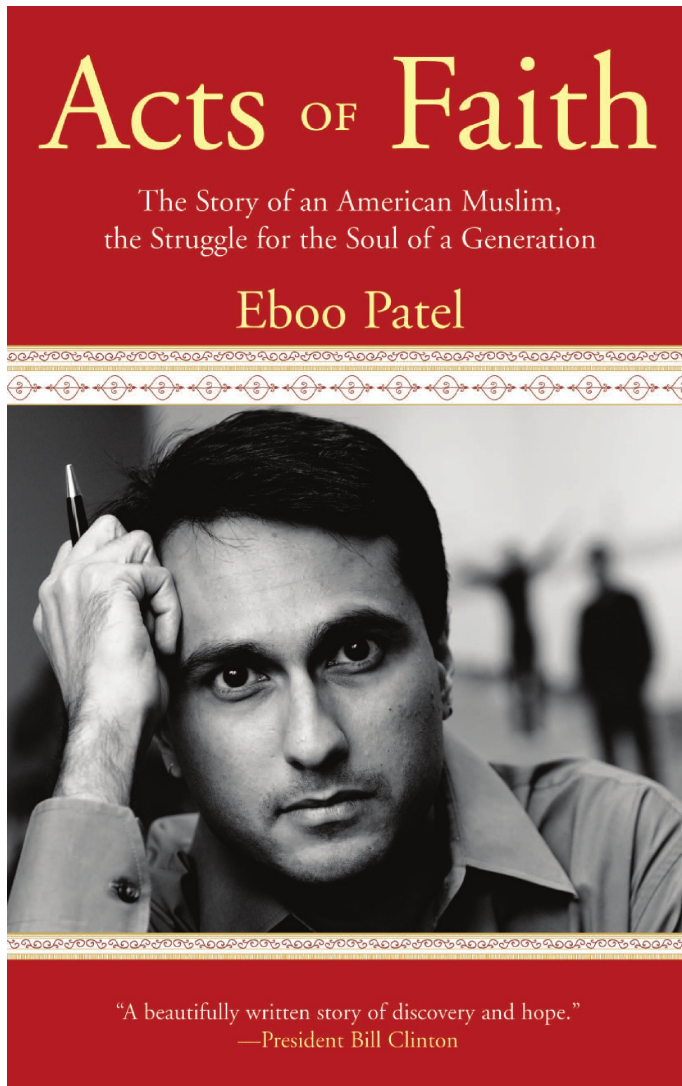


CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL GROWTH REGARDING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS

Engaged in recognizing and “re-storying” ourselves for a multicultural Unitarian Universalist future

Common Read 2011-2012:



We are delighted to share that *Acts of Faith*, a Beacon Press book originally published in 2007, has been selected as the 2011-12 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Common Read. Its author, **Eboo Patel**, was a 2008 speaker at the UUA General Assembly and is founder and executive director of the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), an international, nonprofit, pluralistic youth leadership organization.

Ten years after 9/11, Patel's memoir describes the vulnerability of youth to violent, fundamentalist influences and makes a case for all of us, particularly youth, to promote pluralism through engagement in interfaith dialogue, education, and social justice work. *Acts of Faith* is a hopeful and moving testament to the power and passion of young people, and to the notion that we find the fulfillment of our identities in the work we do in the world.

Dozens of congregations participated in last year's common read—we hope dozens more will participate this year! This program builds community within our congregations and our movement by inviting participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time, giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep and meaningful conversations.

The UUA Bookstore is supporting this Common Read by offering discounts on orders of 5 or more books.

For more information, visit uua.org/commonread.

Updates from the Diversity of Ministry Team:

To the religious professionals and seminarians of color who completed the **Diversity of Ministry Team** (DOMT) online survey: thank you for blessing us with your authentic, insightful, and wholly helpful feedback! We're grateful for your willingness to share yourselves with us in this way. The rich, meaningful responses you offered will help us determine the program offerings and support that will be most helpful and most effective in the future. Your stories and experiences will assist us in ensuring that DOMT is faithful in its efforts to serve with you as we continue to build the Beloved Community we dream about.

The members of the **Diversity of Ministry Team**—comprised of UUA national staff and representatives of **Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM)** and the **UU Ministers Association (UUMA)**—will be meeting in mid-October to reflect on the past five years, contemplate new endeavors, and most importantly, to review feedback from the online survey to help guide our feet as we determine how to best serve our religious professionals and seminarians of color and our movement. Our goals during this two-day retreat are as follows:

1. Evaluate the progress of our long-term goals and objectives.
2. Discuss ways to make the Diversity of Ministry Initiative more relevant, viable, and current.
3. Ensure increased multicultural sensibility and multicultural growth for our congregations.

We very much look forward to sharing with you the highlights and outcomes of our time together.

Upcoming Event:

Celebrate **Indigenous Peoples Day!** This October, join UUA staff and congregations across the country as we re-imagine Columbus Day—changing a celebration of colonialism into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous peoples in the Americas, to organize against current injustices, and to celebrate indigenous resistance. Our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to fully understand the legacy of Christopher Columbus, just as it calls us to respect and learn from indigenous peoples and support their struggles for social justice and religious freedom. Here are a few ways to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day:

1. Craft a Sunday service around Indigenous Peoples Day.
2. Find out whose land your congregation's building was built on.
3. Build and strengthen connections to nearby Native communities.
4. Hold a movie screening with a discussion afterward.
5. Engage with "Immigration as a Moral Issue," the 2010-2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue.

For more details, resources, and ways to celebrate, visit uua.org/indigenouspeoplesday.

Exciting New Resource:

Plan your social justice calendar for the year using the new **Social Justice Calendar** from Multicultural Growth & Witness! This tool will allow you to link your social justice projects to collective national advocacy with the Unitarian Universalist Association, UU social justice organizations, and other UU congregations. As we get closer to each event, check back at our website to find worship resources, action campaigns, educational materials and more! To view the calendar, visit uua.org/justicecalendar/index.shtml.

Dream with us. Strategize with us. Build community with us. Support us...Join us in this holy work.

Living our faith,



Janice Marie Johnson

Multicultural Growth Director
Multicultural Growth & Witness
jmjohnson@uua.org



Rev. Alicia Forde

Multicultural Congregations Program Coordinator
Multicultural Growth & Witness
aforde@uua.org

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