



*Green Sanctuary*  
*Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations*  
*Congregational Stewardship Services*  
*25 Beacon Street*  
*Boston, MA 02108*  
*617.948.4251*

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

April 15, 2009

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
Green Committee  
Kathy Converse, Chair  
2010 Whenona Dr  
Madison, WI 53711

Dear Committee,

With this letter, the Unitarian Universalist Association, Office of Congregation Stewardship Services is very pleased to formally welcome the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society 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 broadly represents your congregation and includes many very involved members. The committee has assessed your environmental situation and developed a well rounded action plan. We are impressed with the number of project leaders and we have noted that many project leaders are not members of the organizing committee; this tells us that you are providing effective outreach to your congregation.

Your environmental assessment format is adequate. We are excited to see that you have included an audit of households in addition to your audit of the church facilities; though we missed the baseline assessment of the four focus areas.

We like the inclusion of a mission and vision in your action plan. We feel that this helps get the entire congregation involved in the Green Sanctuary Program.

Your proposed projects for the Worship and Celebration focus area are appropriate for meeting the Green Sanctuary requirements. We are thrilled to hear that you are planning celebrations in addition to traditional worship services.

We expect that your use of the Northwest Earth Institute curriculums for Adult Religious Education will be successful – 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 Children’s Religious Education

urban/suburban environment with native plants and wildlife is exciting. We encourage you to include lessons that focus why we do the things we do and how that relates to our faith in addition to how we care for the Earth.

Your my Lai Peace Project is an excellent environmental justice project and we are especially excited to see that you are partnering with the Quakers. For a second project, we encourage you to revise your environmental justice project to better provide justice for disadvantaged or oppressed communities. More specifically, we recommend focusing on projects that will build relationships to create a greater impact. If you want to talk more about options or alternative projects, feel free to contact me. I would be happy to brainstorm ideas with you.

Your sustainable living projects are well conceived and straight-forward. We encourage you to monitor results and share the results with your congregation. You might consider moving your rain garden project to the environmental justice focus area as it could be considered a habitat restoration project.

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!

Good luck on your Green Sanctuary journey,

Robin Nelson

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“It’s not easy being Green.” – Kermit the Frog