

To: Unitarian Universalist Congregations
CC: UUA Board of Trustees, UU Ministry for Earth, UUA District Staff, UUA Congregational Properties and Loans Commission, UUA Congregational Services Staff, UUA Congregational Stewardship Consultants, UUA Green Sanctuary List Serve
From: Robin Nelson, Program Manager, UUA Congregational Stewardship Services
Date: September 5, 2008
Re: Green Sanctuary Program

Green Sanctuary Program Announcement

At General Assembly 2008 in Fort Lauderdale Rev. Katherine Jesch, Director of Environmental Ministry for the UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE), and Barbara Ford, Chair of the UUMFE, ceremoniously handed off the Green Sanctuary banner to Rev. Bill Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), Wayne Clark, Director of Congregational Stewardship Services, and Robin Nelson, Program Manager for Congregational Stewardship Services.

In July, Robin Nelson was appointed Program Manager for Congregational Stewardship Services. In this role, Robin is responsible for managing the Green Sanctuary Program, the FORTH Demonstration Project, and other programs and projects in Congregational Stewardship Services. Please contact Robin with any questions about the Green Sanctuary Program process or with questions about the next steps for your program. Rev. Katherine Jesch will continue working with the Green Sanctuary Program for a few months to ensure a smooth transition. Rev. Jesch can be contacted for resources and activities, and to brainstorm ideas for getting your congregants involved. The UU Ministry for Earth will continue to support Green Sanctuary with materials and programs to help congregations reach their goals.

The UUA has recently launched Web pages on uua.org, specifically at www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/greensanctuary/index.shtml, that provide information about the Green Sanctuary Program. The process for becoming a Green Sanctuary congregation is outlined and access to applications for candidacy and accreditation is provided. The Green Sanctuary Manual is available for purchase online at the UUMFE Website www.uuministryforearth.org; however, in early 2009, the UUA will begin offering it, for no charge, on the UUA Website. Since the transition, two review teams have continued to process applications for Green Sanctuary candidacy and accreditation. The team members are volunteers who meet monthly to review applications with Robin Nelson. Each team reviews three to four applications monthly. Because the Green Sanctuary review teams meet via

conference call and the applications have to be distributed to each team member, we are now requiring that all applications for Green Sanctuary candidacy or accreditation be submitted electronically.

As part of the transition, we are formalizing the program and bringing a bit more structure to it. In the coming months, we will be in contact with all current Green Sanctuary congregations. We will gather feedback from these congregations while improving communication with them. We also plan to formalize the process of accreditation renewal within the next year.

The UUA is excited to take on the responsibility of managing the Green Sanctuary Program and we look forward to working with congregations to restore the Earth and renew Spirit. We welcome your questions and comments at greensanctuary@uua.org.

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