



# Commit2Respond: Collaborate Like Never Before

People of  
Faith and  
Conscience  
Taking Action  
for Climate  
Justice

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June 25, 2015

General Assembly 2015

## + 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**



**People of  
Faith and  
Conscience  
Taking Action  
for Climate  
Justice**



# + 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





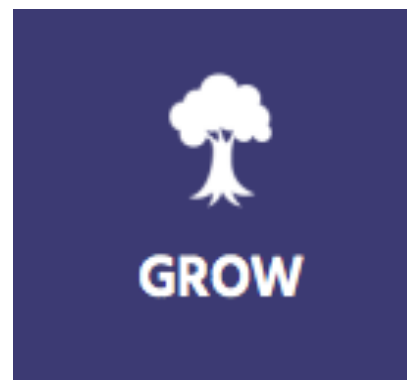
**+ Individuals and Congregations  
committing to actions to...**



**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:**

GROW the  
Climate  
Justice  
Movement

SHIFT to a  
Low Carbon  
Future

ADVANCE  
the Human  
Rights of  
Affected  
Communities





# 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



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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](https://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.**

