

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

Congregations and congregants working together to restore Earth and renew Spirit.

November 6, 2009
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Green Sanctuary Committee
Dick Bauman, Chair
1301 Gladewood Dr
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Dear Committee,

With this letter, the Unitarian Universalist Association, Office of Congregation Stewardship Services is very pleased to formally welcome the Unitarian Universalist Congregation as a candidate to the Green Sanctuary Program. A Green Sanctuary Review Team has examined your application and is impressed with your plans for meeting the program goals.

Your organizing committee has assessed your environmental situation and developed a well rounded action plan. Your environmental assessment format is adequate. We encourage you to consider responding to your findings in the congregational policies section and write some policies. Additionally, it would be helpful to study your water usage.

Your proposed projects for the Worship and Celebration focus area are appropriate for meeting the Green Sanctuary requirements. In addition, we encourage you to add more environmental themes to your worship on a regular basis – this might be by adding songs, readings, candles, reflections etc and might involve working more with the worship committee and minister. The solstice celebrations will likely be a great way to reconnect with and be closer to the Earth as well as having the potential to be family-oriented and/or multi-generational

For Children's Religious Education we are excited to see that your RE classes are re-connecting with the land and that your Middle High student group choose a project that connected with the Earth and commemorated the 33 students and faculty of Virginia Tech. For Adult Religious Education your Sunday Circle discussions seem to have been successful. We would encourage you to explore offering a Northwest Earth Institute course – the "Menu for the Future" curriculum will fulfill a Green Sanctuary Program requirement and get your congregation involved in the Congregational Study Action Issue – Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice for 2008-2012.

Your environmental justice projects are off to a good start. We encourage you to set some more goals for each of your projects so that you will know when you have made a difference. You may also want to move your ReHabitat project to this focus area and expand it to include more members of your congregation. If you want to talk more about this feel free to contact me. I would be happy to brainstorm ideas with you.

Your sustainable living projects are well conceived and straight-forward. In addition, you need to include a project that specifically addresses energy conservation at your congregation.

Overall, your program looks diverse, well balanced, and exciting. We look forward to your continuing progress as you work towards becoming a Green Sanctuary. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns as you move forward. Congratulations and welcome to the Green Sanctuary Program!

To a greener faith-community and world,

Robin Nelson

[Robin Nelson](#)

[Program Manager, Congregational Stewardship Services](#)

"It's not easy being Green." – Kermit the Frog