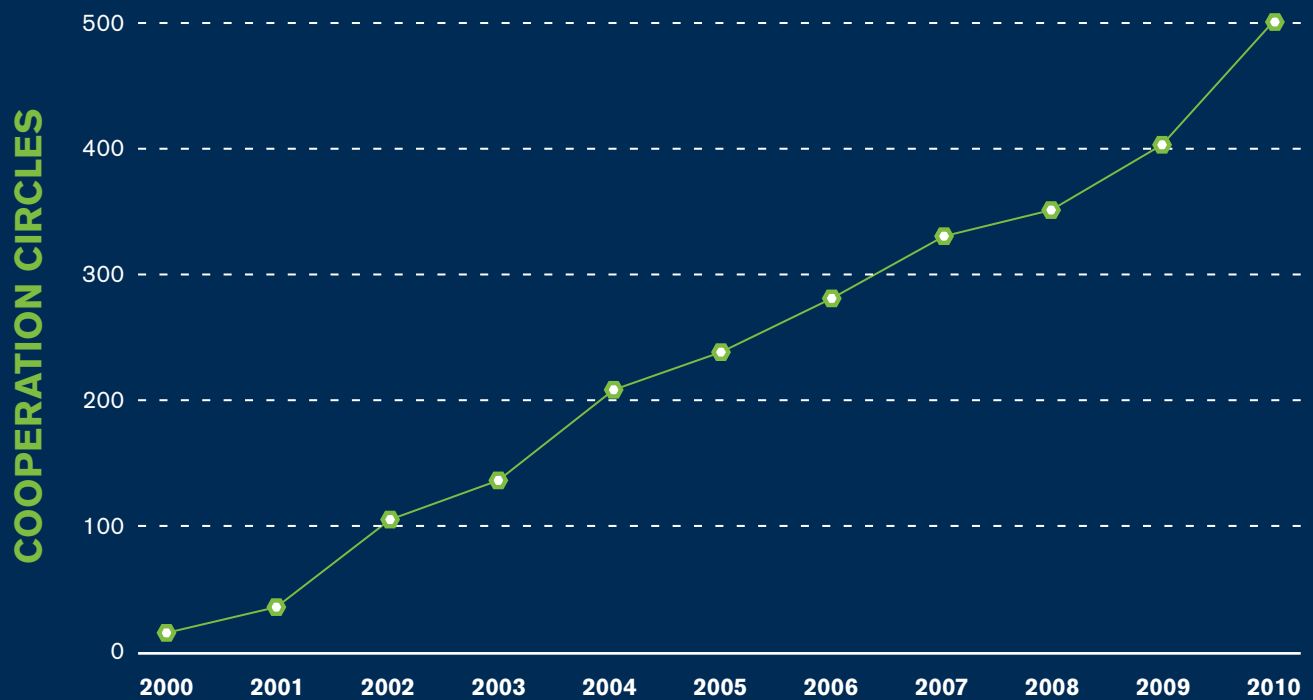


# TEN YEARS OF IMPACT

2009-10 ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW

# 2000–2010: A DECADE OF GROWTH



**UNITED  
RELIGIONS  
INITIATIVE  
TEN  
YEARS  
OF  
GROWING  
NUMBERS,  
GROWING  
REACH,  
GROWING  
IMPACT.**







*Pictured (left to right): The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing, Yolanda Trevino and The Rev. Canon Charles P. Gibbs*

Dear Friends,

As URI celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, we look back on a decade of remarkable growth, extraordinary accomplishments, and, most importantly, lives changed. We signed our Charter on June 26, 2000 with 83 Cooperation Circles (CCs) in 30 countries; today we are a powerful community of 500 CCs in 78 countries whose work reaches 2.5 million people. These numbers alone are something to be proud of, but the real story of URI at 10 lies in the thousands of effective strategies URI members have launched from the grassroots to address some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Cooperation Circles are the heart and soul of URI. Working with courage and ingenuity, they are making the kind of difference that only those living in the midst of hardship, crisis or conflict can make. They decide which issues are the most important to their communities, and devise solutions that really work. They are easing interreligious tensions in changing urban communities throughout Europe, and boldly overcoming centuries-old sectarian and tribal differences in Asia. They are building clinics, schools and orphanages; reintegrating refugees and child soldiers into communities torn apart by civil war; reforesting land; providing relief to flood victims in Pakistan; advocating for the rights of women, girls and the Indigenous; starting microenterprises; and using music, theater and film to engage thousands in interfaith and inter-caste dialogue.

As a bridge builder and supportive network, URI nurtures and connects these CCs around shared principals, goals and strategies. First and foremost, **we believe that interreligious cooperation and understanding are crucial to building peace, stability and economic opportunity.** With this as our bedrock, we are fostering a growing movement of respect and cooperation to counter the ignorance and hostility that is sharpening divisions among religious groups around the world.

Our global network resonates especially with young people for whom geography is not the barrier that it was for their parents' generation. Through URI, young leaders from around the world are making connections, exchanging ideas and working together to help stem this growing polarization.

URI's successes in the last 10 years have been tempered by multiple global and local crises, crises that make our work more critical than ever. From food shortages to terrorist attacks to natural disasters of unprecedented scope, URI has had to constantly adapt to changing conditions in the places where our members live and work. The global financial crisis has affected our work, too, and we have had to make difficult choices. With charitable giving down, we've had to cut staff from our headquarters and reduce salaries in order to preserve funding for the work of our 16 regional coordinators, who serve as the anchors for capacity building, leadership development and connection among our CCs.

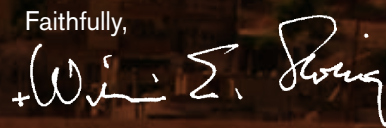




Yet through all this, URI continues to grow rapidly. Between five and fifteen new CCs are coming on board each month, bringing new hope to conflict-torn communities like Somalia, Sudan and Iraq.

**This would not have been possible without your support. And for that you have our deepest gratitude.**

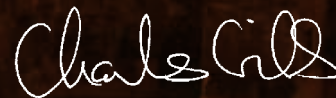
The next decade will be both as challenging and as exhilarating as the first. With your continued support, we will come ever closer to realizing URI's purpose of ending religiously motivated violence and building cultures of peace, justice and healing throughout the globe.

Faithfully,  


The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing  
 President



Yoland Trevino  
 Global Council Chair



The Rev. Canon Charles P. Gibbs  
 Executive Director



AMBASSADOR  
MUSSIE  
HAILU

TEN  
YEARS  
OF  
IMPACT



URI Regional Coordinator  
for Africa

Representative at the  
United Nations Economic  
Commission for Africa

Board Chair, Interfaith  
Peace-building Initiative  
(IPI) CC, Ethiopia

'May Peace Prevail on Earth' is my prayer, and the Golden Rule is my guiding principle in life. When we talk about peace, it is not something that is out there, it is something that starts with me, with my family, with my neighbors, in my country, and then goes to the region and the globe. That's how we can make an impact. If we desire a change, we must also accept that this requires a change in our daily lives.

Through our URI CC in Ethiopia, the Interfaith Peace-building Initiative, we were able to create what we call the National Interfaith Peace Council. The purpose of this council is not only to be a fire brigade after some incident happens, but also to build trust, to promote understanding among the different religions and come up with a national vision for creating a culture of peace.

Interfaith is a new term to Ethiopia and to a number of African countries. Although there were peace desks from each religion in Ethiopia, there was none at the national level. So we called up all of them and invited them to meet. URI was a very safe organization for them to partner with, because it is a bridge-building organization, not a religion, and it belongs to all. After a series of meetings we established the council. Now whenever there is religiously motivated violence this committee can help mediate.

**WE CANNOT ALWAYS EXPECT A MIRACLE TO HAPPEN. WE NEED TO TAKE OUR FUTURE IN OUR OWN HANDS AND MAKE IT HAPPEN.** We need to avoid violence in all its forms by making the Golden Rule the first article of our faith and the last article of our creed. If we work together as citizens of the world, peace and a better future for all of humanity and Mother Earth is possible. This is what we are doing as URI members.

vision





### A Global Celebration Through Service

On the evening of June 26, 2010, people of all different castes and religions braved a heavy downpour in West Bengal, India for a quiz led by one of the area's most renowned quiz masters. Across the globe in the Philippines, Muslims and Christians in the Manila area gathered together to plant trees and learn waste management techniques. Both events were organized by URI Cooperation Circles (CCs) for the same purpose: to celebrate URI's 10th anniversary.

The URI Charter was signed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and cities and towns around the world on June 26, 2000, marking the beginning of a new movement to unite people in collective action for the common good. This year, from Malaysia to Pakistan to Brazil, URI CCs, leaders, staff and friends commemorated that ambitious beginning, and the ten years of successful interfaith action that followed.

"There was a song that was written for the charter signing," recalled Executive Director Charles Gibbs "and it had the title, *Keep The Hope Alive*. For ten years, we've been keeping our hope, and the hope of many people around the world alive."

Reverend Gibbs was speaking to a crowd of more than 150 people who had gathered at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman, Jordan following the Middle East and North Africa regional assembly and annual Global Council meeting for a formal celebration. Musical performances were the evening's highlight. URI CC Musaique (Music Without Boundaries), a group of musicians from across the Middle East, electrified the audience with its original compositions, and Hala Al Dasouqi of Quested Peace, a Jordanian CC, sang a moving rendition of *We are One*, a song written for the celebration by Middle East Regional Coordinator Mamoun Khreisat.

As the evening came to a close, CC leaders stood before the URI community to make public commitments to service. Joining similar commitments made on URI's new website, [www.uri.org](http://www.uri.org), by CCs network-wide, they promised to promote youth education and leadership in all URI regions; to build a joint platform for URI women; to cultivate new CCs in all states in India; and more. To keep the hope alive for the decade to come.





## URI ACTION AREAS



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.

– URI Preamble

### POVERTY

On a Saturday in Ramadan, fifteen members of three Jordanian CCs headed to Al Mafraq, 100km from the center of Amman, to distribute food. Their mission: to bring relief to widows and single mothers struggling to survive in one of Jordan's most impoverished provinces. With funding from the Jordanian CC network and their supporters, the three Circles—Quested Peace CC, Iris Women CC and Mercy CC—have distributed bags of food to 78 families in two poor villages in the region. After handing out food in Al Mafraq, they gave backpacks filled with school supplies to 55 orphaned children. “Nothing compares to seeing the smiles of the children,” said one of the organizers.

From isolated rural villages like this one to crowded inner-city neighborhoods, URI CCs are bringing hope to the world's poor—building health clinics and orphanages; providing micro-loans to spur entrepreneurship; feeding and providing shelter to the homeless; teaching cleaner cooking technologies; or simply bringing donations of food to help people get through another week.

MAULANA SYED  
MUHAMMAD ABDUL  
KHABIR AZAD

TEN  
YEARS  
OF  
IMPACT



URI Global Council  
Trustee for Asia

Lahore CC, Pakistan

Grand Imam and  
Khateeb of Badshahi  
Mosque in Lahore

My father told me that the teachings of Islam are teachings of love and peace for the whole of humanity. He was a great religious leader and renowned scholar of Islam, respected and honored in Pakistan and around the world. He had a mission of interfaith dialogue. I believe I have inherited this mission from him.

Regional Coordinator Father James Channan introduced URI to Pakistan 12 years ago, and my father and I became founding members of URI Pakistan. Since that time we have worked a lot in the field of interfaith. URI has come with a great vision of bringing humanity together, of how people of all religions can sit together, how we can speak to one another.

Recently several houses of Christians were attacked in a place called Korian Wala and Gojra. Over 200 houses were burned to ashes and seven Christians were burned alive. It was a barbaric act. I went there for three days and nights and did not sleep because of what had happened to my Christian brothers and sisters. Father James was also there. We tried our best to bring healing and reconciliation among those people.

The future of URI in Pakistan is very bright. URI has very strong roots and has gotten a very positive response from the people and also from the government. **THE GOVERNMENT CONTACTS US AND TAKES ADVICE FROM US FOR MAJOR ISSUES IN PAKISTAN.** We work not only for creating harmony between different religions but among our own Muslim sects as well. This work will be needed into the future, so we will keep on doing it.

compassion

ELANA  
ROZENMAN

TEN  
YEARS  
OF  
IMPACT



Former Global Council  
Trustee for the Multi-Region

Co-Coordinator of the  
Women's Coalition MCC,  
Global

Founder, TRUST WIN  
(Women's Interfaith  
Network) CC, Israel

Co-Coordinator, WIN MENA  
CC, Middle East & North  
Africa Region

My son was seriously wounded in a Palestinian suicide bombing in Jerusalem in 1997. When I rushed into the emergency room the doctor said, "We need to do an emergency operation on your son to save him." He had an Arab name, and I said, "An Arab just tried to kill my son and now an Arab is going to save him?!" And he said, "That's just our reality. Let's sign the papers and get busy." So immediately there was no way for me to go into a feeling of vengeance. We are all victims of the violence in our region.

Soon after my son recovered, I met someone from URI who was doing work here, and I told him I wanted to work with women. I knew they were the missing element in our conflict.

**THERE IS A TREMENDOUS THIRST HERE FOR NORMAL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG WOMEN OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS.** So I got

started. I do this work because of the intense suffering on both sides, and the realization that unless you are working to strengthen the energies of non-violence, you are actually colluding with the situation.

The Middle East and North Africa region's annual meeting in Amman is one of the only places that Israelis can meet with others in our region. This is enormously strengthening for all of us. We have developed deep friendships and organized joint activities on the local level. This kind of contact is invaluable in terms of humanizing the conflict, and the interfaith dimension enables us to transcend the politics of the region.

courage





## PEACEBUILDING

When terrorist bombs ripped through Kampala, Uganda in July 2010, URI's Great Lakes network mobilized an immediate response. Regional Coordinator Despina Namwembe met with the Muslim Supreme Council and other religious leaders to organize an interfaith prayer event, and together they outlined a plan for new programming to counter extremist recruiting through religious tolerance and non-violence education.

These relationships of trust allow URI to respond to interreligious crises wherever they arise. In Badalona, Spain, a large suburb of Barcelona, the UNESCO Association for Interreligious Dialogue CC defused a simmering conflict between two groups of Gypsy immigrants in a poor and highly diverse neighborhood that threatened to destabilize relations with other religious groups as well. It organized meetings among religious, local government and civil society leaders in the community; worked with a local school to hold workshops on religious diversity; and created a permanent interfaith dialogue forum. When the dialogues began, participants would not even look one another in the eye. Today, they talk openly.

## HUMANITARIAN AID

As floodwaters raged through Pakistan this summer, URI Regional Coordinator Father James Channan reported on the devastation on the ground and asked the URI global community for its prayers and support. Meanwhile, URI Pakistan's network of 44 CCs sprang into action. Action Against Poverty CC started free medical camps in District Rahim Yar Khan and distributed dry goods and tents in local villages; It also partnered with Bethak CC, which set up shelters and provided food for 70 families in Khanewal; Peace and Environment CC distributed food, clothing and Eid al-Fitr gifts to families in District Rajan Pur; the Peace Group of Journalists made plans to open medical camps and provide food and clean water to flood victims in Gilgit-Baltistan; and more. In a gesture of generosity and solidarity from 3000 miles away, Ven. Dr. Jinwol Lee, URI Trustee and Regional Coordinator for Korea arranged a \$50,000 donation from his Buddhist Order, the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, to Pakistani relief efforts. This is the URI network in action.



## ENVIRONMENT

URI's Environmental Satellite held its first meeting in April 2009, launching a new effort to bridge the work of environment-oriented CCs throughout the network and help focus the attention of the global URI on issues that affect us all. In the past year, the group has issued a Climate Change Call to Action, launched a seed grant program to support CC-initiated environmental projects and created a virtual resource library for the new URI website.

Also this year, on the 65th anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki, a global coalition of diplomats, scientists, scholars, clergy and grassroots activists, including former U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Stanford physicist and arms control expert Sidney Drell, created a new CC to build a movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Still in a formative stage, Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons CC will be publicly launched next fall.

## WOMEN

Mola textiles, based on the traditional art of the Kuna indigenous people of Panama and Colombia, can be found in craft markets across Latin America. Yet the Kuna themselves have benefited little from the commercial success of their designs, and the traditional forms are being lost to modern interpretation. Mujeres Artesanas Kuna de Panama CC is helping Kuna women rediscover this ancient art and reclaim it as a resource to support their families and their communities.

Mujeres Artesanas is one of eleven CCs that joined together from around the world this year to unite the energies of the women of URI. The Women's Coalition, inspired by an interfaith women's leadership workshop in the Middle East in 2007, will provide a broad platform for joint activities and strategies to support women, including facilitating communication and sharing of resources; providing support for women-oriented CCs; and promoting women's voices in peacebuilding, especially in the Middle East.

RATTAN  
CHANNA

TEN  
YEARS  
OF  
IMPACT



URI Global Council  
Trustee for Africa

United Religions of  
Nairobi CC, Kenya

I am a practicing Sikh. The Sikh religion is interfaith itself. My father taught us about the scripture and to follow it. Many times in his life he stood up for other people. So it was always in me.

I was introduced to URI when Charles Gibbs and others came to Kenya in 1998. The idea really attracted me. I thought, this is something really special; I felt like it was a calling. At the end of the meeting, we decided to get together the people of different faiths that had taken part. When the charter was signed in 2000, I was there. From then onward, I planted myself fully, totally into URI work. It really inspired me that we are doing something great for our fellow human beings.

I work to help empower minorities and women, to be a voice for people who do not have voice. For example, even though our community is quite liberated, there are some areas in which women do not have equal rights. **SO I OFTEN FIND MYSELF STANDING ON THE FRONT LINE, REQUESTING OR DEMANDING RIGHTS FOR WOMEN.** URI has given me a platform. And I think it has made me go deeper into my roots and seek what are the true, real values in Sikhism. I do what it is Sikhs are supposed to do.

inspiration



FATHER  
PATRICK  
HANJOUL

TEN  
YEARS  
OF  
IMPACT



President, URI Europe

Director, Bond zonder  
Naam (Movement Without  
a Name) CC

In the seminary on my way to priesthood I understood from day one that the pathway toward the truth could not be only a Christian pathway. I learned in 1996 that there would be a meeting in Oxford, England with people from San Francisco who had the idea to start a United Religions Initiative. I did not need to be convinced about interfaith dialogue, but was curious about the organizational design. When I talked to my chair at Bond zonder Naam (BZN) about the need for inter-cultural and interreligious dialogue, he was immediately into the idea and offered to pay my way to Oxford. I met Bill Swing and Charles Gibbs there, and became more than convinced about the way of organizing.

**URI IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS GRASSROOTS.** I don't believe in a top-down story. I believe much more in bottom-up, among ordinary people working with enthusiasm in their communities. Make them enthusiastic; make them creative. That is the main task of URI.

Until now it has been very tough. Establishing an interreligious network in Europe is ambitious because people are too busy and it has not been a priority. But this is steadily changing. Even in my town in Antwerp people are starting to realize that living together with different cultures and religions is irreversible. We have to learn to live together.

**THE TIME IN SOCIETY IS RIPE FOR URI. IF IT DID NOT EXIST TODAY, WE WOULD HAVE TO INVENT IT.**

leadership



## EDUCATION

Heightened Islamophobia in the United States and Europe has brought new urgency to URI's mission of promoting interreligious education. In Sarasota, Florida, the Women's Interfaith Network (WIN), an arm of the Center for Religious Tolerance CC, went up against a local "Tea Party" organization over a ninth grade history book that supposedly depicted Islam in a favorable light over other faiths. WIN members crowded into a school board hearing and made their case for why the history book should be saved, speaking eloquently about peace and tolerance and the need for dialogue to help overcome prejudice in the community. At the end of the meeting, the school board voted unanimously to keep the book in the school system.

In Belgium, Bond zonder Naam (BzN) CC is working proactively to instill respect and tolerance in school children through the Living Values Education (LVE) program, a values-based curriculum developed by an international community of educators in 1997. BzN has trained 700 teachers in LVE since the start of a three-year pilot 2006, and holds workshops and conferences for educators throughout the country and beyond.



## YOUTH

URI's new Young Leaders Program (YLP) took off this year, cultivating and connecting more than 600 talented young leaders who are on the front lines of interfaith work. The highlight was the pilot Youth Ambassadors Program, which paired emerging leaders with mentors and helped them design and implement projects in their communities. URI's Youth Ambassador in Nepal started a national peace movement; in Kenya, a Youth Ambassador organized a blood drive to alleviate critical shortages; and the Ambassador in Pakistan started a vibrant youth movement in the volatile Pakistan-Afghanistan border city of Quetta that has sponsored interfaith dialogues and provided flood relief. URI youth camps also bring together young leaders and help them build the skills to engage others in social action. A YLP youth camp in the Philippines hosted youth from around the world for training in interfaith dialogue, conflict resolution, environmental protection and media relations; and the URI Korea Youth Camp, now in its fifth year, brought together young leaders with elder mentors to explore "Harmony in Diversity for World Peace."



FRANCISCO  
ESTEBAN MORALES  
VENTOSA

TEN  
YEARS  
OF  
IMPACT



URI Youth Ambassador

Founder, Comunidad  
Cósmica CC, Argentina

I was proud to be chosen as a URI Youth Ambassador for Latin America. When I was at the inaugural URI youth assembly in Mayapur, India, I met people of different cultures and cosmovisions from around the world. It was transforming, something that marked my life. I found there the energy to come back and share that experience in Argentina, so when I heard about the Ambassador program I applied.

There has been a lot of conflict regarding religion in the indigenous community. The problem appears in adolescence when youth who are raised Catholic, Christian or Buddhist are exploring what it means to have an indigenous identity. Historically, Catholics and Christians came into our communities and conquered our lands, and there is judgment for what they did. So people were worried about losing their identity as indigenous if they had faith.

URI has changed this. **BECAUSE OF URI, WE DON'T NEED TO HIDE OUR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION. WE HAVE THE FREEDOM TO BE INDIGENOUS AND HAVE FAITH.**

When I returned from India, I gathered a group of students in our community and told them about my experience, and we decided we should create a space where youth could be what they are. We chose the name Comunidad Cósmica for our CC because we are part of the human community, but also part of the bigger community of the universe, and we have to search, to create and innovate.

inter  
connectedness

TOOLS  
FOR  
PEACE  
URI'S  
TRAVELING  
PEACE  
ACADEMY



When 92-year-old Bishop Philipose Mar Chrysostom inaugurated the URI Traveling Peace Academy training in Kerala, India on September 11, 2009, he told an audience of over 150 Cooperation Circle (CC) leaders and well-wishers that his only worry was that he would not live long enough to see a new heaven created by URI peacebuilders, but that he hoped he would share the joy in the afterlife.

Born out of the Moral Imagination Project, piloted in 2006–08, URI's Traveling Peace Academy (TPA) is an innovative new training program to bring advanced peacebuilding skills to CCs working in conflict zones. **IN KERALA, THE TRAINING RESULTED IN THE REOPENING OF CHURCHES CLOSED FOR 30 YEARS BY A CENTURY-OLD CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO BRANCHES OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH.** In Mindanao, Philippines, where peace efforts between Islamic separatists and the Manila-based government have failed time and again over decades, a training held in November 2009 brought the people of Mindanao, long marginalized, an avenue for having their voices heard. Trainings were also held in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh this fall.

These early successes of the program have generated demand from across the URI network, and won it a spot at the Marketplace of Ideas during the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations' annual summit in Rio de Janeiro in May 2010. It was one of nine selected from among more than 300 applicants as "the most innovative organizations best positioned to promote intercultural dialogue."

Speaking at the summit before an audience of heads of state and other world leaders, Reverend Gibbs traced the seeds of the TPA back to a field in Uganda where he and 23 other peacebuilders prayed together before a memorial to civilians massacred by the Lord's Resistance Army. Sheikh Musa Khalil challenged the group to have the vision and will to work together to help prevent such tragedies in the future. Today, the Traveling Peace Academy is bringing that vision to life.



AMY  
LYONSTEN  
YEARS  
OF  
IMPACT

Executive Director,  
Richard and Rhoda  
Goldman Fund

We made our first grant to URI at the very beginning, when it was first created. Richard Goldman really respected Bishop Swing's leadership, wisdom, vision and drive to get things done and wanted to support him. Visionaries have ideas that do not always get implemented. Bishop Swing took it and actually implemented it, and we have watched it grow from the seed of an idea into an institution with a strong staff and all these Cooperation Circles around the world. The reach alone is a huge accomplishment.

**WE LIKE THAT URI IS LOOKING AT BIG ISSUES AND TRYING TO TACKLE THEM FROM A GRASSROOTS, ON-THE-GROUND, REAL PEOPLE, COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH.** That it is trying to find that common ground. And through URI, people working in their own communities are hooked in to what is happening in other communities. They are now connected probably in a way that they have never been. It is a well-grounded approach. These big issues can sometimes seem overwhelming. You have to start in your own community and change what you can in your own lives, in your own reality.

# commitment



## A COMMUNITY OF DONORS

Gifts from the community continue to be a vital resource, allowing URI to grow in reach and impact—helping alleviate poverty, prevent environmental degradation, end conflict, and improve the quality of life for people on every continent. We are grateful to the following donors for their generous support. These gifts and donations were received between January 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010\*:

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We give special thanks to those individuals who serve as Trustees of URI's governing board—the Global Council—many of whom have been committed to URI from the earliest days. Their courage, leadership and unflagging commitment have been the engine of URI's growth, and their vision continues to guide us into the future.

We also give our deepest gratitude to our President's Council, an advisory group of business and community leaders whose knowledge of philanthropy and finance have been as crucial to URI's fundraising efforts as their generous financial support has been to our ongoing operations.

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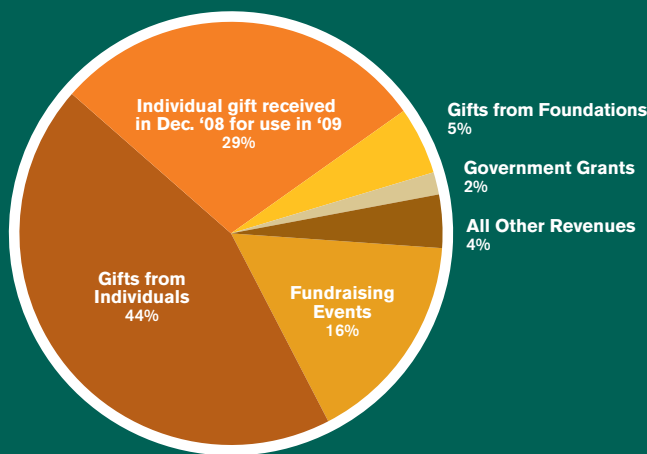
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# Key Revenue and Expense Information

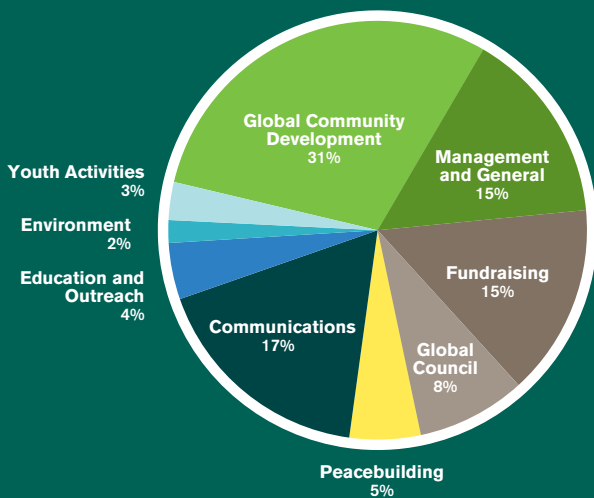
For the year ended December 31, 2009

## REVENUE



Fundraising Events	\$457,528
Gifts from Individuals	\$1,237,917
Individual gift received in Dec.08 for use in 09	\$806,932
Gifts from Foundations	\$145,000
Government Grants	\$48,000
All Other Revenues	\$114,119
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,809,496</b>

## EXPENSES



Global Community Development	\$811,377
Global Council	\$230,284
Peacebuilding	\$149,869
Communications	\$477,630
Education and Outreach	\$119,077
Youth Activities	\$79,911
Management and General	\$410,492
Environment	\$47,817
Fundraising	\$403,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,729,957</b>



# URI HISTORICAL MILESTONES

Regional Summits are held in Oxford, New York, Buenos Aires, Johannesburg, Caracas and Nairobi.

More than 200 people from 40 countries gather for two global summits at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA (USA) to develop a draft charter for global circulation. The concept of Cooperation Circles (CCs) is born.

The charter and by-laws are approved and the first 83 CCs are accepted. The fifth Global Summit and the signing of the URI Charter are held on June 26 at a ceremony in Pittsburgh, PA (USA), in cities and towns across the globe and on the Internet.



URI global headquarters moves from Grace Cathedral to its current home in the San Francisco Presidio.



## 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01



After an invitation to host a large interfaith service in San Francisco for the 50th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter, Bishop Swing asks himself, "If the nations of the world are working together for peace through the UN, then where are the world's religions?"



The first Global Summit is held in San Francisco, CA to explore Bishop Swing's vision. Bishop Swing travels around the world to meet with religious leaders.

Executive Director Charles Gibbs and a small staff are hired, and a URI office is opened in San Francisco's Grace Cathedral.



A fourth Global Summit is held at Stanford University to finalize the charter and organizational design.

URI launches the *72-Hours Project* at the turn of the millennium, its first globally initiated, locally implemented interfaith action for peace. Over a million people in 60 countries participate in 200 projects worldwide.

URI celebrates the fifth anniversary of the signing of its charter at a meeting of the Global Council and staff in Seoul, South Korea.



The Traveling Peace Academy, an outgrowth of the Moral Imagination project, is introduced with trainings in India and the Philippines.



The second URI Global Assembly is held in Mayapur, India. One hundred young leaders gather there to launch URI's Young Leaders Program.

URI launches its first annual celebration of the United Nations' International Day of Peace



# 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10

The Moral Imagination peacebuilding pilot project is launched with CCs in Uganda, Ethiopia, India and the Philippines.



URI membership reaches 500 Cooperation Circles, representing nearly half a million people in 78 countries.



Nearly 300 people from 37 countries gather in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the first Global Assembly and inaugurate the first Global Council. The first regional assemblies are held.

[www.uri.org](http://www.uri.org) is launched.

URI receives the Outstanding Global Work Award from the Organizational Design Network and URI Europe wins the European Union's Golden Star Award.



URI is approved for Special Consultative Status at the UN Economic and Social Council.

URI's Traveling Peace Academy is selected for the UN Alliance of Civilizations' Marketplace of Ideas in Rio de Janeiro.

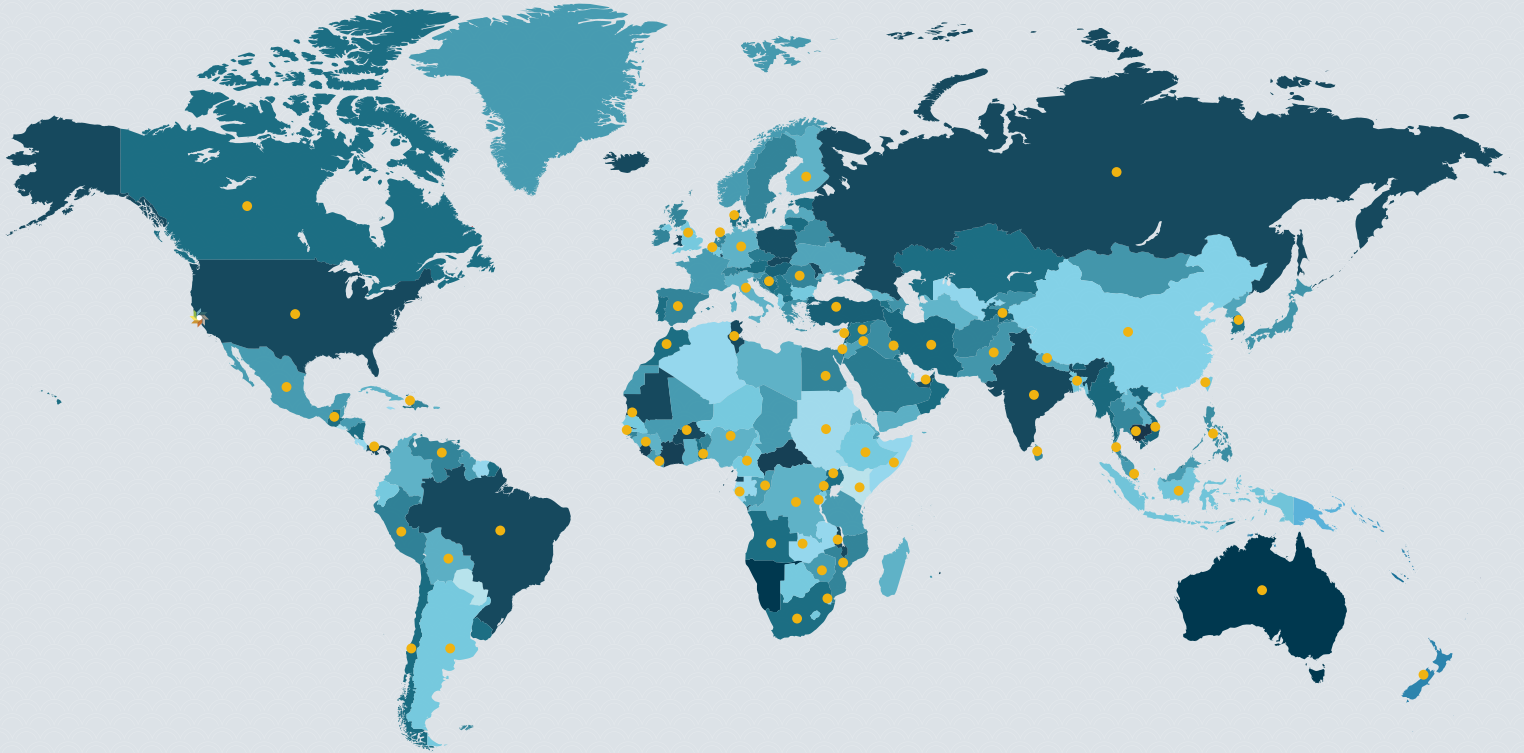


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**THE PURPOSE OF URI** is to promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings.



### URI is active in:



- |                    |           |                       |                      |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Algeria            | Egypt     | Malaysia              | South Africa         |
| Angola             | Ethiopia  | Mexico                | Spain                |
| Argentina          | Finland   | Morocco               | Sri Lanka            |
| Australia          | Gabon     | Mozambique            | Sudan                |
| Bangladesh         | Gambia    | Nepal                 | Swaziland            |
| Belgium            | Germany   | Netherlands           | Syria                |
| Benin              | Guatemala | New Zealand           | Taiwan               |
| Bolivia            | Haiti     | Nigeria               | Tajikistan           |
| Bosnia/Herzegovina | India     | Pakistan              | Tunisia              |
| Brazil             | Indonesia | Palestinian Territory | Turkey               |
| Burkina Faso       | Iran      | Panama                | Uganda               |
| Burundi            | Iraq      | Peru                  | United Arab Emirates |
| Cambodia           | Israel    | Philippines           | United Kingdom       |
| Cameroon           | Italy     | Romania               | United States        |
| Canada             | Jordan    | Russia                | Venezuela            |
| Chile              | Kenya     | Rwanda                | Vietnam              |
| China              | Lebanon   | Senegal               | Zambia               |
| Congo              | Liberia   | Sierra Leone          | Zimbabwe             |
| Denmark            | Malawi    | Singapore             |                      |
| DR Congo           |           | Somalia               |                      |