

## URI eUpdate for July 2007

### Our Periodic Electronic Newsletter

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#### 1. URI Global Council Trustees Meet in Antwerp, Belgium

URI Global Council Trustees, elected by URI grassroots members from around the world, gathered in Antwerp for the 2007 Global Council (GC) meeting to chart the future of URI.



The meeting was generously hosted by Patrick Bond Zonder, Nam, the ‘Movement Without a Name’ and its director, June 10-15 and brought together 29 Trustees representing eight regions across the globe. In-depth interfaith dialogue and cooperation played key roles as strategic decisions were made about the future of URI along the theme of “URI on the threshold...” [Click here to learn more.](#)

#### 2. URI Global Staff Training Days

URI Global Staff members met in Antwerp, Belgium, for three days prior to the Global Council meeting, preparing to step over the threshold into the dynamic next stage of URI’s growth. They strengthened relationships as a global team and worked together on developing strong regional leadership and effective global communications for the URI network.



URI Global Staff, joined by Yoland Trevino and Mary Swing

The work of the Global Staff was framed by and infused with the peacebuilding methodology being developed by the URI Moral Imagination pilot peacebuilding program. [More to this story...](#)

#### 3. Welcome 8 New CCs to the Global URI Member Network

During the Global Council meeting in Antwerp, the CC Approval Committee members held their monthly meeting, at which eight new groups were approved for membership in the URI community. We welcomed our first CC from Democratic Republic of the Congo during this meeting, together with others from Africa (4), Latin America, Asia, and the Multi-Region.

##### Asia:

- Nalamchira Sneha Sangamam, Mar Theophilus Training College, Trivandrum –India.

##### Africa:

- United for Peace, DCR, is the first CC approved from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Modern Information Center for Persons With Disabilities - Ethiopia.
- Family Peace to Family Association - Ethiopia.
- CRECCAP -Malawi.
- Inter-Religious Dialogue Programme (INTERDIP – UGANDA) - Uganda.

##### Latin America:

- UNISOES – BRASIL - Brazil.

##### Multi-Region:

- DR. T.D. Singh Science and Spirituality Cooperation Circle, begun by his colleagues, Global Council Trustees and Global Staff members during the recent GC meeting.

#### 4. Praying for Cooperation Circles 365 Days a Year

United Religions Initiative invites you to join in our daily prayer/meditation to spiritually support interfaith peacebuilders around the world. Every day Maria Eugenia Crespo, a URI Global Staff member whose home is in Argentina, lovingly writes an e-mail highlighting and sending blessings to one of over 300 URI member Cooperation Circles around the globe. She relates their purpose and current peacebuilding initiatives and activities.



On the last day of the Global Council meeting, Maria led us in the mediation for the Denmark Arhaus CC, much to the astonishment and delight of three Arhaus CC members who were present!

To participate, you can view the current list of prayers/meditations on URI’s Website by going [here](#). The list is updated weekly.

#### 5. ABC's of URI – a new resource document on the “nuts and bolts” of URI

Do you ever wonder what the underlying infrastructure of URI is? Have you ever wanted a clear and professional way of presenting how URI works to your friends, community, and religious leaders?

We have recently added an informational flyer to the Resources section of the URI Web site. Named the "Nuts and Bolts of URI," this 4-page document outlines the basic principles of URI and how it works.

URI has created an unprecedented global infrastructure enabling grassroots people of different faiths to cooperate in ending religious conflict and shaping our future.

While its impact will be profound, the infrastructure is simple: (1) a set of common principles, (2) a proven organizational model, (3) a system of shared leadership, and (4) a toolbox of technologies and practices. Each part is culturally transferable and user-friendly. Taken together, they provide the scaffolding to construct a new world.

To learn more about URI and to download the flyer, [click here](#).

#### 6. International Day of Forgiveness

Words of wisdom grace an invitation to a holiday that celebrates international forgiveness around the globe: "Forgive by sunset, every day. Peace and harmony every night."

These words are an invitation to anyone who would like to participate in the 11th annual International Forgiveness Day on August 5, 2007, sponsored by the Worldwide Forgiveness Alliance CC.

One of URI's Cooperation Circles has created a day to celebrate the healing power of forgiveness on an international scale. The International Day of Forgiveness will be held August 5, with events being held in California, Hawaii, Washington, England and elsewhere. The Worldwide Forgiveness Alliance CC, based in California, also encourages others to start Forgiveness Day Events throughout the world. [How to participate](#).

#### 7. Donate to URI today ~ welcome new Development Director Regan Murphy

We look forward to hearing the URI story from our new Director of Development, Regan Murphy. Regan will join us July 30th - she is eager to get to know all our loyal donors and invite new ones. She brings several years of successful experience and a variety of skills in fundraising from her years at Grace Cathedral and Episcopal Community Services, as well as great enthusiasm for the work of URI. What better welcome could we offer than a special gift this month to start her off?

URI has created something the world has never seen before: a global network empowering grassroots people of faith to collaborate worldwide in shaping the future of human society.

Thanks to URI, a Buddhist musician and peace worker from Calcutta is sharing strategies with an Indigenous social worker from Buenos Aires. Muslim and Christian youth from war-torn Uganda are meeting with Muslim and Christian elders from impoverished Manila to pioneer a spiritual approach to conflict resolution. And the Israeli Jewish son of Holocaust survivors makes a pilgrimage to Korea's demilitarized zone with a group of German Muslims.

With URI's support, ordinary people are doing what some in power consider impossible. They are making peace among religions and reaching around the world to bring peace, justice and healing to humanity and to the Earth.

By giving to URI, you can be part of this great adventure in global transformation. Your support will help us develop additional grassroots leaders, strengthen interfaith collaboration, and make peace vivid for a world plagued by images of violence and hatred.



Click here to give now, or call Regan Murphy at +1 415 561 2300 to find out more about how your support can fuel a grassroots movement for global transformation.

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*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.*