The purpose of the United Religions Initiative is to promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings.

April 2012

“All things are bound together, all things connect. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls also the children of the earth.” -- Chief Oren Lyons, Onandaga Nation

Letter from Bill McKibben and Interfaith Power and Light: Create a Climate Dot, May 5 Action

"Across a world divided in so many ways, one of the things that—sadly—unites us is the increasing damage from increasing temperatures. So far science has been in the lead in sounding the alarm, and the insurance industry (the part of our economy we ask to analyze risk) has not been far behind. Now we need faith communities the world over to step up and do their part in reading, like Daniel, “the writing on the wall.”.  

2012 Global Trustee Ballots Due May 30

Five nominations have come in from North America for three seats on the Global Council. If you are a URI in N.Am. Cooperation Circle (CC) contact, and your CC is registered, now is the time to get your ballot in. Write ups from the five candidates are available below. More details on the URI in N.Am. homepage.
Leila Al-Imad, Global Trustee Candidate

“In this world of the 21st century I feel very much connected with the rest of the globe, as I have always felt that I am a citizen of the world. I have lived and visited many places and never felt I was a stranger. I am fluent in many languages, which I believe made it easier for me to feel a sense of belonging wherever I have been. I have a double major Ph.D. in History/ Middle Eastern Languages and Literature. I am a professor at East Tennessee State University, in Johnson City, Tennessee.” - read more

Michael Pappas, Global Trustee Candidate

I'm Michael Pappas, Executive Director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC is a URI Cooperation Circle), Commissioner on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and a member at large of the URI North America Region Leadership Council. In all of these capacities I am energized to work diligently to advance the Preamble, Purpose and Principals of the URI. - read more

Anne Roth, Global Trustee Candidate

As a long time volunteer with URI, I have served in many different capacities over these 15 years. Former Ordained minister and pastor, Certified Spiritual Director, networker, planner and organizer, I have been instrumental in bringing people and organizations into awareness of URI. I was also instrumental in helping URI North America form a model of governance and bring that into being. I have served on the Global Council for the past 1.5 years, and I feel I have more to offer in this role. - read more

Rebecca Tobias, Global Trustee Candidate

URI North America Leadership Council

Ardianne Turner, Chair
Anne Roth, Vice Chair
John Denker, Secretary and Treasurer
Sande Hart
Kali Malik
Michael Pappas
Adelia Sandoval
Rebecca Tobias
Danya Wellmon
Kathryn Ward
Regional Coordinator

Events

SFIC May 2, Disaster Workshop, San Francisco, CA

Greenfaith Fellowship Webinar May 15
Atlanta, GA, Jul 15-18: NAIN Connect 2012
Save the Date

Blogs

The Ordination of Dr. Linda Groff *** TIO's Finding your Voice in an Interfaith World by Joshua Stanton *** Occupy Articles from Tikkun
Spring Issue *** Euphrates Institute: Prevent Water Wars in the Middle East *** The Felora Parsa R.I.S.E. Initiative from S.A.R.A.H. *** Compassionate Listening Behind Bars *** Hartford Seminary Graduate Program: Chaplaincy in Multifaith Contexts *** Invitation to an Interfaith Healing Prayer List *** Marin
I am currently serving and seeking re-election as a Global Council Trustee of the United Religions Initiative for the US and Canada. Presently I am the Program Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Ethics CC, which designs and facilitates interfaith and intercultural programming; and through my work have coordinated capacity building projects with civic, faith, and social justice advocacy organizations locally, nationally and internationally in both the US and Canada in keeping with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles of URI. Trained in Non-Violent Communication I am an active member of URI’s Conflict Resolution Satellite, and convene URI’s External Affairs Committee whose primary focus is to generate official position statements on behalf of URI in times of political, environmental and social conflict or crisis. - read more

Osama Wazan, Global Trustee Candidate

My first experience with the war was the loss of my best friend in fifth grade and spans encounters with mortar and car bombs, sniper fire, a kidnap attempt, living inside West Beirut during the Israeli siege for ninety days, and witnessing the outcome of looting and pillaging of Christian enclaves in Islamic territories and the massacres in the Palestinian camps. I was subjected to the wrath of the self nominated sharia enforcers and militiamen of different denominations and affiliations. Essentially, as a peacefully minded civilian during the war, I ranked at the bottom of the pecking order of survival. - read more