

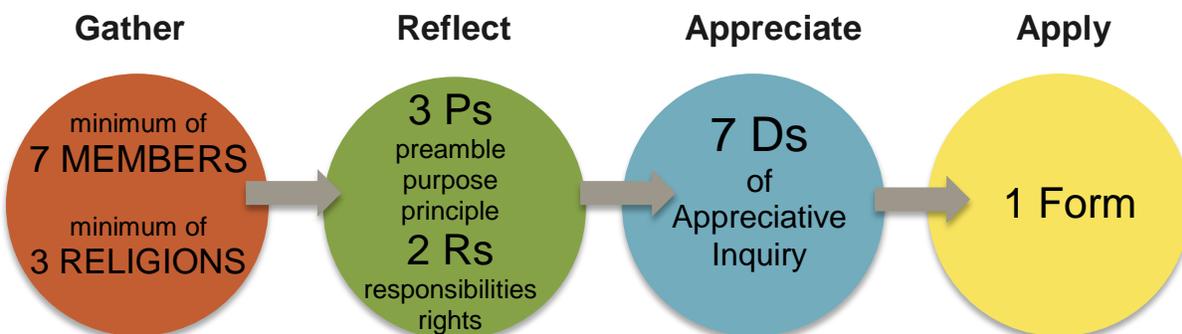
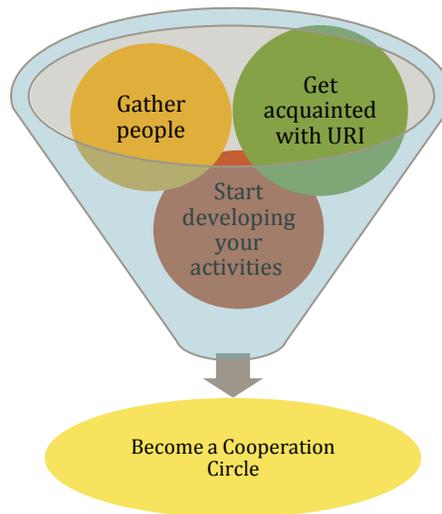
## Starting a Cooperation Circle: A Resource Guide

United Religions Initiative (URI) is the world’s largest grassroots interfaith peacebuilding network, with over 760 Cooperation Circles (CCs) operating in at least 94 countries. URI brings people of different faiths and cultures together to promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing.

Cooperation Circles are created by people who share a common vision: that our religious and spiritual lives, rather than divide us, can guide us to build community and respect for one another. When you and your group create a Cooperation Circle you become part of an extraordinary force for good in the world, creating cultures of peace through the relationships you build and the work you do. Throughout URI’s history Cooperation Circles have formed to address a wide range of issues from homelessness to climate change.

We look forward to welcoming your Cooperation Circle to the URI Family!

### Getting Started



## Resources For Each Stage

Throughout the years, we have gathered resources and stories from communities all over the world. We know that each community is unique and that an approach that has worked for one might not work for another, but our hope is that these resources may be a starting point for the work of your budding Cooperation Circle. In addition, we have launched a [Cooperation Circle mentoring program](#) designed to give new Cooperation Circles a hand in this important formative process. Start the process of being matched with a mentor by filling out the survey at this [link](#).

### GATHER

You can find the basic information necessary to [Create a Cooperation Circle](#) at this [link](#). Start by gathering people! When you have a minimum of 7 from at least 3 different faiths, spiritual expressions or indigenous traditions, you can start your application. In addition, we enthusiastically welcome already-existing groups or organizations to apply to join URI upon reflection on URI's Preamble, Purpose and Principles.

### REFLECT

Reflect on what it means to be a URI member by reading the [URI Principle, Preamble and Purpose](#) and [Rights and Responsibilities of members](#). To get more of a flavor for this global family, you can also watch the [We Unite video](#), read about our [Organizational Design](#) and view our [Annual Reviews](#).

### APPRECIATE

[Appreciative Inquiry](#) is an approach where we envision a new world together by looking at what is working, instead of what is not. Appreciative Inquiry has been foundational in the life of United Religions Initiative. It's also an approach you can use when starting a Cooperation Circle. We have many resources around the 7 D's of the Appreciative Inquiry process, including questions to [help CCs in the formative process](#) and throughout their lifetime. You can read more about it [here](#).

### ORGANIZE

Activities are the core of many Cooperation Circles, whom have shared their ideas in our resources library over the past 15 years. Here are some helpful places to get started, with much more in our Resource Library (with the CC Tools and Tips section being particularly relevant): [http://uri.org/browse\\_resources/](http://uri.org/browse_resources/)

- With tips for managing your Cooperation Circle, connecting with the URI network and analyzing your impact, the [Cooperation Circle Toolkit](#) is a great and in-depth resource.
- The [Interfaith Peacebuilding Guide](#) is an incredibly rich and robust guide that employs an approach to peacebuilding that involves individual self-examination and grounding in a personal spiritual path. It can also be used in conjunction with the [Interfaith Home Gatherings: A Practical Guide](#) and [We Unite video](#) and [Viewing Guide](#)
- The [Talking Back to Hate Toolkit](#) provides practical suggestions and guidance to help individuals and groups counter rising hate, discrimination, and bias-motivated violence.

### APPLY

In order to register your CC, your group must read the [Rights and Responsibilities of members](#), meet eligibility requirements and fill out this [application forms](#). Email or fax the forms to your [regional coordinator](#) or at Maria Crespo at: [cc@uri.org](mailto:cc@uri.org)



Follow our Facebook pages to learn about our work, the work of other Cooperation Circles around the world, post news about your CCs and more. Click here for our [URI North America Facebook](#) and [URI Global Facebook](#) pages.