## We must discover and emphasize the nature of our unity



I live in a place of great di-versity. I experi-ence a wide range of racial and cultural dif-ferences. I relate to people who are homeless or ex-perience mental problems. I also work with pro-feasors, doctors and lawyers.

and lawyers.

thating environment.

-We who live in this environment talk about diversity and
how it can work for us. Even more
important, we realize that we
must discover and emphasize the

nature of our unity.
I believe that Dennis Archer

was elected mayor of Detrolt in part because he seems to be a person who can symbolize unity among diverse people. I believe that churches and other institutions in our society need to work toward a goal of unity.

What is happening in Europe is a terrible lesson of what we might face. Nationalism is rising in parts of Europe because political leadors stress a unity of the majority at the expense of the minorities. A nerrow unity seems to provide security in a time of uncertainty.

Most religions have a unifying center. God is one. The universe is one. Natural life must be sustained because it is the work of the creator. Most religions emphasize love and peace at the center of life. However, we live in a

fill to lead us toward this critical unity. If the to proclaim that we are all one. We are all concerted in ways of which we are now only dimly aware. The economy of the world is becoming one integrated economy. The environment of the plane is one. Most religious teachings have not caught up with this reality of our oneness.

Some of the people who think about the future of the planet say that economies will be the driving force to demonstrate our oneness. Why will religion not take a lead

time when many religious leaders fall to lead us toward this critical unity.

I like to proclaim that we are all one. We are all connected in ways of which we are now only dimy aware. The economy of the world is becoming one integrated economy. The environment of the planet is one. Most religious teachings have not caught up with this reality of our oneness.

Some of the people who think about the future of the planet asy of this came from religious on the same from religious of this came from religious of the same from religious of this came from religious on the same from religious of this came from religious of this came from religious of this came from religious on the same from religious of this came from religious of this came from religious on the same from religious of the came f

differences need to be stated in the context of our unity. This is a great challenge for our age. I hope that the younger generation will be free from some of the preju-dices that destroy a sense of uni-ty.

ty.
Our physical separation is a great barrier to our unity. Physi-cal separation of people who are different breeds fear and misunbe in one community together. A different breeds fear and misun-few kids grew up thinking that ev-eryone should be like them. Most of this came from roligious schools, priests and pastors. We cannot afford to allow our diversity to destroy our unity. Our

et earth and transfer this belief into unifying behavior. This is they criligious challenge of our age. We can preach about love and God. Unless we behave as though this core unity affects people, we live. out a lie. We must work at this, challenge. Our future depends: upon our commitment to the certainty that we are all one.

Rev. David Strong is pastor of Central United Methodist Church-in Detroit. If you have a question or comment, call him at (313) 953-2047, mailbox number 1878, on a touch-tone phone.



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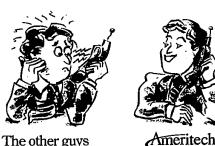
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