



## **The 2010 Interfaith Committee Report**

I love the world of Interfaith and it's my privilege to work with many faiths over the nation and globe. The projects I've been involved with have been fulfilling and heartening. Our Interfaith committee has been successful at integrating Urantia into our local Interfaith Councils. Our Fellowship Brand is recognizable and we're asked to speak often. We also work at the national level every year and are well known by members of NAIN and URI, the most notable interfaith councils in the country. We even sit on the board of directors.

We have offered an on-line course that teaches us how to dialogue with different faiths. Instead of converting them, we want to accept and have conversations with them to deepen our understanding of them, and their understanding of us.

We have a road show called, "The Big Questions" workshop where we take questions such as, "Is there a God?" "Is there Heaven" and so forth, and explore them using material from The Urantia Book. These workshops take place at conferences, at universities, and communities. These workshops are gratifying to say the least. In one instance, presenting the workshop to a local interfaith organization has resulted in the formation of a new UB study group requested by members of the local organization, including two members of the clergy.

We are in the process of applying for NGO affiliate status with the United Nations. If this application is approved, we will have representation on the Committee of Religious NGOs and other UN bodies focused on worldwide religious pluralism and spirituality. The Urantia Book will take its place at the table with representatives of all the major faith communities in the world, and

we will become known to them. The quality of our representation will determine the degree to which we are respected and appreciated.

Our challenge has been the manpower from the Urantia community to make a difference. The work that makes a difference is a commitment to local Interfaith councils – working shoulder to shoulder with them on projects that are service related. The respect that we have gained by doing this work is tangible. If we could get representation in every city and town where we have Urantia Book readers we would make serious headway. We've asked, and asked again, but haven't found the interest from our Urantia Book community.

When we have workshops at a UB conference we experience standing room only. Everyone in the room signs up to work with us but very few follow through. What we do requires time and commitment. We've had difficult conversations and realize that Urantians as a whole really don't care about working with other faiths. Not that you don't care about them, but would rather spend your time working in the Urantia arena. Those of us that love interfaith are doing the work whether there is a committee or not. The Parliament comes every 5 years and my committee budgeted zero dollars for the event because of the economy. Money was raised elsewhere and there were probably 50 Urantians from all over the globe that attended. Approximately 10 of our group attended. The work happened in spite of a committee.

If you read this report, I want your feedback. My suggestion is that the Interfaith Committee becomes an Ad Hoc committee supported and organized by those of us that love Interfaith.