

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THESE
CHARTER FOR COMPASSION
EVENTS**

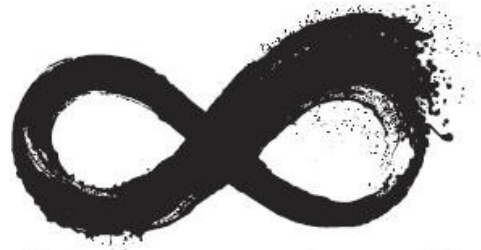
**“ BEING A SPACE OF SANCTITY WHERE
CREATIVITY AND INTELLECT BLENDS
WITH SPIRIT; AND INDIVIDUALITY IS
NURTURED IN COMMUNITY ”
- DUUC MISSION**

For more information:
Karen’s speech accepting the prize:
<http://www.tedprize.org/2008-winners/#armstrong>

Charter for Compassion:
<http://www.charterforcompassion.org>

UUA General Assembly Ware Lecture:
<http://www.uua.org/ga/2011/184434/shtml>

Book Discussion Dates:
October 2, 2011 (Steps 1 & 2)
November 6, 2011 (Steps 3 & 4)
(no meeting in December)
January 8, 2012 (Steps 5 & 6)
February 5, 2012 (Steps 7 & 8)
March 4, 2012 (Steps 9 & 10)
April 1, 2012 (Steps 11 & 12)
May 6, 2012 (Next Steps...)



Charter for Compassion

In 2008, Karen Armstrong was awarded the TED Prize. (TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design and grants \$100,000 to exceptional individuals who have an extraordinary vision of how to make the world a better place.) Karen, a former Catholic nun, “is one of the most provocative and original thinkers on the role of religion in the modern world.” (Tedprize.org) The money is used to help them make their wish a reality. Karen Armstrong’s wish is...

“To create, launch and propagate a Charter for Compassion, crafted by a group of leading inspirational thinkers from the three Abrahamic traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and based on the fundamental principles of universal justice and respect.” (See page 2 for text of the Charter)

To date, more than 77,000 individuals have affirmed the Charter. The members of Dakota Unitarian Universalist Church intend to affirm it, as well, but we want it to be an intentional and truly meaningful action. To that end, we will be holding a monthly Book Discussion/Potluck to discuss Karen’s book, “12 Steps to a Compassionate Life” and invite speakers to discuss their thoughts and experiences of compassion. The first two speakers are: Randy Schenkat on **October 9th** and Juanita Gilbert on **November 20th**. The Book Discussions will be held following the Sunday services (dates listed above), and will include a potluck lunch. Please join us!



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CHARTER FOR COMPASSION

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

