

October 22, 2015



Dear Unity Friends,

I returned this week from the Parliament of the World's Religions where over 9,000 people—including about 50 from Unity—attended a five-day convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. The convention theme was “Reclaiming the Heart of Humanity,” which included plenaries on women's dignity and human rights; income inequality and eliminating poverty; war, violence and hate speech; and climate change. I didn't know what to expect, but right away I knew the Parliament was far more progressive than I had imagined it to be.

There were hundreds of daily workshops and seminars to choose from with topics ranging from paganism to the holographic universe and all concepts in between. There were films, arts, dancing and music. A multitude of religious and spiritual leaders, sharing their thoughts, hopes and dreams, wove a great tapestry of interreligious harmony and dialogue. Surfacing repeatedly were the calls for love, responsible action, and oneness with one another as spiritual beings. I was impressed.

The first Parliament of the World's Religions occurred in Chicago in 1893, a time when New Thought was beginning to flourish. This year, at the Parliament's sixth convention since 1893, New Thought was actively represented and for the first time, recognized as one of the world's religions. Much gratitude is extended to the [Association for Global New Thought](#) for helping to make our presence known.

I left Salt Lake City different from the person who arrived. I feel as though I have grown four inches and extended my energy field a million miles, and I feel connected to the spiritual leaders around the planet who are carrying the same message of hope and love and empowerment to make a difference in the world. I feel called to participate more in the global community and to partner with others whose efforts are producing amazing results toward creating a beautiful and just world for all. Now is the time for all of us to not only speak our message, but to boldly embody it with our actions. And it is time for Unity's fifth principle (Through thoughts, words and actions, we live the Truth we know.) to be exalted beyond the internal landscape of Unity.



Rev Jan Chase's Inland Valley Interfaith Network that presented at the Parliament of the World's Religions. The group includes 2 Baha'i, 3 Buddhists, 2 Cao Dai, 4 Christians, 1 Hindu, 5 Jews, 4 Muslims and 3 New Thinkers.

Unity Worldwide Ministries' vision statement is "A world powerfully transformed through a growing movement of shared spiritual awakening." What a feeling to see that vision being manifested before my eyes! Certainly one of the highlights I have taken with me is the sight and sound of 3,000 people singing in the Mormon Tabernacle which was built in 1865. At the very end of a multicultural extravaganza, "Let There Be Peace on Earth" was sung, complete with raising of hands at the end. I smiled and thought to myself, "The whole world is Unity, each in our own way."

And so it is.

Rev Donna Johnson
President and Chief Executive Officer
Unity Worldwide Ministries