

July 2006: This e-mail sent to the Unitarian Universalist Corporate Personhood/Democracy Network and the Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community(UUJEC) Board.

Dear Friends,

Any of you who attended the recent Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA) in St. Louis are very likely to have heard the phrase: "The Great Turning". A number of workshops, meetings and even plenaries used these words to express our need for and the opportunity for positive change in our environment, our government, our communities, our families, our society, and our earth! The phrase was coined by Eco-philosopher Joanna Macy, but was presented at the GA by David Korten, co-founder of "Yes!" Magazine, and author of Globalization books: "When Corporations Rule the World" and "Post Corporate World". His two sessions drew an audience of some 800!

His new book: "The Great Turning - from Empire to Earth Community" is a seminal work, describing both the challenges we face and the opportunities for change that are available to us. I invite you to visit the website, www.davidkorten.org to purchase the book; to download the "Discussion Guide" that leads groups through study of the book in a self-directed manner. I've attached a draft of the article that appeared in the Summer issue of "Yes!" Magazine describing "The Great Turning". By itself, it's worth the read!

This theme will be the core of many events in the coming months all over the country, as David carries out a book tour to introduce the concept. His current schedule, through early November, is attached. I encourage you to find an appearance near you! He will be in Columbus, Ohio on Friday, October 13 as part of a "positive futures" weekend: in addition to David's appearance (organized by CIRCA and others), meetings of "Simply Living", the Earth Charter movement; and Alliance for Democracy will be taking place on October 12 through 15. Columbus, with all its conservative bad press and stolen elections, is on its way to becoming a center for progressive activities!

The "We the People - a National Town Hall Gathering for Creating Democracy" has also been rescheduled in Columbus, Ohio to 30, and 31 March and 1 April 2007 so as to avoid conflict with the important mid-term elections when, it is hoped, "We the People" will express our sincere wishes and elect a House of Representatives that truly represents our aspirations. David Korten is hoping to participate in this event as well.

"The Great Turning" will also be the theme of the Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community during the coming months (and years?). We will be encouraging our congregations to undertake actions relating to the path to "Earth Community" that Korten lays out. In the near future, we will have an informational packet on the Great Turning for use by congregations; liturgical material for ministers to use and an ongoing program to engage, educate and activate UU's and society as a whole about the Great Turning. We will also have an audio-visual CD or DVD of David's full presentation available for purchase.

I invite all of you to "get a jump" on this paradigm-shifting concept. Discover for yourself how well it fits with our Unitarian Universalist Principles. Visit David's website, or contact CIRCA (mgreenma@columbus.rr.com).

In Stewardship

Michael Greenman, Co-Chair
Citizens Intent on Reforming Corporate Accountability (CIRCA)
Social Justice Committee
First Unitarian Universalist Church
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