

TUUC Goes Green

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The UU Seventh Principle calls UU congregations to *affirm and promote respect for the web of all existence of which we are a part*. Our relationship with Mother Earth, upon whom all life depends, is a vital part of that *interdependent web*. In order to more actively educate, engage and support our congregation and inform its response to the Seventh Principle, a group of TUUC members recently formed the Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC).

A Green Sanctuary, as defined by the UU Ministry for Earth (an affiliate organization of the UUA) is ...

“...a congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable life style for its members as individuals and as a faith community. Sustainable living is not about our material comfort (though these choices are an important part of the overall life style); it is about choosing to live in a way that nurtures life, builds relationships, and rejects material consumption as the sole determinant of happiness.” (UU Ministry for Earth website)

In order for TUUC to achieve Green Sanctuary status, education and action will address four focus areas: Worship and Celebration, Religious Education, Environmental Justice, and Sustainable Living. Goals to be addressed include:

- Building awareness of societal environmental issues among TUUC members
 - Generating commitment for personal and congregational lifestyle changes
 - Motivating TUUC members to community action on environmental issues & injustices
 - Building a connection between TUUC members' spiritual practice and environmental consciousness
- (goals adapted from UU Ministry for Earth website)

Given these goals, it should be evident that the project undertaken by TUUC's GSC is far-reaching and will likely impact many areas of church operation and outreach. While the efforts of the GSC are undertaken to support TUUC's response to the Seventh Principle, the Committee needs other TUUC committee support as well as congregational support – *your support* – to go forward with this project. The GSC welcomes any member or friend seeking to contribute time and talent to TUUC's Green Sanctuary effort. For more information on the program, visit the UU Ministry for Earth website (<http://uuministryforearth.org/gspoverview.html>) or contact co-chairs Michelle Collins (roadsister95 [at] yahoo.com) and Uta Hussong (uhussong [at] hotmail.com).