



Unity Ministry Path

Admissions Study Guide

Revised June 2018

This guide represents the basic Unity principles that ministerial candidates are expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of during their admissions interviews.

The Admissions Team expects ministerial candidates to be held accountable and responsible for knowing the information contained in this Study Guide. Ministerial candidates are expected to use the Study Guide to determine if there is a lack of knowledge in specific areas and to focus on strengthening those areas.

The Admissions Team will be looking for understanding of the information AND an applicant's ability to convey that understanding in a clear and concise manner. Applicants should expect to share recent personal stories that demonstrate their ability to live the Unity Principles and to make course corrections when needed.

1. Charles Fillmore defined prayer as the most accelerated mind action known.
2. The Silence:
 - The secret place of the Most High
 - A state of consciousness entered into for the purpose of putting oneself in touch with Divine Mind
 - A place of retreat where we may enter and know
 - One way to enter the Silence is Centering Prayer
3. The Unity prayer method is called the affirmative prayer method.
4. In Unity, we pray not to a God outside of ourselves, but rather from our awareness of Oneness.
5. When we pray with others we see only perfection, wholeness, and health regardless of outer appearances.
6. Five-Step Prayer Process:
 - Relaxation—releasing physical and mental tension
 - Concentration—gentle focusing of the mind
 - Meditation—puts us in contact with the Silence
 - Realization—deep inner knowing of the Truth and that our prayers are answered
 - Thanksgiving—being grateful before the answer appears in the manifest realm
7. Metaphysics – “The systematic study of the science of Being; that which transcends the physical.” (RW, 132)
8. Unity metaphysics is based on the recognition of divine ideas as the fundamental, eternal truth that underlies and transcends all physical manifestation.
9. Attributes of God:
 - God is Omniscience—the source of all knowledge, Mind
 - God is Omnipresence—everywhere present, the unseen, moving force of the universe, Spirit
 - God is Omnipotence—the one power in the universe
10. Nature of God: In Unity we speak of God as Light, Life, Love, Principle, Law, Universal Mind. Unity’s first premise concerning the nature of God is that God is absolute good.
11. Divine Substance is our supply in the realm of pure potential.
 - Substance – “The divine idea of the underlying reality of all things...the living energy out of which everything is made.” (RW, 186-187)
12. Humankind’s divine inheritance is Divine Ideas.

13. Threefold nature of humanity – spirit, soul, and body.
 - Spirit – our true nature; invisible and eternal
 - Soul – sum total of conscious & subconscious minds
 - Body – outer expression of consciousness
14. The Holy Trinity is known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Metaphysically, we understand the Trinity to refer to mind, idea, and expression.
15. The three phases of mind are: Superconscious, Conscious, Subconscious.
16. The soul in Unity is defined as the sum total of conscious and subconscious minds.
17. Jesus The name of the man from Nazareth, the human individual
18. Jesus Christ The individual who most fully expressed the Christ potential
19. Christ The universal divine idea that is the spiritual perfection inherent in all
20. Christ Jesus The ascendant Jesus Christ
21. Personality is the sum total of the characteristics and opinions that comprise our current beliefs about who we are. Our personality, or sense of self, is inconsistent and often unreliable because it is based primarily on appearances.
22. Individuality is our real spiritual self, the I AM, the Christ. Individuality is the name for the unique manner in which each individual expresses the universal Christ Idea.
23. Denial is the ability to release the energy and power we have invested in old, outworn, negative attitudes or incorrect beliefs.
24. The primary cause of suffering is our misuse of freedom of thought, belief, and will. It is the result of our mistaken belief that we are separate from God.
25. Affirmation is the ability to accept the newer, truer, higher, more correct attitude and belief. It is also the ability to say “yes” and accept better concepts of divine ideas. An affirmation is an ordered statement of Truth through which we condition our consciousness.
26. Sin is the result of forgetting our oneness with God and our divine nature.
 - “Missing the mark; that is, falling short of divine perfection.”* (Charles Fillmore, *RW*, 179)
 - Sin is also defined as *any attempt to negate a divine idea* (popularized by Ed Rabel).

27. Salvation is not accomplished for us by the man Jesus. We are “saved” from unnecessary suffering and error thoughts by our ongoing identification of the Christ Presence within us. Salvation is the restitution of humanity to our spiritual birthright; regaining conscious possession of our God-given attributes.
28. Heaven and hell are states of consciousness, not geographic locations. Hell represents the suffering we experience when we feel a sense of separation from the Source of all-good. Heaven is an expanded awareness that is in harmony with thoughts of God.
29. Evil is not a force but a perceived absence of good; a sense of separation from God, created in mind. Just as cold is the absence of heat and dark is the absence of light, evil is the apparent absence of good. However, since God as Absolute Good is omnipresent, what we actually have with “evil” is the mind’s mistaken belief about separation from God. Evil does not exist in God Mind. Evil does not have an independent existence. Evil originates in the human consciousness as a result of the misuse of our freedom of thought. Evil is the manifest result of error thoughts.
30. The law of mind action says that thoughts held in mind produce after their kind. What we think, especially utilizing our thinking and feeling natures, increases in consciousness and shapes our experience of the world.
31. Crucifixion is the experience where we let go of error thinking, some cherished aspect of our personality or of our personal life, in order to unfold more of our spiritual potential.
32. Life is consciousness.
33. Two important ideas about self-knowledge are: self-awareness and self-acceptance.
34. God’s Will for each individual is that he/she experiences and manifests as much of the absolute good that he/she can.
35. Grace is God’s desire to express completely through you and as you. God’s grace is so great that you never completely reap the harvest of error, and you always reap more good than you sow.
36. Words carry the power and the authority of the originating consciousness and are most powerful if they are spoken.
37. Forgiveness releases us from the mental and emotional bondage we are currently experiencing in reaction to the situation. It enables us to let go of resentment that is adversely affecting our consciousness.
38. When we pray with others we see only perfection, wholeness, and health, regardless of outer appearances.

39. Everything in the spiritual universe and the material universe is based on Divine Ideas.
40. The creative process is based on the seven-days of creation in the following order:
 Illumination
 Faith
 Imagination
 Will and Understanding
 Discrimination (Judgment)
 Wisdom and Love
 Sabbath
41. Demonstration is when we have realized something in consciousness and then it manifests itself in the outer.
42. In a healing demonstration, we are not really asking for healing. We are bringing to bear our highest consciousness and realizing the truth of life, wholeness, and health.
43. Money itself is not prosperity. Rather, it is a symbol representing mind substance; it is evidence of a Divine Idea. Prosperity is the consciousness of God as the abundant, everywhere present resource, unfailing, ready for all who open themselves to it through faith. (*RW*, 158)
44. Each spiritual power is represented by one of the twelve apostles. Be prepared to demonstrate your knowledge of
 --The spiritual power
 --The apostle representing this power
 --A definition of the power
45. **Faith/Peter**—Our ability to perceive the reality of God’s Kingdom of Good and Divine Ideas, despite evidence to the contrary, and then to use this to mold and shape substance.
46. **Strength/Andrew**—The faculty of steadfastness, dependability, stability, and capacity for endurance.
47. **Judgment/James, son of Zebedee**—Informed by our spiritual understanding, it is the faculty by which we appraise, evaluate, and discern in order to make correct decisions.
48. **Love/John**—The attracting, harmonizing, unifying faculty of mind; it is the constructive, building force of Spirit. It is our power to comprehend Oneness.
49. **Power/Philip**—The faculty that enables us to have authority over our own emotions (feelings), inspirations, and thoughts. Power is the means of bringing forth Divine Ideas.
50. **Imagination/Bartholomew**—The formative power of mind that shapes thoughts based on Divine Ideas into mental images which have color, variety and dimension.

- 51. Understanding/Thomas**—Spiritual intelligence is the faculty by which we receive enlightenment and insight. It is our capacity to gain direct perceptions of Truth.
- 52. Will/Matthew**—The decision making, direction, choosing faculty of the mind. It moves all the other powers (faculties) to action.
- 53. Order/James, son of Alphaeus**—The faculty by which we establish harmony, balance, right adjustment, and right sequence of action in our lives. Mind – idea – expression is the progression through which everything comes into existence.
- 54. Zeal/Simon**—The faculty of enthusiasm, intensity and exuberance. It provides our inner urge to progress; it is our motivation to achieve.
- 55. Elimination/Thaddaeus**—The faculty by which we release false beliefs and accomplish a mental cleansing.
- 56. Life/Judas**—The faculty of movement, vitality, wholeness, and creativity. It is the expression of the pure, eternal life of God within us.
57. Unity views the Bible as the story of the unfolding of the soul (consciousness).
58. The Hebrew Scriptures can be divided into three sections:
 The Law
 The Prophets
 The Writings
59. The three synoptic Gospels are Matthew, Mark and Luke.
60. Q or Quelle is one of the common sources for Matthew and Luke.
61. The Gospel of Matthew depicts Jesus as the expected Jewish messiah, the fulfillment of Jewish Scripture.
62. The Gospel of Mark depicts Jesus as the expected Messiah, but with less emphasis on his Jewish heritage.
63. The Gospel of Luke depicts Jesus as a Messianic Savior for all of humankind.
64. The Gospel of John is the story of the cosmic Christ.
65. The word “apocalyptic,” from the Greek, means hidden or coded.
66. The symbology of Revelation refers to the suffering of Christians during the many persecutions by the Romans.

67. Four methods of teaching used by Jesus:
Precepts—a concise statement of spiritual Truth
Parables—stories about specific messages concerning the Kingdom of God
Miracle—a demonstration of Divine Law which supersedes the common understanding of natural law
Action/Example—a life activity of Jesus
68. The great sayings of Jesus include:
“Seek first the Kingdom of God.”
“Love one another.”
69. Jesus intended “The Lord’s Prayer” as a format for prayer, rather than one to memorize and use in a rote fashion.
70. The great commission of the disciples was “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”
71. Charles Fillmore said that the Bible is the story of humankind’s generation, degeneration, and regeneration.
72. The characters and places in the Scripture represent different phases of humankind’s unfolding.
73. Metaphysically, the Bible records what happens when we are in different states of consciousness.
74. Animals, fish, birds, and inanimate objects in the Bible represent thoughts and ideas.
75. The original Hebrew/Greek meaning of the words Messiah and Christ was “the anointed one.”
76. Jehovah of the Hebrew Scriptures is equivalent to the Christ in the New Testament.
77. Unity considers “I AM” to be the name of God in humankind.
78. Unity would say that we are “saved by Jesus” when we follow his example using the creative principles he developed in himself.
79. Charles Fillmore said that when we are thinking and acting exclusively in our personality we are wearing a mask that conceals the real, spiritual I AM.
80. Jesus Christ represents the embodiment of all divine ideas.

81. The Seven Step method of Bible Interpretation.

Pray, Meditate, Center

Read the story

Paraphrase the story

Chart or list all the words (especially nouns and verbs) in the story

Define the words (use the MBD and/or Revealing Word)

Create clunky interpretation from definitions

Create a refined version and include a bottom line statement

82. A seriously ill Myrtle Fillmore took to heart a statement made in a lecture by E.B. Weeks, "I am a child of God, and therefore I do not inherit sickness".

83. The Unity wings symbolize the **relationship between spirit, soul, and body**. The soul gives wings to the body. Spirit is the enveloping principle.

84. Unity School of Christianity was incorporated in 1914 and its headquarters building at 917 Tracy Avenue in Kansas City was dedicated in 1915.

85. Unity purchased the original 58 acres that became known as Unity Farm and then Unity Village in 1920. Unity Village became an incorporated Missouri municipality in 1953.

86. Unity Worldwide Ministries aka The Association of Unity Churches incorporated in 1966. It was organized to serve the needs of Unity field ministries.

**Standards Expected of Unity Minister's
with beginning level skill expected of applicants**

I. SPIRITUAL & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

*Takes responsibility for personal feelings and actions.

Beginning: Cites examples of recent experiences with feelings felt, and actions taken as a result of those feelings

*Expresses a healthy self-esteem

Beginning: Maintains presence and consistent eye contact when talking about the situation

*Has few regrets: able to grieve and also to see the blessing in apparent losses

Beginning: Shares difficult past experiences without getting lost in raw emotions.

*Is free of addictions or recognizes and effectively manages addictions

Beginning: Recognizes current chemical and non-chemical addictive behavior in self. If necessary, attends group or individual counseling or support group regularly, or has no history of addictive behavior

*Is aware of strengths and limitations

Beginning: Evidence of being able to be self-aware/ introspective

*Is aware of one's impact on others

Beginning: Names feelings and needs of others and the affect one has on others while in interaction

*Is generally aware of how others see the person

Beginning: Describes how other people see oneself, both positive and negative.

*Takes time for renewal of spirit, mind, and body.

Beginning: Articulates an awareness of the need for self-care.

*Able to ask for help

Beginning: Expresses recognition for the need to ask for help, and identifies barriers to follow through

*Uses Unity affirmative prayer and meditation in personal and (*professional*) prayer life

Beginning: Describes use of Unity affirmative Prayer & Meditation methods personally

*Has a consciousness of prayerful living

Beginning: Expresses intellectual understanding of the value of prayer and uses prayer in time of need

*Articulates and models how to use Unity Principles to create ease and grace in handling life experiences

Beginning: Articulates a basic understanding of Unity teachings & tools

*Keeps personal life in perspective in relationship to the “big picture”.

Beginning: Releases worries, doubts, fears, etc, may still do so inconsistently

*Maintains a prosperity consciousness of healthy emotions, mental acuity, and physical fitness

Beginning: Is aware of the need for better self-care with inconsistent follow-through.

*Demonstrates financial freedom and integrity

Beginning: Meets financial obligations

II. Ministerial Professionalism:

*Shows a consciousness of Service, Authenticity, Leadership and Compassion

Beginning: Identifies personal strengths and weaknesses related to the character and competencies needed for Unity Ministry

*Has a personal mission and vision that contributes to the greater good of humanity

Beginning: Understands the importance in having a mission/vision and is developing a personal mission/vision

*Is truthful, trustworthy, and accountable

Beginning: Communicates in an open and truthful manner. States personal accountability for actions.

*Avoids triangulating in relationship conflict, while supporting conflict-resolution.

Beginning: Describes own participation in triangulation.

*Bible Knowledge – has a working familiarity with the Hebrew Bible and Christian Scripture

Beginning: Shows evidence of foundational metaphysical Bible knowledge through quotes, stories and lessons

*Unity Theology – demonstrates an understanding of how Unity Principles are similar to and different from other world religions, including the different expressions of Christianity

Beginning: Defines basic Unity Principles and cites examples of life application.

*Bible knowledge and Unity Metaphysical application – demonstrates a basic knowledge of the Bible as a sacred scripture and discerns from it that which is universally true

Beginning: Defines Unity Metaphysical Bible Interpretation. Interprets a few passages in the Bible metaphysically, describing the meaning in one’s own life

*Unity history – is familiar with and able to teach the development (*of New Thought*) and the Unity Movement and its key concepts.

Beginning: Describes the key events and concepts in Unity’s history

*Spoken: Demonstrates the ability to connect with an audience from the platform with an engaging lesson that clearly presents Unity principles and makes a personal connection for the listener.

Beginning: Describes basic Unity Principles so it is understandable by the listener

*Is accountable to self and others

Beginning: Identifies and sometimes follows through with self-corrective action needed when behavior is not in alignment with promises and agreements

*Effectively receives constructive feedback

Beginning: Acknowledges ideas from feedback

*Focuses a disagreement on the issue(s) rather than on the people involved

Beginning: Identifies the issues involved in a situation rather than blame it on personalities.

*Articulates and models forgiveness according to Unity teachings

Beginning: Explains the importance of forgiveness

*Listens with the desire to understand, seriously considers others’ viewpoint, and is willing to change.

Beginning: Acknowledges that there are other viewpoints and listens for information.

*Promotes teamwork and collaboration

Beginning: Describes involvement in teamwork in ministry, in school or in home church

*Recognizes the Divinity in each person regardless of their behavior or outer expression/ appearance or circumstances

Beginning: States an awareness of the Divinity in others yet has difficulty looking beyond appearances and behavior

*Willing to examine prejudices and opinions, and allow love and wisdom to bring a new expression of unity and celebration

Beginning: Identifies some areas of own prejudice and opinions.

III. DIVERSITY:

*Able to expand one’s thinking beyond current/habitual mental constructs

Beginning: States a dawning awareness of the need to expand thinking and the need to be open to new ideas.