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One Thing Going On

Commit2Respond for Climate Justice Month

From World Water Day (March 22) to Earth Day (April 22), Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith and conscience will embark on a spiritual journey for climate justice.

Individuals, families, groups, and congregations will get faith-filled resources, engage in powerful practices throughout the month, learn together, and discern how to most effectively shift to a low carbon future, advance human rights, and grow the climate justice movement. [Get the details here](#) and sign up for Climate Justice Month daily messages.

Climate Justice Month is being organized by Commit2Respond, the new climate justice initiative led by UU groups across our faith movement. [Join Commit2Respond](#) to participate, and if you're a congregational leader, save the dates for Climate Justice Sunday and Earth Day observances.

Be inspired, get connected with other people of faith and conscience committed to climate justice, and commit to long-term actions that will help save our world. This is your movement. You have the power to make a difference. How will you respond?

www.commit2respond.org

One Useful Tool

Southern Witness: Unitarians and Universalists in the Civil Rights Era

As you prepare to honor the upcoming anniversary of Selma, here is an excellent [new resource](#):

Southern Witness: Unitarians and Universalists in the Civil Rights Era, By Gordon D. Gibson (Skinner House Books),

At last, here is the largely untold history of Unitarian and Universalist involvement in the civil rights movement in the South. Covering congregations in nearly thirty cities and towns and spanning ten Southern states, this extensive study sheds new light on the often heroic efforts of laypeople and clergy in confronting segregation. Author Gordon Gibson witnessed some of this history first hand, as the only UU minister in Mississippi between 1969 and 1984. His interviews with dozens of other activists from the 1950s and 60s has produced many stories, some never before recorded. We learn about Rev. Donald Thompson, shot in the back and run out of town by segregationists in Jackson, Mississippi; Rev. Albert D'Orlando, whose parsonage and church building in New Orleans were firebombed by the KKK; Robert Williams, the Black Power pioneer and radical, and many more. *Southern Witness* explores institutional history as well, revealing patterns in the way these congregations faced the challenges of racial injustice—patterns deeply influenced by the fellowship movement, which planted scores of small, lay-led congregations in that area. Many Southern UUs were radicalized by the movement. These pages tell their tales, as well as the sadder accounts of some who resisted change.

We are grateful for the financial support of the Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society, which helped to make this book possible.

During his more than forty years in Unitarian Universalist ministry, Gordon D. Gibson has taken part in voting rights demonstrations in Selma, served as the only Unitarian Universalist minister in Mississippi from 1969 to 1984, and co-founded the Living Legacy Project, which leads pilgrimages to civil rights sites in the South. He is a past president of the Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society.