



Green Sanctuary
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Congregational Stewardship Services
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Boston, MA 02108
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Application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy

Congregation Name: Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist (TJMC)

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Minister: Rev. Dr. Morris Hudgins, Interim Minister

Congregation Profile

TJMC, UU is a vibrant, growing church in Charlottesville, Virginia, home of the University of Virginia and Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe. Our campus, just a mile away from the University and perched at the highest point in Charlottesville, began with a sanctuary, parlor, Jefferson Room foyer and classrooms built in 1951 with the support of the American Unitarian Association. An attached Social Hall and offices were added in 1995, and the church owns two adjacent old homes. Summit House (1875) is used primarily for church groups, but also for housing the homeless for several weeks, and U-House (1917) is currently rented to five tenants, mostly graduate students.

We now have 501 members, and a budget proposal for 2009-2010 of \$551,350. In 2008, our two ministers, a husband-wife team, the Revs. David and Leslie Takahashi-Morris, departed for a ministry in California, and we called our current interim minister, the Rev. Dr. Morris Hudgins. The church board is comprised of 12 church members who are elected by the congregation including six at large members. In 2007-08, the Board voted to revise the organizational structure of the church and create six councils, each comprised of representatives from related committees: Administrative, Worship, Community Life, Lifespan Religious Education, Social Action, and Communications. In addition to the minister, the church supports a part-time pastoral care minister, a full-time religious education director, a full-time church administrator, a music director, a religious education assistant, and cleaning and custodial services. The religious education program educates more than 200 children, and offers an Adult Faith Development program as well. Two choirs perform for church services, which are at 9:15 and 11:15 from September through May, and at 10:00 during the summer months.

Church life includes a regular round of fundraisers, potlucks, covenant groups, adult faith development, and social justice activities, of which PACEM, (People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry), which houses the homeless in Summit House for several weeks during the winter, and IMPACT, an interfaith movement to change local policy and programs as they impact the poor, are the largest. On the whole, the church appears to be healthy, blessed with committed leadership and staff. The congregation is open and welcoming, and offers programs for all age levels. The church is a UUA certified Welcoming Congregation, and the ministries are growing and changing in positive ways. Participation in social action programs is widespread and effective.

However, the church is at a crossroads in many ways today. Throughout our history, including the current year, TJMC, UU has often been under budget duress. Although we are a larger congregation, we seem unable to raise the resources to support the ministerial staff that the activities and congregational size require, and plans for a capital campaign were tabled on the advice of consultants, even prior to this recession. We have space demands that continue to grow, but aging buildings that are expensive to keep up. A Ministerial Search Committee has been created and has begun the search for a new settled minister. This is the context that shapes the efforts of the Green Sanctuary Task Force, formed as a committee by the Board in November 2008, convened in January 2009 to begin the process to become a candidate for Green Sanctuary Certification by the UUA, and elevated to a Task Force of the Board in November 2009.

The Committee

The current Environmental Action Committee began offering programming in the fall of 2006, growing from a core group of six members to a current group of 11 active members and 25 volunteers. In November 2008, the Environmental Action Committee requested and received endorsement by the Social Action Council and the Board to apply to become a Green Sanctuary candidate. A Green Sanctuary Committee, consisting of the core of Environmental Action Committee members and additional representatives from various church councils and the Board was convened in January 2009. In November 2009, this group was named an official Green Sanctuary Task Force of the Board. Led by a Steering Committee, the Task Force contributes to the development of our Green Sanctuary Candidate Application via work groups, e-lists, and phone with the Environmental Action Committee, which meets monthly and jointly with Green Sanctuary Task Force for its quarterly meetings. In this way, we are able to network with the leadership of the church while not increasing the burden on Council and Board members.

In spring 2009 after the Green Sanctuary Committee was created, the group created and approved a mission statement and charter, as follows:

Mission

Unitarian Universalists are committed to the 7th Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." The Green Sanctuary Task Force/Environmental Action Committee's mission is to transform Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist into a beacon of environmental sustainability and justice.

Goals

We strive to educate, inspire, and create opportunities for TJMC members to lead more environmentally sustainable, just and spirit-filled lives.

We will seek to model sustainable practices and eco-justice advocacy for members and the wider world.

Committee Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Church activities</u>	<u>Outside interests</u>
Sharon Baiocco, Chair, Steering Committee	Environmental Action Chair Social Action Council member, Facilities Planning Committee UUppities, PACEM volunteer	Retired dean and English professor, nature guide, choral groups, politics, pastel drawing, book club
Arthur Meyer	Environmental Action Committee, UU Guys	Retired teacher, math and science, Founder and faculty of Friends World College, a BA program in Global Education
Deborah Judson- Ebbets	Environmental Action Committee, ex officio	Sierra Club Executive Committee, Piedmont Chapter, Piedmont Pastelists, Instructor at UVA and PVCC on organic gardening, permaculture and medicinal herbs, organic landscape designer and consultant
Glenn Short, Steering Committee	Environmental Action Committee, UU Guys, Greeter, Soup Kitchen Server, PACEM, IMPACT	Singing at nursing homes, Encore Players drama group at C'ville Sr. Center, Senior Times delivery, Organizing for America (speaker, organizer & telephone caller) for health reform and Democratic candidates, retired journalist
Gloria Morgan	Environmental Action Committee, PACEM, IMPACT volunteer; Soup Kitchen, usher, Volunteer Coordinating Committee	Recycling, compost, construction, health care professional
John Semmelhack	Undoing Racism Committee, Youth Religious Education	Professional energy efficiency consulting
Katie Korish, Steering Committee	Environmental Action Committee, Facilities Planning Committee	Sierra Club, WWF, Southern Poverty Law Center, Carter Center; own small business real estate and property management
Laura Wallace, Steering Committee	Covenant Group co-facilitator, former Worship Associate	Marketing Director for local manufacturer of organic mattresses; square-foot gardening, SAVE McIntire Park
Margaret Gorman	Youth RE Committee, Scrip Sales	Gardening
Marian Morgan	UU Buddhist Meditation Coordinator; Worship Council	
Mickey Meyer	Environmental Action Committee, Circle Dinner group	Co-chair Lake Health Education Group at Lake Monticello
Natalie Somer	Environmental Action Committee, UUppity Women Co-Chair, Women's Covenant Group, PACEM, TJMC IMPACT Committee, Women's Retreat Planning	Homeowner's Assn. Architectural Review Board Committee, Reading, Gardening, Genealogy Travel
Rich Olin	Board Member, Facilities Planning Committee Chair, Choir	Employed at VA Dept. of Environmental Quality; Sierra Club, hiker, biker
Richard Somer	Buildings Chair, Administrative	Retired steel building construction, heating and

	Council	cooling manufacturing, historian
Ruth Douglas, Steering Committee	Former Board member	Retired biology professor; Ivy Creek Natural Area board, master naturalists instructor
Susan Bremer	Environmental Action Committee	
Sallie Kate Park	Grounds Committee Chair, Environmental Action Committee, Peace group, PACEM, Administrative Council	Retired history teacher (8-12), innkeeper; formed Breast Cancer Support and Information group (Berkshires)
Mary Beth Wiley	Safe Congregations Task Force, Covenant Group co-facilitator	Physical therapist
Catherine Malone	Children's RE	homemaker

Environmental Audit

Energy Efficiency Report

Since we were formed three years ago, the Environmental Action Committee, the action arm of the Green Sanctuary Committee, completed several smaller projects to promote energy efficiency at TJMC. We replaced incandescent light bulbs in the Parlor and the Social Hall with compact fluorescents (CFLs) with the funds we raised from our first CFL sale. The Buildings Committee has sealed up leaks in Summit House, and we have repaired the shades in the Parlor. This spring, one covenant group of volunteers put up weather-stripping on exterior doors in the Social Hall, foyer, and side door.

In March of this year a professional energy audit by Albemarle Heating and Air President Tom Kouvanous revealed many ways in which the church buildings could become more energy efficient. In spring 2009, the Board created a 2009-10 energy efficiency fund of \$6,214. As the Board requested, Green Sanctuary Chair Sharon Baiocco and Buildings Chair Dick Somer identified a number of possible projects in the fall. We sought expert advice in prioritizing a list of projects, all which should have significant energy-saving value over a period of 5 to 10 years, and presented them to the Board.

In addition to potential energy and cost savings, aesthetics and visibility to the congregation are criteria we are using to select projects that begin to address the concerns raised by our professional energy audit. As recommended by the auditor and expert members of the congregation, we have chosen to focus first on the most heavily used areas of the church facilities. Consequently, we have focused first on the Sanctuary, Parlor, and Social Hall.

We spent roughly \$2000 blowing RU-42 insulation into the Sanctuary attic and sealing the lights, and six fans were installed in the Social Hall. CFL light bulbs were purchased for Office and Parlor lamps. Fireplace openings will be covered, and a new exterior door installed in the Parlor.

CO2 Targets

Also this fall, a member of our committee with professional expertise in energy efficiency improvements assessed our church energy use and created two graphs showing how much gas and electricity the church buildings and Summit House use, based on a six-year examination of our utility bills. They show that our usage is going in the wrong direction (up). Annual heating costs are much higher than cooling costs. For instance, it costs about **4 times** as much (annually)

to heat the Church building as it does to cool it. It costs almost **9 times** as much to heat Summit House as it does to cool it. The Committee should focus on things that will cut heating energy use - sealing air leaks, adding insulation, upgrading heating equipment. On the electric bills, the cost per kWh rate was quite a bit different between the Church building and Summit House. This should be investigated with the power company. Base load represents lighting, etc., which is pretty constant. It makes up 25% of our usage and represents a good area for reductions by utilizing smart strips, window monitoring, etc. Taking the six-year average usage for both electricity and gas as a baseline, we should set targets to achieve 50% reduction over 10 years (7% per year). (See the charts in the Appendix.)

Congregational Assessment

The Environmental Action Committee first conducted a formal survey of relevant staff and church volunteers in 2007 by conducting phone and personal interviews and collecting the data in a report. In 2009, we expanded our original survey, which was based on a California church's environmental audit, and updated it with more interviews. A summary of our findings follows.

Worship

Services offered by the minister and worship associates often incorporate appreciation for nature's interconnectedness in songs, meditations, and stories. For two years the Environmental Action Committee has offered an Earth Day service in April, with members of the Committee offering vignettes on the theme, "Earth, Air, Fire, Water." The Environmental Action Committee purchased the UUMFE's worship and music resource books for the ministers and the music director last year. In October we invited members from Virginia UU churches (below DC) to join us in an eco-justice project. On Oct. 25 we held an Interfaith Vigil for the Mountains and People of Appalachia, an evening event we organized to promote awareness of the practice of mountaintop removal, and of the statements of diverse faith communities regarding the practice. This was offered as part of the International Day for Climate Action. Through organizing this event, we have made connections with potential faith partners both in our local community and to UU churches in our region.

Since ministers enjoy freedom of the pulpit, we cannot dictate the topics of their sermons. Each year we have sought to recruit worship associates who are environmentally aware and to encourage them to choose environmental themes, but we regret that we have not yet had as significant an impact on Sunday services as we desire, with only two services exclusively devoted to environmental moral issues.

Religious Education

When we first conducted an informal audit of RE programming in 2007, we noted that environmental topics were part of the K-5 curriculum, but not significantly a part of the secondary curriculum. Subsequently, we offered curriculum ideas focused on the environment to the RE staff. Religious Education Council members evaluated the RE curriculum with the guidance of RE Director Leia Durland-Jones during summer 2009 and made significant changes to various levels. In most cases, the changes have led to increased attention to the environment:

Grades K-5 features UU Star Studios, 7 sessions per year. This year they will be learning about Earth-centered traditions and humanism. February Studio is the new Stewards of the Earth, and members of the Environmental Action Committee were encouraged to volunteer as leaders.

Grades 6 and 7 are studying Neighboring Faiths. This class begins by looking at universal components of religion. They study UU, then Judaism and Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Humanism, Atheism, Buddhism and finally earth-centered religions. Stories from different faiths and environmentalism included in the film “Renewal” will be shown.

Grade 8 is Our Whole Lives (human sexuality), and has not been modified.

Grade 9, formerly known as the Challenge Class, received a huge overhaul with a new name, "Coming of Age," and a new curriculum from the UUA.

Grades 10-12 is YRUU. It too is receiving an overhaul. The class will have a structure drawn from three UUA curricula and will include social action projects such as cleaning the community garden sites, and some travel and adventures.

Waste and Toxic Substance Reduction

Aluminum, glass, newspaper, cardboard, office paper, and envelopes are all taken to the city recycling center via our regular trash pick-up. PET plastic (#1) and HDPE plastic (#2) are also recycled at the center. Plastics #3-#7 are recycled by volunteers from the Environmental Action Committee, who truck them to a center 40 miles north near where they live because local centers do not yet recycle them.

The office staff use double-sided printing and copying when feasible; folders are recycled, and so are compact disks, CDS, and DVDs, when feasible. Office paper, including the Orders of Service, is 30% from recycled content. Other paper products have not been monitored for whether they are chlorine free.

Ceramic cups are used for all coffee hours, but some cold cups are paper or foam, and some paper napkins are used. The kitchen dishwasher is an Energy Star appliance. Non-disposable cups, plates, silverware, and platters are used at most functions.

Kitchen scraps are not currently composted, and trash bags are not themselves compostable. We do not use disposable coffee filters.

All toxic materials, including batteries, electronics, light bulbs, and toxic fluids are disposed of at the city recycling center.

Coffee is “fair trade” and along with napkins and paper towels, it is bought in bulk. During PACEM, when we house overnight homeless men and women during the winter, glasses, napkins, and dessert plates are paper, bought in bulk.

Conservation

No organized carpooling occurs, despite the fact that parking is at a premium in the city. Seniors who need a ride, or others who cannot drive can obtain transport through our CareNet. The front of the building has a bike rack, but only a few people ride to services.

Signs throughout the buildings remind people to turn off the lights. However, some differences over how much light is needed in the Sanctuary during bright sunny morning services have

occurred. No general policy addresses lighting, but the Board has set a temperature of 64 in the winter and 74 in the summer for heating and cooling, and all thermostats have temperature regulators. Computers and monitors are manually turned on and off, although the central computer remains on due to the program set-up.

Three water heaters, one in each building, are set very low except when PACEM residents come overnight for two weeks in the winter. Our Sanctuary heating is hot water heat through the floor, with a boiler that is nearly 60 years old and has had two of its four systems fail. Insulation above the Sanctuary was recently upgraded from R-19 to R-42, and ceiling lights were sealed. Windows in the Sanctuary are single-pane, but in the newer Social Hall, they are double-pane. Summit House, 135 years old, has very old windows, 8 leaky fireplaces, and although the area beneath the main floor was insulated in 2006, the house is still quite leaky. Insulation was installed in the attic of Summit House around 2004 and a SEER 15 dual-zone heat pump installed in 2007. Insulation and windows in 110-year-old U-House are very poor. In 2008 a maintenance company was contracted to perform routine preventative maintenance on all of the heating systems.

Three refrigerators, one in the Social Hall kitchen, one in the Sanctuary basement, and one in Summit House, are about 15 years old each.

Recently, all of the incandescent bulbs were replaced with compact fluorescent bulbs, and the overhead dimmable lights in the Social Hall and Parlor were replaced with CFLs in 2008. Some halogen lamps remain. Old incandescent bulbs were sent to a recycling center recently after we debated whether to donate them to Habitat for Humanity or recycle them.

Our power comes from a coal-fired power plant owned by Dominion Power. The coal comes from five mountaintop removal sites in West Virginia and Kentucky, prompting us to select stopping mountaintop removal as our major eco-justice project.

Organic Products and Food

No church policy requires the purchase and use of organic products and food, but last year we began buying liquid hand soap from an organic company. As for food, individual members may choose local, organic food for potlucks and events, but no policy requires that. We have held several local, organic potlucks as part of the Environmental Action Committee program, and sometimes ingredients of dishes are identified with tags. We have an outside cleaning agency that provides its own cleaning agents, and we do not know whether they use any toxic chemicals.

Water Conservation

Two rain barrels were built and installed behind Summit House in 2008, and rainwater is used for watering plants and lawn during the summer whenever possible. A square-foot garden and compost pile were installed at the same time, and members were invited to grow vegetables and other plants there. Our campus has been divided into sections, with volunteers caring for them during the growing season under the guidance of the Grounds Chair. No pesticides or toxic fertilizers are used in the general area of the campus.

Board Policies and Environmentally Responsible Investing

About 15% of the \$310,000 endowment is invested in the Ariel Fund, a socially responsible mid-cap fund. Another 25% of the endowment holds TJMC bonds. The balance of the endowment is

invested in traditional funds. There is no official Board policy regarding recycling, promoting energy efficiency, or purchasing environmentally preferable products.

Environmental Education and Social Justice

The Environmental Action Committee has sponsored numerous educational events over the past years as part of its “Earth Friendly Fridays” programs. Some have featured local, organic potlucks and many have drawn speakers from the nearby university and environmental groups, in particular, the Sierra Club. In addition, articles and “Green Ideas” appear in monthly print Bulletins and on our website. The Committee maintains a website with links to green resources, and often Spring and Fall “Green News” newsletters are distributed during social time between services. Three years ago an Adult Faith Development course, “Readings and Writings on Nature and Spirit,” was offered to a small group, and two fully enrolled Simplicity Circles (10) with a series of readings were organized as covenant groups in 2007–08. Often, there are few rooms available for evening or Sunday classes and scheduling has been a problem. Field trips to local organic farms have been fully subscribed during the summer months. The Committee maintains a table sporadically during social hour where resources, posters, and committee members are available to promote environmental programs. One Faith in Action program per year to explain the national Green Sanctuary movement was offered opposite the 11:15 Sunday service.

In the area of Social Justice, our congregation is already very active, so we have not initiated any new eco-justice programming until recently when we have sponsored events open to neighboring church members with the goal of developing interfaith partnerships. A year ago, we formed an e-list, the Interfaith Green Network, with five local church environmental leaders. We also have annual Yard Sales and Services Auctions that recycle many salvageable objects.

Action Plan

Worship and Celebration Projects

Project Title: Earth Day Worship Service

Project Description: Offer a celebration of the Earth with music, readings, and sermon on current environmental issue(s). May include guest musicians, guest speakers, and interfaith readings.

Timeline for Completion: Third Sunday in April each year

Lead: Laura Wallace

Project Title: Interfaith Vigil for the People and Mountains of Appalachia

Project Description: Coordinate and conduct a vigil in support of the people of Appalachia and against mountaintop removal coal mining. Invite local faith communities to read statements of conscience, incorporate local musicians, and invite guest speakers. Read names of mountains that have been destroyed and/or are threatened.

Timeline for Completion: Fall of each year until mountaintops are no longer threatened.

Lead: Katie Corish

Religious Education Projects

Project Title: Mini-Green Workshops

Project Description: Offer two workshops annually on a particular environmental theme such as gardening and food, conservation and recycling, living more simply. Use members of the congregation with special expertise to conduct the workshops that will be “hands on” activities, practical ways in which we can incorporate the 7th Principle into our daily lives. Offer these through Adult Faith Development as feasible.

Timeline for Completion: Two in the spring each year.

Lead: Ruth Douglas

Project Title: Children’s Religious Education Stewardship Project (1st-5th grades)

Project Description: The Stars Studios month-long unit on Earth Stewardship will include four studios (drama/movement, story, arts, cooking) for each group. Topics will include Rachel Carson, Jacques Cousteau, and Quality Community Council Urban Farm (a local site). Children will also collect reusable bags from our members and friends, clean them up and have children decorate them; and display the bags in the Social Hall to publicize our “Banish the Bag” eco-justice project (see below). Finally, they will distribute them to those who work and harvest the food in the urban farm run by Quality Community Council.

Timeline for Completion: Earth Stewardship Stars Studio: February. Collect and decorate, Feb./March 2010; display April 2010; distribute to QCC urban farm May 2010.

Lead: Margaret Gorman

Environmental Justice Projects

Project Title: “Go Tell it on the Mountain,” Advocate to End Mountaintop Removal

Build an interfaith grass roots program to educate diverse faith communities about mountaintop removal (MTR) and its impact on communities. Visit a MTR site Partner with other UU congregations in Virginia and environmental groups, including Sierra Club and Appalachian Voices, to develop an educational presentation and train speakers. Encourage action in petitions to Congressional representatives, the EPA, and state governments to end/slow this environmental and community degradation.

Timeline for Completion: By June 2010, organize MTR site visit. Visit site during summer 2010. By September 2010, complete presentation planning and training of speakers. December 2010, make presentations to at least two faith communities or outside groups. During 2011, make presentations to at least three more faith communities or outside groups.

Lead: Sharon Baiocco

Project Title: “Banish the Bag” -- Reduce Use of Plastic Bags in the Charlottesville Area

Project Description: Develop a local education presentation about the environmental impact of plastic bags; work to publicize, through local papers, companies that offer discounts or other incentives for using reusable bags; join statewide advocacy efforts to pass a law to allow localities to pass ordinances requiring the use of compostable plastic, recyclable paper and/or reusable checkout bags at all shops, stores, eating places and retail food vendors. Create and distribute “BOB” (Bring Your Own Bag) reminder stickers for car windows.

Timeline for Completion: Lobbying to re-initiate bill in state legislature, spring 2010. Presentation designed by Fall 2010; Data collected about local companies by Fall 2010; ads created and donated by Spring 2011. Presenters trained and stickers produced by Spring 2011; at least three presentations completed by December 2011.

Lead: Susan Bremer

Sustainable Living Projects

Project Title: Weatherization and Energy Upgrades for Our Buildings

Project Description: Two of our buildings are over 100 years old, and our main sanctuary is over 60 years old. Major upgrades and repairs have been deferred over a long period due to budget shortfalls. This year a line item was created to fund energy efficiency improvements, but it only begins to address the major problems we face. We will incorporate energy conservation into our annual repairs and upgrades; set goals for energy reduction; monitor utility bills and usage, and make regular reports to the Board. We will also investigate grant funding for upgrading our buildings' energy efficiency and advise the Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee on "green" options as the Board's plans for new or renovated buildings develop.

Timeline for Completion: Ongoing. By end of fiscal year 2009-10, reduce energy consumption by 7%, and each year by an additional 7% over 10-year-period. Report on grant options by Spring 2011.

Lead: John Semmelhack

Project Title: Sustainability Policy for our Church

Project Description: Our church does not have any policy about energy efficiency, recycling, and sustainable purchasing and investing. Lighting and heating, in particular, have been an issue, with the Board as yet acting only to limit the timeframe for heating our buildings. We propose to develop a comprehensive Board Policy for Decision-Making and Sustainability.

Timeline for Completion: Presentation to Board by spring 2010, discussion and completion by fall 2010.

Lead: Sharon Baiocco

Project Title: Car-Pooling Plan for TJMC Sunday Services

Project Description: Our church has over 500 members and only limited parking space in an urban neighborhood. We will identify congregants living in proximity (perhaps by zip code), and survey them about their Sunday service preference (9:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m.). Then we'll invite them to form carpools to church, not only to conserve energy, but to build community and reduce parking congestion in our neighborhood. The plan is to coordinate with CareNet, the TJMC committee that responds to the needs of the sick, the infirm, and others in need, to accommodate those who cannot drive.

Timeline for Completion: Create and publicize plan by Spring 2011; launch Fall 2011.

Lead: Glenn Short

Project Title: CFLs and Installation for UUs ("How Many UU's")

Project Description: Purchase compact fluorescent light bulbs cheaply and sell them for cost to church members at our monthly table between services in the Social Hall. Recruit members in each zip code to help members install light bulbs and offer this list to members when they purchase their bulbs. Include information on how to recycle used incandescents and CFLs.

Timeline for Completion: Recruit members to install light bulbs by Spring 2010. Purchase CFLs and hold a sale each fall.

Lead: Sallie Kate Park

Additional Project Title: Green Lending Library and Film Series

Project Description: Create and publicize a library of print and media resources related to the environment. Schedule and promote an environmental film each year with the Social Action Film Series. Include library resources on monthly “tables” in the Social Hall between services.

Timeline for Completion: Library created summer 2010; film scheduled for fall 2010, and each year thereafter.

Lead: Mickey Meyer

Project Title: Green Outings

Project Description: Offer two environmental events jointly, if possible, with other organizations such as the Sierra Club. These might include a speaker, bike ride, hike, tour, local and organic potluck, or film presentation and discussion. Examples: Speaker from Appalachian Voices, from Sierra Club, from Sustainable Packaging; film “Silence of the Bees,” etc., or field trips to local organic farms or wildlife refuges, guided hikes in Shenandoah National Park, tour of Zion Crossroads Recycling Center.

Timeline for Completion: Summer and Fall 2010 and thereafter.

Lead: Deborah Judson-Ebbets

Communications Plan

In December 2009, the congregation unanimously approved our Green Sanctuary Action Plan and application at a Congregational Meeting after Sunday services. Although congregational approval is not mandatory, we believed it was necessary to present a progress report and proposal to the church community to obtain their commitment and support for our Green Sanctuary application. We presented a 15-minute slide show and fielded questions before the vote. We expect to make a similar annual report to the congregation as we progress towards completing our Action Plan.

The Task Force Chair will also communicate with the Board as needed, and various members will create and distribute print and electronic communications. The Green Sanctuary Task Force Chair/Environmental Action Committee Chair continues to participate as a member in the Social Action Council, where she will also communicate with other social justice leaders. Members of our Task Force who also serve on church councils will serve as liaisons to the council leadership of the church. A publicity chair will be identified from among volunteers.

General Actions:

1. Organize tabling on Sundays, at least once a month, and create new poster displays.
2. Welcome and phone new committee members to invite them to meetings.
3. Maintain and distribute a list of members with email addresses and phone numbers.
4. Obtain special green ID tags for Task Force members.

Print Media

5. Create and mail postcards announcing major events.
6. Develop and display posters for major events.
7. Provide in-depth information as a semi-annual Green Newsletter as a handout with special services, and post them online.
8. Use Social Action Bulletin Board and Administrative Council Bulletin Board (for energy efficiency information).
9. Get feature articles in monthly print Bulletins.
10. Create Green Tips in the Friday e-notes and monthly print Bulletin.
11. Use Sunday Bulletins for announcements.
12. Create a TJMC Green Sanctuary bumper sticker.

Electronic Media

13. Utilize our web pages and feature special items under “News and Events” on the church home page.
14. File electronic minutes and agendas with the chair of the Social Action Council and the Board.
15. Publicize information through our two green e-lists.
16. Use Friday emails from the church for electronic announcements.

Person-to-Person

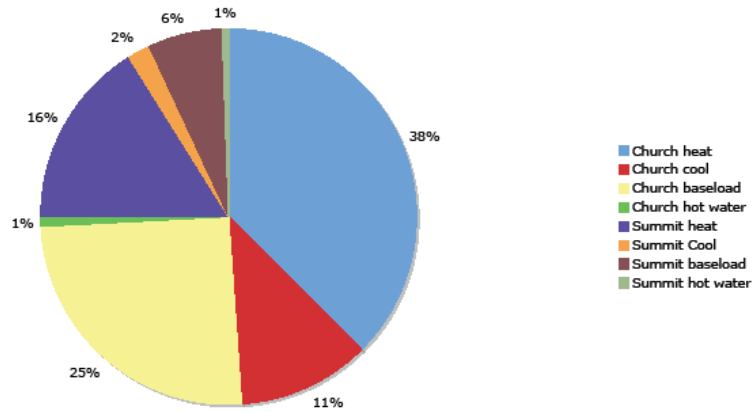
17. Wearin’ o’ the Green on special Sundays.
18. Display of Stars Studio Earth Stewardship children’s projects in Social Hall.

Interfaith and External Communications

In January of 2009 the chair obtained a list of names of members of churches attending a workshop on energy efficiency for religious communities at a local Episcopal church. From that list, she launched an Interfaith Green Network of five area churches who were engaged in environmental movements. This fall, in preparation for the International Day for Climate Action, she contacted the Interfaith Cooperative Circle locally through a member of our congregation, and she met with campus ministers at the University of Virginia, and with staff of Appalachian Voices, which has an office in Charlottesville. Through the Green Sanctuary e-list, she invited UU churches in our region to communicate with her if they were engaged in applying for Green Sanctuary status. In addition, she spoke to ministers and staff of UU churches in central and southern Virginia when they came to our church for a meeting in spring 2009. She has communicated with SUUSI staff, two of whom serve our church, about holding workshops next year. She and others on the committee belong to various national, regional, and local environmental groups who regularly send e-newsletters and announcements via the Internet. We expect to partner with other UU churches, with local churches, and with environmental groups who have expressed their interest in our activities as a result of these communications.

Appendix

Church-wide CO2 emissions by use (2008)



Church-wide CO2 emissions

