

May 14, 2026

TO: Unity Communities and Leaders

Subject: CEU Credits

Greetings and thank you for your recent communications outlining the CEU requirements for Unity ministers. We appreciate your willingness to maintain open communications through dialogue and feedback.

As a result of your communications, we have heard from a number of ministerial colleagues regarding the requirement of CEUs from those who have retired from active service in a Unity ministry. This has brought up a number of questions, feelings and insight, which we offer for your consideration.

In your communication you stated that to be recognized as an “active” member of Unity, retirees must report completed classwork for seven CEU credits each year. Otherwise, these ministers may not perform **ANY** ministerial functions. To our colleagues this sounds punitive and feels like disenfranchisement, i.e., unless one agrees to spend the time and resources taking these classes, which are not relevant at this time, he/she has no place in the Unity Movement.

While this may not be the intention, it is important to consider the impact of such a message. Considering the history of many of our retired colleagues, who have held key leadership positions in both organizations and have given 30,40, and 50 years to serving Unity, excluding them is simply NOT the Unity way. In fact, Unity School of Christianity has a long history of acknowledging the contribution of its retirees.

Denying Unity ministers the ability to share their wisdom and experience is a loss to Unity in the world. It is unrealistic to expect that those with whom a minister has been engaged will suddenly forget the ministerial relationship. It is much more likely for a retiree to receive a call from a former congregant with whom he/she has a long and caring relationship, and be asked to perform a memorial service for a loved one, a wedding for a child or grandchild, or give the prayer at a special activity. And, if the minister has been an active participant in community affairs, he/she may also be asked to say a prayer at a community event. It’s not likely the community will forget this person’s ministerial background.

Disallowing these individuals from continuing to share their wisdom, knowledge, and experience –their consciousness—is a loss to Unity and the communities we seek to serve. These retirees still have gifts to give! Rather than pushing them aside never to be heard from again, they should be applauded any time they are willing to share their gifts via a Sunday service or other special events. As one colleague said, “Once a minister, always a minister.”

For those who may not be aware, this subject has been addressed before. The current requirement represents an unexpected change in policy. Perhaps some history would be helpful: Martha Mosley, a current member of the UMA (Unity Ministers Alliance) board, tells us that when she was vice president of Education for the UWM, retired ministers were exempt from the CEU requirements. During Rev. Shad Groverland's tenure that was changed to include such a requirement, but after further discussion and consideration by the UWM board that requirement was rescinded and that policy of exemption has remained in place until now.

This new policy raises some interesting questions:

1. ***How are our retired colleagues to answer when invited to be present, engage in or lead a special service which he/she has performed many times before?*** From this policy it would appear the answer is: Unity World Headquarters has determined that I am no longer qualified to perform these functions. Clarification, please.
2. ***What exactly are the benefits of "Active" status?*** It sounds very much like "member" status which the former UWM offered. However, during the acquisition process we were told there would no longer be such a status. Clarification, please.
3. ***If retired colleagues do not choose to meet the qualifications for "Active" status, what will their status be?*** Clarification, please.

In closing, we must acknowledge the feelings this requirement has called up for many of our colleagues. To say that one who has served this movement longer than many in leadership positions today and has taught innumerable classes for CEU credits during those 30-50 years is no longer qualified to perform ministerial functions without further classwork blatantly disregards the contribution these friends have made. On a feeling level, this appears to lack any recognition or sensitivity to all that is involved in the job of ministry.

Sadly, this action does not reflect what was put forth during the acquisition process. How often did we hear the mantra, "We want to be one again." We cannot be one without all of us.

We share these thoughts and feelings and prayerfully hold in consciousness the reconsideration of this issue. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

May the peace of the Christ be with us all,

Unity Ministers Alliance,
Board of Trustees

cc: Unity Ministers