

A Guide to Joining United Religions Initiative

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. URI welcomes already-established interfaith groups to join as CCs to connect to this global movement. URI Cooperation Circles address a wide range of issues – from homelessness to climate change – on an interfaith basis. While maintaining complete autonomy at the local level, URI members plug into a global network of like-minded people to share resources, connections, support and hope.

If you are part of an existing interfaith group, this resource guide will walk you through the steps of becoming a URI Cooperation Circle. If you are interested in becoming a CC but your groups is still in the formation stage, we recommend you also take a look at our “Starting a Cooperation Circle” resource guide, which provides specific ideas and resources for this stage.

When you and your group create a Cooperation Circle you become part of a global movement to end religiously-motivated violence and create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the earth and all living beings. We look forward to welcoming your Cooperation Circle to the URI Family!

The Process



The Process Explained

We are very excited that you are considering embarking on the process to become a member of URI's global family. Below is an in-depth description of this process as well as some helpful resources different steps along the way. During this process, if you would like support from an existing Cooperation Circle member, you can sign up for our [Cooperation Circle mentorship program](#) by filling out the survey at this [link](#).

GET AQUAINTED

Learn what it means to be a URI member by reading about [Cooperation Circles](#), [URI Principle, Preamble and Purpose](#) and the [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](#).

SHARE

Consensus building is one of the core values of URI and this is reflected in our application process, in which we encourage the entire group to be a part of the decision to apply to become a member of URI. If you would like hard copies of URI information to share with your group, send a request to your [regional coordinator](#).

APPLY

To apply, your group must read the [Rights and Responsibilities of members](#), meet the requirement of having at least 7 members of at least 3 different religions, spiritual expressions or indigenous traditions, and fill out this [application forms](#). Email or fax the form to your [regional coordinator](#) or Director of CC Support, Maria Crespo at cc@uri.org.

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

Soon after you submit your form, a URI staff member or volunteer will contact you to conduct an Appreciative Interview. This 15-question interview, which is more like a conversation, is designed for you to become more familiar with URI and for us to become more familiar with your group. Ideally, this interview will take place with as many of your group members as possible.

BECOME A CC

Following the interview, the interviewer will share a rough transcript of the interview with the Cooperation Circle Approval Committee, a subset of [URI's elected Global Council](#). This committee meets once a month to review and vote on applications. Following their monthly meeting, you will receive a welcome email, followed by a welcome packet, from Maria Crespo and/or your [regional coordinator](#).

GIVE & RECEIVE

URI has a vast Resource Library which you can find at http://uri.org/browse_resources/. A great place to start is the [Cooperation Circle Toolkit](#), which explains the variety of ways you can both give and receive benefit from the URI network as well as tips for managing your Cooperation Circle, connecting with the URI network, analyzing your impact and more.



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.