

Unitarian Universalist International Engagement:

*An Historical
Sketch in Three Parts:
Part II: The Next 50 Years*



President Samuel A. Eliot's reflections on International Engagement from the AUA 1908-9 Annual Report:

"I am confident that one of the best ways to have a large and growing life at home is to have a **vision of the great possibilities of service abroad**, and that the best way to have a beneficent service abroad is for us to have a **rich, deep life at home.**"





Part II: The Next 50 years:

The Second Period of this presentation begins during World War Two and continues into the early years of the Twenty-first Century.

It is marked by very different kinds of international engagement than the first period.



Part II: The Next 50 years:

Engagement in India, Japan and the Philippines continued - though in different ways than in the first 150 years - as did our involvement with organizations like the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF).

And, UU congregations continued to be internationally engaged through secular and interfaith organizations.



Part II: The Next 50 years:

But, for Unitarian Universalists, this period is uniquely marked by the establishment of four UU organizations and movements.



Holdeen
India
Program



International
Council
of Unitarians
and Universalists



Part II: The Next 50 years:

- The establishment of U/U Service Committees;
- The creation of the UUA Holdeen India Program;
- The “Partner Church” movement;
- The establishment of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU).

Part II: The Next 50 years

**The Unitarian Service
Committee and The
Universalist Service
Committee** were each created
during WWII



The Universalist Service Committee during WWII



- The Universalist Service Committee was established in 1940 as an emergency "War Relief Committee" of the Universalist Church of America.
- During WWII its efforts were primarily focused on supporting the relief efforts of Dutch churches.

Unitarian Service Committee during WWII



Reverend Waitstill and Martha Sharp organized refugee missions in continental Europe for **the Unitarian Service Committee**.

In 2006 they became the 2nd and 3rd Americans to be named "Righteous among the Nations" by Yad Vashem.



Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp



Heroes of the Spirit – a documentary of the Sharps – was produced by the UUSC in 2006

[Heroes of the Spirit Part I](#)

[Heroes of the Spirit Part II](#)

[Heroes of the Spirit Part III](#)



In 1963, after 20 years of independent and collaborative projects with:

- Migrant Workers in Texas,
- Hospital Volunteer programs,
- Medical Missions in Israel and Iran,
- A Navajo Community Center in New Mexico,
- Social Work Education in Korea,
- Teacher Education in Cambodia,
- Relief work in Vienna with Hungarian refugees,
- Health and Community Development in Nigeria,
- Health care support in Peru,
- Flood Relief in The Philippines,
- Desegregation Projects in Georgia and Florida,
- Social Work Education in Jamaica.

the Unitarian and Universalist service committees merged to form the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

from www.uusc.org

UUSC after Merger: Implementation of Mission



- Advancing human rights and social justice around the world;
- Partnering with those who confront unjust power structures
- Mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.



UUSC Priorities



- Advancing Economic Justice
- Defending Civil Liberties
- Promoting Environmental Justice
- Protecting rights in Humanitarian Crises

For More Information Visit the [UUSC on the web: uusc.org](http://uusc.org)

UUSC


Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Protecting human rights worldwide for over 65 years

Give to UUSC-UUA open Cyclone Nargis Relief Fund

Despite the Myanmar government's reluctance to accept international disaster relief, UUSC has already sent relief funds to a partner on the ground in the country. This group has reached survivors in five areas of the cyclone-ravaged Irrawaddy Delta, providing them emergency medical care, clean water, food, and support to unaccompanied children. The humanitarian crisis in Myanmar has grown more urgent: at least 78,000 people have died, and another 2.5 million face an increasingly desperate situation, which has been exacerbated by the continuing rains. The situation of children is especially dismal.

Through the generosity of individual donors, UUSC is reaching extremely vulnerable people through one partner organization and have two more partners awaiting funding. Please support their courageous work.

- [Donate to the fund online](#)
- [Learn more about UUSC's response](#)
- [View a map of the affected areas \(PDF\)](#)

UUSC Statement on China earthquake

UUSC joins the people of China in mourning the deaths of the tens of thousands of people killed by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that rocked the southwestern province of Sichuan on Monday, May 12. We especially express our sorrow for the deaths of children, including the many who were trapped under the fallen rubble of school buildings.
[Read more](#)

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Local medical staff treat the deep abrasions of a young boy who survived the high winds of the cyclone by clinging to a tree for hours. With emergency relief being provided through local organizations, this boy will also survive the precarious aftermath of the storm.

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[Read more](#)



UU Holdeen India Program (UUHIP)



Holdeen
India
Program

Since 1984 UUHIP has identified and supported more than 100 groups of marginalized peoples in India to help:

- increase their organized strength and self-reliance; gain access to productive resources, services, and opportunities;
- increase their livelihoods, assets, economic independence, and social security;
- influence government policies, laws, and budgets in their favor;
- challenge discriminatory social practices;
- build, manage, and control their own institutions, programs, and resources.



UU Holdeen India Program (UUHIP)



Holdeen
India
Program

Kathy Sreedhar has served as the Director of UUHIP since it was established, and through her work Unitarian Universalist values have been brought to life in unique ways through partnerships with social change and human rights movements in India.



UU Holdeen India Program (UUHIP)



Every one of UUHIP's partners in India has an incredible story.

A few of the leaders of UUHIP partners have been recognized with international awards including:

- **Mr. Martin Macwan** (the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, 2000)
- **Mr. Vivek Pandit and Mrs. Vidyullata Pandit** (the Anti-Slavery Award, 2000)
- **Mr. Keshav Nanka** (the Anti-Slavery Award, 1999)



UU Holdeen India Program (UUHIP)



UUHIP Partners Include:

- All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
- Asmita Collective
- Astha Santhsan
- Breakthrough
- Dalit Foundation
- Disha
- National Association of Street Vendors
- Navsarjan
- People's Watch
- Self Employed Women's Association
- Shramajeevi Sanghatana
- Vidhayak Sansad



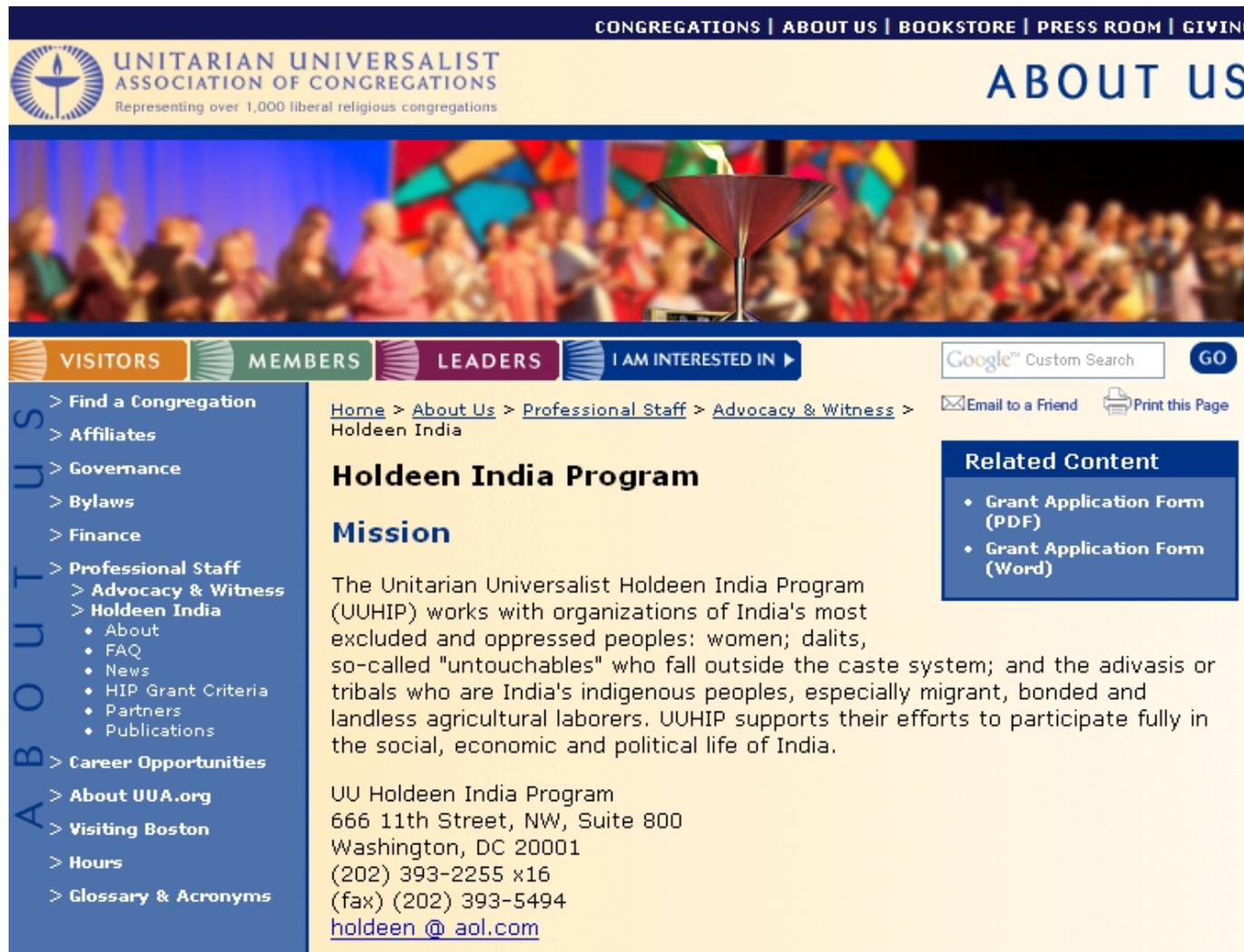
UU Holdeen India Program (UUHIP)



“In my opinion, the Holdeen India Program has done the most effective work for social justice in the history of Unitarian Universalism.”

- Reverend Meg Riley
Director of Advocacy and Witness,
UUA

For More information please visit the [UU Holdeen India Program on the web](#)



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 **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS**
Representing over 1,000 liberal religious congregations

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Holdeen India Program

Mission

The Unitarian Universalist Holdeen India Program (UUHIP) works with organizations of India's most excluded and oppressed peoples: women; dalits, so-called "untouchables" who fall outside the caste system; and the adivasis or tribals who are India's indigenous peoples, especially migrant, bonded and landless agricultural laborers. UUHIP supports their efforts to participate fully in the social, economic and political life of India.

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Related Content

- Grant Application Form (PDF)
- Grant Application Form (Word)

The “Partner Church” Movement



The UU Partner Church Council was founded in June 1993 to focus and coordinate the enormous grassroots energy of dozens of UU churches which had formed partnerships with Unitarian churches in Central Europe following the collapse of Communism in December 1989.



UU Partner Church Council



The movement has been called “the most powerful and widespread UU social justice movement since the Civil Rights movement.”

It now includes nearly 200 church-to-church relationships between North American UUs and U/Us in **Romania, Hungary, The Czech Republic, India, and The Philippines.**

The Mission and Vision of the movement continues to grow and expand....



UU Partner Church Council



UUPCC Vision Statement

The vision of the UU Partner Church Council is that partner relationships between North American congregations and churches around the globe will be forged and sustained wherever they are desired—and that these relationships will be of high quality, firmly based, mutually beneficial, responsibly sustained, and linked by a joint and mutual covenant.

We envision a commitment to international engagement as a moral and spiritual principle that is integral to Unitarian Universalist congregational life.



UU Partner Church Council



The UUPCC aspires to:

BE a bridge that connects congregations around the world;

REACH across boundaries to collaborate with old and new partners;

CREATE transformational opportunities for pilgrimage and hospitality, for learning and for service;

CHALLENGE ourselves theologically and open ourselves to changed values and behaviors;

INITIATE partnerships that promote global friendships, international awareness, human rights, and a better world; and

SUSTAIN this global vision, enlarging and renewing it as new occasions teach new duties.



UU Partner Church Council



The Benefits of Partnership include:

- Growth in Spirit, Commitment and Understanding;
- Development of a Congregational International Focus;
- The Creation of Transcultural and Transformative Relationships;
- Being Engaged with Building a Better World.



UU Partner Church Council



Partnered Churches experience a variety of types of exchanges:

- Theological/Spiritual
- Historical
- Personal
- Cultural



UU Partner Church Council



These exchanges occur through:

- Pilgrimages and Visits
- Correspondence
- Commitment to shared projects
- Study and Reflection

The UUPCC can provide excellent resources in all of these areas, and many others.

Some partnerships are pursuing “Community Capacity Building”



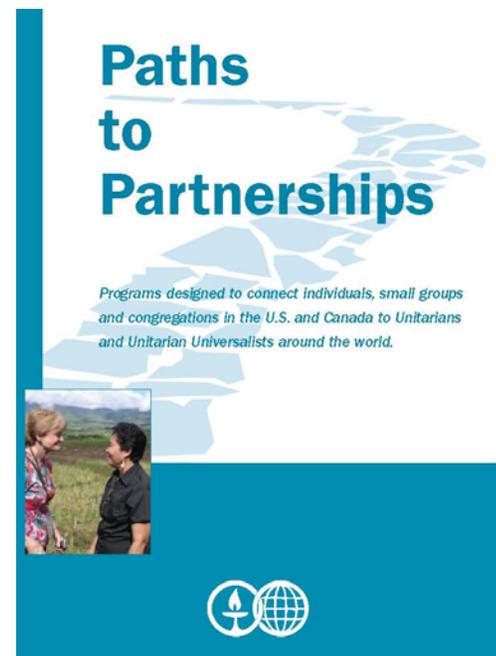
The UUPCC produced a Documentary about their “Community Capacity Building Program

Community Capacity Building DVD: [Part I](#) [Part II](#) [Part III](#)

UU Partner Church Council



In 2008, UUPCC is introducing “Paths to Partnerships” to support the involvement of individuals and small groups along with the congregation-to-congregation program that has been so successful.



For more information, please visit the [UUPCC on the web](#)



Unitarian Universalist **Partner Church Council**
Connecting Congregations Around the Globe

How Does My Church
Become a Member?

How Does My Church
Get a Partner?

How Do I Become an
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UUPCC News

**NEW UUPCC Unveils
New Program:
Paths to Personal Partnership**
Read the [press release](#).

**NEW 2008 UU Partner Church
Council General Assembly
Programs**
View them [here](#).
Annual meeting information
[here](#).
Order lunch tickets for the
Annual Meeting [here](#).

**NEW Read the [Community
Assessment Report](#) from
Puriang**

**NEW Registration now open for
September trip to [India & The
Khasi Hills](#)**

[Full list](#) of upcoming Virtual
Conferences

[Replay](#) past conferences

**Alabaster Village: Our Years in
Transylvania by Christine
Morgan**

**How for the first time this
amazing story is presented in
both English and Hungarian.**

The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU)

Founded in 1995
as an
international
network of
Unitarian,
Universalist and
Unitarian
Universalist
organizations.



International
Council
of Unitarians
and Universalists

International Council of Unitarians and Universalists



The ICUU includes 23 member groups, and several emerging groups





International Council of Unitarians and Universalists



Publications:

- *The Global Chalice Newsletter*
- *"The Garden of Unitarian Universalism"* Religious Education Curriculum
- *Monthly Global Chalice Lightings*

International Council of Unitarians and Universalists



Representatives of ICUU Member groups
gather biennially for Council meetings



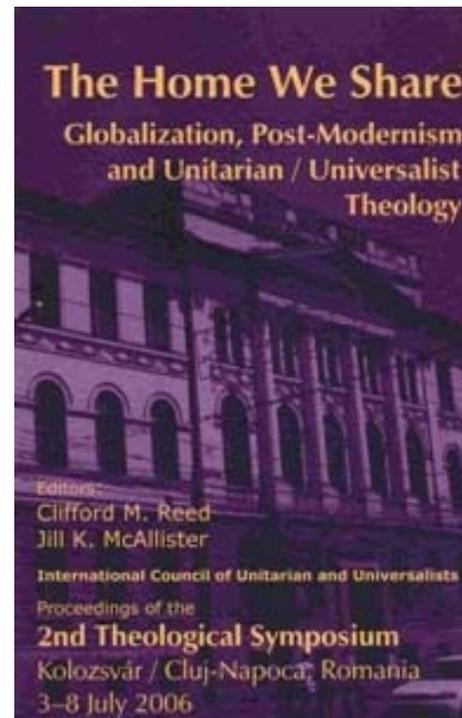
2007 ICUU Council Meeting – Oberwesel, Germany

International Council of Unitarians and Universalists



The ICUU sponsors international U/U events such as Theological Symposia:

In July 2006, 70 U/Us from 14 countries gathered for the 2nd ICUU Theological Symposium. The *Proceedings* are collected in [The Home We Share](#). (Available from the UUA Bookstore)



International Council of Unitarians and Universalists



As well as “Leadership Conferences” where diverse international U/U faculty offer training to U/U leaders in various parts of the world, most recently in Nairobi, Kenya in Spring, 2008.



For more information, please visit ICUU on the web



International
Council
of Unitarians
and Universalists

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Welcome to the ICUU Website

ICUU (the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists) is a network of Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist organizations. Member groups come from 23 countries and many more are being organized around the world.

By exploring our site you will find [news](#), events and links to groups around the world. You can gain a broad understanding of our shared faith via our extensive UU [Curriculum](#).

You can become a [Friend of ICUU](#).

We'd love to hear how you found us. [Click here](#) to tell us something about yourself, ask questions, or send us feedback.

Are you on Facebook? There is now an ICUU Group on this fast growing social networking site. Facebook is free to join. Simply go to [facebook.com](#) and sign up. Once there, visit 'groups' and search for International Council of Unitarians and Universalists. The group has over 70 members already. You can find out who else is interested, get news of upcoming events and carry on chats and post messages.

Great Links to check out:

- ♦ [UUPCC.org](#)
- ♦ [CLFUU.org](#)
- ♦ [UUA.org](#)
- ♦ [UUuno.org](#)
- ♦ [Unitarius.hu](#)

More under **Resources** > [Useful Links](#).

Chalice Lighting

April 2008 (in English, French and German)

African Leadership School Participants



Group Photograph: Click the image for larger view.

[March, 2008 Global Chalice Newsletter](#)

You are invited to copy and circulate this newsletter.

African Leadership Conference

The ICUU sponsored a Leadership Training Conference in Nairobi, Kenya in February, 2008. ICUU President Brian Kiely posted a daily blog at [uuwithoutborders.blogspot.com](#) Faculty member Rev. Rosemary Bray-McNatt's blog can be found at [rev.rose.com](#)

In the News:

In Memoriam: Brington Myllemngap, India

[Brington Myllemngap](#)

Bishop Ragnar Emilsen, Sweden

[Bishop Ragnar Emilsen](#)

New and updated contact information for The Norwegian Unitarian Church is available: [Norwegian](#) and [English](#)
—Pr. Knut K.S.M. Heidelberg
Skype ID: knut.heidelberg

Here is a [photo of a group](#) of UUs in CUBA taken at their meeting in Havana, July 15th 2007. Included in the ceremony was the first Unitarian baptism.
—Sent by Ricardo Manso.

Uganda Unitarians have a new website:

[uuuganda.org](#) Check it out !



Part II: The Next 50 years:

The creation of these four organizations is NOT the whole story. However, their development is a key marker during “The Next 50 years”



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Part II: The Next 50 years:

In the Interfaith World, the UUA with leadership - from President Dana Greeley and Reverend Homer Jack - joined Rissho Kosei-kai President Nikkyo Niwano and many other interfaith leaders in creating the "World Conference of Religions for Peace" which hosted its first conference in Kyoto in 1970.





Part II: The Next 50 years:

And, UU congregations continued to sustain and develop many varieties of international engagement. Sometimes they partnered with these – and other – international U/U organizations.

Others have linked with non-U/U organizations or developed independent programs in diverse areas.



Congregational International Engagement

A recent congregational survey demonstrated that international engagement is of great importance to local congregations.

And, that developing a balance between independent programs, associational initiatives, and cooperation between international UU organizations is an important goal

As we seek that balance, and in all our international engagement, let's continue to see the wisdom in the words of former AUA President Samuel A. Eliot...

“I am confident that one of the best ways to have a large and growing life at home is to have a **vision of the great possibilities of service abroad**, and that the best way to have a beneficent service abroad is for us to have a **rich, deep life at home.**”





Discussion Questions:

- What can we learn about the international engagement priorities of Unitarians and Universalists during “The Next 50 Years”?
- What have been the “highs and lows” of the four organizations?



Discussion Questions:

- How have you and your congregation been involved with these organizations?
- What other varieties of international engagement has your congregation pursued during the last 50 years?



Thank You

Thank you for your time! For additional information about the history of U/U international engagement, please contact the International Resources Office at the UUA.



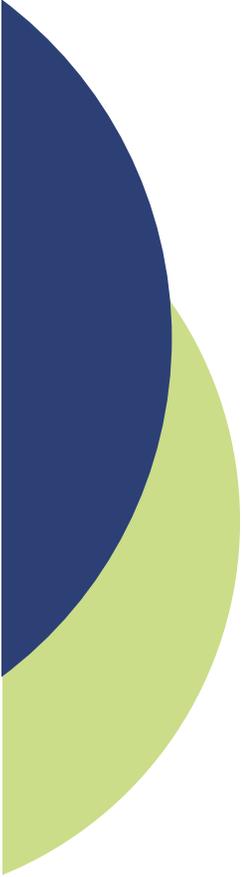
You've reached the end of
Part II

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Part I: The First 125 Years

And

Part III: Looking Ahead



Unitarian Universalist International Engagement:

History and Vision

in Three Parts:

Part II – The Next 50 Years

The End