

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

Application for Green Sanctuary Accreditation

Congregation: Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis
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Green Sanctuary Contacts

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Committee Members (2005 - 2007): Anya Clasen, Rich Bradley, Steve Brennan, Kathy Coulter, Leisa Huyck, Tom Jankowski, Gail Kennedy, Donna Lott, Judy Moores, Michael Pach, Marcy Shannon, Vincent Schwent, Dawn Student, Virginia Thigpen, Mary Wind

Congregational Vote: On November 19, 2006, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis congregation unanimously voted in favor of pursuing the Designation of Green Sanctuary. See Appendix A for the motion and minutes of the congregational meeting.

Congregational History And Profile

In 1954, a group of parents desiring a meaningful religious education program for their children that would encourage them to use their brains to question orthodoxy, use democracy in all decisions, and practice racial, religious and social tolerance, founded a small Unitarian Fellowship. In 1962, the Fellowship became a Unitarian Church. The following year the church called its first minister and bought a 9.3-acre site to build a church. In 1967, 2.6 acres were sold to help pay for the new church, which was dedicated in 1968. The current grounds consist of 6.7 acres with church buildings interspersed between gardens, meadows and wooded areas.

The Church has had five settled parish ministers. After the Reverend Elizabeth O. Banks came in 2000, the congregation voted to change its name to become the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis. During the fall of 2001, the church started an active Young Adult program, which continues to thrive. In 2003 the church became a UUA Welcoming Congregation, and began a four-year program of having ministerial interns who would serve half time in the parish and half time working to establish a campus internship program at the University of California at Davis. That same year the congregation developed and adopted a written Covenant of Right Relations.

Currently, we have an excellent staff in place to support church programs. The Religious Education (R.E.) program is flourishing, and attracting new participants every week. Membership is greater than ever and continues to increase. Worship services are lively and original; the music program excellent and varied. The Campus Ministry program is slowly but surely growing. We have an active social justice program and our charitable outreach, both monetarily and hands-on, is exemplary. The Green Sanctuary program has made great progress in changing the culture of the church with respect to sustainability issues, eco-justice, and personal and community awareness of what we can do that can lessen our impact on Earth.

While Davis is a university town, it is also home to many professionals who work for the state and federal government entities. Consequently, our membership tends to be highly educated, although we have a range of members from blue-collar to schoolteachers to lawyers to geologists. We are growing and have been in the process of radical change as we moved from a small to medium-sized congregation, with all the challenges that such a change implies. We are

and have been a “fair share” congregation for many years. At this point, we have three services on Sunday mornings and our R.E. spaces are filled to overflowing. We are in need of new facilities to handle our growing church membership and programs, and are in the process of exploring ways to expand and improve our facilities, to better serve our church members.

Program Goals

We believe that we have more than met the criteria for the five Green Sanctuary Program Goals during our work over the past eighteen months, and we did so with joy and celebration. As we introduced each project, we presented the reasons for the project and related it to our UU values. From the start, we set up a very ambitious and exciting set of projects covering a wide range of topics using the four program elements of worship, religious education, eco-justice and sustainability. As part of our implementation of the projects, we had robust public relations and outreach efforts both within our church community, with our interfaith community, and with the greater public. We also participated in the Green Sanctuary list-serve and shared some of our projects with others.

While some projects reached only a few people in the church directly, by the fall of 2006, we had included essentially everyone in our church community in one project or another. Our P.R. efforts included notices and articles in the church’s weekly *Bulletin* and more reflective articles in the monthly newsletter, the *UUniverse*. In the spring of 2006, we began the weekly use of one and sometimes two, kiosks that continue to be full of current pertinent information about Green Sanctuary projects. From mid-April to the end of May, we had a huge map posted in the Great Hall that was part of our work to encourage walking, biking, carpools, and the use of public transportation to come to church services.

For anyone who comes to church, it is easy to learn about Green Sanctuary and its projects. Besides all of the information in the Great Hall, the co-chairs of the GS Committee, Judy Moores and Mary Wind, often wear bright green hats that become eye-catching billboards for upcoming events. The minister and worship associates have made an effort to include “green” hymns, readings, dance, music, and/or sermons several times a month. For the Food Project, the GS Committee sent out a packet of information to the households of friends and members of the church. While we were concerned about the use of paper, we decided that much of the packet was a “keeper” with information that would be useful for months and even years to come. Almost all of the general project materials that were distributed in some format to the congregations were also put on the website by the church office administrator. As appropriate, we advertised our activities in local papers and sent information via list-serves to other local churches and groups. We succeeded in getting a major article about our Green Sanctuary efforts in the major regional paper, the *Sacramento Bee*, and one about the conference at our church in the local *Davis Enterprise*. Our food project was part of an article in the *Cal Aggie*, the UC Davis student paper.

With respect to every project that we proposed, except Project 10, we completed as much as or more often, more than we proposed that we do. With respect to Project 10, installing a photovoltaic system for the church, after several months of work and even the promise of sufficient funds from congregational members to buy a system, the Solar Energy Sub-Committee canceled the program. The members could not justify the economics of buying the system, as it would have taken about 18-20 years for the church to offset the investment.

In order to complete our Green Sanctuary requirements, the GS Committee decided that as the church was looking at a capital campaign within the next two years to build a new building, our efforts and money should go toward making any future building as energy efficient as possible, and possibly include a photovoltaic system, too. Therefore, we replaced the original Project 10 with a new one focused on food, health and sustainability issues, preserving farmland, building

community, and living our UU values. In many ways, this turned out to be the project with the greatest impact on the most members of the congregation of all the projects undertaken.

From the start, Green Sanctuary Committee has been blessed with a group of knowledgeable, talented, dedicated individuals who are passionate about Earth and environmental concerns. And every project seemed meant to be. The right contacts, resources, etc. always seem to appear at just the right moment to facilitate or augment our efforts. We believe that our efforts have brought a sense of pride and accomplishment to our church as we educated ourselves, engaged our congregation, fostered new connections among members of the church, reached out to the interfaith community, and informed the public. We are already actively working on continuing some projects and adding new ones in 2007.

Program Activities: The Abbreviated Version

Project 1 Worship

- Beginning in late January 2006, the Reverend Beth Banks and our Worship associates have included a song, reading, or prayer related to our seventh principle, Earth, sustainability, and eco-justice in almost every service.
- Several services have been devoted to “green topics.” For example, on May 21, 2006 (Clean Air Sunday), the Reverend Elizabeth O. Banks gave services titled “A Blade of Grass and a Star: Then Interdependent Web,” on November 5 when the Green Sanctuary Committee presented “We Have the Whole World in Our Hands,” and used the Message From the Hopi Elders as a starting point, and on November 26, when Reverend Banks centered the Sunday morning services around Michael Pollan’s book, *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, and related it to our Green Sanctuary Food for Thought and Action project.
- The Reverend Banks has consistently supported the work of the GS committee and given it legitimacy in the eyes of the congregation. Throughout the year, she has worn a “Green Stole,” presented to her by the Green Sanctuary Committee, which became a reminder of the roots of our UU tradition and of our dependency on Earth for our very existence. In summary, the Green Sanctuary efforts have changed the culture of our church services from little attention to “green” issues to an integration of environmental, sustainability, and eco-justice topics regularly in our services.

Project 2: Worship

- Members of the congregation conducted family services for each equinox and solstice except the spring equinox when many other Green Sanctuary activities were underway.
- During the Summer 2006, five separate Vesper or Even Walk Services were offered by the church’s summer minister and lay members. Topics included such topics as “Trees,” and All Creatures Great and Small.” We ran into some problems as our region had an outbreak of West Nile virus, and people were advised to stay in doors during the evening hours. Only hearty souls armed with mosquito repellent were willing to come. While the attendance was small, those that came said that they enjoyed the services and appreciated the beauty of the church grounds and the wildlife that found a home there.

Project 3 Religious Education (R.E.)

- Tom Jankowski sat on both the GS Committee and the Adult R.E. Council and kept both informed on mutual interests. In addition, members of the committee reached out to other groups within the church community to keep them informed about the Green Sanctuary Committee’s work.
- In January 2006, the GS Committee sponsored Michael Dowd’s workshop on “Beyond Sustainability: The Marriage of Science and Religion.” As a result of the workshop, Tom Jankowski and Patty Lawrence started an adult R.E. class on “The Universe,” which continued through August of 2006.

- Beginning in September 2006, the GS Committee and the Adult R.E. Council have begun Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) classes including *Exploring Deep Ecology* class and *Healthy Child: Healthy Planet*.

Spin-offs: The GS Committee's work to bring NWEI classes have led to the classes being introduced to the broader community:

- The interfaith group, Caring for God's Creation is considering offering NWEI classes, and currently taking the Choices for Sustainability discussion class.
- In November, the John Muir Institute for the Environment at UC Davis provided Judy Moores the use of their conference room for a power-point presentation on the NWEI and its classes to introduce interested members of the UCD community to the classes.
- The International House of Davis has agreed to provide a space for a group, under the leadership of Judy Moores and Sarah Motley, the chair of Care for God's Creation, to customize the NWEI *Discovering a Sense of Place* class for the great Sacramento bioregion. Contact with I-House Davis, has let to plans for I-House to give the NWEI *Global Warming* class in February of 2007.

Project 4 Religious Education

- During 2005-2006, a transition period when the Church lacked a Director of R.E., the Green Sanctuary Committee provided the Children and Youth R.E. Councils with material from the UUME and other sources to help them in their planning.
- Beginning in the winter of 2006, Dawn Student, a member of the GS Committee, began regularly integrating environmental awareness exercises into the Sunday school program for young children.
- During the spring of 2006, the Sunday Family services, often had a "green" component, and Eliza Galaher, the church Intern, worked with the GS committee to present a special service during May as part of our environmental awareness month leading up to Clean Air Sunday. (See Project 7 below.)
- Beginning with the 2006-2007 church year, Kate Raymond, Director of Religious Exploration, and Leonie Pickett, Assistant Director, have mindfully thought "green," and have integrated green themes throughout the R.E. curricula for all children and youth throughout the 2006-2007 year beginning with Chalice Camp in the summer of 2006.

Project 5 Religious Education

- Judy Moores worked with the grounds committee to produce a church grounds brochure, which is used during newcomer orientation classes. The brochure was used at the Tree of Life Conference, and is available for visitors to the church. The brochure gives some history of the church and its grounds, notes botanical features, and lists some of the wildlife.
- Mary Strohl of the Library Committee and others have added resources for sustainability, worship, and environmental awareness and justice to the church library.
- As part of the Church Anniversary celebration in March 2006, a small committee put together a series of photo albums showing the history of the church buildings and grounds. These materials are housed in the Library for all to enjoy.

Project 6 Environmental Justice

- Over the course of 2005-2006, the chairs of the GS committee joined the interfaith group, Care for God's Creation, and became integral to producing a conference dedicated to fostering environmental awareness and action. The *Tree of Life* conference, held on May 20, 2006 at the UU Church of Davis, focused on trees and featured Julia Butterfly Hill as the keynote speaker. Approximately 150 people from the greater region attended and many members of our church congregation served as helpers and attendees.
- Spin-offs: The Sacramento Bee included a major article about the UU Church of Davis' Green Sanctuary work and included an announcement about the conference as well. The

Davis Enterprise followed up with a major Sunday front-page article on the content of the conference. A DVD of the conference has been completed and will be shown on local community television stations.

Project 7 Environmental Justice

- The Green Sanctuary Committee and its Clean Air subcommittee organized a number of activities that spanned the time from Earth Day in mid-April to the mid-May, culminating in "Clean Air Sunday." Activities included marching in the UC Davis Picnic Day parade, distributing materials about air quality, pollution, and solar power, forming carpools and biking together to church, setting up two kiosks with pertinent information, having Sunday services devoted to the environment, developing a clean air pledge and a bike safely brochure, providing a new bus turn-area for those coming from retirement communities, celebrating our walking, biking and carpooling with a "glacial melt" ice cream party, and building community. From the records we collected, we had 52 people who biked or walked a total of 316 miles, which saved about 316# of emissions and 14 gallons of gas. We also had 93 people come in 35 carpools a total distance of 394 miles, also saving gas and emissions.
- The church Office Administrator has added postal code lists of individuals to the church directory to facilitate carpooling.
- Judy met with the minister of the Community (Presbyterian) Church in town and shared our Clean Air Sunday project and GS efforts with him as his church is interested in starting an environmental awareness effort.
- Responding to a GS project, the Church Board has adopted new financial policies requiring any church investments to be as socially and environmentally responsible. Sally Besser, the new church administrator developed the policies.
- To kick off our Green Sanctuary work the GS Committee brought Jim Scott to church on September 23, 2005 to present an evening of environmental and justice songs and stories. As a result of the concert and some additional donations, \$1522 was designated for the UUSC for Katrina environmental justice projects
- In the fall of 2005, our congregation was able to raise a grand total of \$23,507 for hurricane relief - the largest charitable effort that our church has ever undertaken!
- In the fall of 2005, the Church completed a major food drive for the local food closet (STEAC), which brought in 3228 pounds of food. During the fall of 2006, we gathered 3634 pounds and in addition, donated \$2374 for STEAC. As part of the church's outreach, several members of the congregation have begun to volunteer to work for STEAC.
- In July 2006, 10 members of the congregation with the support – financial and monetary – went to Biloxi, Mississippi for a week and worked with local groups on helping low income families repair their homes. (Plans are underway for another group to continue this outreach work with a work-learn week in New Orleans in the spring of 2007, which will be under the auspices of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.)
- Sally Besser arranged for Dr. Brad Barber, Professor of Finance at UC Davis Graduate School of Management, to give a workshop on "Principled Investment" during which he talked about Stewardship and Moral Consistency as well as socially and environmentally responsible mutual funds. The workshop, cosponsored by the Green Sanctuary and the Stewardship Committees, was held in the church library on October 10, 2006.

Project 8 Environmental Justice

- In February and March of 2006, Leisa Huyck, PhD, taught Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry (UULM) curriculum on water to about 20 people. The class included some excellent, insightful activities and timely readings.
- The UU Church of Davis has affiliated with the UU Legislative Ministry in California and is helping with environmental justice and other issues. As issues arise, the GS committee has

and will provide the opportunity for members of the congregation to write letters of support, and participate in other activities to promote environmental justice.

- During the Winter-Spring of 2006, the Church provided a stipend to support a UCD student and young adult member of the Church, A. Tianna Scozzaro, to allow her to work as an intern for the UU Legislative Ministry in Sacramento, CA.
- On August 6 and 13, the Green Sanctuary Committee, showed the Union of Concerned Scientists' film, "California on the Frontlines of Global Warming" on two Sundays after church, and collected over 80 signatures on petitions in support of AB32, a CA bill to reduce global emissions from point sources. The governor has subsequently signed the bill into law.

Project 9 Sustainable Living

- A subcommittee of the Green Sanctuary Committee has reviewed the church buildings and completed most of the tasks listed in the original audit that improve energy efficiency including putting blankets on the water heaters, doing a pump study that indicated that it is working fine, and adding weather-stripping to the office outside door. On a regular basis, they monitor the auto-thermostats to make sure they are set correctly.
- Mandy Dawn, the Office Manager, has placed signs prominently in the Office/Library building giving instruction on closing windows and the use of the air conditioner/heater.
- Some projects, such as shade screens, have been put on hold, because the Great Hall will likely be replaced during any church building project and it is not currently heated or air-conditioned anyway.
- The Women's Fellowship bought a dishwasher for the Office/Library building and with the help of members of the Green Sanctuary was able to obtain an Energy Star appliance that heats its own water for greater energy efficiency.
- In February, members of the GS Committee attended the church-visioning workshop and worked to make sure that a green vision was included for any future building plans. As a result of the church visioning and follow-up refinements, there has emerged a strong general consensus in the congregation that we want our buildings to be "green."
- The church joined the CA Interfaith Power & Light.
- Steve Brennan, a member of the GS Committee and a professional engineer and energy efficiency expert, has been appointed to the new church building committee, and is helping the church incorporate energy efficiency into its future building projects.

Project 10 Sustainable Living

- The GS Committee used the GS Manual chapter on food and developed a Food project to encourage church members to learn more about the production of food in the country, to eat lower on the food chain, use more local and organically produced fruits and vegetables, learn about sustainability issues, support local community agriculture, and live our UU values. Using the theme: Food for Thought – *and Action!* we updated and adapted the material first developed by the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, put together a list of local Community Supported Agriculture farms (CSAs), assembled a chart of foods seasonally available monthly in California, and assembled all the pages into a packet, which was sent out to 375 households including members and friends of the church.
- In early October, in concert with the mailing of the packets, the GS committee arranged for three CSAs to come to church on a Sunday morning to show their food baskets and take sign-ups. We also had samples of locally grown, organic tomatoes for sampling and additional information about food at the GS kiosk.
- The Food Packets included a food covenant, which are still being turned in. At this point, about 65 households representing well over 100 people have agreed to eat more organic food, more locally grown food, and fewer animal-based meals. Additional families have

indicated that they are more aware of what they eat and are making changes in their diet. Some have signed up for CSAs.

- On November 26, Rev. Banks focused the Sunday services on food issues as presented in Michael Pollan's book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. Many members of the congregation went to hear Mr. Pollan speak at UCD Davis the following week.

Word of our food project has spread:

- The Methodist and Catholic Churches in Davis have asked to adapt and use our Food Packets with their own congregations.
- As a result of our contacting the CSAs, two of them: Good Humus and Del Rio Botanical donated 12 weeks of veggie boxes each for the church auction.
- Annie Main, of Good Humus Farm, sent our Food Packet materials to all of the regional CSA farmers and suggested that they take them to their own churches and communities.

Project 11 Sustainable Living

- GS held a holiday workshop using recycled materials in December 2005. Junior High members and their teacher, Kate Raymond, helped. About 20 children and adults participated.
- In November 2006, the workshop was incorporated into the holiday party of the Adopt-a-Social Worker Committee. Those who came were asked to bring beanie babies for a Yolo County Social Worker, who distributed them to foster children during the month of December. The event included soup, salad, music and the craft workshop. The latter used recycled materials and brought individuals of different generations together. Various individuals spoke of the pleasure of taking the time to create and reminisced about doing similar projects in the past. About 25 people attended. As a result of a few hours of fellowship, over 100 foster children will receive a beanie baby gift to let them know that they are not forgotten.
- In December of 2005 and 2006, the Green Sanctuary Committee has provided the congregation with a list of ideas called "Giving Gifts the Green Way." The lists have been advertised in the church weekly bulletin, posted on the website and placed at the GS kiosk for distribution. The list was also emailed to the GS list-serve.

Project 12 Sustainable Living

- On October 1, 2006 Steve Brennan gave a two hour presentation on home energy issues, including: what things affect our energy use, how to generate our own energy to reduce bills and save the environment. The event was publicized in the Davis Enterprise and about 35 people came including a number from outside the church.
- Mandy Dawn, the office manager, has implemented a number of changes including reducing the size of the orders of service to letter rather than business size, reusing as much paper as possible, using post consumer paper where appropriate (toilet paper, paper towels, office paper, etc.). Most documents are printed on the backs of old documents and other office supplies are reused whenever possible. The office now has paper, plastic, and metal recycling containers. Computer ink cartridges are refilled and recycled.
- The staff has worked together on a number of changes to make the office and their own actions more sustainable. The staff use "real" dishes instead of disposable and wash their dishes by hand to save on energy and water. As the whole office area is on the same heating system, the staff now have small space heaters under their desks that may be used when only one or two of them are working so that they are not heating empty offices. They turn off lights when they are not in a room and use natural lighting when possible.
- The staff uses as little paper in church publications as they can and encourage the congregation to use the church online resources. Bulletin and newsletters are sent out on a list-serve and many publications including those of the GS Committee are posted on the website.

- The staff worked to implement sustainable practices through their personal actions at work and in their lives beyond church. Both Sally and Mandy Dawn regularly bike to work and other staff members do so occasionally. They have worked hard to promote the ideas and projects of the Green Sanctuary through church publications, administrative support, office resources, the use of the church website and personal encouragement of committee members for their work. Kudos for our wonderful office and ministerial staff!
- The Young Adult and Campus groups have implemented monthly-outing programs that often involve hiking, snowshoeing or other outside activities. Eldridge and Judy Moores led two fund-raising geology field trips, whose purpose was to give participants an overview of the geology of the greater bioregion and help them to understand and value our local resources. Two trips are already scheduled and fully subscribed for 2007.
- On February 25, Judy and Jeannette Robertson taught a Vegetarian Cooking Class/Dinner and handed out some information based on materials in the UUME GS handbook and Gail Jankowski gave a class on cooking with tofu.
- In the fall of 2006, the Auction chair reported that the November 2006 Church Auction, had more Green and healthy offerings, (e.g. a solar cooking class, several meals that include local, organic foods, vegetarian cooking classes, farm tours, etc.) than ever before.
- Different groups in the church have begun to ask folk to bring their own plates and utensils for church events: e.g., the Father's Day barbecue, the summer solstice celebration. A number of individuals now bring their own mugs, water bottles, dishes, and utensils regularly to church activities.
- GS bought some new trash baskets and obtained bottle recycle containers from the State of CA for free. Then all of the containers used in the various church buildings were labeled with large clear labels indicating their use. This project was completed for the Meetinghouse and Lib/Office building in time for the 50th Anniversary celebration in March 31, and the cottage in April.

Publicity

- The Green Sanctuary Committee has placed "Green Thought" essays, quotes and notices on Green topics in almost every edition of the weekly church Bulletin beginning in the Fall of 2005 until and a longer article in the monthly publication, the UUniverse in September, November and December of 2005 and every issue in 2006.
- The church website, with thanks to Mandy Dawn, Office administrator, includes a link to a Green Sanctuary section and all important Green Sanctuary documents including the complete Candidacy Application Plan, a History of GS work at the UUUCD, a progress report, and the Food Packet have been posted.
- As appropriate information about classes, concerts, workshops, etc. were advertised through the local papers and sent out via list-serves to the interfaith community.
- The Church has joined the Sacramento Interfaith Bureau, and the Reverend Beth Banks and members of the Green Sanctuary attended the Bureau's Spring Breakfast With Lawmakers at which scientists from the Union of Concerned Scientists spoke about Global Warming.
- Members of the GS Committee added green ribbons and "Green Sanctuary Committee" to their nametags. To garner extra attention for specific events and projects, the committee chairs have worn bright green eye-catching hats labeled with notices of events on Sunday mornings. Sometimes we carried signs, put up easels and posters, or handed out mini-flyers.
- The Sacramento Bee included a major article about the UU Church of Davis' Green Sanctuary in early May 2006, which focused on our work in general, Clean Air Sunday, and the Tree of Life Conference.
- Information springing from the Tree of Life conference was shared with the congregation using church newsletters and bulletins and the entire Davis community through local newspapers. The Davis Enterprise followed up with a major Sunday front-page article on the content of the conference.

- As part of the Clean Air Sunday project, we created two tabletop kiosks to present information and provide bike maps, info on biking, solar power, and many other topics. Once we finished the Clean Air Sunday project, we were able to consolidate to just one kiosk, which is updated weekly to include current projects, up-coming events, sign-up lists for classes, information about many important topics related to the environment, and petitions. An erasable poster provides quick, timely updates on important projects. The kiosk has become popular, and people check it out every week.
- On October 1, Judy Moores was given the “Protecting Our Planet” award for her environmental work on behalf of the UU Church of Davis and the greater community by the Freedom From War peace non-profit organization during Peace week. The award was given at the Peace dinner in Davis, which was attended by over 225 people.
- On October 14, several members of the GS Committee attended the Pacific Central District Moral Beacon Day. Judy took the GS kiosk to share with those attending the workshop given by the Reverend Katherine Jesch and was able to talk to a number of other churches about our experiences. She has also been in phone and email contact with other UU churches in the area.

Program Evaluation

Benefits

- Our Green Sanctuary work has provided several important benefits to our church including:
 - Educating the congregational about environmental issues, how the minor (and major) things that we do impact the Earth for better or for worse, and that by living our UU values and purposes we can move closer to a sustainable existence,
 - Reducing our impact on the environment as a church, as families, and as individuals,
 - Broadening our justice work to include the environment,
 - Building community and joy in our work together for Earth,
 - Bringing our church to the forefront of environmental efforts in our area, and
 - Attracting new members.

Most Difficult Aspect

- The most difficult aspect of our GS work was our disappointment at not being able to install solar power and having to admit defeat. However, this setback only strengthened our resolve to move forward with our efforts to continue our green sanctuary work in the years to come. The blessing has been that the Food Project that we did as the replacement project has had a major positive impact on the congregation.

Positive Changes in Church’s Culture

- Without a doubt, the culture of the UU Church of Davis has changed in significant and profound ways. Environmental and eco-justice issues have become central to our worship, integral to our religious education program, imbedded in our daily practical running of the church, and part of our understanding of who we are as UUs! Our church had gone through some difficult times following the loss of some personnel and unsuccessful searches for replacements. With our upbeat, celebratory projects – all of which helped us move in a good direction for Earth and our own lives, Green Sanctuary work has had a major impact on our healing. And with the hiring of three new and wonderful staff this fall our church is in a very good place now.
- The GS Committee has been thrilled by the response of the congregation to our Green Sanctuary work: from the enthusiasm at the November congregational meeting to the gratitude expressed by individuals for our work to the increasing involvement in our projects. We hear weekly about new composting projects, cars being replaced by hybrids, new energy star appliances, the second car being sold, solar panels added to homes, more

local and organic food being eaten, the purchase of carbon offsets, more biking, and many other personal changes. Our church members and friends are reducing the size of their ecological footprint.

On-going Work

- Becoming an official Green Sanctuary will add to our credibility within the greater regional community and will increase our clout with the Sacramento Interfaith Service Bureau. At this point, we have to explain that we are a “candidate” to become a Green Sanctuary and are still working on the designation. Even so, we have become the model in our area for what churches can do and are being called on by other churches for information and help. For example, the local Catholic Church has asked the committee to give a half hour presentation to their Gospel Justice Committee in December 2006. We have been invited to make a presentation at 2007 West Coast Conference of Catholic Churches in April. The theme of the conference is “Call to Action” and about 1000 people are expected to attend.

Intentions/Aspirations

- The Green Sanctuary Committee is a group of dedicated individuals. We are passionate about the work that we have done and know that we still have much to do. Even as we completed our Projects for Certification as a Green Sanctuary, we continued to work, augmenting current projects and developing new ones. Our dream is that in five years, we will have a new LEEDS prize-winning building to meet the needs of our growing church and a congregation that is ever closer to sustainability and on the forefront of environmental justice work.
- The Green Sanctuary Committee has the backing of the congregation. At the November 2006 Congregational meeting, those present unanimously approved the following statement regarding the church’s Green Sanctuary work:
We understand that the action-plan that we have completed is just the beginning of our work to integrate environmental awareness, sustainable practices, and environmental justice into our church community, our personal lives, and our wider communities. We plan to continue the work that needs to be done, until Earth herself is once again a healthy Sanctuary for all.

We believe that Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis has earned the designation Green Sanctuary, and look forward to hearing from the UU Ministry for Earth concerning this application for certification.

Appendix A: The Motion Concerning Green Sanctuary Accreditation Submitted At The Sunday,
November 5, 2006, Unitarian Universalist Church Of Davis Congregational Meeting
And The Minutes Of The Meeting.

The Motion

We, as members of the Green Sanctuary Committee, move that we adopt the following statement:

We, as members of the Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis:

- Having completed our Green Sanctuary Action Plan, authorize the Green Sanctuary Committee in coordination with the Church Administration to submit an application to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth requesting that they accredit our church as a GREEN SANCTUARY,
- Understand that the action-plan completed by the Green Sanctuary Committee is a beginning of the Church's work to integrate environmental awareness, sustainable practices, and environmental justice in our church community, our personal lives, and our wider communities, and
- Plan to continue the work that needs to be done, until Earth herself is once again a healthy Sanctuary for all.

Judith Moores, Cathy Coulter, Gail Kennedy, Marcy Shannon, Anya Clasen, Tom Jankowski, Mary Wind, Steve Brennan, Michael Pach, and Vince Schwent signed the motion.

The Minutes

November 5, 2006
Congregational Meeting
65 members in attendance

1. Call to order – Steve Burns
2. Hymn-Guide my Feet verses 1& 2 – Beth Banks
3. Green Sanctuary –
 - a. Proposed motion read by Steve Burns.
 - b. Questions from the floor answered by Judy Moores, Eldridge Moores and Tom Jankowski.
 - c. Motion to adopt the proposal moved by Eldridge Moores and seconded by Tom Jankowski.
 - d. Passed unanimously.
4. Hymn- Guide my Feet verse 3 – Beth Banks
5. Greg McGonigle as Endorsed Community Minister
 - a. Motion read by Steve Burns (not the same as on the agenda)
 - b. Introduction by Jeff Lefkoff.
 - c. Questions answered by Jeff Lefkoff, Greg McGonigle and Beth Banks.
 - d. Motion to accept Greg McGonigle as our Endorsed Community Minister by Eldridge Moores and seconded by Don Saylor.
 - e. Passed unanimously followed by a standing ovation.
6. Building Task Force Update – Jack Whitsett
7. Hymn – Guide my Feet verse 4 – Beth Banks
8. Closing Worship – Beth Banks
- 9.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diane Parro (with help from Nona Hamilton)

Diane Parro