

## **Announcement of Green Sanctuary Candidacy Acceptance: Nov 15, 2009**

I'd like to briefly tell you about UUA's Green Sanctuary Program, where our congregation is in that process, and what comes next.

The Green Sanctuary Program is widely recognized as being highly successful and well-run. It invites congregations to build awareness of environmental issues, encourage personal lifestyle changes, engage in community action on environmental issues, strengthen Earth consciousness in our spiritual practices, and to heal environmental injustices.

Participating congregations become accredited by UUA as a Green Sanctuary by doing the following ..

- Forming a Green Sanctuary Committee to guide the process.
- Conducting an Environmental Assessment.
- Creating an action plan consisting of at least 12 projects.
- Applying to UUA to become a Green Sanctuary candidate.
- Doing its action plan.
- And, lastly, applying to UUA for accreditation.

Here at UUCB, thanks to your involvement and support, we are now well into that process. We submitted our Green Sanctuary candidacy application last summer and UUA has reviewed and accepted it. In addition, we have completed 8 of the 14 projects described in our application.

So what's next? We intend to complete the remaining 6 candidacy projects in time for the annual meeting in June, at which time we will ask you to vote on whether you wish to have UUCB apply for accreditation. This vote is required by the Green Sanctuary Process and

affirms our commitment to continue on the path of environmental involvement and ever-improving sustainability as a congregation and in our personal lives.

Although we have a long way to go on that path, we are off to an excellent start. This has only been possible thanks to your energy, support, and dedication. I recently went through the directory to get an idea of how many people have participated in Green Sanctuary activities in some way. I counted 70 names and I'm sure there are more. That's great because lots of participation is exactly what is required if we truly are to achieve what Green Sanctuary is all about. I encourage you to get involved with our Green Sanctuary activities. There are so many ways to do so that I'm sure there is something that is a great match for your interests, abilities, and available time. Stop by our Green Sanctuary table in the Social Hall after the service to learn more.

One final thought. Our becoming accredited as a Green Sanctuary, meaningful as that is, is not what this is about. Our real purpose is to fully live in alignment with our 7<sup>th</sup> principle by becoming an effective part of an essential worldwide transformation that will take us from today's unsustainable practices to a way of life that heals the earth and makes possible a meaningful, fulfilling life for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you.