

WHY INTERFAITH?

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Why should students of *The Urantia Book* be interested or involved in interfaith activity? What does the interfaith movement have to do with fostering the evolution of religion on this planet?

Truth Claims

The conservative elements of most religious traditions are convinced that their belief systems constitute the “truth.” In many cases this conviction goes so far as to claim possession of “the complete truth.” By *The Urantia Book's* own description, it is a partial revelation that points to a larger truth it can’t contain or even adequately describe. Recognition that all revelations, including *The Urantia Book*, are only approximations of the truth can help unite religionists in the inspiring search for that larger truth – that larger reality which exists beyond all belief systems. If we propose that *The Urantia Book* is the truth we become just another competing voice in the clamor of truth claims. Religionists have something to learn from each other. Being able to **listen** as well as **tell** is a critical skill.

The Interfaith Movement

One of the primary activities of the interfaith movement is the multi-faith council, where members of diverse religious traditions share their understandings of spiritual reality. When *The Urantia Book* takes its place at the table, its contribution to the search for truth becomes visible to the representatives of the world’s religions who share that table. These are the people who are at the forefront of the effort to reach inter-religious harmony on the planet. If inter-religious harmony is a desired outcome of planetary evolution, then we have an opportunity to participate in its emergence through the interfaith movement.

What Can We Do?

There are two major ways in which members of the community of *Urantia Book* students can become actively involved:

1. Become increasingly aware of the current status of religion in the world. Read about the various religious traditions and institutions as they exist today. Try to get beyond the stereotypes to better understand the beliefs and attitudes of these traditions. Seek out the variations within traditions to avoid the misconception that every member of a given tradition subscribes to the same set of beliefs. Engage in conversation with people from different religious backgrounds – not to quickly move toward telling them about *The Urantia Book*, but rather to better understand their perspectives.

2. Find ways to participate in and be of service to the interfaith movement. Many communities have interfaith councils of some sort. If there is a way to represent *The Urantia Book* on a council, then that's ideal. But interfaith councils often limit their membership to the older religious traditions. In that event perhaps there's a way to be of service in conjunction with local interfaith activities. Make financial contributions or volunteer your time to assist with interfaith activities in your area.

The Future

The interfaith movement is preparing the soil of this world for implantation of the seeds of deeper religious understanding. It is a goal of the Urantia Book Fellowship Interfaith Committee and adjuncts to be a part of that movement. We believe we can definitely help.