



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

Application for Green Sanctuary Accreditation

Congregation Information

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| Congregation Name | Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis |
| Address | 2945 NW Circle Blvd., Corvallis, OR 97330 |
| Web site | uucorvallis.org |
| Green Sanctuary contact | John Elder |
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| Minister or Congregation Leader | Rev. Gretchen Woods |

Congregation Profile

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis (UUFC), a caring and welcoming congregation, was chartered in 1949. In 1956, members bought vacant World War II army buildings, moved them to newly purchased land, and the members themselves dramatically renovated them to provide a large religious discovery building and a smaller meeting hall. We called our first minister, Rev. R. C. A. Moore in 1967. Our present senior minister, the Rev. Dr. Gretchen Woods was called in 1999.

Our current paid staff also includes a full-time office administrator, Yaney LA MacIver; part-time co-directors of religious exploration, Niya Standish for children and Michael Molk for youth; music director Ray Elliott; church musician Raven Sanders; and community coordinator Jesse Ford. Numerous volunteers staff committees and devote many hours every week to UUFC.

UUFC currently has 320 voting members, 180 children and youth in RE, and over 500 families participating as members or friends. Sunday attendance (adults) is generally in the range of 100-200 during the academic year (fewer during summer). We have a gender ratio of one male to two females and a bimodal age distribution with one peak for children and one for seniors. Our ethnic composition mimics our town, Corvallis, with very few Asians, very few Hispanics, very few African-Americans and primarily folks of Northern European ancestry. Our congregation is growing slowly.

Our fellowship operates ten committees that work in the areas of (1) Social Justice and Outreach (We Care, Campus Ministry, Living the Welcoming Congregation, Social Action, Adopt a Highway, South Corvallis Food Bank, Social Concerns, Partner Church Committee); (2) Peace (Peace Action Council); and (3) Environmental Issues (Environmental Action Committee, which also serves as the Green Sanctuary Coordinating Committee). Of these, the largest and most visibly active are the Social Action Committee, the Peace Action Council and the Environmental Action Committee. These committees document our commitment to social justice, peace, and environmental preservation and justice.

Congregational Vote

From Minutes of UUFC Annual Congregational Meeting, May 16, 2010:

Green Sanctuary Resolution – Elizabeth Waldorf and John Elder, Co-chairs, Environmental Action Committee – John presented a small PowerPoint show about Green Sanctuary.

Resolution: "We the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis support the application of our Fellowship for Green Sanctuary accreditation by the Unitarian Universalist Association and commit to continue to work for sustainability."

Moved: Nick Houtman. Seconded: Judy Malouf. Passed unanimously.
Number attending – 118.

Completion of Action Plan

(Note: The following sections and projects are identified by letter/number for the purpose of reference to them in other parts of this application)

A. Worship and Celebration Projects

A1. Project Title: Earth-based Sunday Services and other Celebrations

Project Description and Action:

The Sunday Service schedule each year includes a number of services especially dedicated to appreciation and preservation of the Earth. These include our annual Earth-Day service. Most of the services that are not specifically dedicated to that topic do include environmental messages in sermons, readings, hymns, or announcements. Concern and appreciation for the Earth and all its inhabitants will continue in future years to be an important topic in our Sunday services.

In addition to the Sunday services, a variety of special services are offered each year for the purpose of celebrating and respecting the Earth and expressing concern for human actions that damage it. "Wheel-of-the-Year" (Solstice) celebrations mark special points in the Earth's annual dance around the sun. A special memorial-type service was recently organized to release sorrow, fear, and anger that we all feel about Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, and to inspire participants to take action to minimize the damage and prevent future environmental disasters.

Examples of recent earth-based services include:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Service Title & Celebrants</u> |
|-------------|--|
| 11/22/09 | Oh, We Give Thanks (Sunday service) Rev. Gretchen Woods |

- 11/29/09 Celebrating and Surviving Seasons (Sunday service)
Rev. Gretchen Woods, Don Alan Hall
- 02/07/10 The Darwin Dilemma: Observing Charles Darwin’s 201st Birthday (Sunday service)
Rev. Gretchen Woods
- 04/04/10 Resurrection for ALL; Easter Sunday with special choir music, etc. (Sunday service)
Rev. Gretchen Woods
- 04/18/10 We Are All One: Earth Day (Sunday service)
Niya Standish, Michael Molk, Ray Elliot, Raven Sanders, Rev. Gretchen Woods
- 06/16/10 Grieving the Gulf; We Gather to Witness (special service)
Anna Coffman, Diana Vezmar-Bailey, Susan Wulfekuhler, Elizabeth Waldorf
- 06/18/10 Summer Solstice Celebration (special service)
Cliff and Chere Pereira

Timeline for Completion: ongoing

Outcomes: The prioritization of topics related to concern and appreciation for the Earth in our Sunday services and other gatherings at UUFC tends to have a spillover effect to individual members. They receive inspiration and information that stimulate many of them to make changes in their personal lifestyles and home footprints that help reduce our overall environmental impacts. They may be refilled with energies of Earth to help us move beyond paralysis and act to protect and respect our planet. We support each other in this way, as we do in many other endeavors.

Lead: Rev. Gretchen Woods

A2. Project Title: Green Sanctuary Service

Project Description and Action: Members of the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) planned and presented this Sunday service, entitled “On Being Green.” It was dedicated to emphasis of understanding and preserving our natural world, and to the importance of environmental action. The service included readings and hymns with environmental messages, an interview-format presentation by several EAC members about Earth-based activities currently in progress at UUFC, and a talk – “On Being Green: Understanding UUFC as a Green Sanctuary” – by John Elder. In place of our usual “Joys and Concerns” candles, the service featured “candles of commitment,” whereby participants were invited to share their commitments to actions they would take to make positive changes for our environment (a list of specific commitments made at the service is included in the section on Program Goals, Item 2).

Timeline for Completion: March 21, 2010

Outcomes: Attendees at this service acquired increased awareness of the Green Sanctuary program, with specific information about how the process works. They were also informed about what specific Earth-based actions are going on at UUFC. As mentioned above with respect to all Earth-based services, this service provided encouragement and inspiration to congregation members to think about, and act upon, individual actions they can take.

Lead: John Elder

B. Religious Education Projects

B1. Project Title: Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Forum

Project Description and Action: UUFC hosted a forum to educate the public about the possible development of LNG facilities in Oregon. Three LNG port and storage facilities have been proposed for location along the Oregon coast – one near Coos Bay (southwest), one near Astoria (northwest), and one 38 miles up the Columbia River. The primary goal of the projects is to send gas to California, which has itself denied LNG terminal proposals because of the potential economic and environmental impacts. The terminals could seriously degrade critical salmon habitats and wetlands. Over 500 miles of new gas pipelines would impact farms, forests, streams, wetlands, and rivers.

The forum was advertised outside UUFC, and the attendance was approximately 70, including UUFC members as well as non-members from the Corvallis area. It featured a film, followed by talks and discussion by a panel of experts from various organizations, including Oregon’s Secretary of State, Bill Bradbury. Cosponsors of this forum included River Keepers and the Sierra Club. The local newspaper (“Gazette-Times”) covered the event in a front-page story the next day.

Timeline for Completion: July 8, 2008

Outcomes: This forum provided the audience with information that had not been widely publicized about the proposed LNG projects in Oregon, and their potential economic, environmental, and safety impacts. The discussion also gave encouragement to attendees to contact their legislators about this issue; many of them made such contacts immediately by signing postcards that were available after the forum.

Lead: Dianne Safford, Jean Townes, Sally Shaw

B2. Project Title: Marine Sanctuaries Forum

Project Description: UUFC hosted a forum to educate the public about the need for marine sanctuaries off the Oregon coast and around the world. While proposals for establishment of marine sanctuaries might seem to be a win-win action for everyone, they do meet with considerable opposition in the general public because of fears that fisheries and recreational areas would be lost. The fact is that strategically-placed protected areas and reserves would actually help guard against loss of fisheries, as well as maintain diverse marine ecosystems over the long term. This forum was an effort to overcome misunderstandings such as this and provide increased support for establishment of marine sanctuaries. The forum was advertised outside UUFC, and the attendance was approximately 80, including UUFC members as well as non-members from the Corvallis area.

Two UUFC members who helped to develop and present this forum are professors of marine sciences at Oregon State University. Mark Hixon, a professor of zoology, has devoted much of his career to research about marine diversity and how it can be maintained. Jim Good is a professor of marine resource management. Together, they provided extraordinary expertise on the panel.

To continue education efforts on this issue we purchased a DVD of a talk about the Oregon coast by Prof. Bill Ballantine, the father of marine reserves in New Zealand. We invited UUFC members & friends to a showing of this talk. We made the DVD available to the community access TV station in Corvallis. They broadcast it weekly during the month of December, 2008. The DVD was also made available to the community access TV station in Salem.

Timeline for Completion: December 1, 2008

Outcomes: This forum provided the audience with information that had not been widely publicized about how marine sanctuaries can be an effective solution to the threats to marine ecological diversity and fisheries. Like the LNG forum, the discussion also gave encouragement to attendees to contact their

legislators about this issue, and many of them made such contacts immediately by signing postcards that were available after the forum.

Lead: Mark Hixon, Jim Good, Elizabeth Waldorf

B3. Project Title: Middle School and Youth RE: Environmental Stewardship

Project Description and Action: The theme for the 2007-2008 school year of youth RE was “Living in Harmony with Nature – Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability.” UUFC youth worked on the UUFC grounds, learning practices and benefits of mulching. They also learned about the harm that is being done by aggressive non-native invasive plants. Members of the Coming-of-Age program worked to remove invasive English ivy from trees on the UUFC grounds, as well as from Forest Park in Portland. They also viewed an educational video about the threat of non-native plants in the environment.

In April 2008, our 7th/8th grade group hosted 37 students from middle schools in Portland, Salem, Eugene, and Corvallis for a weekend conference with the theme of “Tending Your Spiritual Garden.” Activities included working at the Youth Gardens, where the students learned first-hand what is involved in growing food and stewarding the land. They were engaged in discussions about ways and reasons to care for the Earth, and they had a visit to a local organic vegetable farm to see and hear about issues of biodiversity and sustainability.

Timeline for Completion: Beginning Spring, 2008. Ongoing indefinitely.

Outcomes: This track within our Youth RE program is clearly educational and inspirational for the students. They learn a great deal about ecological principles and ecosystem dynamics, not only by reading and discussion, but more importantly, by actual observation in their local natural environment. They gain greater appreciation for the natural world and the importance of environmental stewardship, which they, in turn, are likely to pass on to their families and friends. The environmental work is popular with the students, and their enthusiasm, optimism, and energy also tend to be contagious among families and friends.

Lead: Michael Molk, Youth RE Director

B4. Project Title: Film/Speaker series

Project Description and Action: We provide films and in-person presentations on environmental issues at UUFC, usually on Sunday evenings. They are announced in the newsletter and in pulpit announcements. Attendance has ranged from 5 to 30.

Examples of recent presentations:

- DVD of "Green Collar Economy"
- Ware lecture by Van Jones
- DVD of "Marine Sanctuaries" by Bill Ballentine
- Talk about "Living Lightly" by Jonathan Carroll, local activist
- Talk: “Natural History of the Oregon Coast since 1750”, talk by Roberta Hall
- DVD: “The Power of the Sun” on potential for obtaining more of our energy from the sun
- DVD: “Broken Limb” on challenges apple growers confront from big box stores

Timeline for Completion: Beginning November, 2008. Ongoing indefinitely at approximately one-month frequency.

Outcomes: All programs have educational value for attendees and have stimulated questions and discussion.

Lead: Dianne Safford

B5. Project Title: Discussion class offered by the NW Earth Institute

Project Description and Action: UUFC co-sponsored and hosted a class entitled “Reconnecting with Earth” in the spring of 2010, and we expect that this class will be repeated in the future. The class, designed and offered by the Northwest Earth Institute, was announced at UUFC and in the broader community, with collaboration of the local newspaper and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. Susan Wulfekuhler, Director of the NW Earth Institute and UUFC member, presented the class and led the discussion. The format of the six weekly meetings was primarily open discussion, supported by reading materials.

Timeline for Completion: April-May, 2010. Likely to be repeated in future.

Outcomes: Participants in this class were motivated by a continual search for the most effective ways to live the UUA seventh principle, and to maintain the health and vitality of our natural world. The reading materials and discussion provided them with pertinent information and good opportunities for communication and exchange of ideas.

Lead: Susan Wulfekuhler

C. *Environmental Justice Projects*

C1. Project Title: Sales & Donations of Compact Fluorescent Lamps

Project Description: Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), purchased from our state energy trust, Energy Trust of Oregon, are sold to members and friends of our congregation. Energy Trust also provides some of the bulbs to us free of charge. Earnings from these sales are used to purchase additional CFLs which are then donated to the South Corvallis Food Bank – one of the primary providers of groceries and limited household supplies for low-income families in our county (Benton County). Food Bank patrons can choose a CFL as one of their limited household items (popular items include toothpaste, toilet paper, shampoo, etc.) during each monthly visit. We provide information at the time of sale or donation about the need to recycle CFLs with other hazardous waste or at appropriate CFL drop-off sites. Even though CFL prices have dropped dramatically in the past few years, CFLs are still substantially more expensive than standard incandescent light bulbs, and low-income families are rarely able to afford them. Without programs such as this, providing CFLs at little or no cost, these people would not enjoy the benefit of reduced home energy consumption and longer bulb life that result from CFL use.

Timeline for Completion: Beginning August, 2008. Ongoing indefinitely.

Outcomes: Several dozen bulbs are donated to the South Corvallis Food Bank every few months. Bulbs are consistently out-of-stock by the time of the next resupply indicating that they are in demand. By choosing a CFL, Food Bank patrons are making a statement that they understand and appreciate the benefits of CFLs. By getting CFLs into the hands of low-income county residents, these residents benefit in multiple ways. They reduce their energy consumption thus reducing their electricity expenses. CFLs last much longer than incandescent bulbs thus they have a reduced need to continually purchase and replace incandescent light bulbs. And by utilizing CFLs they are now participating in the effort to reduce

our dependence on fossil fuel-based energy, the generation of which so often negatively impacts low-income communities most harshly for a wide variety of reasons.

Lead: Roberta Hall, Elizabeth Waldorf

C2. Project Title: Produce Supply for Corvallis Food Bank

Project Description: Since 2008, the youth groups of the UUFC (7th through 12th grade) and their adult advisors have participated in the Youth Garden Project of Corvallis. Their work consists of mulching, weeding, and harvesting food crops, most of which are delivered to the South Corvallis Food Bank which accepts donations of fresh produce and fruits for distribution to Food Bank patrons. In addition to their work in making local nutritious garden produce available to citizens who might not otherwise have money to obtain it, the youth learn first-hand what is involved in growing food and environmental stewardship. While working at the Gardens they work side-by-side with, and learn from, leaders from the Corvallis Environmental Center.

Coming up next school year (2010-2011), the 7th/8th grade group will again focus on community gardening and producing food for the community food bank.

Timeline for Completion: Beginning Spring, 2008. Ongoing indefinitely.

Outcomes: Because of the perishable nature of this produce and the desire of the South Corvallis Food Bank directors to get healthy foods into the hands and kitchens of its patrons, Food Bank patrons can visit up to once per week to pick up produce (on an as-available basis); visits to obtain canned/boxed food are limited to once per month. Donated produce is often locally produced (the Willamette Valley is very fertile and local farms abound, including the Youth Garden Project); therefore Food Bank patrons obtain the ripest, nutrient-rich produce available rather than picked-green, pre-packaged, well-travelled produce that they would likely purchase at discount grocers. It is often this inexpensive produce that is produced with the most chemicals and pesticides putting those purchasing it (because it is cheap) at greater risk for negative health consequences...the very thing that consuming produce is supposed to avoid.

Lead: Michael Molk, Youth RE Director

C3. Project Title: That's My Farmer Program

Project Description: UUFC has recently joined with nine other Corvallis faith communities in a farm market coupon program called "That's My Farmer." This program, coordinated by the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), offers coupon booklets for sale, primarily at participating churches, to be used at several local farms and farmers markets. Ten percent of the purchase price is a donation to generate coupons for needy families in the community. The donated coupons are distributed to low-income families/individuals through local gleaner programs and food pantries. The purchased and donated coupons are used in lieu of cash for the purchase of fresh, local (often organic) offerings at local farms and farmers markets. Farmers exchange the coupons for payment through EMO. About a dozen local small-scale farms participate in the project.

Timeline for Completion: Beginning Spring, 2010. Ongoing indefinitely.

Outcomes: This program links local farmers offering fresh, healthy (often organic) produce, fruit, meat, cheese and some baked goods with low-income families and individuals who would likely not be able to

purchase these offerings due to somewhat higher costs associated with products offered by small-scale farmers and vendors. As noted with the Food Bank produce donation program, low-income families and individuals connecting directly with small-scale, local farmers are receiving the ripest, most nutrient-rich products available rather than industrial-scale or picked-green, pre-packaged, well-travelled products that are likely to be the only products offered at most grocery stores. It is often these inexpensive produce that are produced with the most chemicals and pesticides putting those purchasing it (because it is cheap) at greater risk for negative health consequences.

Lead: Victoria O’Nion, John Elder

D. Sustainable Living Projects

D1. Project Title: Upgrade UUFC Building Lighting

Project Description: To reduce UUFC’s carbon footprint, T12 fluorescent bulbs were replaced with high-performance T8 bulbs with electronic ballasts and building exit signs were upgraded to LED lighting.

Our state energy trust, the Energy Trust of Oregon, offers direct incentives in the form of cash rebates for pre-approved lighting projects that meet specific guidelines. Two of the guidelines are: (1) simple payback (without incentives) of at least one year, and (2) at least 25% energy savings compared to the existing system.

Preparation for the UUFC project involved consultation with a lighting expert from the Energy Trust of Oregon and a wholesaler of lighting supplies. Additionally, an inventory of all existing light fixtures and measurement of all room dimensions were undertaken in order to fully describe the project for the necessary pre-approval by the Energy Trust; pre-approval was granted in May 2009.

Kathy Johnson, a Fellowship member and licensed electrician, volunteered her time to install the lighting upgrades and finished this work in August 2009. Even before the upgrades were complete, Fellowship members noticed and complimented the improved lighting. Project completion forms were submitted to the Energy Trust in August 2009, and UUFC received its rebate check from the Energy Trust in October 2009. The achievement was reported in the next UUFC newsletter.

Timeline for Completion: January – October 2009.

Outcomes: While the UUFC Board of Trustees authorized the project team to spend up to \$2000, the total cost for new bulbs, ballasts and exit signs was \$1474. The Energy Trust of Oregon rebate check provided \$1067 in reimbursement – over 75% of the cost of the project. The project included lighting in 19 rooms with a total of about 7000 square feet of space.

The State of Oregon Department of Energy website notes that in most commercial facilities lighting is responsible for 30% of the electric bill. While UUFC is not a commercial facility, it is an active Fellowship with numerous daytime and evening/nighttime activities. Thus lighting is in constant use. Given that the project generated energy savings of at least 25% over the previous lighting plan, the UUFC carbon footprint and power bill will both decrease. This has been achieved without a loss in lighting quality and, in fact, has resulted in lighting quality improvements noted by UUFC members. The project was clearly a complete success for UUFC.

Lead: Elizabeth Waldorf, Louise Ferrell, Kathy Johnson

D2. Project Title: Home Energy Audits

Project Description: During the spring of 2008, the Energy Trust of Oregon offered free home energy audits to residents and businesses in Benton County (our home county). The auditors would examine each home and advise the homeowner about potential energy-saving and water-saving improvements. Homeowners participating in the audits would be provided with some useful monitoring devices, fluorescent bulbs, low-volume faucet and showerheads, and discounts for Energy-Star appliances.

Many organizations, including a number of partners of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, assisted this program by providing opportunities to the public to sign up for the audits. The Energy Trust even set up a little competition among participating organizations, offering a monetary reward for the group that attained the highest number of sign-ups. At the UUFC, members of the Environmental Action Committee staffed a sign-up table for several weeks and telephoned members and friends to encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity.

Timeline for Completion: Spring 2008.

Outcomes: The response was quite impressive, and UUFC finished second in the countywide competition. UUFC also obtained an audit for its fellowship building and the house next door that we own. We implemented several of the recommendations (see Items D1 and D4) thus substantially improving our own energy efficiency and reducing our carbon footprint. Anecdotally, we have reports that various UUFC members also followed up on audit recommendations, thereby improving their own energy efficiency and reducing their carbon footprints.

Lead: John Elder, Elizabeth Waldorf, Jean Townes

D3. Project Title: Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

Project Description: The UUFC is a sponsoring partner of the citywide Corvallis Sustainability Coalition (Coalition), formed in 2007 to bring together businesses, non-profits, faith communities, educational institutions, and government entities in the Corvallis area to accelerate the creation of a sustainable community. Several members of the UUFC Environmental Action Committee and other UUFC members are active in the Coalition. John Swanson serves on the Coalition Board, and Christine Robins is our official faith community representative. Several of our members have served on coalition task-force teams, and we are in regular communication with the Coalition Steering Committee.

In February 2010, UUFC hosted a fundraiser concert for the Coalition; John Swanson, a UUFC member, was the primary performer. The concert drew a full house from the greater community and raised \$1000 for the Coalition. The music was outstanding, the audience had an enjoyable evening, and John took the opportunity to highlight the Coalition and the work it does on behalf of and for the benefit of us all.

Timeline for Completion: Beginning Spring, 2008. Ongoing indefinitely.

Outcomes: UUFC has established itself as an active participant in community sustainability efforts. Our work with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition is a clear manifestation of that.

It provides a connection with many environmental focus groups in the Corvallis area, and promotes engagement by all of our members in community activities. Town-hall meetings to discuss community environmental issues, organized several times by the Coalition in recent years, have been well attended by UUFC members.

Lead: Christine Robins, Dianne Safford, John Swanson

D4. Project Title: Improve UUFC Building Insulation

Project Description: The UUFC building actually began as two World War II Army administration buildings that were moved to the current site by the labor of our members in the late 1950's. Over the years, we have modified, improved and joined them into one structure; however the two original structures contained little or no insulation. As part of a bigger RE space renovation project, wall insulation was added in 2008.

Timeline for Completion: Spring – Fall 2008.

Outcomes: In May 2008, and again in October 2008, insulation was added to previously uninsulated parts of our Fellowship building. It is expected that continued monitoring of UUFC energy use (see Item E2) will show a decrease in energy use correlated with the completion date of this project. This project, along with lighting improvements (see Item D1), help to decrease the carbon footprint of UUFC. We plan to continue this effort as funding allows and opportunities arise.

Lead: Louise Ferrell, Wolfgang Dengler

D5. Project Title: Installation of Solar Photovoltaic Power System

Project Description: This project has been under consideration since 2005, when an initial estimate was prepared by a local contractor. At that time, the costs were prohibitive, without enough rebate potential to make it a viable investment. The prospects are much more favorable now, as discussed in Evaluation Item 4. Despite the current economic slump that has strained the UUFC budget, we will be able to proceed with installation of a 9000-watt system this year.

Timeline for Completion: Spring–Fall 2010.

Outcomes: In Spring 2010, the UUFC Board gave approval to pursue implementation of a solar PV system under the new Oregon pilot solar volumetric payment program (http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=OR134F&re=1&ee=1). With this approval in hand, UUFC prepared its application and submitted it to the Oregon Department of Energy on July 1, 2010, launch day of the pilot and the first day that applications could be submitted. The UUFC reservation was approved (the total applications reached program capacity approximately 8 minutes after midnight!) and construction and installation of the new system is set to begin in July 2010. If all goes well, UUFC will have a fully functional and operating 9000 kWh PV system in place by the time regular services resume in September 2010.

Laura Uhler, a UUFC member and owner of Solar Ki (a solar installation company) is donating time and expertise to this project. She is recommending that UUFC install a wireless display (in the foyer) that monitors performance and educates UUFC members and friends about the benefits of PV power generation. Additionally, online access from the UUFC website will allow website visitors to learn about

the project and monitor the system's performance. Laura will create a sign/plaque for UUFC highlighting the Fellowship's commitment to sustainability. The panels will be visible from the main east-west street passing just south of UUFC, providing further tangible evidence to Corvallis residents of this faith community's commitment to live "green." This project has been a dream come true and testament to what can happen when individuals pull together.

Lead: Jean Townes, Roberta Hall, Laura Uhler

E. Additional Projects

E1. Project Title: Environmental Book discussion group (related to Religious Education)

Project Description and Action: This group meets bi-weekly at the Waldorf home to read and discuss selected books on environmental issues. Participants choose the books they wish to read. Meetings and book selections are announced in the newsletter and in pulpit announcements.

The group, ranging in attendance from 4 to 9, has read the following books:

- "The Great Turning" by David Korten
- "Apollo's Fire" by Jay Inslee & Bracken Hendricks
- "The World Without Us" by Alan Weisman
- "Natural History Lessons from Lewis & Clark" by Daniel Botkin
- "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver, et al.
- "Totem Salmon" by Freeman House
- "Monster of God" by David Quammen
- "Song for the Blue Ocean" by Carl Safina
- "The Worst Hard Times" by Tim Egan
- "Blessed Unrest" by Paul Hawken
- "In Defense of Food" by Michael Pollen
- "Confessions of an Ecosinner" by Fred Pearce
- "The Weather Maker's" by Tim Flannery
- "Threshold" by Thom Hartmann
- "Most of All They Taught Me Happiness" by R. Muller
- "Big Coal" by Jeff Goodell
- "Green Collar Economy" by Van Jones
- "Heat" by George Monbiot
- "Wild Comfort" by Kathleen Dean Moore
- "The Bridge at the Edge of the World," by James G. Speth

Timeline for Completion: Beginning June, 2007. Ongoing indefinitely at twice-monthly frequency.

Outcomes: The books have introduced us to the beauty of our earth and the problems we confront.

Lead: Elizabeth and David Waldorf

E2. Project Title: Determine and Monitor Energy Use at UUFC (related to Sustainable Living)

Project Description: In order to track baseline energy use and correlate effects of energy efficiency projects on UUFC energy consumption, UUFC obtained gas and electric use data from our local utility for a 4 year period, 2006-2009. These data are compiled and used to produce tables and graphs showing trends of our energy use over time. The data are analyzed by David Waldorf, and made available to the Environmental Action Committee and the UUFC membership.

Timeline for Completion: January – October 2009.

Outcomes: The data indicate substantial reduction in electricity use over the four years, especially from 2006 to 2007. Natural gas use does not yet show a discernable trend; perhaps a longer-term data set will show a decrease, especially following the recent insulation upgrades (Item D4). Analyses of these data must take into account the potential effects of uncontrollable factors, particularly weather. Our data tables do include average monthly temperatures in Corvallis.

Lead: David Waldorf

Accomplishment of Program Goals

Build awareness of the significance and complexity of environmental issues

Since we first began work on the Green Sanctuary program, we have endeavored to keep environmental issues at the forefront of UUFC activities. One of the important developments during that time was the formation of the Environmental Action Committee, which also became the Coordinating Committee for Green Sanctuary. The very existence of that committee, and its communication with the rest of the congregation has helped to build awareness of environmental issues.

One of the most important ways that awareness is achieved is to include the theme of Earth care in our Sunday services, as well as other church programs and activities. Most of our worship services do include environmental messages – in readings, hymns, announcements, and/or sermons. Several services each year are fully devoted to appreciation and preservation of the Natural World (Action Plan Items A1 & A2).

Religious exploration for both children and adults includes many topics that provide learning opportunities and hands-on experiences related to environmental preservation. Examples include nature walks, youth gardening projects, and art activities that emphasize our respect and care for the Earth.

We have sponsored a number of speaker panels, films, and lectures that address specific environmental problems (Action Plan Items B1-B2, B4; and discussion of Goal 3). These presentations not only explain the nature and complexity of the problems, but also present practical actions that we can take as individuals and as a group to help alleviate them. Our newsletter includes a section devoted to environmental concerns and activities, and invites readers to join in any activities that suit their interests. Announcements about environmental issues are sometimes communicated by email through the membership list-serve. Exhibits, photography, and artwork throughout the UUFC building also provide information and inspiration.

Environmental consciousness is clearly prevalent among members of UUFC, and as such, it is self-perpetuating merely through informal conversation before and after Sunday services, neighborhood social groups, and various other church-based gatherings. This kind of spontaneous communication supplements our more programmed efforts to keep environmental issues at the forefront.

Encourage personal lifestyle changes

By building awareness of environmental issues (see description of Goal 1), we are encouraging lifestyle changes that contribute to environmental preservation. It is especially rewarding to witness the level of environmental awareness among members of the congregation, and their motivation to do what they can to reduce energy consumption, solid waste production, and use of toxic substances. We all learn from each other through exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences.

Some of our Green Sanctuary projects have provided direct assistance to individuals to facilitate specific kinds of environmental action. One example of such action is our collection of sign-ups at UUFC for free home energy audits by the Energy Trust of Oregon (Action Plan Item D2).

At our recent Sunday service dedicated to environmental action (3/21/2010), we offered UUFC members and friends an opportunity to light “Candles of Commitment” indicating actions they would take to promote positive change for our environment. The response was impressive; commitments were wide-ranging and reflected a variety of experiences and priorities. Following is a list of commitments that were announced:

- donate one hour per day to environmental work
- pick up plastic bottles and aluminum cans when out walking or biking
- more walking or carpooling and less driving; pick up trash when out walking
- ride bike more often to UUFC
- work on bikeways and walkways with the Transportation Committee of Corvallis Sustainability Coalition
- ride bike to and from work when possible
- continue work with Northwest Earth Institute and get out of car and onto bike
- share understanding of sustainable gardening and slow food lessons learned from Italy
- increase volunteering with South Corvallis Food Bank's effort to provide compact fluorescent light bulbs to clients
- sign up with Blue Sky energy program
- plant a garden row for the hungry (donate produce to South Corvallis Food Bank)
- decrease use of plastic water bottles
- increase use of carbon offsets for work travel and learn about invasive species
- learn about effects of plastic wastes on the ocean
- commit to allowing organics to decay in place (return nutrients to our soil)
- ride bike across the country
- purchase compact fluorescent light bulbs for the South Corvallis Food Bank
- try to install a solar hot water system
- political action on environmental issues at local and state levels
- increase Blue Sky commitment (because of Blue Sky song offered today) (Note: “Blue Sky” is a program of an Oregon utility company in which customers pay a slight fee to support alternative energy).

Engage in community action on environmental issues

Our philosophy at UUFC is to be inclusive as we continue to work for the environment. Hence, we frequently reach out to other groups to share ideas and experiences and to work jointly on environmental projects. Such groups include other churches, the Northwest Earth Institute, Corvallis Environmental Center, Sierra Club, Linn and Benton County Democrats, and Our Ocean Coalition. Collaborative work contributes to the education of all participants, adds momentum toward achievement of project objectives, and forms a bond between the partner organizations.

In 2008 we sponsored two panel discussions (Action Plan Items B1 & B2), for which we brought in expert panelists representing various institutions and organizations. With publicity assistance from the local Sierra Club and Benton County Democrats, and announcements in the local newspaper, both discussions attracted a full audience from the community.

The UUFC is a sponsoring partner of the citywide Corvallis Sustainability Coalition (Action Plan Item D3). This engagement essentially assures that we stay involved with environmental action in the community, and that the community is aware of our specific work at UUFC.

Working with the Northwest Earth Institute, we recently hosted a "Gulf Memorial" to grieve the loss and tragedy that follows the British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. For the program we produced a slide show of species affected by the April explosion and subsequent oil spill. Coverage in the local newspaper informed our community of this event.

Strengthen the connection between spiritual practice and Earth consciousness

Action items in the area of Worship & Spiritual Practice continued the rich tradition of years past. In addition to the regular Earth Day Service and the Green Sanctuary service, concern for and connection to the environment was present in many other worship offerings. Members of the lay ministry, along with other UUFC members, offer regular Wheel of the Year celebrations that tap into earth-based spiritual practices and remind us of our deep-seated connection with the natural world and its life-sustaining cycles.

One recent and very exciting development in the worship life of UUFC is the wonderful involvement of Oregon State University Campus UU Group. This student group presented the worship service on April 10, 2010 and built the service around the topic of water. Individual students offered original essays that invited us to consider the ubiquitous (yet often overlooked), magical, healing, destructive and ultimately absolutely necessary presence of water in our lives and in the world.

UUFC has a long history of interest in earth-based traditions and environmental issues (local and global). Ministerial staff lay ministers, Environmental Action Committee members and students have all contributed to planning celebrations of our connections to the world around us. Given that action items in the area of Worship & Spiritual Practice have involved such a wide variety of UUFC community members, continuation of these kinds of events well into the future is nearly certain.

Work to heal environmental injustices

Our primary focus in the area of environmental justice has been to assist low-income families in the Corvallis area to be included in local sustainability action and to enjoy its associated benefits. For those citizens who may not have the interest or money to take advantage of locally produced foods and energy-efficient products, we work to help provide sustainability information, and to offset some of their costs of changing to a more environmentally sound lifestyle.

A wide variety of vegetables, fruits, nuts, and berries are produced in abundance in the Willamette Valley. But this agricultural bounty tends to be unavailable to low-income citizens, because of expense and/or a lack of awareness or interest in the long-term health and environmental benefits of locally produced, wholesome organic food. One of our primary efforts has been to help connect the production of local farms with low-income residents of the Corvallis area. Our two youth groups have contributed to this effort by participating in the Youth Garden Project (Action Plan Item C2), which provides fresh local produce to the South Corvallis Food Bank. In addition, our congregation participates in a coupon program called "That's My Farmer" (Action Plan Item C3), coordinated by the Ecumenical Ministries of

Oregon. This program not only increases the availability of local produce to needy families, but also benefits the local farmers by increasing their customer base.

Other environmental justice work at UUFC includes our project to provide energy-efficient light bulbs to people who would not ordinarily be able to afford them or may not be aware of the long-term cost savings they provide (Action Plan Item C1). We have also consulted with the director of the local Habitat for Humanity to help develop a community gardening project for Habitat tenants, and help support efforts to apply green building practices in the construction of new homes.

Program Evaluation

What do you believe has been the most important benefit your congregation has gained as a result of your participation in the Green Sanctuary Program?

An increase in consciousness, awareness, and enthusiasm for environmental action among most members of the UUFC congregation is probably the most important outcome of our Green Sanctuary program. This has come about mainly as result of the overall environmental action process – thinking about things we can do, generating ideas for how to do them, planning projects, doing the projects, and talking among ourselves about what we are doing.

This heightened awareness is very encouraging, and it bodes well for the future. It will have a kind of magnifying effect as it stimulates more people, within and even outside of the Fellowship, to take action in their own homes and lives. Furthermore, we have confidence that the spirit and action of Green Sanctuary is virtually assured in the long term because others in the congregation will carry it on even if the individuals involved in its original implementation and coordination are no longer present. For that reason, we believe that this benefit is greater than all of the actual projects implemented as part of the Action Plan, significant as they may be.

What has been the most difficult or challenging aspect of the program for your congregation to achieve?

The most difficult task came shortly after we began on the Green Sanctuary pathway. That task was finding people who could actually devote time to participate in the program.

The idea of our participation in the Green Sanctuary program was first presented to a social justice committee, and later to the entire congregation, in 2006. It met with enthusiastic response. Clearly, there was not a lack environmental consciousness among our members and they were delighted with the prospect of taking action as a group to reduce our environmental footprint. That fall, the Board of Trustees gave its approval for the program to proceed, at least as far as development of an application for candidacy.

At that time, we provided sign-up sheets for our members to volunteer to participate in the process. They were asked to indicate their primary areas of interest, particularly within the four focus areas of Green Sanctuary. Many people signed those lists, and based on them, we proceeded to form a coordinating committee, and later, focus-area teams. It was a promising beginning. We expected to soon complete our environmental assessment, develop an action plan, and prepare our application for candidacy.

The problem was that many who signed the lists were simply not able or willing to commit to actual participation on teams and dedication of the time necessary to implement the tasks of those teams. There were some flashes of activity, particularly on the sustainability team, but in general the teams never really became engaged and they eventually dissolved. John Elder (who originally proposed the program, based

on his experience with Green Sanctuary in his previous UU congregation) was the overall coordinator, but could do little without a viable team effort.

A major turn-around occurred in June of 2008 when a group of very dedicated and energetic UUFC environmentalists formed the Environmental Action Committee, co-chaired by Elizabeth Waldorf and John Elder. One of its first self-assigned tasks was to revive the Green Sanctuary program. Quickly there was a burst of activity again, and the application for candidacy was submitted in March of 2009. Progress on most of the Action Plan projects was already well underway at the time of that application. It was in a sense an affirmation of environmental action that had been proceeding for many years at UUFC. Finally, it was more organized and coordinated within the framework of the Green Sanctuary program.

Have you been able to discern positive changes in your congregation's culture as a result of the activities you accomplished? If so, what are they?

Yes, there is a sense of greater environmental awareness, consciousness, and enthusiasm among many throughout our congregation. It seems that more individuals are choosing to make small lifestyle changes that can make a difference for the Environment, and in doing so, they set examples for others, thus perpetuating the movement.

For example, there has been a gradual increase in the number of UUFC members and visitors using alternative transportation to fellowship services and other events at UUFC. Also, we have reduced our use of disposable products such as paper cups and plastic utensils and we have made many changes in lighting that adopt low-energy alternatives.

Gradual cultural change characterized by recognition of the importance of environmental preservation has been especially evident during our recent discussion of the possibility of installing a solar photovoltaic power system on the building, requiring very high initial expenditure. The costs are likely to be recuperated over a period of a decade or more, but nevertheless, this kind of expenditure is not easy for the Fellowship, especially at a time when the economy is shaky and our budget is so tight that we may have to cut staff salaries. We are quite sure that just a few years ago the proposal would not have been seriously considered, but this year many of our members consider this action important enough that they have been working hard to make it happen.

What are your intentions/aspirations for continuing to live out your Green Sanctuary commitments?

Most of the projects in our current Action Plan are ongoing, particularly those in the areas of worship and celebration, religious education, and environmental justice. We fully expect to continue to include environmental themes and messages in our services. We will continue to sponsor discussion panels, lectures, and films dealing with environmental issues, taking advantage of the abundant expertise at local universities, state and federal agencies, and professionals within our own congregation. The CFL sales and Youth Gardening projects will continue indefinitely, and we will take on new environmental justice work, such as the "That's My Farmer" program, as ideas and opportunities arise.

Most of the sustainable living projects (e.g. – lighting upgrades and installation of building insulation) are tasks with definite completion dates; some are already completed. But we are continually seeking new ways that we can reduce our environmental footprint. Ideas for new projects often come to the Environmental Action Committee from individuals outside the committee, sometimes even outside the congregation.

As mentioned under the previous Evaluation item, the plan to install a photovoltaic solar power system is clearly the most potentially expensive and difficult item on our Action Plan. We have been searching for affordable ways to accomplish it, and it is finally going to happen, largely because of two fortunate factors: (1) one of our congregational members (Laura Uhler) owns a solar business and has offered to install a system on the UUFC building at her cost, and (2) the Oregon Legislature has recently approved the establishment of an investment program entitled "Feed-In Tariff," which provides for financing the installation of a solar system over a long term (probably about 15 years) through payments for power generated by the system. As indicated in Action Item D5, our application for participation in this program has recently been accepted. Thanks to the favorable situation provided by these two factors, we expect to be able to have a new 9000-watt system by the end of this year.

Finally, we are confident that Green Sanctuary actions at UUFC will inspire all of us to do our own parts, and take similar actions in our personal lives and in our homes. As previously discussed, the generation of ideas, the inspiration, and the encouragement among all of us is perhaps the greatest long-term benefit of our Green Sanctuary program.

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?

Through our sponsorship and participation in community events, and our in-house Earth-based activities, UUFC has solidified a reputation as a center for environmental action. As an example, the educational events (discussion panels, speakers, films, etc.) that we have sponsored have been open to the general public, and many have been announced publicly, particularly in the local newspaper. Our role as a partner in the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition is also an important contribution to wider community work.

Recently, we received a request from another Corvallis church (First Congregational United Church of Christ) to speak to them about our environmental action at UUFC, including our Green Sanctuary program. We accepted the invitation and Elizabeth Waldorf made a presentation in April, 2010. This kind of contact and interaction indicates an increasing recognition within the community of our activity in environmental action. We believe that we have emerged as one of the faith group leaders in environmental action within a community that itself has a high level of environmental consciousness.