

About Jon West

A lifelong truth seeker and child of the Northwest, Jon's elementary school years included selling his clay sculptures at the Eugene Saturday Market and Oregon Country Fair as part of his family's pottery business.

Starting at age 4, Jon realized his life purpose involved singing—whether singing for the neighbors, leading sing-alongs on the school bus, performing in musicals, or just walking the hills above the family farm. In high school, Jon was a top state competitor not only as a tenor but also in debate (no surprise to his mother).

Upon graduating from the University of Oregon in Telecommunications and Film in 1987, Jon was introduced to New Thought principles through the classic book *Autobiography of a Yogi* and became a daily meditator. After experiencing an inner transformation, Jon joined his brother's newly formed advertising business in New York City. He was building a successful career in media sales when he let it go to return to his beloved Oregon and begin creating his first album of inspirational songs.

Jon joined Unity's staff in 1991 as Co-Music Director with Donna O'Neil; the two were married that same year. On weekdays, he began a 20-year social service career empowering people with disabilities, earning several state awards in the process. Still seeking his complete calling in life, Jon worked over a 5-year period researching and writing a screenplay about naturalist-philosopher Henry Thoreau. It took a whirlwind adventure having his award-winning script marketed in Hollywood for Jon to finally be ready for his true calling: to focus on the deepest realities of life by serving in ministry.

In 2002, Jon was ordained by his longtime meditation teacher, Roy Eugene Davis, founder of Center for Spiritual Awareness. Within three months of guest speaking at various churches, Jon was led to Unity of Florence where he served as both Spiritual Leader and Music Director for three years. During that time, Jon also became the first Executive Director of the Lane Independent Living Alliance. Due to LILA's rapid growth from 7 to 40 employees, Jon temporarily released his ministry work. In 2007, he accepted an invitation to return to Unity as Music Director. In 2013, Unity's door opened wider and Jon joined Reverends Sherry and Inge in forming a Ministerial Team, reflecting a new model of shared leadership.

In addition to providing ministry and music, Jon is pursuing the Unity educational path to ordination in his spare time.