

*Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth*

**Formerly the Seventh Principle Project of the UUA**

P.O. Box 11, Lyme, NH 03768

www.uuministryforearth.org, 301-588-0944

**Application for  
Green Sanctuary Candidacy**

**Congregation Name:** Towson Unitarian Universalist Church  
**Address:** 1710 Dulaney Valley Road  
Lutherville, Maryland 21093  
**Website:** www.towsonuuc.org

**Green Sanctuary Contacts:**

**Name:** Uta Hussong (co-chair)  
**Phone:** 415-847-5438  
**Email:** uhussong@hotmail.com

**Name:** Michelle Collins (co-chair)  
**Phone:** 410-282-3897  
**Email:** roadsister95@yahoo.com

**Minister:** Rev. Clare Petersberger

**Congregation Size:** 230 pledging units (individual/family)

**Green Sanctuary Committee:**

**Charter:** Given our respect for the interdependent web of existence, the Green Sanctuary Committee is established with the members of the Social Responsibility Committee and other interested members of the congregation to investigate and prepare an action plan to make TUUC a Green Sanctuary under the UU Ministry for Earth accreditation process. The proposal and action plan will be presented to the Operations Team, the Board and/or the congregation for formal approval and the Committee will be responsible for coordinating the certification process and implementation of ongoing actions.

The core Committee has 10 members with interests including global warming, air quality, environmental justice, sustainable living, energy efficiency/renewable energy, recycling, simplicity, population and species extinction, to name a few. Other committee memberships include Social Responsibility, Operations Team, and Adult Religious Education.

## **Towson Unitarian Universalist Church – Green Sanctuary Action Plan**

### **Worship & Celebration**

- GSC members will plan and conduct an Earth Day Sunday Worship Service
  - Contact: Worship Committee member (TBD)
  - Time-line: Spring 2007
- GSC members will plan and conduct an earth-centered Intergenerational Worship Service (e.g. Flower service, Water service)
  - Contact: Worship Committee member (TBD)
  - Time-line: late 2006

### **Religious Education**

- Adult: Offer one Friday Night Forum (an established RE series) on “green” topic per year (suggested topics include Community Supported Agriculture, Ozone-reduction Actions)
  - Contact: Reider White
  - Time-line: Fall 2006
- Adult: Offer one discussion course on “green” topic per year (suggested course is another in Simplicity Circle series; already have done several – well received)
  - Contact: Michelle Collins
  - Time-line: Spring 2007 (9 week series)
- Youth: Plan earth-centered summer RE program (Kids for Saving Earth and other sources) – called “Green Adventures”
  - Contact: Michelle Collins and Joyce Duncan
  - Timeline: Summer 2006
- Youth: New unit in RE regular year’s program called Honoring Our Mother Earth, exploring Native American spirituality (includes art, music, dance, and worship) – for younger and middle elementary children
  - Contact: Joyce Duncan, Director of Religious Education
  - Timeline: Fall 2006 – Spring 2007

### **Environmental Justice**

- Banner Neighborhood “Green” Reading Program (established reading program in low-income Baltimore neighborhood for which the GSC would develop a collection of nature-centered reading materials). This program will be ongoing.
  - Contact: Uta Hussong
  - Time-line: Fall 2006 – continuing
- Sarah’s Hope “Green Education Unit” (develop education unit on home energy-reduction practices for Sarah’s Hope, a local day homeless day shelter offering support for basic needs but also promoting self-sufficiency by linking clients with assistance programs such as housing assistance; especially timely project with Baltimore’s looming 72% electricity rate hike).
  - Contact: Harriet Andrews
  - Time-line: Summer 2006

## **Towson Unitarian Universalist Church – Green Sanctuary Action Plan**

### **Sustainable Living**

- Where possible, replace incandescent light bulbs with CFBs
  - Contact: Anita Cox
  - Timeline: Fall 2006
- Create signage to put over light switches encouraging congregation members to turn lights off when they leave a room; signage will correlate simple action to environmental concern
  - Contact: Michelle Collins
  - Timeline: Summer 2006
- Youth RE volunteer work outing to local Community Supported Agriculture organic farm
  - Contact: Uta Hussong
  - Timeline: Summer 2006
- Work with Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity to develop New Homeowner Energy Consumption Reduction training module
  - Contact: Uta Hussong / Catherine Morris
  - Timeline: Spring / Summer 2007
- Convert Coffee Hour coffee to fair-trade coffee and eliminate Styrofoam cups
  - Contact: Bill Ward / Michelle Collins
  - Timeline: Fall 2006
- Re-draft TUUC Purchasing Practices guidelines to require purchase of “green” alternative if price within a designated percentage of normally purchased product
  - Contact: Catherine Morris
  - Timeline: Fall 2006
- Work for purchasing a portion of TUUC’s energy needs via a “clean energy” broker (e.g. Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light)
  - Contact: Catherine Morris
  - Timeline: 2006/2007

## **Towson Unitarian Universalist Church – Environmental Audit**

The environmental audit was conducted by the members of the Green Sanctuary committee in coordination with the Chair of the Building and Grounds committee and the Church accountant. We results of the audit (Appendix 1) were used to identify high priority action items such as replacement of incandescent bulbs with CFL, increased recycling, and changes to our policies and procedures to encourage the purchasing of green products. We would also like to investigate further the cost implications of acquiring a portion of our electricity from renewable resources through Interfaith Power and Light, particularly in light of the pending rate increases (up to 70 – 88%) from BG&E.

## **Towson Unitarian Universalist Church – Communications Plan**

- Share practical information:
  - TUUC Weekly News – weekly Sunday bulletin insert announcing upcoming events (also emailed to e-subscribers)
  - TUUC Threshold – monthly newsletter containing articles about ongoing projects (also emailed to e-subscribers)
  - Bulletin board postings – space allotted for TUUC committee postings about ongoing activities
  - Website – space allotted to TUUC committees who wish to put up static documents on their committee activities
  - Personal announcements / worship service participation – if the theme is appropriate (e.g. Earth Day Sunday), directly present info to congregation during the worship service
  - Round Robin Dinners – dinner groups gathered in individual homes simultaneously engaged in discussion on an agreed-upon topic (Spring 2006 topic – Green Sanctuary project)
- Invite participation
  - Via TUUC Weekly News
  - Via TUUC Threshold
  - Via personal announcement / participation during Sunday worship services
  - Presentation during congregational meetings
  - Bulletin board postings
- Collaboration
  - Via GSC email list – any interested individual / organization is welcome to participate in the TUUC GSC email loop