



Commit2Respond: Collaborate Like Never Before

People of
Faith and
Conscience
Taking Action
for Climate
Justice

Terasa Cooley & Brock Leach

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+ **Goals for Today**

- What is Commit2Respond?
- Share lessons learned
- Key elements of effective collaborations
- Reaching out for common ground
- Testing your own collaborations



+ COLLABORATE

CO

Together

LAB

experiment

LABOR

work hard

ORATE

proclaim

ATE

embody

Together we'll experiment and work hard to proclaim and embody a truth larger than ourselves.



+ Partners – Unprecedented Collaboration



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COLLABORATORY

A COALITION OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ORGANIZATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



+ A Growing Collaboration

- 9 sponsoring organizations.
- 3,300 people have joined.
- 137 congregations and 36 justice organizations as endorsers.
- 942 daily message subscribers for Climate Justice Month.
- 85,210 Social Media Interactions.



+ **Who's in the Room?**

- **Joined Commit2Respond?**
- **Part of local climate justice activity / organization?**
- **Green Sanctuary?**
- **How does it feel?**



+ What is **Commit2 Respond?**

Moving from Overwhelmed to Empowered



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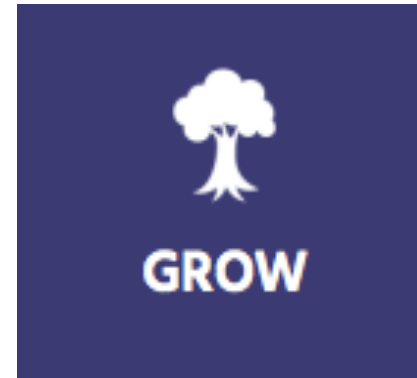
+ Taking Action Together to...



- Build “Active Hope”
- Spark the Moral Imagination of a Majority of People
- Build the Partnerships to Power Change--
Bottom Up & Top Down



**+ Individuals and Congregations
committing to actions to...**



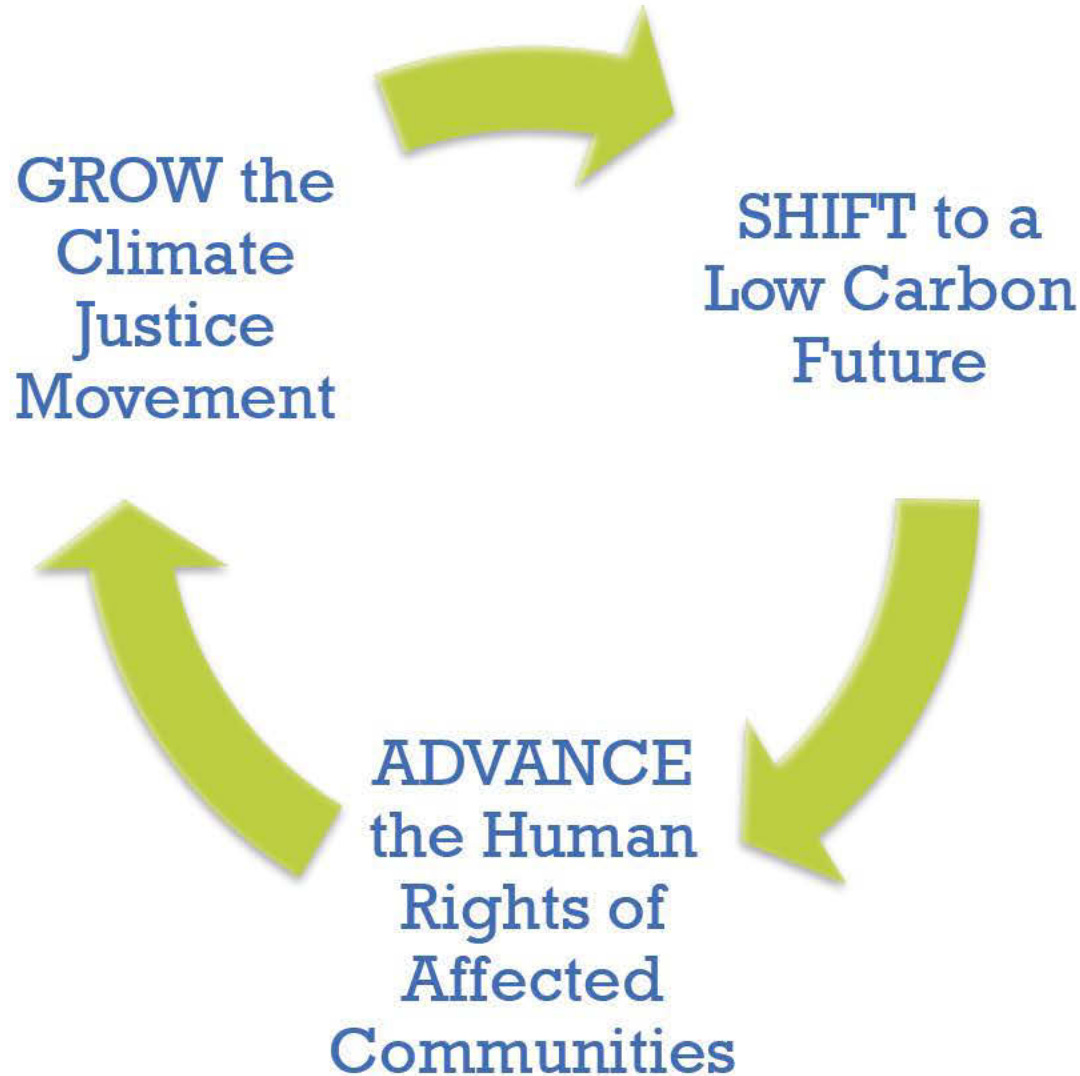
SHIFT
to a Low
Carbon
Future

ADVANCE
the Human
Rights of
Affected
Communities

GROW
the Climate
Justice
Movement



**+ Take at least one action
in each of three areas:**



+ Why Climate Justice?

- Climate change is the single largest threat to both planet and justice and effects everyone on the planet.
- UU's have been early to speak out, slower to act collectively.
- The next two years are the critical window to:
 - Build moral conviction.
 - Change state, local, international policy.
 - Initiate bold action.
- We have an essential contribution to make
 - Getting past fact debates to spark moral imagination.
 - Using our interfaith fluency to demonstrate
“Many Faiths, One Earth.”
- This is the most urgent concern of the next generations.



+ Why Collaborate?



- A challenge to **all life and every person** on the planet
... that can **only** be solved through collective action.
- An opportunity to **unite** humanity against a common threat
... and enhance **significance and meaning** by balancing individualism and interdependence.
- A moment that calls us as UU's to **amplify** our collective voice and **accelerate** collective action.



+ UUA & UUSC Collaborations: Lessons Learned So Far

- **Begin with Clarity** of Purpose and Specific Common Goals
- **Act Together** to Learn Together
- **Build Understanding** and Trust as You Go



+ Building a Commit2Respond Collaboration

■ Head: Exploration

- Map the Landscape
- Reach out to Diverse Partners
- Privilege the Insights of the Affected



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■ Heart: Spirit & Inspiration

- Develop a Hopeful Vision
- Imagine Some Specific Outcomes
- Trust that Diverse Perspectives = Powerful Ideas



+ Building a Commit2Respond Collaboration

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■ Hands: Acting for Learning

- Start Immediately with the Ready and Willing
- Experiment and Iterate to Understand
- Let Structure Flow from Learning



+ How to (and how not to) do collaboration

- Size of group
- Covenant of relationship
- Negotiating organizational cultures
- Communication X10
- Honesty about capacity
- Lead toward energy, not authority.



+ Head, Heart and Hands: Conversation in Pairs

- Take a minute now to think about a current or hoped for collaboration and a specific challenge you'll face. Are these lessons helpful?
 - Head: Exploration
 - Heart: Inspiration and Spirit
 - Hands: Acting for Learning
- Pair up with a person next to you. Spend one minute explaining your collaboration and specific challenge. Take two minutes to brainstorm solutions together thinking about...

Where is the challenge rooted?

What lessons might you apply to addressing it?

What other ideas do you have?



+ Head, Heart and Hands: Observations & Questions

- Any observations about the pairs experience?
- What questions do you have about building collaborations?



+ Thank You for Leading the Way!

- **Join and endorse Commit2Respond.org.** Find resources and suggested actions.
- **Share your learning** about collaborations at Commit2Respond.org/share idea.
- **Go to Commit2Respond.org “Form a Congregational Partnership with a Frontlines Organization”.** Find links to networks of potential collaboration partners:
 - [Climate Justice Alliance \(CJA Our Power Campaign\)](#)
 - [NAACP \(NAACP Climate Justice Initiative\)](#)
 - [New Economy Coalition](#)
 - [Interfaith Power & Light](#)
 - [Local Congregation-Based Community Organizing \(CBCO\)](#) networks such as DART, Gamaliel, Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), InterValley Project and PICO.
- **Participate in [Action of Immediate Witness](#) Voting on Saturday.**

