

# *Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth*

## **Application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy**

**Congregation:** Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
2200 East End Street N.W., Olympia, WA 98502  
Email: [liberalfaith@olyuu.org](mailto:liberalfaith@olyuu.org)  
[www.olyuu.org](http://www.olyuu.org)

**Green Sanctuary Contact:**  
Leslie Romer  
Chair, Green Sanctuary Committee  
1206 Plymouth Ct. SW  
Olympia, WA 98502  
360-357-7638  
[lesliehr@aol.com](mailto:lesliehr@aol.com)

**Minister or Congregational Leader:**  
Rev. Arthur Vaeni (on sabbatical, January through April 2008)  
Melissa Denton, President of the Board of Trustees

**Congregation Size:** 248 (number of members most recently reported to UUA)

### **Green Sanctuary Committee:**

The Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation's (OUUC) Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC) was recognized by a motion of the OUUC Board of Trustees as a standing committee in January, 2007. The GSC had functioned as a subcommittee of the congregation's Social Justice Committee for the previous five years. The GSC has been included as a committee in the congregation's Annual Report throughout its six year history.

Mission Statement of the Green Sanctuary Committee:

The GSC's mission is to promote awareness and action that advance respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, as advocated in Unitarian Universalism's Seventh Principle. Furthermore, it is to promote environmentally sustainable living by reducing the OUUC's "footprint" on Planet Earth and helping others to do the same. Central to the fulfillment of this mission is the development and implementation of a Green Sanctuary Action Plan at OUUC, as specified by the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth.

## **Committee membership:**

Because of its widespread responsibilities, the committee membership has several components:

- 1) *Environmental audit and Action Plan steering committee*, comprised of five people: the Green Sanctuary chair (who also serves on OUUC's building expansion committee); the former board president and liaison to the Buildings & Grounds Committee; the chair of Adult Religious Education Committee; an active participant in Children and Youth Religious Education; and a current member of the Board of Trustees.
- 2) *Staff and representatives of other committees (25 people) who receive all meeting notes and draft documents for review and comment via e-mail, and occasionally attend committee meetings.* . Included in this are the Director of Children's RE; the Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee; participants in the Landscape (maintenance) and Worship Arts Committees; one of the Congregation's adjunct ministers; a board member who is the director of a municipal public transit service; the director of the state's salmon recovery program; the chair of the Communications Committee; the chair and two former co-chairs of the Social Justice Committee; and a number of other interested members of the congregation.
- 3) *Ten people who participate in workparties to remove invasive plants from the Congregation's three acre property.*

## **Environmental Audit**

### **Environmental Assessment: How we did it**

The OUUC Green Sanctuary Committee has existed as a small committee since 2002, when our then new minister, Arthur Vaeni, asked Leslie Romer if she could get the Congregation's recycling collection restarted. Late in 2006, several of the congregation's leaders recognized the decision to remodel and expand OUUC's building as an important time to have an active Green Sanctuary Program, and to pursue Green Sanctuary certification. The GSC was recognized as a standing committee of the congregation by the OUUC Board of Trustees in January 2007.

The GSC had been working over the last few years to implement a Green Sanctuary program by working with people in key positions throughout the Congregation's program organization. The GSC has always been represented on the Council of Committees and works in cooperation with other committees throughout the year.

Because we have been aware of the components of the UUMFE Green Sanctuary Program for a number of years, carrying out the environmental audit was fairly straightforward. We had been working on most of the components of the audit for several years. A friend of the congregation who works with the State Energy Office reviewed the Congregation's energy bills for the last decade and provided us with an assessment of OUUC's resource efficiency this summer.

### **Environmental Assessment: What Environmental Practices were Included**

- Building energy use: overall, office machinery, water heating, space heating.
- Transportation: bicycle, automobile, public transportation.

- Recycling and waste reduction.
- Toxic substances – inside and out.
- Investment policies
- Landscape management: native plants, invasive species
- Religious education for children and adults
- Worship services: integrating values and celebration of the Earth
- Integration of 7<sup>th</sup> principle with social action
- Opportunities for interfaith action.

### **Environmental Assessment: Major Recommendations:**

- Make sure a thorough energy assessment is completed as part of the remodel planning.
- Initiate a carpool plan throughout the congregation.
- Expand efforts in recycling and waste reduction to include food recycling through worm bins.
- Develop written policies in the areas of socially responsible investing, landscape management, use of toxic substances.
- Continue the integration of the Seventh Principle in Adult and Children’s RE and Worship.
- Work with other local faith communities to address global warming and public water supply issues.

### **Action Plan**

Please see the attached Plan in landscape table format.

### **Communications Plan**

**Vision:** The Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation is engaged in the process of becoming a Green Sanctuary and takes ownership of the Green Sanctuary Action Plan (GSAP), its goals and its objectives.

**Goals:** (1) Provide the Congregation opportunities to participate in the development of the GSAP;  
 (2) Provide the Congregation with ongoing opportunities to expand its knowledge and incorporation of Green principles and actions.

### **Who:**

- As a permanent OUUC committee, the Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC) shall meet regularly throughout the year to oversee completion and implementation of the GSAP, including this communication strategy. All interested members and friends of the Congregation may apply to become a member of the GSC. Meetings of the GSC are open to all members and friends of the Congregation.
- The following key committees and functions should be actively involved in the GSC and in development and implementation of the GSAP: Buildings & Grounds, Aesthetics, Worship Arts and Communication Committees; the Custodian and his/her immediate

supervisor; and Adult and Children's Religious Education (RE) programs and Committees.

**How:**

- The GSC meets monthly on a regular day.
- The GSC makes presentations as needed to the Board, Council of Committees and the Congregation, and maintains liaison contact with the Board and Council of Committees.
- The GSC regularly communicates to the Congregation about the GSAP, Green principles and actions through established media, including the weekly announcements, the *Unitariana* (monthly congregational newsletter), and electronic communications (email and website).
- The GSC develops appropriate tools for use in presentations and other forms of communication, including:
  - PowerPoint presentation(s)
  - Written materials suitable for brochures and media pieces
  - Website presentation
- The GSC provides ongoing training in Green principles and actions through:
  - Presentation of information through available OUUC media
  - Periodic presentations to the OUUC Board and Council of Committees
  - Formal trainings for the Congregation (e.g., Adult RE classes)
  - Participation in Earth Day and other Green principle intergenerational activities
  - Assisting Children's RE in including lesson plans in Green principles, such as the use of composting and worm bins
- Share information and projects with the Earth Stewardship Committee of Interfaith Works, which is a local non-profit association of faith communities and individuals of diverse faith traditions.
- **Objectives for 2007:**
  1. The GSC becomes a standing OUUC Committee. *[Completed]*
  2. Share the draft GSAP with the chairperson of each committee that has a lead role in the plan. *[Completed]*
  3. Discuss the Environmental Assessment and draft GSAP with the congregation's board of directors. *[Completed]*
  4. Provide copies of the environmental assessment and the action plan to all committee chairs at a congregation Leadership Council meeting. *[Completed]*
  5. Distribute to congregation members at a membership meeting. *[Completed]*
  6. Post the Environmental Assessment and GSAP on the congregation's website: [www.olyuu.org](http://www.olyuu.org). *[Submitted to the webmaster, December 2007]*
  7. Draft application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy. Circulate to full Green Sanctuary Committee, OUUC Board of Trustees, and Pacific Northwest District Green Sanctuary consultant for review and comment. *[Completed December 2007]*
  8. Submit application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy to UUMFE. *[Completed]*

**Objectives for 2008:**

1. Share the results of the UUMFE review with the GSC, the OUUC Board of Trustees, and the Congregation.
2. Carry out the GSAP, involving and educating many members of the Congregation in or through individual activities.
3. Share progress on the GSAP with the Congregation through newsletters, presentations at worship services, and congregational meetings, email announcements and the Congregation's website.