



# Seventh Principle Project Annual Report 2002 – 2003

June 2003

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## Report from the Board Chair

The Board of the Seventh Principle Project (SPP) spent significant time during this past year thinking about our mission, looking carefully at who we are as an organization. One outgrowth of this discussion was a vision statement: “The vision of the Seventh Principle Project is that UUs recognize and embrace our moral imperative to live in covenant with the web of life through personal, congregational, and denominational practices.”

The vision statement is important because it gives us some direction. It makes it easier to develop goals, objectives, and priorities for action. It’s also important because it helps to distinguish the SPP from other environmental organizations. It seems obvious now, but the vision statement allowed us to see that we aren’t the Sierra Club – and a good thing too, because there’s already a good one of those. Instead, SPP is an organization that can help individuals and UU congregations make connections between the environment and our spiritual practices. We are Unitarian Universalist environmentalists and it is interesting and enlightening to consider what it means to combine our religion with an understanding of environmental science or with ideas about environmental public policy.

The SPP has had a successful year, as is shown throughout this annual report. We have extended our reach to more congregations, increased memberships, developed better and more consistent communications, and enhanced our staffing and financial capabilities. We look forward to maintaining this momentum during the coming year.

Many people deserve our gratitude for supporting SPP. Many volunteers are listed on these pages and others helped with memberships, workshops, meetings, and by working hard on the Green Sanctuary program in their home churches. Special thanks, however, go to the SPP Board members who worked so hard this past year (we had a lot of fun, too!) and especially to the Rev. Katherine Jesch, SPP’s Director of Environmental Ministry. In addition to performing all of her regular staff duties this past year, Katherine also attained preliminary ministerial fellowship status and celebrated her ordination. Congratulations Katherine! Thanks, too, to outgoing board member Dianne Rahm, who served as SPP’s Treasurer for two years.

With Hope for Earth and for Peace,  
Steven Maier  
Chair, Seventh Principle Project Board

**THANKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL  
AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR!**

## GA Program Sponsors:

NH/VT Dist: \$500 and a program slot. Unirondack, Inc. for program slot. 1st UU Church, Portland, OR for \$200 for Bill McKibben's honorarium. Ferry Beach Park Assoc. for 2 program slots. UUs for a Just Economic Community for \$500 for honorarium for Frances Moore Lappe. Rowe Camp and Conf. Center for \$100 and a program slot. Massachusetts Power & Light, for \$80 for workshop costs for "Leaving Smaller Footprints."

## In-kind Contributions for GA:

Ron Edin and Peter Houts, UU Church of Harrisburg: booth design and graphics. Value: over \$2,000. Bob Eliason and Phil Kern of Sustainability Action Group, UU Congregation of the Upper Valley, VT, for construction of booth components. Value: \$50.00

## UU Funding Program:

We are most grateful for the substantial and continuing support from the UU Funding Program totaling \$20,000 over the past two years.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2002-2003

This has been a busy and productive year, with expanding Green Sanctuary commitments and focused attention to organization building. Here are a few of the highlights.

### Organization Improvements

The Board of Directors committed to building a stronger and more effective organization during his past year. Goals and objectives were identified early in the year and significant progress was made in the areas listed below.

### Enhanced Financial Capacity

We succeeded in obtaining 501(c)3 status from the IRS to enhance our ability to raise funds.

Based on fund raising success during the previous year, we qualified for a \$3,500 challenge grant from the UU Fund for Social Responsibility.

In June 2003, we received a new \$5,000 grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism to support further improvements in our organization. We were also offered a commitment for a challenge grant of \$5,000 if we're able to match it with other donations. From

the Fund for Unitarian Universalism we received \$8,000 for Jim Scott to create the Earth and Spirit Songbook.

## Expanded Communications

Volunteer Bob Luoma (Carlisle, MA) redesigned our website ([www.uuaspp.org](http://www.uuaspp.org)), giving the site a much needed facelift and updating materials and making them easier to find. Improvements will be continuing under Bob's management throughout the coming year.

We published three newsletters, distributed to a mailing list of over 400 members and friends. With the latest issue, we initiated electronic distribution to some members to save paper and money. We will continue to distribute paper copies to those who request them.

Our Green Sanctuary email list now serves more than 200 subscribers. There have been practical questions about environmental audits, recycling, dishwashing vs disposables, car pooling, invasive species, land use policies, and many others. The email list allows members to draw on the experience of others and discuss challenging issues.

## UUA Collaboration

Discussions were initiated with UUA staff, including the Rev. Bill Sinkford, Rev. Meg Riley, and Rev. Mel Hoover, on further institutionalizing environmentally appropriate practices and perspectives in normal operations. UUA staff is committed to enhancing sustainability in business operations and continues to look for ways to support the Seventh Principle Project as the facilitator of environmental work in the congregations.

**Seventh Principle Project**  
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Lyn Cameron, Hopedale, MA  
Claudia Kern, Vice-chair, Lyme, NH  
Steve Maier, Chair, Middlebury, VT  
Rick North, Durham, OR  
Dianne Rahm, Treasurer, San Antonio, TX  
Kathleen Schomaker, Hamden, CT

Katherine Jesch, Arlington, VA  
Director of Environmental Ministry

*The mission of the Seventh Principle Project, an affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Association, is to facilitate and support the work of Unitarian Universalists by affirming and promoting "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." We do this by focusing on the theological, spiritual and ethical aspects of human activities that affect the health and sustainability of the living earth.*

## **GREEN SANCTUARY PROGRESS**

Our list of Green Sanctuary candidates more than doubled since last year, bringing us to a total of 30 congregations now enrolled in the program. Nine will be recognized and celebrated as Green Sanctuaries at the Annual Meeting this year, adding to the list of five who were so honored last year!

Feedback from two years of experience by participants in the Green Sanctuary Program led to a fairly substantial revision of the program structure in February of this year. The revised program offers more flexibility and choice to fit the circumstances we find in the many different congregations. Instead of six Action Areas, there are now four; instead of 17 activities, congregations will complete twelve. An environmental audit and an action plan are now part of the preliminary work done before a congregation applies for candidacy.

Response to the new structure has been very positive. Many more congregations are taking advantage of the added flexibility for projects aimed at locally relevant issues, rather than a standardized list of actions that may or may not generate passion and commitment within the congregation.

Green Sanctuary workshops have proven very successful in preparing potential Green Sanctuary committee members to provide leadership for the program within their congregations. The SPP conducted a series of ten 3 to 5 hour workshops during the last year, which reached members of more than 50 UU congregations including several non-UU churches. From among those churches, at least eight are now candidates in the GS Program. Several of these workshops included participants from non-UU congregations who are looking for ways to improve their sustainability.

The UU Churches of Riverside, CA, and Elgin, IL, sponsored Green Sanctuary workshops at Assemblies for their Districts, the Pacific Southwest District and

Central Midwest District respectively. UU Congregation of Atlanta also hosted a regional conference at their newly renovated home in Atlanta in February, exhibiting their "green building" renovations and offering a series of workshops on a wide range of environmental topics. These events are an excellent way to help support these efforts.

Contact the Rev. Katherine Jesch, SPP's Director of Environmental Ministry, for information on workshops, suggestions, sample agendas, handouts, and copies of the GS Manual.

## **GREEN SANCTUARIES**

### **Accredited 2003**

Allen Ave. UU, Portland ME  
Emerson Unitarian, Houston, TX  
1st Unitarian, Hamilton ONT  
1st UU Church, Ann Arbor MI  
Granite Peak UU, Prescott, AZ  
Mainline Unitarian, Devon, PA  
Unitarian Church, Harrisburg, PA  
UU Church of Elgin, IL  
UU Church of Spokane, WA

### **Accredited 2002**

1st Unitarian, Portland OR  
1st Unitarian, Albuquerque  
Unitarian Fellowship, Sarnia/Port Huron, ONT  
UU Congr of Upper Valley, VT  
UU Fellowship, Morristown, NJ

### **Candidates**

All Souls Church, Braintree MA  
Beverly Unitarian, Chicago, IL  
Bradford Comm Church, UU, Kenosha, WI  
First UU Church, Austin, TX  
Gaia Community, Shawnee Mission, KS  
Holston Valley UU, Gray, TN  
Kingston Unitarian Fellowship, Kingston, ONT  
Mt Vernon Unitarian, Alexandria, VA  
Unitarian Ch, Montpelier, VT  
Unitarian Church, Montreal Qu  
Unitarian Fellowship, West Chester, PA  
UU Church, Belfast, ME  
UU Church, Tallahassee, FL  
UU Church of the West, Brookfield, WI  
UU Fellowship, Ames, IA  
UU Fellowship of Centre Cnty, State College, PA  
UU Fellowship, Ft. Myers, FL  
UU Fellowship, Gainesville, FL  
UU Fellowship, Midland, MI  
UU Fellowship, Pottstown, PA  
UU Fellowship, Sussex County, Newton NJ

**MEMBERSHIP:  
A YEAR OF SOLID GROWTH**

Members voted at the 2002 Annual Meeting to add a new membership category for congregations paying annual dues of \$100 or more. In addition, congregations paying the \$100 application fee for Green Sanctuary candidacy become congregational members. We now have approximately 150 individual and household members, increased from under 100 members last year. We created new membership categories to encourage larger contributions. Payments over \$25 will be counted as a donation for our matching fund for the challenge grant.

**Congregational Members**

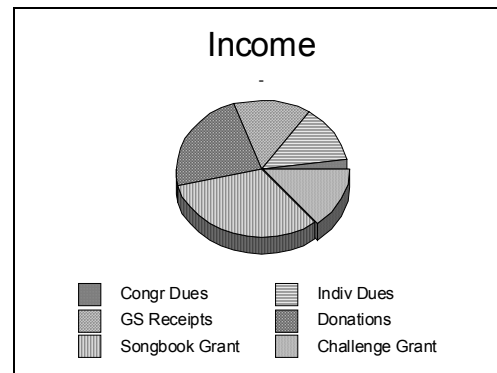
- First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati, OH
- Live Oak UU Congregation, Goleta, CA
- UU Fellowship Sussex County, NJ \*
- First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, Ontario #
- Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence, Northampton, MA
- UU Congregation of Atlanta, GA
- UU Fellowship of Flagstaff, AZ
- UU Church of Boulder, CO
- UU Church of Elgin, IL \*
- Rowe Camp & Conf Center, Rowe, MA
- All Souls Ch of Braintree, MA \*
- UU Church of Belfast, ME \*
- UU Congregation, Upper Valley, Norwich, VT #
- First Religious Society of Carlisle, MA
- UU Church of Spokane, WA #
- Emerson UU Church, Houston, TX #
- UU Fellowship of Ames, IA \*
- Mt. Vernon UU Church, Alexandria, VA \*
- UU Church of Austin, TX\*
- Bradford Community Church, Bradford, WI \*
- Mainline Unitarian Church, Devon, PA #
- UU Fellowship of Midland, MI \*
- UU Fellowship of Fort Myers, FL \*
- Beverly Unitarian Church, Chicago, IL \*
- UU Church of Ann Arbor, MI \*

\* GS Candidate congregations  
# Accredited congregations

**2002 FINANCIAL SUMMARY  
January 1 through December 31, 2002**

**Income**

Congregation memberships	\$ 600
Individual memberships	3,300
GS candidate fees	100
GS Manual sales	3,645
Donations	5,924
Grant: Earth & Spirit Songbook	8,000
Challenge Grant	3,500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 25,103</b>



**Expenses**

GA expenses (for 2002)	\$ 1,316
Green Sanct expenses	5,591
SPP overhead (except staff)	3,933
Staff	8,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 18,841</b>

