



A Spiritual Community on a Positive Path of Personal Growth

Founded November 1999

August 2022

The Enlightened Response By Rev. Robert Brumet

Individuals sometimes ask me, “What is an enlightened response to the craziness in our world today?” Their question is usually sincere and from the heart. It seems like a good question; but unfortunately, it’s the wrong question to ask.

I say it’s the wrong question because it presupposes that an enlightened response is determined by what action we take—and this is not necessarily true.

A better question might be: “How do I respond to this event/condition from an enlightened understanding?”

Please note that this question addresses how we act, rather than what specific action should be taken.

The human mind wants to create a formula/strategy/policy for determining the course of future actions. This is not necessarily bad; it maybe be helpful to have “a plan on hand” for some of the eventualities of life. However, all such planning, strategizing etc. operates from memory and thus from past conditioning.

We use memory to interpret the present moment and to develop a strategy for the future. This strategy may work as long as the future replicates the past—but it rarely does!



An enlightened response does not look any particular way when viewed from the outside looking in. The enlightened response is unique and arises from the needs of the present moment rather than from a premeditated strategy. An

enlightened response is the perfect response to any particular circumstance because each one of us has the innate wisdom to do exactly what is needed in any given situation. To access this wisdom requires our willingness to suspend any “story” that we might have about this condition and to be willing to live in the unknown. It requires us to listen to the heart and trust what the heart tells us.

July Concert

On Sunday, July 31st, after a scrumptious potluck, the church held a concert in the Victorian Garden with performers Rob Kimbal and Joelynn Lutz. Rob, who had done the music at the Sunday Celebration that morning, performed songs covering a variety of genres and moods.



Playing both his twelve string and six string guitars, Rob both touched our hearts and tickled our funny bones, while impressing us with his guitar skills.

Joelynn, who hadn't been at a Unity event since before the pandemic, performed original compositions from her two CDs - Just Breathe and A Matter of Zen. Both CDs were on sale at the concert, which was performed on a picture perfect Central Coast day with temperatures in the 70s under partly cloudy skies. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the



show.

Blessing of the Pets

A Blessing of the Pets was held on Sunday, July 17th, at 1pm at Elm Street Park in Arroyo Grande. There were a dozen dogs, brought by their owners, who received blessings, treats, and play possibilities with the other blessees. Joe Davidson read poems about his pets. Everyone had fun.



The Enlightened Response (Con't)

This is very different from an impulsive “knee-jerk” reaction. It is not reacting from instinct or from ego-centered emotions. It is not motivated by revenge or by personal animosity. It does not act from condemnation or hatred.

An enlightened response is a conscious choice. It is not attached to a specific outcome. It is acting from the integrity of the heart.

To do this requires discipline and courage. It requires integrity and nonattachment.

A story from the Japanese Zen tradition: A samurai warrior once was charged with avenging a noble's death at the hands of a rival warlord. He trained for four years, studied the warlord's habits, and planned his attack. When the day came, he stealthily approached the warlord when he was alone, and cornered him. The samurai held his katana (sword) aloft, poised to strike the final blow, when the warlord, utterly defeated, spit in the face of the samurai.



The samurai then sheathed his sword and walked away!

Why? He knew it would be wrong to kill the warlord in a state of personal anger.

He came there to fulfill his duty as a warrior--not to act from personal revenge. To do so would bind him to the outcome of his actions.

Adapted from the Tao to

Ching:

The ancient Masters were profound and subtle.

Their wisdom was unfathomable.

There is no way to describe it....

They were as alert as a warrior in enemy territory.

Courteous as a guest.

Fluid as melting ice....

Clear as a glass of water.

Do you have the patience to wait until your mud settles and the water is clear?

Can you remain unmoving until the right action arises by itself?

I invite you to discover, and then call forth the Samurai within, before you take action.

This is what it means to respond from enlightened understanding. This is the enlightened response.

A New Look!

The Unity website membership directory has been reformatted to have a better look and best of all, it has a search feature so you can just type in a first name and it will bring the person up! No more scrolling to find the info you want.



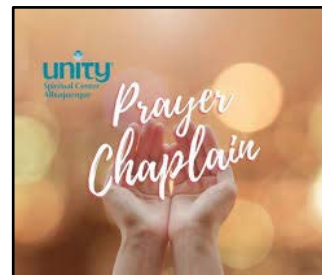
You access the directory the same way, by clicking on “Member Login” in the homepage main menu. (www.unity5cities.org) and entering the Username and Password. If you don't have them, contact [Brian](#) or [Chris](#). Check it out to make sure you are listed and let [Chris](#) know if you want to be added or your info or picture updated.

Prayer Chaplain Training Program Underway

Prayer is an important part of our Unity ministry. We are currently training new prayer chaplains to be available after the Sunday service at the Victorian and on Zoom to pray with others.

The first question they ask is, “How can I pray with you?” The prayer chaplain's job is to create a sacred space to allow the sharing of joy or concerns and fulfilling the prayer process.

Being a Prayer Chaplain is transformational soul work and an important service to our Unity Community. Soon there will be a dedication ceremony after a Sunday service to welcome the new Prayer Chaplains into our ministry.



Church Financial Summary

June 2022

Total Income	\$4,631
Total Expense	\$4,062
Net Income	\$569

YTD Income	\$25,748
YTD Expense	\$23,952
YTD Net Income	\$1,796



Concert in the Victorian Garden

Sunday, August 21st

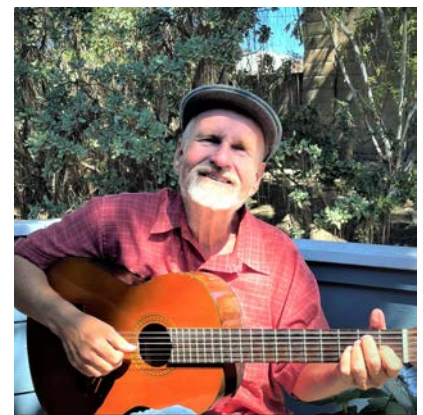
12:30 pm

789 Valley Rd, AG

Bring finger foods



***Gale McNeeley
Bob Moloznik***



Richard Inman

Love Offering

Board of Trustees & Staff

Rev. Brian Walker, Minister	805-345-0832
Joe Davidson, Treasurer	661-304-5154
Jeanne Surber, Secretary	805-904-6166
Larry Conrad, Trustee	805-219-0219
Ethel Landers, Facilitator	805-550-0348
Donna Nisbet, Trustee	805-219-0331
Peggy Sharpe, Trustee	805-439-3238
Chris Garey, LUT	805-440-1693
Therese Solimeno, LUT	805-440-9461
Prayer Chaplain - Martha Aivaz	805-481-1335
Prayer Chaplain - LaDawn Davis	805-757-7556
Volunteer Coordinator, Chris Garey	805-440-1693

VISION STATEMENT

Aligned in peaceful Oneness, we co-create a world of love, harmony, and abundance through shared spiritual awakening.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a heart-centered spiritual community dedicated to empowering personal growth and living the unlimited possibilities of Spirit.

Belief Statement

- We believe that prayer works.
- We assist in discovering and living spiritual purpose and potential.
- We facilitate a stronger connection to our highest potential.

We feel we are:

- Empowered Grateful
- Peaceful Inspired
- Accepting Connected
- Loving Affirming

Unity Five Cities

Sunday Celebration 10:00 am
 Meeting at The Victorian
 789 Valley Road, Arroyo Grande, CA
 805-788-4777
 P.O. Box 1005
 Arroyo Grande, CA 93421
 Email: unitychurch5cities@yahoo.com
 Website: www.unity5cities.org

Schedule

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Music</u>
Aug 7 Rev Jan Limberg Morgan	Jan Grigsby & Nina Ryne
Aug 14 Rita Conrad	Steve Kindel & Karen Wilkins
Aug 21 Kevin Hauber	Gale McNeeley & Bob Moloznik
Aug 28 Richard Inman	Richard Inman
Sept 4 Therese Solimeno, LUT	Richard Inman
Sept 11 Rev Brian Walker	TBA
Sept 18 Timber Hawkeye	Steve Kindel & Karen Wilkins
Sept 25 Rev Terry zumAllen	Gale McNeeley & Bob Moloznik

A Spiritual Community

P. O. Box 1005
 Arroyo Grande, CA 93421

