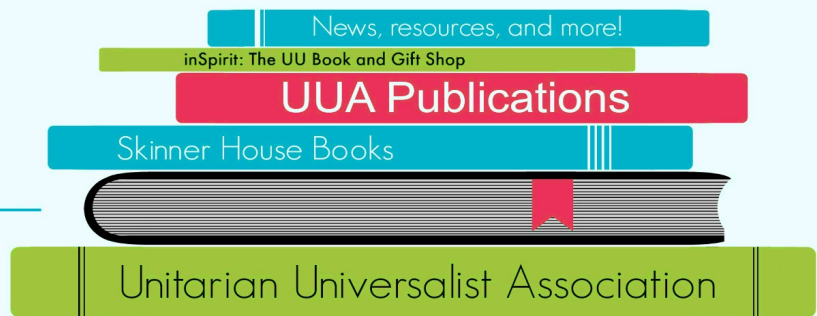


July

Publications Update



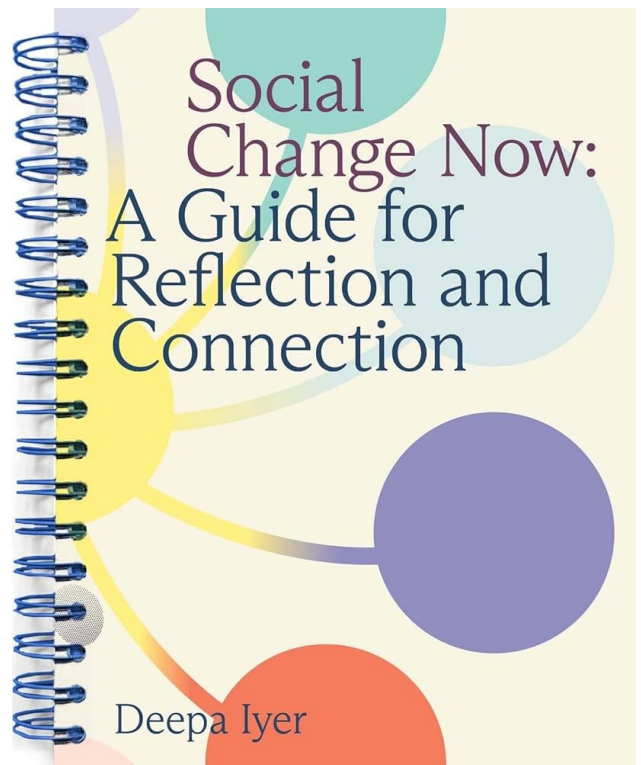
Announcing the 2025–2026 UU Common Read

The 2025–2026 UU Common Read is [*Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection*](#) by Deepa Iyer. The Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared platform for reflection and a shared focus for action. This year's selection invites Unitarian Universalists to become more authentic, connected, and effective as individuals and communities as we pursue transformative justice together.

Social Change Now seeks to initiate or deepen the actions of individuals and groups in service to social change values. Relying on two decades of work supporting social movements, Iyer introduces the social change ecosystem framework, which includes a map of ten roles, from builder to storyteller to disrupter to experimenter, as well as practices to identify values and strengthen our social change ecosystems. It goes well beyond presenting ideas and frameworks and is also a practical guide that contains descriptions and many real-world examples, reflection prompts with room to write responses, and accessible tips that can immediately be put into action. It is a resource that will accompany individuals and organizations not only in times of crisis, but throughout their lifelong social change journeys to build connected communities and equitable systems in our world. There is also a [corresponding poster](#) of the ecosystem map!

An introduction and resource kit are now available. This UU Common Read offers two discussion tracks to engage across the lifespan. The track for adults, adaptable to include older youth, offers three sessions of reflection, discussion, and groupwork in a small group format. The other track is multigenerational, incorporating Iyer's new children's book, *We Are the Builders!*, into three sessions for children and families to experience learning synergy together. We also encourage you to watch a [short video](#) from President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt inviting you to join this year's UU Common Read. Visit uua.org/read to access these resources and to learn more about how and you and your community can participate.

Available to
[order!](#)



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Book and Gift Shop at uua.org/bookstore

New from Skinner House

[The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide, Seventh Edition](#)

Unitarian Universalists are people of all ages, of many backgrounds, and of many beliefs. They are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers that create spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in a hurting world.

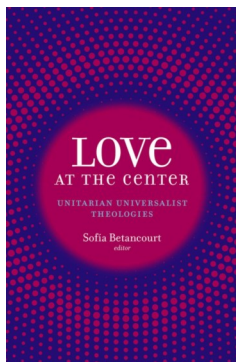
The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide is the most complete introduction to Unitarian Universalism available, covering ministry, worship, religious education, social justice, community, and history. Edited by Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, this seventh edition prepares readers with resources and information for this crucial moment in Unitarian Universalism.

Contributors include Rev. Cheryl M. Walker, Rev. Ashley Horan, Rev. Dr. Sheri Prud'homme, Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd, Rev. Katie Romano Griffin, Dr. Dan McKanan, and Rev. Victoria Safford, among others.

Available to
[pre-order!](#)

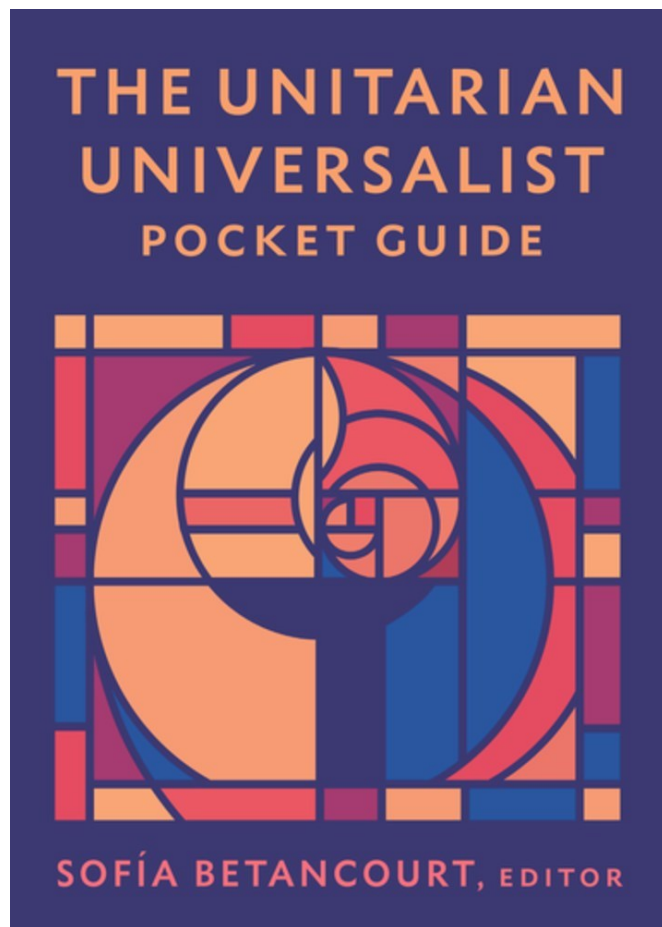
Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt is the tenth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She was elected in June 2023. Rev. Dr. Betancourt's twenty-year ministry has included serving as a parish minister, seminary professor, scholar and environmental ethicist, and public theologian.

We also recommend:



[Love at the Center: Unitarian Universalist Theologies](#), edited by Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt—What does it mean to put love at the center of our faith? We asked more than two dozen leaders in our movement the question and in these pages, you'll find personal testimony to love's great power, reminders of the centrality of love

throughout the long histories of Universalism and Unitarianism, and theologies of love drawn from different expressions of our faith.



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Announcements and Resources

Peter Mayer Profiled by *Religion News Service*



Singer and songwriter Peter Mayer was recently profiled by *Religion News Service*. [The profile](#) details Mayer's long career and the enduring love for his work and the song "Blue Boat Home" in particular. The beloved song was recently adapted into a children's book illustrated by Sue Todd and published by Skinner House.

"'Blue Boat Home,' a popular hymn in Unitarian Universalist circles that pairs with the well-known tune 'Hyfrydol'—also used in hymns like Charles Wesley's 'Come Thou

Long Expected Jesus'—showcases Mayer's sense of wonder about the universe. The song, often sung by choirs and church congregations, has been covered by classical and folk singers alike."

The children's book follows an adult and child reverently experiencing a beautiful day together in their community, both appreciating the here and now and looking outward and upward to the vast transcendent glory of the universe. With musician Peter Mayer's striking and poetic lyrics and imaginative illustrations by artist Sue Todd, [Blue Boat Home](#) will foster wonder and care for our natural world in young readers and adults alike. Perfect for ages 4 to 8.



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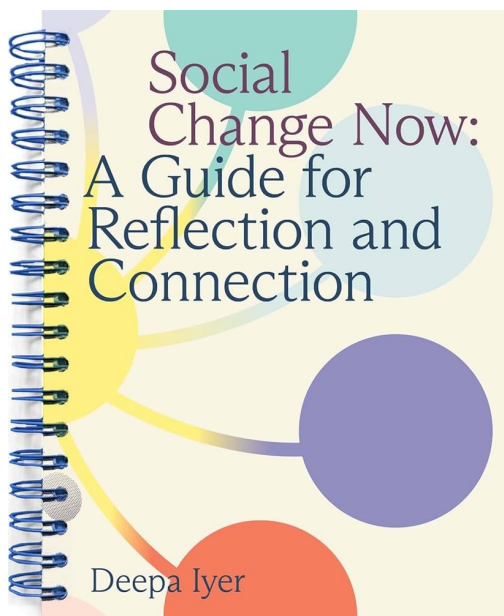
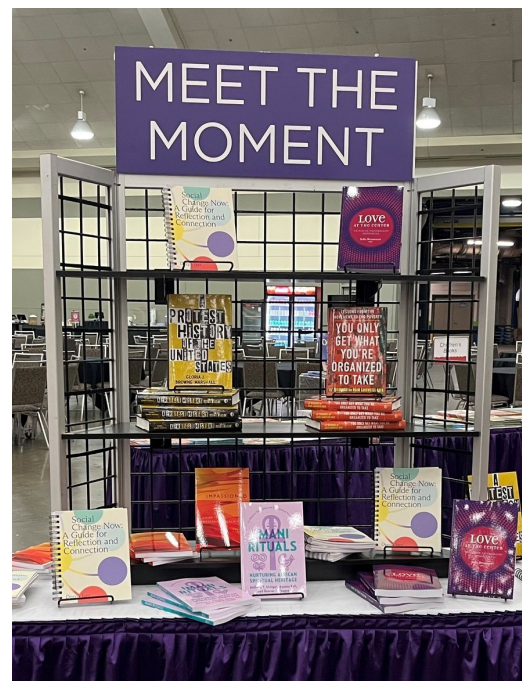
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Announcements and Resources

Bestselling Titles at General Assembly

The following books were hot at this year's General Assembly:

- [*Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection*](#) by Deepa Iyer
- [*Love at the Center: Unitarian Universalist Theologies*](#), edited by Sofia Betancourt
- [*A Protest History of the United States*](#) by Gloria J. Browne-Marshall
- [*Imani Rituals: Nurturing African Spiritual Heritage*](#) by Anthony Y. Stringer, Ayanna Kafi, and Duncan E. Teague
- [*Impassioned: A Guide to Progressive Preaching*](#) by Lucas Hergert
- [*You Only Get What You're Organized to Take: Lessons from the Movement to End Poverty*](#) by Liz Theoharis and Noam Sandweiss-Back



July's Goodreads [Book Club](#) Pick

July's group read is [*Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection*](#) by Deepa Iyer. It was just announced as the next UU Common Read! *Social Change Now* is a powerful roadmap for individuals and organizations who are ready to deepen their commitment to social justice. Relying on more than two decades of work supporting social movements, Iyer introduces the social change ecosystem framework, which includes a map of ten roles, from builder to storyteller to disrupter to experimenter, as well as practices to identify values and strengthen our social change ecosystems. This practical guide contains real-world examples, reflection prompts with room to write responses, and accessible tips that can immediately be put into action. Visit uua.org/read to learn more about how your community can participate



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