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# Discussion Guide for Reflection and Conversation

## Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion, & the Human Future

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*We humans face a defining choice: transition to a civilization dedicated to care for one another and the living Earth or bear the consequences. What might that future look like? How might we get there? And what might be the role of institutions of religion?*

This guide has been prepared as a supplement to the UUMFE, UUJEC, and Cedar UU Church on-demand session with David Korten at the 2022 UUGA, and the Follow-up Conversation on July 14. The questions invite personal reflection and are especially designed for group conversations - a powerful way to connect with each other, express our concerns and hopes, think out loud and envision a better future together, and step into the movement, as individuals, local UU congregations, and UUA, with our interfaith partners, toward the Ecological Civilization.

### 1. **The Crises**

- How are you, your loved ones, your livelihood, your community, and the institutions you associate with impacted by the current crises – e.g., climate, social injustice, and economic inequality? What keeps you awake at night?
- What's at stake? What are the risks of not dramatically changing course?

### 2. **Why are you here?**

- What attracted you to this session (the UUGA on-demand session and/or the July 14<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Conversation)?
- What, especially, in David's essay/presentation and/or the panel discussion, resonates with you?
- What outcomes do you hope for, as a result of this conversation?

### 3. **The Alternative**

- What is your vision of a better world – that works for everyone, everywhere?
- What, in particular, appeals to you about the possibility of an "ecological civilization?"
- How does an "ecological civilization" align with your values and practices and the guiding principles that are the foundation of your faith/spiritual practice?

### 4. **Getting There**

- What do you truly believe about our human nature and the purpose of our existence?
- What responsibilities come with the rights and privileges we claim?
- What influence can religious/spiritual communities and institutions bring to bear on the transition to an "ecological civilization?"
- What does engagement, outreach, and mobilization within and outside of your community of faith/spirituality look like? How does this translate to something tangible, organic, and sustainable – locally and on a larger scale?

- What is your highest hope for the effect our collective actions might have on the local and large-scale transformation that is required?
- What's standing in the way? How do we work through/around those barriers?

#### 5. **Next Steps**

- What are you, personally called to do, to contribute to the necessary changes? How might you apply your unique skills, interests, and passions to advocate for, organize, and activate the movement?
- What's next for your local congregation? How will you amplify your voices to have a wide-reaching effect in your community, in your religious institution(s)?
- Who will you invite into this conversation and to the work that needs to be done?
- For a collective approach to action, who needs to be at the table?

We would love to hear your reflections, your plans, your actions. Please share by sending any comments to [uujec@uujec.org](mailto:uujec@uujec.org). Thank you for all you do!!