



Seventh Principle Project Annual Report 2003 – 2004

June 2004

Report from the Board Chair

I am happy to report that the Seventh Principle Project (SPP) has emerged as the premiere source of earth-inspired spirituality, eco-justice, and environmental education for Unitarian Universalists.

The SPP Board has worked hard during the past year to enable our organization to grow. We are increasingly successful at engaging UUs in the work of our Seventh Principle, but at the same time, too small and under-funded to fulfill the growing needs. In looking to the future with purpose and vision, the Board has adopted an ambitious plan to provide services to UUs across the U.S. and Canada. The four general goals of the plan are:

- **Increase organizational effectiveness:** to insure consistent program delivery, reliable administrative operations, and accountability.
- **Expand environmental program delivery:** to fulfill our emerging role as the UU “informed voice” on environmental matters.
- **Expand Green Sanctuary Program breadth and depth:** to encourage and guide congregations to become Green Sanctuaries,

and to facilitate continued engagement of accredited Green Sanctuary congregations.

- **Increase Seventh Principle Project Mission awareness:** to inspire deeper connections between our natural world and our spiritual lives.

To implement this plan, the Board has embarked on an aggressive fundraising strategy, including the recent submission of an application for major foundation grant support. As an independent affiliate program, SPP receives no financial support from the UUA. For the past two years we have supported our Director of Environmental Ministry at 10-15 hours per week on small grants, memberships, donations, and sales of the Green Sanctuary manual. All of these need to continue to grow, so we encourage your continued memberships, donations, and purchases.

The SPP has had a successful year as this annual report shows. We proceed to the next year with hope and faith that it will bring new successes and growth.

Sincerely,
Steven Maier
Chair, Seventh Principle Project Board

Special Thanks to:

To our many **volunteers**, especially board members, who put in many hours on critical projects.

Three of our member congregations for taking a special collection to support the Seventh Principle Project: Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria, VA (second year in a row), UU Congregation of Frederick, MD, and the Unitarian Society of New Haven in Hamden, CT.

UUA Staff members who have made commitments to integrate the Seventh Principle into their mission areas, especially to Jan Sneegas, General Assembly Manager, who has enthusiastically and successfully promoted the “Greening GA” initiative to the GA Planning Committee.

Sparrow Alden, Religious Educator at the UU Congregation of the Upper Valley in Norwich, VT, who has started to develop a much needed inventory of RE materials that teach children a UU perspective for honoring the Earth.

Ferry Beach (once again) for making their GA program slots available to the Seventh Principle Project for our RE workshop, “Nurturing Our Children’s Spirit-Nature Connections.”

UU Funding Program for the financial support we have received from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism. Last year’s grant of \$5,000 was coupled with a challenge grant for another \$5,000. Thanks to the support of our members and friends, we have gathered the matching funds and will soon receive the grant.

All of our members who this year contributed more than the minimum amount when they paid their annual membership dues.

Accomplishments in 2003 – 2004

Green Sanctuary Program

- In 2003, we completed restructuring of the Green Sanctuary Program and published the third edition of the Manual. Since June 2002, fifteen congregations have been accredited as Green Sanctuaries and 35 other congregations are enrolled as candidates.
- More than 850 GS Manuals have been distributed, including a text version available on CD-rom. We have delivered GS workshops to over 250 UUs from nearly 50 congregations around the country, including Elgin, IL; Waterloo, Ontario; and Boston, MA.

Organizational Development

- SPP worked to develop institutional networks, board-member capacity, and fund-raising tools for our longer-term viability, to meet our increasing demand for ministry and materials.
- We developed and submitted an application for major foundation grant support which, if successful, will significantly increase SPP's ability to provide programs and services.

Communications and Networking

- Published and distributed three newsletters to 400 members and friends.
- Maintained a website with an expanding array of resources at www.uuaspp.org and hosted a GS list-serve, with 230 subscribers, at <http://www.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/greensanctuary>.
- Published program materials such as Volume One of *Earth and Spirit Songbook* (July 2003), and resource materials for the environmental elements for congregational life (under development for Worship and RE).
- During 2003-2004 we began a conversation with staff at Ferry Beach Park Association (Maine) and Ferry Beach Ecology School to explore ways to collaborate on programs. Both organizations are contributing to the Religious Education Resources described above and will be participating in the RE Resource Workshop at GA 2004.

Quality GA Programming

- Continued our successful programs at GA, attracting high-caliber speakers on current and unfolding issues. In 2003, we hosted Frances

Moore Lappe (author, Diet for a Small Planet and Hope's Edge) and Bill McKibben (author, End of Nature, and Enough).

- In 2004, noted theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether (author of Gaia and God: an Ecofeminist Theology of Earth Healing) will be our keynote speaker.

Greening GA Initiative

- SPP proposed to the GA Planning Committee that they look into ways to "green" future General Assemblies. Well received by the committee, our proposal was reinforced by a survey of GA 2003 (Boston) attendees indicating strong interest in this initiative by at least 1,000 GA respondents. Since then, the GA Planning Committee has contracted with a consultant to lead this effort, while also committing to other actions in the direction of events that are "resource-neutral."

Seventh Principle Project

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Rev. Katherine Jesch, Director of Environmental Ministry

Board of Directors

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The mission of the Seventh Principle Project is to facilitate and support Unitarian Universalists in affirming and promoting our seventh principle: *"respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."* It is our vision that Unitarian Universalists are called to more consciously recognize and embrace our moral imperative to live in covenant with the web of life.

GREEN SANCTUARY UPDATE

This year at GA, we will celebrate four new accredited Green Sanctuaries: Beverly Unitarian Church, Chicago, IL; Bradford Community Church, UU, Kenosha, WI; UU Church of the West, Brookfield, WI; and the UU Fellowship of Sussex County, Newton, NJ. Congregations may become Green Sanctuary candidates at any time throughout the year. Since last June we have enrolled 15 new congregations (see sidebar for the complete list). Most of these candidates will continue their work into the next year, and several have reported they are close to completing the requirements for accreditation.

The Green Sanctuary Program continues to grow and spread to congregations throughout the U.S. and Canada. The very popular Green Sanctuary Manual, now in its third edition, continues to be in high demand. This year alone we have distributed nearly 250 copies, an indication that UUs everywhere are hungry for resources and activities that help them act on their environmental values through their faith.

Green Sanctuary has five important goals: 1) To build awareness of ecological and environmental issues; 2) To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes; 3) To motivate local community environmental initiatives; 4) To connect spiritual practice and environmental consciousness; and 5) To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.

Our direct outreach and congregational support for Green Sanctuary have lagged somewhat this year, due to lack of funds to support staff time and travel. However, we have focused significant energy on developing resources for use in congregations. One of our most rewarding projects has been to collect worship resources celebrating our connection with the Earth. We have compiled sermons, meditations, readings and other materials for earth-centered UU worship. A pilot collection will be released at a workshop at General Assembly, and a packet of materials will be available for sale at our exhibit booth.

We have also launched a project to create an inventory of RE materials that teach children a UU perspective for honoring the Earth. Ultimately, we plan to create a set of resources with a UU focus that contains: 1) teacher guides for up to 15 new works, 2) an annotated bibliography of publications, 3) an archive of inter-generational and children's worship services, and 4) a new one-month long sample curriculum.

We believe these resources, along with Jim Scott's Earth and Spirit Songbook which we published last year, will be a significant addition to the available tools for a uniquely Unitarian Universalist approach to healing our relationship with the Earth. Next year, we hope to initiate at least one or two more resource packets to round out the library of materials to help congregations in this crucial work.

Green Sanctuaries

19 Accredited

Allen Ave. UU, Portland, ME
*Beverly Unitarian, Chicago, IL
*Bradford Community Ch, Kenosha, WI
Emerson Unitarian, Houston, TX
1st Unitarian, Hamilton, ONT
1st UU Church, Ann Arbor, MI
Granite Peak UU, Prescott, AZ
Mainline Unitarian, Devon, PA
Unitarian Church, Harrisburg, PA
UU Church of Elgin, IL
UU Church of Spokane, WA
*UU Church West, Brookfield, WI
1st Unitarian, Portland, OR
1st Unitarian, Albuquerque, NM
Unitar Fellowship, Sarnia/Port Huron, ONT
UU Congregation of Upper Valley, VT
UU Fellowship, Morristown, NJ
*UU Fellowship, Sussex County, NJ
Unitarian Church, Montpelier, VT
*Newly accredited this year!

31 Candidates

All Souls Church, Braintree, MA
All Souls Church, Brattleboro, VT
Arlington Street Church, Boston, MA
Bay Area UU Church, Houston, TX
Community Church of New York, NY
1st Church Universalist, Barre, VT
1st Unitarian Church, Oklahoma City, OK
1st UU Church, Austin, TX
1st UU Church of Berks Co, Reading, PA
Gaia Community, Shawnee Mission, KS
Holston Valley UU, Gray, TN
Hopedale UU Community, Oxford, OH
Kingston Unitar Fellowship, Kingston, ONT
Mt. Vernon Unitarian, Alexandria, VA
Unitarian Church, Evanston, IL
Unitarian Church, Montreal, Que
Unitarian Fellowship, West Chester PA
UU Church, Annapolis, MD
UU Church, Belfast, ME
UU Church Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, PA
UU Church, Tallahassee, FL
UU Congregation of Columbus, IN
UU Congre. Monmouth Co., Lincroft, PA
UU Westside Congre., Rio Rancho, NM
UU Fellowship, Ames, IA
UU Fellwshp of Cen. Co, State College, PA
UU Fellowship, Ft. Myers, FL
UU Fellowship, Franklin, NC
UU Fellowship, Gainesville, FL
UU Fellowship, Midland, MI
UU Fellowship, Pottstown, PA

Membership – Continuing Support

Our 114 individual members are spread across the country, with at least a few members in most districts. Of our 29 congregational members, nine are in New England and Mid-Atlantic; the 15 Midwest congregations reflect significant Green Sanctuary activity in Chicago and environs. Our membership numbers do not begin to reflect the level of participation in environmental program activities, however. SPP's future plans include strategies to dramatically increase membership. We know, for example, that we always bring in new members at our hands-on workshops, presentations, and other events.

Thank you to all our members and especially to those who made donations above the minimum membership dues of \$25 for individuals/ families and \$100 for congregations. The following are our current congregational members:

Granite Peak UU Congregation, Prescott, AZ #
 First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR #
 UU Church of Spokane, WA #
 Mainline Unitarian Church, Devon, PA #
 UU Church Belfast, ME *
 UU Church of the West, Brookfield, WI *
 Mt. Vernon UU Church, Alexandria, VA *
 UU Church of Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, PA *
 UU Church of Annapolis, MD *
 Hopedale UU Community, Middletown, OH *
 Arlington Street Church UU, Boston, MA *
 UU Congregation of Columbus, IN *
 UU Westside Congregation, Rio Rancho, NM *
 UU Fellowship of Franklin, NC *
 UU Church of Asheville, NC *
 Bay Area UU Church, Webster, TX *

UU Fellowship of Gainesville, FL *
 First UU Church of Berks Co., Reading, PA *
 Community Church of New York, NY *
 UU Fellowship of Frederick, MD
 UU Church of Riverside, CA
 First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, MN
 All Souls Church Unitarian, Washington, DC
 UU Congregation of Atlanta, GA
 All Souls UU Church, Kansas City, MO
 First Parish, Unitarian, Milford, MA
 UU Church of Arlington, VA
 Unitarian Society of New Haven, Hamden, CT
 First Universalist Society in New Haven, CT

* Green Sanctuary Candidates

Accredited Congregations

Seventh Principle Project Financial Summary July 2003 -- June 2004 (estimated)

REVENUES		EXPENSES	
Individual Dues	3,000	Organizational Effectiveness (admin., fundraising, meetings, etc.)	4125
Congregational Dues	1,400	Environmental Program Delivery (newsletter, General Assembly)	1850
Donations	5,700	Green Sanctuary Program (materials, printing, travel)	2600
Grants	5,000	Mission Awareness (advertising, GA booth, Interfaith)	1500
GS Manual sales	5,200	Staff (Dir. of Environmental Ministry)	12,000
GS Candidate fees	1,800		
GS Program	500		
Savings interest	10		
TOTAL REVENUES	22,610	TOTAL EXPENSES	22,075