



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

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Our Vision –

A world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for Earth are central to our lives.

Our Purpose –

*To inspire and support personal, congregational, and Association practices
that honor and sustain Earth and all beings.*



*Welcome to a community of Unitarian Universalists who are spiritually nurtured by
our relationship with the Earth and who choose to offer the gifts of our love, our time,
our energy, and our resources to build a just and enduring Earth home.*

CLIMATE · ENVIRONMENT · JUSTICE



In the spirit of Native American consideration for the "seventh generation," our decisions should recognize impacts over time that will affect future generations.

We must act with forethought and fairness now to insure the future well-being of the interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part.

A Year of Transition and Transformation

The past year for UU Ministry for Earth has been one of significant change and challenge. The transfer of the Green Sanctuary program to the UUA along with the economic downturn called for creative new ways of thinking to respond to the challenges. The organization's board, staff, and volunteers have responded with innovative and transformative new ways of thinking about and planning for the work at hand.

Transitions

Green Sancturay Program

The Green Sanctuary Program has been successfully transferred into the UUA's hands, with care and assistance from Rev. Katherine Jesch, and UU Ministry for Earth volunteers who serve on review committees for candidates.

UUA Partnership

A strong partnership with the UUA has been forged as a result, and Green Sanctuary coordinator Robin Nelson has provided creative and committed support for the program.

Staffing Change

After some significant and difficult consideration by the board, the Director of Environmental Ministry position was eliminated, and Rev.

Katherine Jesch has moved on from her staff position with UU Ministry for Earth after ten years of leadership, ministry, and service. We honor Rev. Jesch as she enters a discernment process for the next part of her ministerial journey.

New Office Space, Manager

The UU Ministry for Earth office was settled at First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, and office manager Sabrina Harle was hired to provide administrative support for members and others interested in our ministry.

Technology Upgrades

Additionally, we were able to streamline our services to members with our new database. We have also just contracted with a website design firm to completely redesign our website to increase accessibility and networking potential. Look for these exciting changes in the next few months.



Transition and Transformation — *continued*

Transformations

Even in the face of the significant changes noted above, UU Ministry for Earth has managed to accomplish a great deal.

Tools for Earth Ministry

- **A new religious education resource** *Sounds of Nature* is now available. This is the second Children's RE curriculum donated by member and Guardian of the Future award winner Stefani Scott of Stony Brook, New York.
- The second annual **Earth Day packet** was created in collaboration with UU Service Committee and the UUA Advocacy and Witness program, providing inspirational resources for congregations across the country focusing on environmental justice and green jobs. This year, the Packet was also listed as one of three resources available for Earth Day in the Vermont Interfaith Power and Light newsletter. NOTE: The Earth Day Posters featured in this Report may be downloaded from the UUMFE website.
- The **Ethical Eating resource manual** was produced by the Ethical Eating task force, including our liaison Vicki Talbert from Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. This resource was produced as part of the Study/Action Issue process in collaboration with the UUA Commission on Social Witness.
- **Newsletters, e-newsletters and Earth and Spirit homilies** on our website provide information, inspiration and updates throughout the year.



**Barbara Ford, Chair
UU Ministry for Earth**

Transition and Transformation — *continued*

Innovative Projects

- An **Environmental Justice resource** is on the drawing boards. As a result of a working paper and our planning process, we came to a new understanding of the need for collective wisdom and action on this important issue, and are creating core teams and a process for UUs across the country to share projects and wisdom.

- **General Assembly programming**

Passport for Environmental Justice is a collaboration with UU Service Committee and the UUA offices of Advocacy and Witness and Congregational Services to encourage personal habits of sustainability and participation in EJ workshops.

Mark Winne, author of *Closing the Food Gap*, is being featured in a workshop presented in collaboration with Beacon Press.

Support from Members and Partners

- A **grant from the UUA** was integral to producing the second annual Earth Day Packet for congregations. The grant enabled us to offer a DVD of the 2008 Ware Lecture by Van Jones at a very reduced price and distribute free printed Packets to member congregations..

- We have the opportunity for a second **grant from the UUA** for ongoing networking on the district level to promote Earth Ministry in the faith.

- The **Parents for the Planet** program, created in 2008, provides a means for those who want to provide financial support for Earth Ministry beyond membership. We now have fifteen Parents, and will continue this program into the future.

New Vision for UUMFE

A new creative and collaborative model of Earth Ministry for our faith is being created, and details are forthcoming soon.

We are deepening our collaborative relationships within the faith, we've created a new model for networking and expanding the base of collective wisdom. No longer "the voice of UU environmentalism", we plan to lift up a chorus of voices from within the faith through modern web and communication tools, district level engagement, and outreach to new contributors within, and outside of the faith.

Thank you for your work in the world. Your work and faith are needed now more than ever in this changing world, and UU Ministry for Earth has exciting plans for making it easy for you to be involved. You membership and donations are gratefully accepted to support this important work in our communities.

For the Earth,
Barbara Ford
Chair, Board of Directors

Guardian of the Future Award

The first annual UUMFE Guardian of the Future Award that was presented at General Assembly 2008. The honoree was

Stefani Scott

UU Fellowship at Stony Brook, NY

Congregational Eco-Hero Awards

In 2008 UU congregations honored individuals in their congregations who were “walking the walk” in large and small ways to create a sustainable future. In addition, several congregations chose to nominate their honoree for the national Guardian of the Future Award. The nominees were:

Dennis Briley, UU Church West, Brookfield, WI
Susan Brown, Dearborn, MI, Church of the
Larger Fellowship

Jan Clement, Accotink UU Church, Burke, VA

Marge Gonzalez, UU Church of Ft. Myers, FL

Eldon Haines, UU Church in Eugene, OR

Rich and Elaine Held, UU Congregation of
Monmouth County, Lincroft, NJ

Roger Johnson, UU Congregation of Atlanta, GA

Bruce Langmuir, First Parish of Sudbury, MA

Bill Martin, UU Congregation of the Upper Valley,
Norwich, VT.

Judy Moores, UU Church of Davis, CA

Bob Ringlee, First Unitarian Society of
Schenectady, NY

Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, UU Fellowship at Stony
Brook, NY

Sylvia Weaver, UU Church of St. John, Virgin
Islands



UUMFE, Members and Congregations Recognized by Sierra Club

The 2008 Sierra Club **Faith in Action Report** featured the work of UUMFE members *Terry Wiggins*, *Dr. Chad Tolman* and their congregations, plus congregations in Chicago, Illinois and Middlebury, Vermont. Also, UU Ministry for Earth was included in the list of National Resources in the Report.

Special Acknowledgements

To the members who contributed more than the basic membership, we are especially grateful. We have listed two groups below.

- ◆ The generous Parents for the Planet supporters
- ◆ UU congregations who supported UU Ministry for Earth beyond the annual membership level with special collections, split-the-plate collections and donations May 2008 - May 2009.

Parents for the Planet

Marney Bruce, Bethesda, MD
Barbara Ford, Portland, OR
Denise Frizzell, Hudson, MA
P. Roger Gillette, Salem OR
Irene Graff and Deb Hamano,
Long Beach, CA
Ben Hammett, Palo Alto, CA
Eileen Hiney and Frank Yeatman,
Bridgewater, MA
Bob and Irene Keim, Bushnell, FL
Ann and David May, Houston, TX

Ed and Ellen McClaren, Reston, VA
Kemp and Nancy King Smith,
Shaker Heights, OH
Charles and Vicky Talbert,
Pleasant Prairie, WI
Karen And Ramon Urbano,
Woodland, CA
Ann and Mark Veldman,
Bloominton, IN
Bruce and Terry Wiggins,
Milwaukee, WI

Honor Congregations

Mt. Vernon Unit. Ch., **Alexandria, VA**
UU Church of **Arlington, VA**
Cedar Lane UU Church, **Bethesda, MD**
River Road Unit. Church, **Bethesda, MD**
UU Church of **Boulder, CO**
Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church-UU,
Charlottesville, VA
First Unitarian Church in **Cleveland, OH**
Second Cong. Society, **Concord, NH**
UU Church of **Davis, CA**

First Parish in **Framingham, MA**
UU Congregation of **Frederick, MD**
Starr King UU Church, **Hayward, CA**
Emerson Unitarian Ch., **Houston, TX**
All Souls UU Church, **Kansas City, MO**
First Parish of **Lexington, KY**
First Unitarian Soc. of **Madison, WI**
UU Society: East, **Manchester, CT**
First Parish Church Unitarian,
Northborough, MA
UU Cong. of Fairfax, **Oakton, VA**
UU Church of **Palo Alto, CA**
First Unitarian Church, **Portland, OR**
UU Congregation of **Princeton, NJ**
UU Church in **Reston, VA**
Rainier Valley UU Cong., **Seattle, WA**
Pathways Church, **Southlake, TX**
UU Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes,
Tamworth, NH
First Parish of **Watertown, MA**
UU Society of **Wellesley Hills, MA**



Financial Summary, July 2007 -- April 2008

Income

Memberships	12,860.00
Donations & Grant *	34,634.79
Resource Sales	6,034.40
Program Delivery & UUA Consulting Fees	2,087.50
Interest Income	26.24
Total Income	55,642.93

Expense

UUA Affiliate Fee	100.00
Internet Fees/Domain Registration /Website Development	1,640.50
Office Supplies and Equipment	534.88
Postage and Shipping	324.64
Board Meetings & Conference Expense *	6,033.18
Telephone	578.42
Newsletter	974.12
Fundraising/Member Development	266.40
Administrative Expenses	1,088.07
General Informational Material Resources	1,270.59
General Assembly	1,340.00
Green Sanctuary Program	254.20
Rent (Portland Office)	5,448.08
Payroll Expenses (p/t minister, office mgr, clerk) **	43,237.84
Grant Expenses, other than salary	1,520.84
Total Expense	64,650.24



Terry Wiggins, Treasurer
UU Ministry for Earth

Bank account balances were \$33,964.39 on April 30.

For this year, total projected income is \$63,663.48, and projected expenses are \$76,939.75 for a net loss of \$14,797.11.

The projected income figure is 70% of budget, whereas the projected expense figure is 85% of the amount budgeted.

*Includes 5,142 for In-Kind Board Travel to two meetings, remainder is staff travel expense.

** \$4,500 is being paid from grant.

Directors, Staff and Volunteers

Officers

Barbara Ford
Board Chair
Portland, OR

Terry Wiggins
Treasurer
Kansas City, MO

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Order Fulfillment
Brooksville, FL

Sabrina Harle
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Oakland, CA

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



"Biodiversity" signifies the variety of living plants and animals on Earth.

All living things interact to maintain the delicate balance that sustains life itself. Even a little disruption to that complex interaction can create unforeseen and harmful consequences elsewhere in the system, just as breaking one strand of a spider's web can create chaos at the far end of her handiwork.

Humanity now has the capacity to alter the environment and destroy life on a global scale. We have made ourselves a force of nature and thus victims of justice for all Earth's species. By our actions, we have taken ourselves and the biosphere hostage, and our release depends on our ability to preserve the fragile ecological balance that rests on the foundation of biodiversity.

GREEN JOBS · ENVIRONMENT · JUSTICE

Criteria for an Environmentally Just Green Jobs Program

- Employ workers from depressed areas in sustainable jobs
- Utilize existing manufacturing infrastructure where possible to reduce environmental impact of new building and development and stimulate economic and social healing in places that have experienced significant job loss
- Focus on strategic job training that teaches skills in "green steps" for entry into new "green economy" career paths out of poverty, ensure that training is implemented and available equitably
- Build the capacity of low-income communities of color to connect with the sustainability movement and reap both the job and quality-of-life benefits
- Ensure that jobs are located in areas that are accessible to reliable, frequent, round-the-clock public transit



Act! • EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS • HOLD A SOLUTIONS SALON
• HELP YOUR TOWN OR CITY SIGN THE GREEN JOBS PLEDGE

Treasured Volunteers

Linda Collyer
Accountant
Potomac, MD

Karen Holmgren
Graphic Artist
Oceanside, CA

Barbara A. Hynak
Attorney
Arlington, VA

Jeff Norris
Webmaster
Chicago, IL

Stefani Scott
Author
Stony Brook, NY

Vicki Talbert
Ethical Eating Team
Pleasant Prairie, WI

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