



Green Sanctuary
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Congregational Stewardship Services
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
617.948.4251

Congregations and congregants working together to restore Earth and renew Spirit.

August 16, 2011

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis
Green Sanctuary Committee
Judy Moores and Lynne Nittler, Co-Chairs
27074 Patwin Road
Davis, CA 95617

Dear Committee,

With this letter, the Unitarian Universalist Association, Office of Congregation Stewardship Services is very pleased to formally welcome the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis as a first congregation to engage in re-accreditation candidacy for the Green Sanctuary Program. A Green Sanctuary Review Team has examined your application and is impressed with your plans for continued Earth stewardship.

Your congregation has clearly been living out the Green Sanctuary Program Goals since your accreditation. We are impressed with all the environmental programs and projects you have continued to integrate into congregational life. Additionally, it's clear that your designation as a Green Sanctuary has given your congregation energy and enthusiasm for continued commitment to environmental practices.

Your action plan is well thought-out and addresses each of the four focus areas of the Green Sanctuary Program. Your environmental justice project kept us wondering how you are going to better provide justice for disadvantaged or oppressed communities. More specifically, we recommend focusing on projects that will build relationships to create a greater impact. We wonder if you could further explore your relationship with STEAC – could you help families who are receiving emergency assistance with rent about their rights as tenants? Could you help them complete energy improvements so that they would be using less energy? Another idea would be to think about the SOC Ethical Eating Food and Environmental Justice – how could you help these people have better access to sage/healthy foods?. We are interested to learn more about your involvement in the Human Right to Water and the participation rate of your congregation in these actions. We were so excited to read “Our GS work is not a *fait accompli*, but rather the prelude to challenges that grow with each passing month and year. There is much to be afraid of in the world today. However, when we face our fears, and what better place to do so than in a loving UU community, we can find hope and the will to meet the challenges of the climate crisis before us.” You are clearly headed in the right direction.

Overall, your program looks diverse, well balanced, and exciting. We look forward to your continuing progress as you work towards becoming the one of the first Re-Accredited Green Sanctuaries. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns as you move forward.

To a greener faith-community and world,

Robin Nelson

Robin Nelson

Program Manager, Congregational Stewardship Services

“It’s not easy being Green.” – Kermit the Frog



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Application for Green Sanctuary Re-Accreditation Candidacy

Congregation Information

Congregation Name	Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis
Address –Location Address - Mailing	27074 Patwin Road, Davis, CA UUCD, P.O. Box 73710, Davis, CA 95617
Web site	www.uudavis.org
Green Sanctuary contact	Judy Moores and Lynne Nittler
Address	JM – 530 756-4639 LN – 530 756-8110
Phone	JM – 27033 Patwin Road, Davis, CA 95616 LN – 2441 Bucklebury, Davis, CA 95616
Email	JM – jemoores@aol.com LN – lnittler@sbcglobal.net
Minister or Congregation Leader	The Reverend Elizabeth Banks 530 753-2581 x105, RevBanks@uudavis.org

Congregation Profile

(Please type in this section and provide a brief introduction to your congregation. This should include, but not be limited to: membership, average attendance, RE enrollment, demographics of congregants, staff support, brief congregational history, what issues are significant, and any other information you think is important for us to know about your congregation. Additionally, please provide information about your congregation's involvement in the Green Sanctuary program from prior to candidacy to today. This would ideally be approximately half a page to a page and a half.)

Introduction of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis: The UUCD is located just outside of the City of Davis on 6.6 acres in a park-like setting. Today the UUCD is a vibrant community with over 272 members, their families, and many more people who are active in our church community. The average Sunday morning service attendance totals about 200. Our Religious Exploration program has an enrollment of 100 children and youth. Every Sunday we have three regular worship services and religious exploration programs for children and youth. Religious exploration programs for Adults are scheduled at various times throughout each week.

The church has a Youth Group, a Young Adult Group, a Campus Ministry Group and many other ongoing groups for all ages. The congregation prides itself on its long history of social justice work and the many ways our congregants are currently living their UU values through activism. In addition, the church is a fair-share congregation, a certified Green

Sanctuary, a Welcoming Congregation, and a member of both the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Pacific Central District. The church is governed by a Board of Trustees and led by Senior Minister, *Rev. Elizabeth “Beth” Banks. Church staff support includes three full-time employees, two on half time, and about ten who do a few hours/week. UUCD is a place for people from all over the community who come to worship, learn, attend events, concerts, and groups, and celebrate life events.

Church History: in 1954, by a group of parents desiring meaningful religious education for their children—which would encourage them to foster human values, question orthodoxy, use democratic methods, and practice racial, religious and social tolerance—founded a small Unitarian Fellowship. Several of the original members now in their 80’s and 90’s are still part of the church. The Fellowship members incorporated in 1958, and in 1962 the Fellowship became a Unitarian Church. The following year the congregation called its first minister, Robert Senghas, and bought land to build a church. The first building on the church grounds was the Meetinghouse. Over the years other buildings were added to create our current campus. The small trees and shrubs planted in the late 60s are now fully mature and make up much of our diverse and beautiful 6.6 acres, all of it maintained by church volunteers. The church has raised about 1.25 million dollars to remove the current small gathering hall and replace it with a large social hall, commercial style kitchen, handicap accessible bathrooms, storage and a small meeting room. The project involves a new sewage infrastructure and renovation of the Sanctuary as well. Most members of the congregation are helping where they can to provide sweat equity to allow the congregation to afford the space that we need. If all goes well, the new building will be ready for occupancy by 2012.

Green Sanctuary Involvement: At the UUCD, since we began our GS work in 2005, we have seen a remarkable change in aspects of the church culture with an initial major leap forward in our perception of what we could accomplish together. Our original plan to meet the requirements for certification included several additional projects beyond the requirements of the program. During the years following accreditation, the GS committee went to complete the additional projects plus more that came up later. Our stature as a church that lives its commitment to our 7th principle of promoting respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, grew dramatically, and our church became an inspiration for a number of other UU churches as well as other faith groups locally, regionally, and nationally. In 2007, the City of Davis recognized the pioneering environmental work of our church with an Environmental Award to the church.

Worship and Celebration: From early on, the GS committee has worked with our minister on an on-going basis and with interns as they arrive to orient them to our work. Most of our services now include mention of Earth, such as,

“and we will continue to work to build a world we dream about;
and cherish the living earth as our sacred home.”

At least two and usually more services each year are devoted completely to environmental topics. For example, in 2010 the GS Committee directed a production of “Mother Earth vs. The World” and has presented annual outdoor services involving “mindful” walking with stops for readings. As a follow-on to our “Clean Air Sunday” when we encouraged the congregation to walk, bike, or carpool to our rural church, we have added an annual Earth Day celebration called “Earthfest,” which has been somewhat different each year, but

brings together 100-150 adults and children for an old-fashioned picnic with a “Veggie Cook-off”, demonstrations of earth-friendly practices, entertainment and lots of good vegetarian food. Each year we have gotten closer to zero-waste. We celebrate that our county is a major agricultural area, but also recognize that our county has many people who need food. The GS committee sponsors an annual “Abundant Harvest” program. Members bring any extra produce to share with whomever needs it. Other groups within the church plus GS work each year on a couple of major food drives for local food closets. As a church we have honored one or two local “eco-heroes” each year.

Religious Education: As part of annual GS work, we have worked to help people understand that taking care of earth is part of our UU values. We have given a number of Northwest Institute classes for adults on Global Warming, Voluntary Simplicity, etc and David Gershon’s *Low Carbon Diet*. About 100 members of the church have taken one of these classes in the past couple of years. For each class, we integrated UU readings into the curriculum. One member of the congregation who is a geologist leads an annual fieldtrip for the church to teach people about the area. The trip also integrates UU readings to enhance appreciation of the Earth. The RE program has integrated nature into many of their lessons for various age groups. We have hosted discussions on our UU principles and purposes, on food and other topics. We have hosted an expert on Socially and Environmentally Responsible Investing, which encouraged our congregation to carry their UU values into this realm as well.

Sustainability: The GS Committee has hosted annual workshops to teach canning techniques, making earth-friendly cleaning supplies and body care products. We have taught canning and a number of workshops on making home cleaning products that are environmentally friendly. In 2007, we published a Vegetarian church cookbook, which included UU readings and prayers, hints on sustainable practices and favorite recipes from the congregation. We promote “May is bike” month and encourage our congregation to participate in the regional effort. We have sold metal water bottles, Chico bags, and cloth grocery bags. Members of our church worked with the Davis City Council to get the city to pass a resolution to not use bottled water in any city activities or venues. We have tried different ways of reaching people. For example, one fall we put up a large paper tree and asked members to add different colored leaves on which they had written something they had done relative to sustainability. Another time we put up a Green Honor Roll for all the dozens of members of the congregation who reported reducing their carbon emissions and/or taking other steps to live more sustainable lives. As an example of part of our outreach, in 2009-2010, several key members of the organizing committee were UUs and worked with city staff to put together a 350.org event in Central Park. We had a program with Council members and others speaking and a small fair of environmental exhibits and vendors. We were able to borrow La Gotita from the UULM, the water drop costume to use for PR and as our mascot. About 100 people biked in the parade and 300 attended the event. In 2010, the two co-chairs of the GS committee were also the co-Chairs of the Cool Davis Festival weekend, which coordinated with 350.org again for a major event on 10/10/10. About 1700 people came to the festival and another 150 participated in service events.

Eco-justice: California is on the forefront of climate action. Through the last few years, the GS committee has been instrumental in bringing a number of issues to members of the congregation and has collected signatures and organized letter writing campaigns for a number of issues. For example, in 2010, when our landmark CA AB32 Climate Action bill was subject to recall, the GS committee worked with the California UU Legislative Ministry to collect signatures both at church and beyond. Similarly, the UUCD has supported CA AB1242, the Human Right to Water Bill. While the past governor did not sign the bill, the issue was brought to the public and is under consideration again this year – with a new, more environmentally friendly governor. Several members of the church have gone to testify in favor of these bills, too. Locally, some members prepared a report on bottled water and asked the Davis Food Coop to stop carrying Fiji Water - which they did! We consider our food drives to be an eco-justice effort, too. When the UUA was considering a new President, the GS Committee sent a letter to the candidates, urging them to be green. We supported Colusa Citizens who were trying to stop a major landfill operation in their county that would threaten ground water. One of our major letter-writing campaigns over a couple of years was to encourage State Fish and Game and County of Merced to supply water to the Los Bamos Migrant Center, which had been without drinking or household water since 2006. Finally, in 2010 the town was hooked up to the water system of a neighboring city.

As a Green Sanctuary congregation, we are expected to include care for our planet, its life and natural resources through worship, RE, sustainability and eco-justice efforts year after year, which we have done. Now that we are approaching 5 years as a GS, we have reviewed our on-going work and find that through the years we have pursued a well-rounded program with activities every year in the four required focus areas. We will be continuing a number of projects, supplementing some and pursuing new ones as well. We have included below proposed projects for 2011. We propose that each of the four focus areas will include a variety of sub-projects, and the required fifth project will incorporate all four focus areas.

Accomplishment of Program Goals

(Please type in this section and describe, in detail, the degree to which you have achieved the each of the five Green Sanctuary Program goals with your program (please address each goal separately; each would ideally be 1-3 paragraphs each), consider responding as a group in order to take pressure off one individual committee/team member.)

To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UU's.

We have consistently brought key societal environmental issues before the congregation. The GS Committee has maintained a kiosk most Sundays year-round with weekly changes to the material presented. Several times each year there have been petitions to sign or letters to write. We have worked with the UU Legislative ministry on numerous issues and presented forums on some topics. Most weeks we have short notes in the church bulletin and always an article for the quarterly Newsletter on various topics ranging through all the goals in this section.

To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes.

We have organized Numerous NWEI classes, Low Carbon Diet teams, various challenges, food education – with over a hundred households pledging to increase the number of

vegetarian meals they eat each week. Some have become vegetarians. Most church potlucks and meals are now vegetarian or in some cases, have vegetarian alternatives. We prepared and published a vegetarian cookbook, sold Chico bags, other reusable cloth bags and metal water bottles. More members are biking and each year a greater percentage of the cars in the parking lot on Sunday morning are hybrids or other high-mileage cars. We have provided supporting materials such as articles and brochures on topics such as, Giving Gifts the Green Way, 101 Ways to Make the World Greener, and Bike Safety.

To motivate UU's to community action on environmental issues.

Our church community has been involved with an interfaith group Care for God's Creation, and in the last 5 years has put on three environmental conferences. We have encouraged members to write letters, sign petitions, help with booths at local events, hand out materials at the Davis Farmers Market, and advocate for environmental issues. We have provided opportunities to testify at the Davis City Council meetings and state legislative hearings, and gotten many church members involved in city-wide activities related to implementation of the Davis City Climate Action and Adaptation Plan including the 10/10/10 Cool Davis Festival and other activities. We have provided brochures on many different environmental topics from keeping your tires aired up to lists of ways to live in sustainable ways. A group of UUs even sang a song before City Council.¹

¹ DAVIS STORIES: ON BOTTLED WATER

The summer of 2007, John Mott-Smith and Judy Moores, researched information on water bottles and submitted a resolution to the City Council for consideration. The resolution noted that city tap water is readily and conveniently available in every city facility, that only about 1 in every 5 bottled water containers is recycled, and these bottles are one of the fastest growing sources of municipal solid waste in the country.

Meanwhile, Judy kept the Green Sanctuary Committee of the UU Church of Davis informed and the group agreed to support the resolution. When the resolution was scheduled for the October 17 Council agenda, Tom Jankowski, Ann Halsted, Judy Moores, and Cindy Anders gave a rousing rendition of the "Bottled Water" song and ended with their water bottles held high and a hearty "Cheers!"

The Council was delighted, and after some discussion, unanimously passed the resolution encouraging all Davis residents to consider alternatives to the purchase of bottled water and prohibiting City departments from purchasing single-serving bottles of water except for emergency use.

Bottled Water Song (Tune: *This Land is Your Land*)

Words by Ann Halsted and Judy Moores

Chorus This town is your town, this town is my town,
From the Farmer's Market to the Arboretum,
From the Putah waters to the Yolo Basin,
This town depends on you and me.

2. The trucks come rolling as we lie sleeping
Bringing tons of water from across the nation
In plastic bottles that waste resources.
Oh, how they've ripped off you and me.

4. From all the taps in our fair city
Comes fresh water tested clean and healthy
It costs a pittance-it saves us money.
Let's drink a toast to you and me.

1. As we were walking we saw before us
A giant landfill packed with plastic bottles
By the billions, they're NOT recycled.
This mess was made by you and me.

3. So let's recycle those plastic bottles.
Or even better, use a mug or glass.
Our world's resources are not endless.
Our earth depends on you and me.

To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.

We have worked consistently to link our UU values and spiritual practices with an environmental consciousness through services, classes, and fieldtrips. Our presentations of meditative walks on the church campus directly bring our spiritual practices to nature. We work with our minister to present services that are dedicated to environmental issues. Also, many additional services are in part related to environmental issues and almost every service has a song or reading or prayer that includes mention of our gratitude to Earth and our need to take care of the environment.

To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.



We have used “La Gotita” – a huge water drop costume to personify a metaphor: “every drop” is important and when lots are put together you can have an ocean. It is the same with people. One action is small but together we can make a difference. The current mission of the UUCD GS Committee is to provide leadership and education that inspire low impact living, eco-justice actions, and reverence for Earth among our church members. *Our GS Motto: “Restoring Earth, Renewing Spirits”.* We hope to be a beacon for other UU churches, faith groups and the general public as well. While the membership of the GS Committee is smaller than the first few years, we find that we have considerable support in the congregation, among the staff, and from board members, too. We need and appreciate that on-going support and encouragement.

Living Out the Commitment

(Please type in this section and evaluate, in detail, the effect Green Sanctuary Accreditation has had on your congregation. Please address each question separately; each would ideally be 1-3 paragraphs each. Consider answering these questions as a group in order to take the pressure off of one individual.)

What congregational culture changes have been observed as a result of your Green Sanctuary accreditation?

At the UUCD, since we began our GS work in 2005, we have seen a remarkable change in aspects of the church culture with an initial major leap forward in our perception of what we could accomplish together. Before we started our GS work, our church had gone through hard times with the minister of education getting cancer and leaving and our senior minister having a heart attack. We did not feel very good about ourselves. The GS work gave us a new focus and a sense of accomplishment, which with other changes in our church brought our congregation to a healthier position. Our stature as a church that lives its commitment to our 7th principle of promoting respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, has grown dramatically during the last five years and continues to grow.

What discernable examples of living out your Green Sanctuary commitment are apparent? What are some examples from out in the community? What are some examples from your congregation?

Our church was invited to join the interfaith group Care for God’s Creation, and has been recognized by the City of Davis with their 2007 Environmental Award for a nonprofit group.

Judy Moores was given a CA State Assembly Certificate of Recognition for "Taking the Lead to Save the Planet" as a 2009 Yolo County Honoree. The leaders of the GS committee (Judy Moores and Lynne Nittler) have been given the City of Davis 2011 Environmental Awards for individuals. The UU Ministry for Earth awarded one of the co-chairs of Green Sanctuary (Lynne Nittler) with their 2011 Eco-hero award. Our church became an inspiration for a number of other UU churches as well as other faith groups locally, regionally, and nationally. Our Green Sanctuary material on our www.uudavis.org website has been used as a resource by many UU churches and other faith groups.

What specific plans do you have to continue your Green Sanctuary commitments?

The Green Sanctuary Committee is a dedicated group that continues to keep climate change and other environmental issues before the congregation, whether through services, the kiosk, church publications, funny hats, La Gotita, or other creative ways to get the message out.

What on-going role do you expect your congregation will take in the wider community relative to environmental issues? How do you feel recognition as a Green Sanctuary affects your position in the community (both the local community, interfaith community, and the UU community-at-large)? Please list specific examples.

Interfaith and UU Community Outreach: The UU Church of Davis is recognized as an environmental leader in the greater region. Members of the GS committee have been invited to speak on our Green Sanctuary work at UU churches and at other faith groups including the Oakland UU Church, Sacramento Society of Unitarians, St. James Church (Davis), the Davis Community Church, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation (Davis), and the Catholic Church Call to Action Conference. The "Green" groups at the United Methodist Church of Davis and the Davis Community Church were set up in response to our UU lead, and members of those churches consulted with GS members.

Other UU Community: Karen Urbano, a member of the GS Committee is on the national UU Ministry for Earth board. Her husband Ramon Urbano is on the UU Legislative Ministry board, and several other members of the UUCD are involved with this ministry.

City of Davis: We expect our Church members will continue to be involved in the Cool Davis Initiative, whose mission is to inspire our community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and improve the quality of life for all. A network of residents, businesses, the City of Davis, and local groups – including members of the UUCD GS committee, created the Coalition. GS members, Judy Moores and Lynne Nittler were part of the group of citizens that formed the CDI and continue to sit on the core governing committee. The UUCD Green Sanctuary Committee became one of the first Partners of the Cool Davis Initiative and led the way for other faith groups to join.

The Cool Davis Initiative originated the Cool Davis Festival in 2010 in coordination with 350.org call for climate action. Judy Moores and Lynne Nittler were the co-directors of the 2010 Cool Davis Festival and are currently 2/3 co-directors planning the 2011 Cool Davis Festival.

The last few years, the UUCD Green Sanctuary Committee spearheaded a “veggie bag” project within the church to encourage church members to replace the plastic produce bags with reusable ones made of cloth. Other faith groups, the CDI, have taken up the veggie bag project that the GS Committee started. People from all over the city have sown hundreds of veggie bags for free distribution, the this project is now a Service Project of the Cool Davis Initiative. At the Cool Davis Festival in October 2010, we distribute free several hundred veggie bag with a copy inside of instructions on how to make one. In spring 2011, students in a design class at the UC Davis have created posters for the promotion of the veggie bag project.

Action Plan

1. Worship and Celebration Project (1 required)

Project Title: Sustainable living to our Religious practices and Eco-justice work

Project Description and Action: (1-3 paragraph narrative description of the project. Remember, this will be the first time the people reviewing your application will be reading about this project, be sure to provide detail.)

Goals:

- ❖ Include a joyful theology (earth justice, morality, and spiritual connection) in our regular worship services.
- ❖ Celebrate our seventh principle as well as the first and second principles as they relate to Earth, environment and justice issues.

We have been working with our minister and intern ministers to ensure that almost every service will include some aspect of Earth, nature, our place in the universe, reverence for Earth, and/or environmental issues in the opening words, prayers, affirmations, readings, hymns, dance, sermon, and/or closing words. They have been most attentive, and our services now have a “grounding” that enriches the experience for our congregation since this effort was implemented in February. In addition, we plan to have at least three services during 2011 that are dedicated to Eco-justice efforts and sustainable living as integral to our religion and personal spiritual lives.

In 2011, the Reverend Elizabeth Banks gave a service on March 13, about “The Way of Water”, which included readings by Lao-tse, meditation on breathing, and lessons from the earth.

Reverend Lindi Ramsden of the UU Legislative Ministry, building on the earlier service gave the April 17 a sermon on water justice and invited the congregation to support justice efforts. In response, congregants signed over 70 letters of support for water justice bills currently being considered by the CA legislature. Several members of the congregation also attended a hearing on AB 635 on April 26, the human right to water bill and spoke of their support.

On August 14, the GS Committee will host William Powers, Author of *Twelve by Twelve: A One Room Cabin Off the Grid & Beyond the American Dream* who will talk on “Living an Ecologically Balanced Life: How do we find the elusive place of enough in ourselves, our families, and our work?” We will follow the service with a discussion group on “How Much is Enough?”

Timeline for Completion: Late Fall of 2011 (Projected completion dates or target dates for progress.)

Lead: Judy Moores, Lynne Nittler and Rev. Beth Banks (Name of the person in your congregation who is responsible for this project.)

2. Religious Education Project (1 required, either for children, adults, or multi-generational)

Project Title: The Big Bang for children, Green Medicine and Body Project Workshops for adults

Project Description and Action: (1-3 paragraph narrative description of the project. Remember, this will be the first time the people reviewing your application will be reading about this project, be sure to provide detail.)

Goal: Integrate environmental, sustainability, and justice issues into worship & religious educational programs for children & adults.

From July 18-20, the RE program will present a Summer Camp for K-5th grade students, which will focus on “The Big Bang” exploring scientific inquiry, its role in Unitarian Universalism, and our relationship to the Universe. Activities will include a nature safari on the church grounds, a visit to Explorit, our local hands-on science museum, and much more.

On January 23, 2011, GS led a workshop on the Ethical Eating Statement of Conscience, and turned in our comments to the UUA before the Feb. 1 deadline.

The GS Committee will offer workshops and classes to develop tools/skills for low impact and sustainable living to members of the congregation, and if plans work out offer some of these workshops to the general public through the Davis Food Coop. Already in 2011, GS sponsored two 4-hour workshops taught by Lisa Baker during which those in attendance learned to make “green” medicines on January 8 and “green” body care products on February 23.



The GS Committee working with RE hosted our third annual Earthfest in Hedges Grove April 17. The event included an all-church pot luck lunch with a Veggie cook-off, music, face painting, a book sale, Nature’s Theater interactive play, “How the Flowers Got Their Colors,” led by our teens who invited children to join them in the play. The main point of Earthfest is to celebrate Earth and spring, learn new ways to take care of our planet, and enjoy a lovely afternoon out-of-doors on our grounds together! During the past two years, Earthfest has also included educational and fun activities of all sorts for all ages.

Timeline for Completion: July 2011

Lead: Kate Raymond

3. Environmental Justice (1 long-term that actively promotes justice for those affected by environmental injustices and creates relationships)

Project Title: Putting Money, Promises and Labor in Line with UU values.

Project Description: (1-3 paragraph narrative description of the project. Remember, this will be the first time the people reviewing your application will be reading about this project, be sure to provide detail and explain how this is an environmental justice project.)

Goals:

- Work to promote church-wide awareness and understanding of environmental justice issues and develop and implement church projects that rectify environmental injustices.
- Join with UU Legislative Ministry of California, other churches and/or groups that to rectify environmental injustices beyond the scope of just our church.

This year, the Church congregation has agreed to give the total offering collected on one Sunday each month as a charitable donation to outside groups that support social and environmental work. During 2010-2011, as part of our environmental justice efforts, the church's offerings have gone or will go to the UU Ministry for Earth, the UU Legislative Ministry of California, the UU Service Committee specifically to help in Japan after the earthquake and tsunami, and other groups.

As part of its on-going work, the Church will do one or more food drives for the local STEAC Food closet. STEAC (Short Term Emergency Aid Committee) is a local non-profit that provides food, and clothing, as well as emergency assistance with rent and electrical bills to low income families and individuals. As part of the church's outreach, members of the congregation regularly and/or annually volunteer to work for STEAC.

Starting on April 17, as part of our Earthfest and Earth Day celebration, we had 27 individuals (10% of membership) sign up to do 40 actions over 40 days related to the UU Ministry for Earth's Earth Day 2011 Sacred Waters Project.

Over the next several months, we will be working with the UU Legislative Ministry on the Human Right to Water, lobbying for the passage of several water justice bills, and providing the congregation with opportunities to sign petitions, write letters to our representatives, and lobby in person at the state capitol. We will use *La Gotita #2*, our huge water droplet costume, made by Judy Moores of the GS Committee, to help with these efforts.

Timeline for Completion: Throughout 2011

Lead: Ramon and Karen Urbano, Lynne Nittler, Judy Moores and others

4. Sustainable Living (2 required, 1 that addresses energy conservation)

Project Title: Building Our Future by Building Green

4. Sustainable Living (This needs to address energy conservation efforts by the church)

Project Title: Building Our Future by Building Green

Project Description and Action: (1-3 paragraph narrative description of the project. Remember, this will be the first time the people reviewing your application will be reading about this project, be sure to provide detail.)

Goals:

- Help church find ways to live our faith that are good for our church community and our planet.
- Work with established church committees as well as new ones to integrate environmental practices throughout the church that model good sustainable livable practices including such issues as planning any building or remodeling to be “green” by reusing and recycling as much as is possible, using sustainable materials, and incorporating energy efficiency, measures both in buildings and in landscaping, and reducing the use of water.



While needed for many years, the church has finally – in these economic hard-times, - been able to raise enough money to build a Social Hall with a much-needed large meeting space, a commercial type kitchen, and accessible bathrooms as well as renovate aspects of our Meeting Hall/Sanctuary, which was built in 1967-68, for energy efficiency and accessibility.

From the first visioning meeting on, the congregation indicated that it wanted the building project to be as “green”. While the church decided that it did not have enough funds to cover the expense of LEED certification, it is required to meet California Green Standards. The Cal Green standards became law as of January 2011 and are designed to require that all new building and renovations in California meet LEED type standards. In some cases, the Cal Green standards are more rigorous than LEED.

During the past spring, well before construction began, the church volunteer grounds crew, transplanted and saved numerous drought resistant plants from damage during reconstruction. They will be replanted once construction is completed. Those that would not be needed were given or sold to members of the congregation for replanting.



At this point, (late-July, 2011), the demolition crew and volunteer helpers have dismantled the previous entry hall that served as the gathering space, the new sewer system has

been completed, the ground prepared for the beginning of construction. During demolition of the moldy, asbestos-contaminated hall, kitchen, and bathroom area, special precautions were taken to ensure the safety of all. The demolition material was separated and most of it recycled or reused in some way. For example, the contractor has saved the concrete flooring so that it can be crushed and reused. Volunteers sorted out all



redwood timbers and boards for reuse, and the several hanging light fixtures were donated to the Habitat for Humanity Restore.

With regard to energy efficiency, the Meeting Hall will be renovated with the addition of a new insulated roof with a skylight to bring more light into the space. The roof has never been insulated before. Also, the Meeting Hall will have a new accessibility ramp, and upgraded electrical work. . Energy efficient HVAC systems will be installed.

The Social Hall Project includes accessible bathrooms (for the first time), a commercial style kitchen, ample storage, and a small meeting room. The architect's plans call for the use of natural light to reduce the use of electricity and HVAC systems that are zonal to allow heating and cooling based on what parts of the building are being used. The kitchen and bathrooms will have on-demand water heaters. The toilets will be low-flow. Energy efficient lighting fixtures and appliances are included in the plans.

The site will have a new on-site storm water retention pond, with subsurface drainage system downspouts to swale areas to keep all water on the site. The plans call for permeable surfaces, drought-hardy native plants, and drip irrigation for areas around the new Social Hall complex. (Much of the rest of the property is not irrigated at all, and is dependent on rain and ground water.) Plans include increased bike storage with racks in a couple of locations. The design of the facility will emphasize and make easier recycling and composting of on-going waste when the buildings are completed.

In order to afford the building, church members will supplement the funds raised by investing "sweat equity". To put it mildly, the building project will be consuming much of the congregation's energy, time, and resources between June 2011 and January 2012, but there is also an excitement in the air - even as we take circuitous routes around the construction site for meetings and services.

Timeline for Completion: Throughout 2011 and probably into 2012

Lead: Cathy Bleyer, Virginia Thigpen, and others

5. Sustainable Living

Project Title: Developing Wildlife Habitat

Project Description and Action: (1-3 paragraph narrative description of the project. Remember, this will be the first time the people reviewing your application will be reading about this project, be sure to provide detail.)

Goals:

- Help church find ways to live our faith that are good for both our church community and our planet.
- Motivate, support, and encourage congregants in their personal actions to work for a healthy and sustainable environment.
- Include projects that are fun and bring children and adults together in a meaningful way.
- Leave the world a better place for all living things.

In May, the GS committee sponsored a workshop for adults and children to complete native bee houses to take home and mount in their yards as habitat for native bees. We are providing information for the congregation about the importance of these bees, and ask that they provide a picture of their bee house in its location and report back on whether their bee houses have been used. (Future workshops may include small bird, owl, bat and butterfly boxes)

We are working on adding a permanent source of water accessible to wildlife year-round and planting native plants to attract native bees and butterflies.

We have already begun to give monthly bird walks before the first service on the second Sunday of each month.

We plan to map out a nature walk on the church grounds. And as this project develops, we will have nature walks that are also worship services with readings and meditation.

The Green Sanctuary will work with the Grounds Committee to develop a new self-guided tour brochure to introduce congregants to our 6 acres of church grounds, and a second brochure to supplement the new nature trail to be developed on the property. As part of this project, we will develop a list of the species that live on the grounds.

By late fall 2011 we expect to apply for National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat. This is a very important project as the church's 6+ acres, which supports a fair amount of wildlife, is about to become an island surrounded by development.

Timeline for Completion: Throughout 2011 and then on-going
Lead: Gordon Lane, Reeda Palmer, Judy Moores and others

Final Comment: During the past decade, the state of planet, greenhouse gas emissions, species extinction and other environmental issues have become more ominous. Fortunately, our state and local governments and many nonprofit organizations are working hard to meet some of the challenges, but they need our grassroots efforts of support to champion their work. Our GS work is not a *fait accompli*, but rather the prelude to challenges that grow with each passing month and year. There is much to be afraid of in the world today. However, when we face our fears, and what better place to do so than in a loving UU community, we can find hope and the will to meet the challenges of the climate crisis before us.