



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
MINISTRY FOR EARTH**

**2009-2010 Annual Report**

# Becoming the Town Square for Earth Ministry

**UU Ministry for Earth** is becoming the hub for UU Earth ministry to help move Unitarian Universalism forward in this work. We have made progress this year in developing ways to gather and share information and to organize for advocacy. We have been greatly helped by the presence of Rowan Van Ness, Program Associate for Environmental Justice in the Washington Office of Advocacy and Witness, and the leadership of former UUMFE Board member, Steve Maier, as interim executive director from July to December .

In 2009-10, as the organization emerged from its “post-Green Sanctuary” state, much of its work focused on environmental justice. Here are some highlights.

## Environmental Justice Grants

- Completed a grant from the UU Funding Program that resulted in the on-line publication of the first of three “green papers” on Earth and Justice. A number of people were involved in providing material which Claudia Kern and Steve Maier used to write the papers. The papers are intended to continue the conversation about what environmental justice is, its history within UUism, and how it can be moved forward by congregations and the Association. We are inviting comments on the papers.



Bill McKibben, 350.org founder, met with the UUMFE Board,  
Staff and Friends in September 2009.

*Front Row l to r: Bob Keim, Nancy King Smith, Ann May. Center l to r: Ellen McClaran,  
Karen Urbano. Back Row l to r: Vince Pawlowski, Terry Wiggins, Steve Maier,  
Bill McKibben. Claudia Kern, Rowan Van Ness, Irene Keim.*

## **Becoming the Town Square—*continued***

- Received a second grant from the UU Funding Program to use the green papers as a base for a curriculum on Earth and Justice. Pamela Sparr and Mark Hicks have created one prototype lesson that is being tested in several congregations of different sizes this spring.
- Received a challenge grant from the UU Funding Program to expand Ministry for Earth work in Districts. Work has begun with the Northern New England, St. Lawrence and Ohio Meadville Districts. There is still an opening for one additional district to be involved.

### **Collaborations**

- In conjunction with the Office of Advocacy and Witness, hired Rowan Van Ness to serve as Program Associate for Environmental Justice for two years. Rowan has been instrumental in coordinating advocacy work on climate change and ethical eating as outlined below. Although the upcoming changes in UUA structure have eliminated the Washington Office of Advocacy and Witness and the intern program, Rowan will continue another year as part of the new Multi-cultural Growth and Witness team.
- Organized and coordinated a collaborative effort with UUSC, UU-UNO, state Legislative Ministries and the UUA Green Sanctuary program to engage congregations in participating in the 350 International Day of Climate Change on October 24, 2009. At least 110 congregations participated as part of the thousands of actions around the world and reported their stories on the UUMFE 350 registry as well as the 350.org website. Advocacy was aimed at strengthening the US position on climate change legislation prior to the International Summit in Copenhagen last December.
- Created an Earth Day packet focused on food justice and in conjunction with the Ethical Eating Core Team, encouraged participation in its 40/40/40 program in celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. Over 150 congregations registered their Earth Day events on the UUMFE site, and over half of those picked Ethical Eating as their focus.

### **Connecting Members**

- Created a new website that will facilitate interaction about issues and activities.
- Produced regular e-newsletters about current issues and events for all subscribers, and produced three full newsletters for members.
- With the help of Emily Kao and Robin Nelson of the Green Sanctuary office, produced a list of congregations whose environmental justice projects for Green Sanctuary accreditation were especially strong.

## Becoming the Town Square—continued

- Hosted a workshop, provided space at a booth and organized a collaborative “Environmental Justice Passport” for the 2009 General Assembly.
- Continued to manage the Green Sanctuary and Global Warming email lists.

### Planning for the Future

- Created a list of volunteer positions that will help Ministry for Earth’s work to continue.
- Created a job description for an Executive Director once we have adequate funding to sustain the position.

All of this has been accomplished with a dedicated Board of seven people who have donated huge amounts of time and talent, along with a number of other individuals who are acknowledged on the next page. We are grateful for the financial support of members and congregations, and for the important work that so many are doing with their congregations and communities.

As we look to the year ahead, we are hopeful that we will be able to hire a part-time Executive Director and to engage many more people in volunteer positions that will enable us to expand our reach.

For Earth,

*Nancy King Smith*

*Irene Keim*

Co-Chairs, Board of Directors



UU Fellowship of Missoula petition drive members working to end trapping of wolverines on public lands in Montana. Wolverines are near endangered status in Montana. This was a 40/40/40 program project.



## Guardian of the Future Award

The second annual UUMFE Guardian of the Future Award was presented at General Assembly 2009. The honoree was

**Colin High**

UU Congregation of the Upper Valley,  
Norwich, Vermont

## Treasured Volunteers

*Rev. Karen Brammer*  
District Grant Consultant  
Bennington, VT

*Sally Breen*  
Regional Coordinatoar  
N. New England District  
Windham, ME

*Linda Collyer*  
Accountant  
Potomac, MD

*Rina Fa'amoe*  
Regional Coordinator,  
Pacific NW District  
Redmond, WA

*Denise Frizell*  
Regional Coordinator,  
Clara Barton District

*Jack Harper*  
Regional Coordinator  
Joseph Priestley District  
Clifton, VA

*Barbara A. Hynak*  
Attorney  
Arlington, VA

*Bob Keim*  
Environment & Justice Green Papers  
Bushnell, FL

*Claudia Kern*  
Environment & Justice Green Papers  
Lyme, NH

*Reena Kondo*  
Regional Coordinator  
Metro. NY District  
New York, NY

*Bruce Langmuir*  
Regional Coordinator  
Mass. Bay District  
Sudbury, MA

*Jeff Norris*  
Webmaster  
Cleveland, OH

*Jim Scott*  
Songwriter  
Shrewsbury, MA

*Stefani Scott*  
Author  
Stony Brook, NY

*Rev. Fred Small*  
Songwriter  
Cambridge, MA

*Pamela Sparr*  
Intern Advisory Committee  
Takoma Park, MD

*Vicky Talbert*  
Ethical Eating Core Team Liaison  
Pleasant Prairie, WI

# 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 2009 - May 2010.

## 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  
*Claudia and Phil Kern*, Lyme, NH  
*Ann and David May*, Houston, TX

*Ed and Ellen McClaran*, 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*,  
Bloomington, IN  
*Bruce and Terry Wiggins*,  
Milwaukee, WI

## Honor Congregations

Mt. Vernon Unit. Ch., **Alexandria, VA**  
Auburn UU Fellowship, **Auburn, AL**  
Accotink UU Church, **Burke, VA**  
UU Church of **Davis, CA**  
First Parish in **Framingham, MA**  
UU Congregation of **Frederick, MD**  
Emerson Unitarian Ch., **Houston, TX**  
Bull Run UUs, **Manassas, VA**

UU Cong. at Shelter Rock, **Manhasset, MA**  
UU Church of **Milford, NH**  
Live Oak UU Fellowship, **Oakland, CA**  
First Unitarian Church, **Portland, OR**  
UU Church in **Reston, VA**  
UU Fellowship of **Silver City, NM**  
UU Cong. of Somerset Hills, **Somerville, NJ**  
UU Fellowship at **Stony Brook, NY**

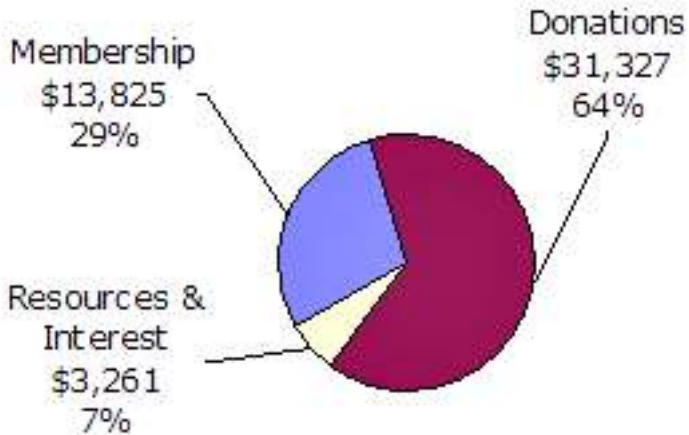


UU Congregation  
at Rock Tavern  
Earth Day Event helps  
clean up wetlands  
and local dairy farm.

# Financial Summary, May 2009 -- April 2010

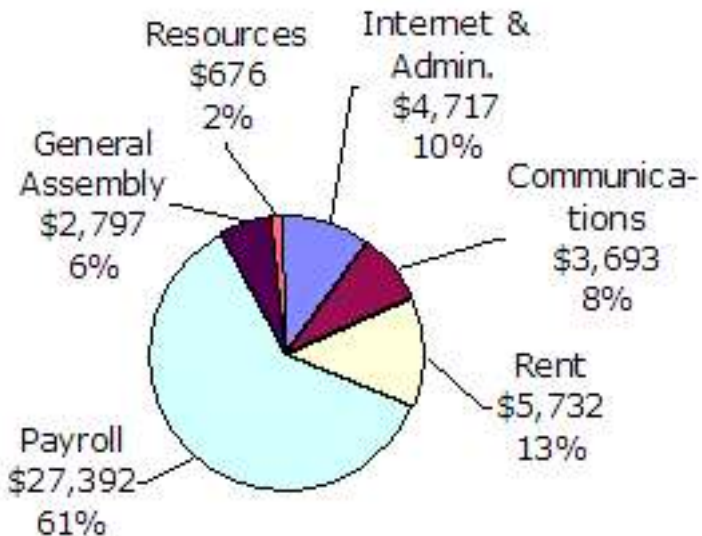
## Income, May 2009 – April 2010

Total Income = \$48,413



## Expenses, May 2009-April 2010

Total Expenses = \$45,007



Income and expenses for Environmental Justice intern not included.

# Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers

## Officers

Co-Chairs

*Irene Keim*  
Bushnell, FL

*Nancy King Smith*  
Shaker Heights, OH

Treasurer

*Terry Wiggins*  
Kansas City, MO

## Directors

*Ann May*  
Houston, TX

*Ellen McClaran*  
Reston, VA

*Vince Pawlowski*  
Tuscon, AZ

*Karen Urbano*  
Oakland, CA

## Staff

*Sabrina Harle*  
Office Manager  
Portland, OR

*Steve Maier*  
Interim Executive Dir.  
(07/2009-12/2009)  
Middlebury, VT

*Annevirginia Clements*  
Order Fulfillment  
Brooksville, FL

## Vision and Purpose

We envision a world in which all people make reverence, gratitude, and care for the living Earth central to their lives.

Our purpose is to inspire, facilitate and support personal, congregational, and denominational practices that honor and sustain Earth and all beings.

We affirm and promote the seven principles of the UUA, including:

*“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”*

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