As the world is stunned by senseless acts of violence, our URI community elevates hope as it takes on the challenge to heal wounds, bring diverse communities of people together for humanitarian action, and strengthen the foundations for lasting peace.

Our Charter begins, "We people of diverse religions, spiritual expressions, and Indigenous traditions throughout the world...". The We of URI is a diverse people. We are people of all traditions, all beliefs, all nationalities, all races, all genders, all sexualities, and all ages. We stand together against the forces of violence, extremism, oppression, and prejudice. Our way is a way of respecting the uniqueness of each other's lives and traditions, and of working together for the good of our communities and the world.

In the face of violence, we unite for peace. This is the power of We.

RITA SEMEL
Jewish, United States
Rita has served URI since the 1990s – initially in partnership with Bishop Swing, then as the first Global Council Chair, now as a member of several URI committees. Her interfaith work has inspired generations of people to follow in her footsteps.

FATHER TERESITO "CHITO" SUGANOB
Catholic, The Philippines
Longtime leader of one of URI's Cooperation Circles, Father Chito works across religious and cultural boundaries to heal deep wounds of conflict and improve socio-economic conditions in the Mindanao region.

WILLIAM "BILL" K. BOWES, JR. (IN MEMORIAM)
Episcopalian, United States
Beloved member of the President's Council and pioneer URI philanthropist, Bill's forward-looking vision and generous financial backing helped grow URI's global interfaith network to what it is today.
The Power of We

Along with hundreds of thousands of partners and volunteers, our membership is guided and supported by a Global Support System that includes leadership and staff based in 34 countries:

- **29 Global Council Trustees**
- **19 Global Office Staff**
- **17 Regional Coordinators**
- **49 Additional Regional Staff**

**871 Cooperation Circles in 102 Countries**

**North America**
- 75 CCs

**Latin America and the Caribbean**
- 48 CCs

**Europe**
- 55 CCs

**Middle East and North Africa**
- 77 CCs

**Africa**
- 204 CCs

**Southeast Asia and the Pacific**
- 53 CCs

**Asia**
- 307 CCs

**Multiregion**
- 52 CCs

URI Member Density by Country

CC is our abbreviation for Cooperation Circles. This is what we call our member groups.

Numbers as of July 31st, 2017
Since the 1995 United Nations (UN) anniversary celebration that sparked the idea for a “United Religions,” URI has grown in parallel with the UN. We hold the prestigious distinction of being a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. We also have long-standing partnerships with several other UN agencies.

Every year, hundreds of our Cooperation Circles around the world celebrate the UN International Day of Peace and UN World Interfaith Harmony Week. Two of our member groups have even been honored with highly competitive prizes.

Our UN representatives provide an ongoing presence at the UN in New York City and Nairobi. URI thought leaders have spoken at UN Assemblies on topics like nuclear disarmament, sustainability, and women’s rights. We also send a yearly delegation of youth representatives to participate in UN events at the New York City headquarters.

How the URI Networkcombines Interfaith Bridgebuilding with Humanitarian Action to address the causes of conflict. This dual strategy is at the heart of URI’s success.

URI and the UN

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How the URI Network combines Interfaith Bridgebuilding with Humanitarian Action to address the causes of conflict. This dual strategy is at the heart of URI’s success.
Global Partnerships

We are excited to announce a powerful new partnership with Women’s Earth Alliance (WEA) to create The Ripple Academy, which will unleash a global cadre of women leaders aligned to forge and amplify solutions for peace, justice, and environmental healing in communities around the world. The Ripple Academy will bring together the best of URI’s and WEA’s grassroots leadership models, offering a coordinated training experience to equip leading change-makers with the skills, tools, and alliances they need to build bridges of cooperation and environmental solutions for generations to come. Expect to see projects like women’s clean cookstove microenterprises in Kenya, community seed banks in Egypt, sanitation efforts in India, or the preservation of water rights in Jordan, Israel, and Palestine.

Global Communications

Our global grassroots organization is always looking for better ways to elevate the work of our members and to foster strong connections.

Here are just a few ways we help bring our worldwide network a little closer together with:

- Our newly redesigned website will be an even more effective platform for raising our members’ voices on a global level. The new streamlined design will allow easier navigation and access to our Cooperation Circles, as well as our network’s wealth of peacebuilding stories and resources.
- Our new constituent relationship management platform, powered by Salesforce, will not only be fully integrated with our new website, but it will also act as a tool for impact assessment, allowing our leadership teams to direct their energy and resources more effectively.
- Using Zoom, a web conferencing service, we are now able to connect participants face-to-face across the planet for all of our global meetings. This new technology also offers greater capacity to conduct webinars and virtual breakout sessions.
- Our social media channels are more active than ever. Join URI community conversations online on Facebook (unitedreligionsinitiative), Twitter (uriglobal), YouTube (uriglobal), and our newest channel, Instagram (uriglobal).
Our members work at every level, from influencing policymakers to providing training at the grassroots, to building peace, healing existing tensions, and preventing new conflicts.

HIGHLIGHTING IMPACT:

- After an increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes in California, USA, the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County CC co-sponsored a “Ring of Solidarity” where over 150 people joined hands around a mosque to show community support for their Muslim neighbors.
- In Africa, Shalom Ghana CC ended a 10-year feud between Christians and Muslims by getting youth from both sides to plant trees the village badly needed.

**Bridging Rivers that Divide**

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**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA — EcoPeace Middle East CC gathers Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian government representatives to set aside their differences and join their voices in one clear call to clean up the polluted Lower Jordan River.**
Our members work hard to improve the health of people in communities all over the world, giving them the chance to lead full and meaningful lives.

**HIGHLIGHTING IMPACT:**

> When Sri Lanka was hit by the most devastating flood in over a decade, Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena CC coordinated relief services to distribute food, clothes, drinking water, and medicine.

> A Better Community for All Pakistan CC organizes free medical care for rural families who can’t afford doctors, distributing medicine and connecting patients with free hospital stays when necessary.

---

**BRINGING AID TO PEOPLE IN NEED**

**AFRICA** — Blantyre CC coordinated 50 young people of all backgrounds to clean polluted areas so the community could live in healthier surroundings, restoring sanitary conditions to the Bangwe township in Southern Malawi.

**BLANTYRE CC — FAITHS/TRADITIONS:**

MUHAMMADAN, CHRISTIAN: ORTHODOX, CHRISTIAN: ARMENIAN, CHRISTIAN: EVANGELICAL

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**ASIA** — Professional dentists from Drishti Foundation Trust CC, in New Delhi, India, donated time and supplies to provide dental care and teach kids about oral hygiene.

**DRISEHT FOUNDATION TRUST CC — FAITHS/TRADITIONS:**

HINDU, JAIN, MUSLIM, CHRISTIAN
Harmful stereotypes are usually rooted in ignorance, and the desperation of poverty often fuels tensions between groups. Our members educate people on cultural and religious differences to create safer, more peaceful communities.

**HIGHLIGHTING IMPACT:**

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Youth for Peace CC’s summer school brought together young people from different backgrounds through volunteering efforts like painting houses and repairing old cemeteries.

- In the Great Lakes region in Africa, Busoga CC members teach families the importance of sending daughters to school along with their brothers.

**Beyond Language, Teaching Communities**

Indigenous voices are essential within URI’s membership. We act to protect Indigenous peoples right to thrive while honoring their traditions.

**HIGHLIGHTING IMPACT:**

- Comunidad Cosmica CC, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, preserves Indigenous cultural riches and histories by publishing written stories that would otherwise be lost.

- Iqal CC, in Clayton, Victoria, Australia, leads a movement to return excavated Aboriginal human remains for dignified burial in accordance with Aboriginal traditions.

- Comunidad Cosmica CC, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, preserves Indigenous cultures’ rich oral histories by publishing written stories that would otherwise be lost.

- God CC, in Clayton, Victoria, Australia, leads a movement to return excavated Aboriginal human remains for dignified burial in accordance with Aboriginal traditions.
Our Donor Partners

January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

(names followed by * indicate 5-9 years of giving; ** indicate 10-14 years of giving; *** indicate 15 or more years of giving)

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We are deeply grateful to our donor partners who invest in the vital work of the URI network. This support impacts the work done around the world every day.

Thank You

Young Leaders Show the Way

We prize a diversity of ages in leadership positions worldwide. Our members work towards equity and fair representation in intergenerational peacemaking.

**HIGHLIGHTING IMPACT:**

- In Korea, young peacemakers from around the world gather annually at a URI youth camp, which provides scholarships to encourage learning and action.
- Youth of Peace CC in Yemen helps youth find their voice amidst a country torn apart by war - training them to produce their own documentary films promoting tolerance, respect, and religious freedom.

**NORTH AMERICA** — SUNDABT CC, a university student group, creates safe spaces for people to ask respectful questions about other religions by holding signs that read, “Meet a Muslim,” “Meet a Christian,” etc.

**SUNDABT CC — FAITHS/TRADITIONS:**

- ATHEIST, CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM, JEWISH, HUMANIST, BUDDHIST, PAGAN, AGNOSTIC, SIKH, CHRISTIAN: CATHOLIC, CHRISTIAN: CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
“When you support URI, you elevate hope, and help build a peaceful world, one community at a time.”

— Enoé Texier, Regional Coordinator, Latin America and the Caribbean.
I invest in URI as I feel that it directly empowers people to support communities, toward cohesive human kindness.

— Gwinnie Berera, Circles of Light Chair, USA
URI is sincerely grateful to our leaders for their vision, energy and commitment.

Our Leadership

URI Global Council

CHOIRBERN

Rev. John, RPH, CP, Foundation President

VICE-CHAIRBERN

Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian, Jr., Executive Director

TREASURER

William G. Clements, Jr., Managing Director

SECRETARY

John Weiser, Executive Director

Assistant Secretary

Peter Carper

EXCLUSIVE DIRECTOR

Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian, Jr., Executive Director

The Right Rev. William E. Swing, President and Founding Trustee

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, USA

EXECUTIVE STAFF

The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian, Jr., Executive Director

The Right Rev. William E. Swing, President and Founding Trustee

.URI Regional Coordinators

Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, USA

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Associate Director of Global Programs for Youth Leadership Development

Matthew Youssef, Program and Network Support

Alice Swett, Co-Director of Global Development and Finance Assistant

Marina Shkurko, Director of Global Communications

Isabelle Ortega-Lockwood, Programs Associate

Wella Mohibi, Data Manager and Global Programs and Organizational Development

Sally Mahé, Co-Director of Global Development and Finance Assistant

Myra Levy, Senior Accountant

Administrative Assistant to the President

Deborah Jasso,

Katherine Hreib,

Stefan Howard, Director of Operations

Gaea Denker, Communications Manager

Director of Cooperation Circle Support

Maria Crespo,

Diana Conan, Director of Development Advancement

Biff Barnard, Director of Institutional Relations

Pamela H. Banks,

Director of Finance and Administration

Pamela H. Banks,

Director for Africa

Global Envoy of URI and Regional Director for Africa

Mussie Hailu, URI Representative to the United Nations in Nairobi and Geneva,

Navyed Sherwani, Peter Phleger, Esq., Ex-Officio

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Asma Gull Hasan

The Most Rev. John Baptist Odama,
You can be the catalyst in enabling URI to further its organizational growth to respond to peacebuilding needs around world.

Ways to Contribute

Monthly Giving Circle
Increase your donation and contribute it in installments.

Legacy Circle Giving
Consider including URI in your estate plans and inform us about it.

Endowment
Contact us with an interest in supporting URI with a significant gift.

Host an Event
Introduce friends and colleagues to help us raise awareness.

Matching Gift
Include your employer’s matching gift program with your contribution.

Legacy Circle Giving
Consider including URI in your estate plans and inform us about it.

Endowment
Contact us with an interest in supporting URI with a significant gift.

Host an Event
Introduce friends and colleagues to help us raise awareness.

Matching Gift
Include your employer’s matching gift program with your contribution.

Increase revenue by 10% each year.
Expand donor partner support both nationally and globally.

PURPOSE

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.

PRINCIPLES

1. We practice healing and reconciliation to resolve con

2. We practice equitable participation of women and men

3. We respect religious, spiritual and indigenous traditions to bear on the econom

4. We encourage our members to deepen their roots in

5. We have the responsibility to develop

6. We honor the richness and diversity

7. We have the right to organize in any manner, at any

8. We have the freedom to associate, speak and assemble

9. We (each part of the URI) shall relin

10. We maintain the highest standards of

11. We have the freedom to associate, speak and assemble

12. We unite to be the catalyst in enabling URI to further its organizational growth to respond to peacebuilding needs around world.

What We Believe

The URI Charter

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