchange program. This program would provide an opportunity for Unity kids to come up and experience the north woods, and kids from the UP to go down to experience the city life

The energy and growth this church is experiencing is truly amazing. Every week there are new faces at the Sunday services. We are all so grateful to Ruth for her patience and persistence. When the best would have been discouraged or given up,

Ruth just kept giving out that positive energy. Ruth Singer is truly a very special person.