

# Beacon Press

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Nearly 5,000 Unitarian Universalists attended an electrifying panel at this year's General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. UUA President William Sinkford introduced *The Pentagon Papers Then and Now: Unitarian Universalists Confronting Government Secrecy*, a discussion that featured Daniel Ellsberg, former Senator Mike Gravel and former UUA President Robert West, moderated by *Democracy Now!* host Amy Goodman. Co-sponsored by Beacon Press, the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, the GA Planning Committee, and the UUA President's Office, the panel went beyond commemorating the historic antiwar actions of Beacon Press (called a "sanctuary of dissent" by Amy Goodman)—the panelists issued a call to arms to those now in power to demonstrate the moral courage needed to stop the current war.

In connection with the panel, we freely distributed nearly 1,000 chapbooks titled *Beacon Press and the Pentagon Papers*, publication of which was generously supported by the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock. Unexpectedly, we ran out! Many UUs came by the Beacon Press booth after the panel asking for a copy of "the blue book." I am happy to follow the success of this year's GA panel with a congregational mailing, featuring this keepsake chapbook for your permanent library, researched and written by our own Assistant Editor Allison Trzop, endorsed by Howard Zinn and Ben Bagdikian, and praised for reading like a "John Grisham novel" by Amy Goodman.

I am also very pleased to announce that both *Beacon Press and the Pentagon Papers* and a video of the entire panel are now available at [www.beacon.org](http://www.beacon.org). After GA, we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support, especially online, for the event. Write-ups appeared on high-profile sites and blogs from Daily Kos to Alternet to The Huffington Post, and over 7,000 people have now watched the panel online. Many of those who attended GA took time to write letters to Beacon Press, noting their congregation's own activism during the Vietnam war. Please do flip to the back of this chapbook, where we have included a list of congregations that made their support of Beacon known at a time when the press was under siege for publishing the Pentagon Papers.

I invite and encourage each of you, if you are moved to include this important moment in the denomination's history in a sermon, please take a moment to share it with us.

Helene Atwan  
Director