



# United Religions Initiative

## Cooperation Circle Application for Membership

The URI welcomes your interest. If you wish to apply for membership, please read the Member's Declaration - the Preamble, Purpose and Principles and the Rights and Responsibilities of Members. The Preamble, Purpose and Principles and the Rights and Responsibilities of Members have been written to give you the opportunity to read these words together as a group if you wish. Then, please sign the Member's Declaration and complete the Cooperation Circle Information sheet.

*Cooperation Circle members accept the rights and responsibilities of membership, share ownership and leadership of the URI. They initiate interfaith actions, participate in regular communication, give and receive mutual support, select Trustees to the Global Council, and in their unique way ensure enduring daily interfaith cooperation around the world.*

Each Cooperation Circle is asked to give a financial gift or offer a contribution that reflects its desire to care for the URI. Recognizing that some cultures are not "cash cultures," the URI also welcomes contributions of service to support its work.

*We must be the change we wish to see in the world.*

-Mahatma Gandhi

# Member's Declaration

## THE PREAMBLE, PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

### *Preamble*

*We, people of diverse religions, spiritual expressions and indigenous traditions throughout the world, hereby establish the United Religions Initiative 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.*

*We respect the uniqueness of each tradition, and differences of practice or belief.*

*We value voices that respect others, and believe that sharing our values and wisdom can lead us to act for the good of all.*

*We believe that our religious, spiritual lives, rather than dividing us, guide us to build community and respect for one another.*

*Therefore, as interdependent people rooted in our traditions, we now unite for the benefit of our Earth community.*

*We unite to build cultures of peace and justice.*

*We unite to heal and protect the Earth.*

*We unite to build safe places for conflict resolution, healing and reconciliation.*

*We unite to support freedom of religion and spiritual expression, and the rights of all individuals and peoples as set forth in international law.*

*We unite in responsible cooperative action to bring the wisdom and values of our religions, spiritual expressions and indigenous traditions to bear on the economic, environmental, political and social challenges facing our Earth community.*

*We unite to provide a global opportunity for participation by all people, especially by those whose voices are not often heard.*

*We unite to celebrate the joy of blessings and the light of wisdom in both movement and stillness.*

*We unite to use our combined resources only for nonviolent, compassionate action, to awaken to our deepest truths, and to manifest love and justice among all life in our Earth community.*

## ***Purpose***

***Our purpose 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***

*In pursuit of the Purpose stated above, we shall act in accordance with the following Principles:*

- 1. We are a bridge-building organization, not a religion.*
- 2. We respect the sacred wisdom of each religion, spiritual expression and indigenous tradition.*
- 3. We respect the differences among religions, spiritual expressions and indigenous traditions.*
- 4. We encourage our members to deepen their roots in their own tradition.*
- 5. We listen and speak with respect to deepen mutual understanding and trust.*
- 6. We give and receive hospitality.*
- 7. We seek and welcome the gift of diversity and model practices that do not discriminate.*
- 8. We practice equitable participation of women and men in all aspects of the URI.*
- 9. We practice healing and reconciliation to resolve conflict without resorting to violence.*
- 10. We act from sound ecological practices to protect and preserve the Earth for both present and future generations.*
- 11. We seek and offer cooperation with other interfaith efforts.*
- 12. We welcome as members all individuals, organizations and associations who subscribe to the Preamble, Purpose and Principles.*
- 13. We have the authority to make decisions at the most local level that includes all the relevant and affected parties.*
- 14. We have the right to organize in any manner, at any scale, in any area, and around any issue or activity which is relevant to and consistent with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles.*
- 15. Our deliberations and decisions shall be made at every level by bodies and methods that fairly represent the diversity of affected interests and are not dominated by any.*
- 16. We shall relinquish only such autonomy and resources as are essential to the pursuit of the Preamble, Purpose and Principles.*

17. *We have the responsibility to develop financial and other resources to meet the needs of our part, and to share financial and other resources to help meet the needs of other parts.*
18. *We maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct, prudent use of resources, and fair and accurate disclosure of information.*
19. *We are committed to organizational learning and adaptation.*
20. *We honor the richness and diversity of all languages and the right and responsibility of participants to translate and interpret the Charter, Bylaws and related documents in accordance with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles, and the spirit of the United Religions Initiative.*
21. *We shall not coerce our members to participate in any ritual or proselytize them.*

## ***Rights of Members***

As a URI Cooperation Circle, we receive the right:

1. to organize in any manner and around any issue or activity which is relevant to and consistent with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles;
2. to determine our own process of governance and decision-making that is in accordance with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles;
3. to choose to combine with or join any other URI Circles;
4. to participate in the selection of Trustees to serve on the Global Council;
5. to use the name “United Religions Initiative” and its related names, abbreviations, logos, and images so long as they are used in furtherance of and in accordance with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles of the URI;
6. to review and accept, on behalf of the URI, applications for membership from individuals, organizations and associations seeking to join in pursuit of the Purpose.

## ***Responsibilities of Members***

As a Cooperation Circle we accept the responsibility:

1. to act in accordance with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles;
2. to determine our own process of governance and decision-making that is in accordance with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles;
3. to take actions to encourage and ensure that our own members act in accordance with the Preamble, Purpose and Principles;
4. to actively use our best efforts to achieve the Purpose in accordance with the Principles;
5. to adhere to the by-laws and operating procedures as they evolve in the life of the URI;
6. to communicate best practices, stories and highlights of activities with other parts of the URI;
7. to develop financial resources to meet our own needs;
8. to share financial and other resources to help meet the needs of other Circles;
9. to pay any dues and/or offer such appropriate contribution as the Global Council may establish;
10. to keep accurate and current records of our members, financial transactions and activities;
11. to indemnify and hold the Trustees, the United Religions Initiative, its employees and representatives, harmless from any liabilities arising out of or in any way caused by a URI Circle's breach of any provision of the Articles, by-laws or operating procedures.

***MEMBER'S STATEMENT REGARDING NAME USE***

**We, the undersigned Cooperation Circle, recognize and acknowledge to the Global Council of the United Religions Initiative that:**

the goodwill, trust and reputation of the United Religions Initiative as a whole and the ability of the United Religions Initiative and each one of its members to flourish and achieve its purpose rests upon the acts, words and deeds associated with the name and related images United Religions Initiative throughout the world;

as a member of the United Religions Initiative we have the right to use and associate ourselves with the name and related images of the United Religions Initiative.

**Therefore, we shall:**

so long as we are a member of the United Religions Initiative, hold the name and related images of the United Religions Initiative as a sacred trust for all members;

only use the name and related images of the United Religions Initiative in connection with our work as a member of the United Religions Initiative and in furtherance of the Preamble, Purpose and Principles;

only use the name and related images of the United Religions Initiative in conformity with the operating procedures and standards for use and quality set forth from time to time by the Global Council.

stop using the name and related images of the United Religions Initiative upon the termination of our membership in the United Religions Initiative.

Agreed and Acknowledged:  
Name of Cooperation Circle

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Member's Declaration*

We, the undersigned, wishing to become a Member of the United Religions Initiative and to join in pursuit of the Purpose, embrace and affirm the above Preamble, Purpose and Principles and we accept the rights and responsibilities of membership of the URI.

The name of our Cooperation Circle is:

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Signed by:

Affiliation

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*please add more signatures if necessary*

## Cooperation Circle Information

Please offer the following information and respond to all items. Also, you may use additional paper to answer questions if necessary.

1. The name of our Cooperation Circle is:
2. Our purpose is:
3. We meet the eligibility requirements of at least seven members.     Yes     No  
Our total membership is:
4. We meet the diversity requirement of at least three members from different religions, spiritual expressions, and indigenous traditions.     Yes     No  
Our religious, spiritual, indigenous diversity includes:
5. The highlights of our history so far are:
6. What we value most about our organization is:
7. A description of our CC's activities and aspirations at this time is:
8. Our dream for making a difference in the world is:
9. Our governance or decision-making process is:
10. In order to serve the whole URI community, we are including a financial gift of \_\_\_\_\_ with this application that is made out to United Religions Initiative, and/or we are offering a contribution of service described below.
11. Please attach any stories or photos that you would like to share with other URI groups.
11. **Contact Information:** Please list information for two Contact People for your Cooperation Circle on the following page.

## Cooperation Circle: Primary Contact 2008

The information below will be printed each year in the URI Community Directory. At any point in time, if you are no longer the primary contact, if you are no longer a member of the CC listed below, or if any of the contact information changes, please notify the URI office in San Francisco at [office@uri.org](mailto:office@uri.org) and your Regional Coordinator.

**Please print or type.**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperation Circle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Person's Name: Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which is your preferred address for URI mailings?** Please circle one: Business / Home

**Business Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Numbers:**

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code

Business: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code

Mobile: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code

Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code

**Do you use email? Please circle one: Yes / No**

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Skype Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CC Website (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

## Cooperation Circle: Secondary Contact 2008

The information below will be printed each year in the URI Community Directory. At any point in time, if you are no longer the primary contact, if you are no longer a member of the CC listed below, or if any of the contact information changes, please notify the URI office in San Francisco at [office@uri.org](mailto:office@uri.org) and your Regional Coordinator.

**Please print or type.**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperation Circle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Contact Person's Name: Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which is your preferred address for URI mailings?** Please circle one: Business / Home

**Business Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Numbers:**

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code

Business: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code

Mobile: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code

Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Country Code

**Do you use email? Please circle one: Yes / No**

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Skype Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CC Website (if any): \_\_\_\_\_