



# Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

## Annual Report, May 2006

---

UU Ministry for Earth is actively building a Unitarian Universalist voice for Earth. Thanks to your membership support and the hard work of staff and volunteers, our accomplishments this year are exceptional.

- **We are steadily growing an engaged membership** – For the second year in a row, membership has increased by over 60%.
- **We are significantly expanding our program delivery** - In 2005-06, thanks to our new Regional Representatives, District contacts increased by over 200%, the number of worship services delivered grew by 80%, and the number of contacts regarding Green Sanctuary programming increased by over 400%!
- **We are making visible a strong grassroots base** - UUMFE members have written nearly 100 letters & postcards to UUA President Sinkford; shared scores of Earth Day and other congregational activities, and submitted thoughtful and detailed comments on the draft Statement of Conscience.
- **We are increasing the visibility of Green Sanctuary Congregations** - This year's new Green Sanctuaries will be formally recognized by the UUA at GA. Congregational stories are now a regular feature in our bi-annual newsletters and monthly e-updates and are passed on to the UUA Information Office. This year the first annual summary report of Green Sanctuary activities will be submitted to the UUA.
- **We are calling for increased attention and support from the UUA** - via our grassroots letter-writing campaigns, by building strong working relationships with departments within the UUA, and by persistent, respectful requests for recognition, including a request to the UUA Board of Trustees for inclusion of funding for Earth ministry in the 2008 budget (as we go to press, we have not yet received a reply).
- **We are increasing organizational effectiveness and staffing** - This November we hired a quarter-time office manager to insure consistent program delivery, reliable administrative operations, and accountability. We also retained the services of a volunteer CPA, Linda Collyer, to oversee our financial operations.
- **We are leading the dialogue on global warming** - The above accomplishments have been made while simultaneously meeting the unanticipated challenge of providing resources, forums, inspiration, and a framework for UUs to study, act, and create a Statement of Conscience on Global Warming.

In the coming year we will continue our commitment to serving congregations by supporting their work with resources, consultations, ministry, and advocacy. We will continue the call to make Earth care and celebration central to Unitarian Universalism. And we will continue to build our membership base and financial resources with a goal of hiring an Executive Director within the next two years. In addition, we will be building a volunteer skills bank as a means of further increasing volunteer participation in our shared Earth ministry.

If you have renewed or joined since March, please accept our deep appreciation for your support for the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007). If you have not yet renewed, please reflect on the achievements outlined in this report. UU Ministry for Earth is truly worthy of your generous financial support and your active participation.

Thank you again for all of your time, energy, commitment to the Earth that sustains us all.

The Board of Directors, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

**UU Ministry for Earth  
2005-2006 Board of Directors**

Claudia Kern, Chair, Lyme, NH  
Terry Wiggins, Treas., Kansas City, MO  
Ann May, Houston, TX  
Steve Maier, Middlebury, VT  
Karen Urbano, Anaheim Hills, CA  
Sharon Roberts, Auburn, AL  
Robert Keim, Bushnell, FL  
Lara Hoke, Worcester, MA  
Barbara Ford, Portland, OR  
&  
Rev. Katherine Jesch, (ex officio)

Contact Information:  
PO Box 11, Lyme, NH 03768  
Phone: 301-588-0944  
Email: [office@uuministryforearth.org](mailto:office@uuministryforearth.org)  
[www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org)

## Accomplishments in 2005-2006

As of May 20, 2006

### *Membership*

- Household and individual memberships have increased this year from 188 to 307
- Congregational memberships have increased from 44 to 57.

### *Program Delivery & Congregational Outreach*

#### **Ministry**

The Director of Environmental Ministry (DEM), Rev. Katherine Jesch, conducted 6 Green Sanctuary-related programs, 7 worship services, 2 District programs, 1 week-long summer camp program, and 1 retreat. In addition she appeared on a radio talk program, testified with 4 other faith community representatives on the Oregon Clean Car Initiative, and co-lead a reflection on social justice leadership for the UU Minister's Association Oregon Cluster. She also received a scholarship to attend the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Conference in New Orleans in early June 2006.

#### **Green Sanctuary Program.**

- The number of Accredited Green Sanctuary Congregations has grown from 31 in June 2005 to 45 as of this date with another 6 pending

review prior to GA 2006. In addition 31 other congregations are officially in candidacy at this writing.

- 308 UUs participate in GS list serv. See: <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/greensanctuary>
- This year we established a review panel to formally review all Green Sanctuary applications.

## Accredited Green Sanctuary Congregations May 20, 2006

First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, NM  
UU Church of Annapolis, MD  
First UU Church of Ann Arbor, MI  
First UU Church of Austin, TX  
First Universalist Church of Barre, Barre, VT  
UU Church of Belfast, ME  
UU Church of the Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, PA  
All Souls Church UU in Brattleboro, VT  
Brookfield UU Church, Brookfield, MA  
UU Church West, Brookfield, WI  
Beverly Unitarian Church, Chicago, IL  
UU Congregation of Columbus, IN  
Mainline Unitarian Church, Devon, PA  
First Unitarian Church of Duluth, MN  
UU Church of Elgin, IL  
Unitarian Church of Evanston, IL  
UU Fellowship of Franklin, NC  
UU Fellowship of Gainesville, FL  
First Unitarian Church of Hamilton Ontario, Canada  
Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, PA  
UU Comm. Church of Washington Co., Hillsboro, OR  
Bay Area UU Church, Houston, TX  
Emerson Unitarian Church, Houston, TX  
Bradford Community Church, UU, Kenosha, WI  
UU Congregation of Monmouth County, Lincroft NJ  
First Unitarian Society of Madison, WI  
Bull Run Unitarian Universalists, Manassas, VA  
UU Society East, Manchester, CT  
UU Fellowship of Midland, MI  
Unitarian Church of Montpelier, VT  
Unitarian Church of Montreal, QU, Canada  
UU Fellowship of Morristown, NJ  
Community Church of New York, NY  
UU Fellowship of Sussex County, Newton, NJ  
UU Congregation of the Upper Valley, Norwich, VT  
First Unitarian Church, Oklahoma City, OK  
Allen Avenue UU Church, Portland, ME  
First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR  
Granite Peak UU Church, Prescott, AZ  
Olympia Brown UU Church, Racine WI  
UU Westside Congregation, Rio Rancho, NM  
Unitarian Fellowship, Sarnia & Port Huron, Ont., Canada  
UU Church of Spokane, WA  
UU Church of Saco & Biddeford, ME  
UU Church of Tallahassee, FL

## UUMFE Regional Representatives

In spring of 2005 UUMFE received a grant of \$7000 from the UU Funding Program to recruit and train regional representatives to increase direct services to districts and congregations. In less than seven months these extraordinary volunteers have dramatically increased the visibility of UUMFE and the Green Sanctuary Program. They have conducted over 22 worship services, made more than 32 separate contacts with District Executives and staff, and provided a UUMFE presence at 12 District Annual Meetings. In addition, they consulted with 32 separate congregations and represented UUMFE and Unitarian Universalism at four interfaith events and 21 community events. Presently there are 20 regional representatives serving 16 Districts. They are:

Ballou-Channing District:	Kevin Carlson
Clara Barton District:	Kath Shomaker Denise Frizzell
Florida District:	Lea Hall
Joseph Priestly District:	Jack Harper
Mass Bay District:	Wendy Irvine, Bruce Langmuir
Metro District:	Reena Kondo
Mtn. Desert District:	Denise Rue- Pastin
New Hampshire/Vermont District:	Jon McGovern
Northeast District:	Sally Breen
Ohio/Meadville District:	Nancy King Smith
Pacific Central District:	Craig Scott
Pacific Northwest District:	Rina Fa'amoe
Pacific Southwest District:	Vincent Pawlowski
Prairie Star District:	Doug Walter
St. Lawrence District:	Pat McEvoy
Thomas Jefferson District:	Kitty Bass, Anita & Eric Harrington

### ***Response to Study Action Issue on the Threat of Global Warming***

- Drafted and distributed an alternative draft Statement of Conscience to more deeply engage UU Congregations on the issue.
- Hosted the Global Warming list serv: <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/globalwarming>

### ***New Resources for Congregations***

- Complete Earth Day Service now available online
- Green Building Resource (after GA 06)
- Eco-Justice Resource (after GA 06)

## ***Organizational Development***

- Membership approved changing the name of our organization from The Seventh Principle Project to UU Ministry for Earth.
- Hired 40-hour per month office manager and retained services of volunteer accountant to oversee financial operations.
- Increased communication with membership with launch of monthly electronic news updates.
- Implemented policy to offset emissions for Board travel. Adopted policy to use 100% recycled content paper whenever possible.
- Committed to major upgrade of website to be completed Fall 2006. [www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org) has been visited over 46,000 times since May 15, 2005, with an average of 156 visits per day.

## ***UUA Collaboration and Advocacy***

- In March 2006 made formal request to the UUA Board of Trustees to include funding for UU Ministry for Earth in 2008 budget. At this date there has been no response.
- Continued work with GA Planning Committee for Greening General Assemblies. UUMFE proposal was implemented adding a check-off box on GA registration form for purpose of offsetting carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions associated with attending GA.
- Initiated outreach to Young Religious UUs with two articles for YRUU online publication, Synapse.
- Partnered with the UU Church of San Antonio, TX to bring that congregation's Ten Tree Challenge to UUs everywhere.

## ***Collaboration with others***

- Carbonfund.org now partners with UUMFE. When members offset CO2 using Carbonfund.org, 7% of the donation supports UUMFE work.
- Earth Day collaboration with Earth Day Net and UUA Office of Congregational Advocacy

## ***Our Vision***

**The vision of UU Ministry for Earth is that UUs recognize and embrace our moral imperative to live in covenant with the web of life through personal, congregational, and denominational practices.**

### *Finances*

- This year the average individual donation was \$79 with donations ranging from \$20 to \$10,000.
- Revenue from sale of UUMFE resources was down significantly from \$11,456 dollars in 2004-05 to \$6,801 for this year.
- Board members reported a total of \$3560 in in-kind donations to UUMFE.

### *Special Acknowledgments*

**To the committed UU Congregations who supported UU Ministry for Earth beyond the \$100 congregational membership level with extra donations and special collections:**

UU Church West of Brookfield, WI	\$250
Cedar Lane UU Church, Bethesda, MD	\$500
All Souls Church, Washington, DC	\$2700
First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR	\$1100
UU Congregation of Frederick, MD	\$430

**To all of our members who this year contributed more than the limited income (\$20) or basic membership (\$35) amount.** We are especially grateful to an anonymous donor for a gift of \$10,000 and for the 28 individuals and 11 households made gifts between \$100 and \$1000. **Thank You!**

**To our GA Program Sponsors:** Star Island Religious Education Conference and Ferry Beach Park Association for making their GA program slots available to us for additional environmental programming at GA.

**To UU Funding Program** for a matching grant in the amount of \$3500 to help fund the production of a faith-based version of the film *Kilowatt Ours*, which will highlight churches who are addressing global warming by implementing energy conservation measures and will be a tool to inspire more congregational action.

**To Our Volunteers:**

**Linda Collyer**, CPA, our volunteer accountant.

**Barbara Hynak**, Attorney at Law, for serving as our registered agent in the State of Virginia and for assisting us in the legalities of the name change.

**Green Sanctuary Review Panel Members:** Dave Segal, Happy Bradford, and Cathy Cramer.

**Bob Luoma**, our Webmaster, for countless hours spent updating and improving our website.

**Klaus Obermeit**, who is editing hundreds of photos submitted by Green Sanctuary congregations into a slide show for the 2006 GA plenary.

**The Global Warming Working Group**, for thoughtful and careful research and deliberation, especially on the science of global Warming. **Bruce Langmuir, Chad Tolman, Jack Harper, Tony Newey, Doug Stewart, Marilyn O'Boyle, Michelle Sprengnether, and Lisa Hershberger.** Also to **Colin High** and **Rich Wolfson** for expert consultation on the science of global warming.

### **Third Quarter Financial Summary, UUMFE July 1, 2005- Mar. 31, 2006**

#### **Revenues**

Individual Member Dues	6,955
Congregational Dues	3,250
Donations	17,508
Resource Sales	6,801
UUMFE Income	618
GS Application Fees	900
GS Program Income	1,930
Other Income	160

**Total Revenue 38,122.00**

#### **Expenses**

Internet Fees	230.59
Office Supplies & Equip.	428.73
Postage - Admin	466.96
Board & Conf. Exp.	951.79
Telephone	551.96
Newsletter	386.83
Advertising	1,028.00
Member Development	363.62
Bank Charges & Admin	1,139.18
Resources	3,386.04
GA Booth Rental	700.00
GS Program	629.58
Payroll	10,474.04
Regional Coord. Exp.	5,800.65

**Total Expenses 26,537.97**